

HC*EXCELL E-NEWS

2007-2008 ENews – Year in Review

Congratulations ! HC*EXCELL salutes Hamblen County District Teachers of the Year: Lisa Templin of Witt, PreK-4, Dixie Rodgers, West View, 5-8, and Ann Huckaby of East High, 9-12 with a check for \$500. District Teachers of the Year are chosen from local TOY for instructional excellence and achievement.

Imagination Library is continuing to thrive in Hamblen County through increased contributions to HC*EXCELL and broadened participation. Imagination Library is providing basic literacy instruction and a love for reading in our community's birth to five year old children. Each month registered children receive a high-quality, hard-back, book free of charge. HC*EXCELL facilitates the program in partnership with Kiwanis Club of Morristown, Walter State Community College, M-H Library and the U.S. Postal Services. More than 55,000 books at a cost of \$57,000 have been distributed to Hamblen County children since December of 2004.

- **Charter Communication** continues to promote family literacy through their cable T.V. show "Ms. Eva the Reading Engineer every day at 9:20a.m. on channel 4..."
- **Imagination Library Week:** Hamblen County participated in Tennessee's 2nd Imagination Library week September 17-23 by holding its first Imagination Library Pancake Breakfast at Rose Center. Over 500 tickets were sold and breakfast served by the partnership of the Retired Teachers Association, Rotary A.M., Kiwanis Club, ADK Morristown Civitan Club, Ladies Reading Circle, Somo Sala Circle, Friends of the Library, Hamblen County Literacy Council, , Rose Center, Citizen Tribune, Hayter Printer, TN Technology, WSCC and HC*EXCELL. Local celebrities read books on WCRK/WMTN, and the week was proclaimed Imagination Library week in Hamblen County and Morristown.
- **Contributions: Hamblen County Board of Commissioners** for \$10,000, **Mike Bunch \$2,500,**

in honor of his wife Ashli, his daughter Gracie and his son Jake and **Cari Ashford's Teen Leadership Class** for \$1400.

Give Kids Good Schools Week: HC*EXCELL and Hamblen County P-16 Council participated in Public Education Network's national "Give Kids Good Schools Week October 15-21. Banners were placed on lamppost downtown, City and County government proclaimed the week "Give Kids Good Schools "week in Morristown and Hamblen County and media coverage raised awareness of the need for good schools.

Hamblen County P-16 Council Initiatives: Look Out for the Imagination Library Plus Bookmobile which has been turned over to the Hamblen County School System to promote early literacy skills. The HCBOE donated a retired school bus, Tennessee Technology Center organized its renovation and major donors: *Citizen Tribune*, Jefferson Federal Charitable Foundation, Berkline, Inc., Signs Now, WSCC, and HC*EXCELL contributed financial resources, graphics, computers, shelving and supplies.

Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership

Fellowship initiated the high school leadership program increased from two to three classes for the 2007-2008 school year by adding a second class at East High. In the accredited curriculum semester classes students receive instruction in public speaking, project organization and implementation, team building, leadership and service learning.

Positive Youth Development Initiative (PYDI): 2007 selected PYDI students continue the work of the 2007 class by conducting "Big Eight" Principles survey in the Hamblen County High Schools.

Hamblen County P-16 Council members hosted roundtables for designing recommendations for implementing the "Big Eight Principles" in Hamblen County: Health, Safety, Recreation, Education, Tolerance Economic Development/Workforce Readiness, and Community Resources/Supportive Relationships. Recommendations reports were completed in March of this year.

NEXT STEPS