Get Involved In Your Child’s School

Getting involved in your child’s school is critical to their academic success! Not only will getting involved help you to stay aware of what is going on, it shows your scholar that you value and care about their education. Once the door of communication has been opened information can then continuously flow from teachers about your student’s progress. Through this communication you can learn more about what is expected from you as the parent, dates of school events and other important matters. Additionally, you may have ideas on school improvements that could benefit your child and other students as well. The perspective of the parent is one that is often hard to obtain or is inadvertently overlooked. Make your presence known and your voice heard! With the ongoing pressures, demands and busy schedules of the principal, teachers and staff, extra assistance in the school, along with other ideas, should be welcomed and very much appreciated.

Ideas on how you can get involved:
1. Volunteer to help plan fundraisers and events.
2. Assist teachers in the classroom.
3. Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
4. Attend Title 1 trainings offered in the school.
5. Show up to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Article By:
Sereta Douse

What It’s All About!

**MBAES Mission**- To advance the continuous development of a community wide partnership between the schools, families, health and human service agencies, faith based organizations, businesses, colleges/universities, maximizing the education and life potential of every child, young person and adult ----from cradle to career.

**MBAES Vision**- A highly educated, productive citizenry contributing to a thriving Martindale Brightwood Community!
James Russell Lowell School 51- Principal, Jennifer Pearson

James Russell Lowell IPS 51 would like to announce its’ PTA. We are very proud of our engaged parents and staff who have attended trainings, meetings in the summer and shared their enthusiasm to help 51 be the best school it can be. Our PTA has been sponsored by the Ivy Tech Student Educa-

tion Association this year so there are no membership dues for any member the first year. The members of the PTA meet every third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome at those meetings. The PTA members will be recruiting members at the IPS 51 Open House on August 30th. Their first order of business is to organize volunteers for the family movie night on September 27th. If you would like to help out stop by the PTA table at Open House.

Joyce Kilmer School 69-Principal, Tiheisha Guthrie

When parents are involved with their children's education, the benefits are endless. This is why one of Joyce Kilmer’s goals for the 2012-2013 school year is to increase parent involvement. Staff is diligently recruiting parents to be volunteers. Recruitment will take place during all school events. Parent volunteers are needed to assist in the library, office, lunchroom, the school’s pantry, and classrooms. Parents are also needed to join the school’s PTA that will be fully implemented by October.

Francis W. Parker School 56 - Principal, Lauren Franklin

We are looking forward to a great year at School #56! We always like to have a special event to ring in the new school year and bring families into our building. This year that came in the form of a uniform exchange. Our scholars and parents have really stepped up to the plate by donating their gently used school uniforms to our uniform closet. With the overwhelming response we have a fully stocked closet and are all set for our uniform exchange taking place on August 27. We love to see parents in our building so we can talk with them about volunteer opportunities that fit their interests and availability.
Choices, Inc.

Choices Inc., available at Schools 51 and 69, is in a unique position in the schools with regard to the MBAES Full-Service Community School Grant. As the clinician and coordinator I am able to work with children and families who don’t exactly fit with other programs and tend to ‘fall through the cracks’. My focus is to help those families in need of assistance with mental health, social development and family support without the need for Medicaid or other insurance. I am able work with the families in and outside of school, helping to be a liaison between the school and their child’s education. Many parents may feel frustrated with how their child is perceived or treated at school and I am able to advocate for them to obtain the appropriate support they need. I believe working with the families and ensuring they feel supported encourages them to be more involved and understand that we are all working to support their children and their success in school.

Indiana Partnership Center

The Indiana Partnerships Center (IPC), a MBAES partner that focuses on family engagement, has launched a public awareness campaign to tell families and their children about the severe consequences of missing school and what can be done. The statewide study they initiated found that students missing just two days of school per month for a total of 18 school days or 10% of the school year performed at much lower rates academically than their peers who were at school. It is important to note that this includes excused or unexcused absences! Visit the www.MissingSchoolMattersIN.org site for information on what families, schools, and community can do to make sure that children are at school every day on time. Call the Center if you would like copies of the bilingual newsletter and magnets for your families. IPC can create articles for school newsletters, attend PTA and other parent meetings to share this important information.

Child Care Answers

Come Play with us.... Have you heard about Play and Learn? It is a free, fun and educational play group for young children and their caregivers that happen right in our schools? Play and Learn provides resources to help guide caregivers in enhancing their children’s development so that they can be successful in kindergarten. It occurs from 9 am-11 am on Monday’s at School 69, Tuesday’s at School 56 and Friday at School 51. Join us for one session a week or come to all three. No advance registration is needed. For questions call Leslie at Child Care Answers 926-3401 x 307.

Article By: Jackie Garvey

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.

Anthony J. D’Angelo

Article By: Jackie Garvey

Article By: Mindy Bennett

Article By: Angie Blommel
### Upcoming Events

- **What's Possible**
  Conversation, Brightwood Community Center, Sept. 10, 6:00 PM
- **Education Task Force**
  School 51, Sept. 14, 10:30 AM
- **Quality of Life Mtg**
  Martin University, Sept. 20, 10:30 AM
- **PTA Meeting, School 56**, Sept 24, 5:30 PM

### Watch for new classes in the IUPUI Adult Learning Centers

Coming this fall at IPS schools #56 Francis W. Parker, #51 James Russell Lowell, Arlington Community High School, and a Martindale-Brightwood Community Center near you!

Email: iupualc@iupui.edu
Phone: (317) 274-2255

**NEW and Coming Soon!** IUPUI’s Division of Continuing Studies will also be working with Indianapolis Public Schools to present classes as part of the A+ Parenting Academy/Parent University. Stay tuned...

### Community Partners

| 37 Place | Indianapolis Public Schools |
| 100 Black Men | Indy Parks and Recreation |
| Boy Scouts of America | IU School of Dentistry |
| Bright House Networks | IU School of Education |
| Brightwood Community Center | IU School of Nursing |
| Child Care Answers/ Play & Learn | IU School of Social Work |
| Choices Inc. | Ivy Tech Community College |
| Edna Martin Christian Center | Learning Well |
| Felege Hiwyot Center | Making Connections |
| Girls Inc. | Martin University |
| Gleaners Food Bank | Martindale Brightwood CDC |
| HealthNet Inc. | Rebuilding the Wall |
| IMCPL Brightwood Branch | United Way of Central Indiana |
| Indiana Partnerships Center | Wheeler-Dowe Boys & Girls Club |

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For information pertaining to the Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success, (MBAES) contact Nicole Oglesby, Project Director, noglesby@iupui.edu or Sereta Douse, Project Specialist, sldouse@iupui.edu / 317.278.9700