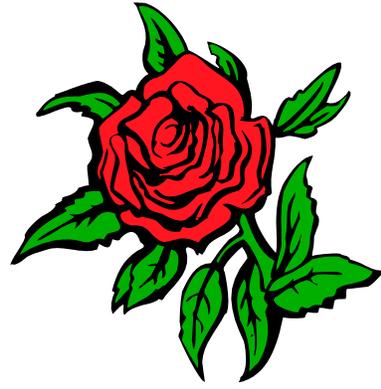




Gamma Mu Musings



March 2013

From the President's Pen...

Dear Gamma Mu members,

I just heard from Leni and our yearbook received HIGHEST honor. I had no doubt that we would get a good report. All of you make me so proud to be a Gamma Mu member. Our February meeting was very interesting. Rose gave us information about India and her trip there at Christmas. The goodie bags were well supplied for Nancy's singers going to Florida. Thank you for being so generous.

Looking forward, Barb and Leni will have the program in March, and we will learn about their trip to Ireland. Also, we will collect your contributions for Schools for Africa.

April meeting will be Founders' Day program and the hostess for November meeting (which we did not have) will be our hostesses for that meeting.

We have much to look forward to so please plan to attend. If you cannot come, let me or someone know. We miss you when you are not with us, and you miss out on the good times we have together.

SMILE! Spring is almost here..

Beverly

Beverly McKinney
Gamma Mu President 2012-2014
448 N. Church Street
Mountain City, TN 37683
[423-727-3049](tel:423-727-3049)

Recognitions...

Beverly McKinney Receives the Tennessee Sunrise Quilt Guild Charity Quilt



February Meeting . . .



Delicious refreshments were provided by Carol Stout, Brenda Potter, Teresa Mullen, and Gay Miller.

During our October meeting Barbara Henson and Bev McKinney gave a presentation on the Tennessee Sunrise Quilt Guild Charity Quilt which was given to the Upper East Tennessee Alzheimer's Group to raise money for research for those with Alzheimer's. Bev reported at the meeting their group (Jack's Memory Walkers) were well on their way to reaching their goal of \$2500 by accepting donations for the quilt.

At the February meeting Bev reported that the Gamma Mu Chapter will receive the Charity Quilt from the Tennessee Sunrise Quilt Guild on June 1st. Proceeds from the donations on the quilt will go to support the Imagination Library.

Websites...

Forbes Top 100 Websites For Women 2012
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeswomanfiles/2012/06/20/top-100-websites-for-women-2012/>

I'm an Organizing Junkie
<http://orgjunkie.com/>

Online Calendar
<http://30boxes.com/welcome.php>



Gamma Mu members stocked bags with candy, crackers, and other munchies for Nancy Davis's Middle School Singers. The students were headed to Florida.

February Meeting . . .

Rose Rasmussen presented a very interesting program on her trip to India over the Christmas holidays.



Upcoming Dates and Announcements...

Schools for Africa

We are collecting money for Schools for Africa during Lent season. Some members observe this time of self-sacrifice and helping others, it may be a time for us all to reflect on how we can do without some materialistic "things" and put back that money to donate to our cause. The money should be turned in at the April meeting.

March Meeting

Next meeting will be March 26th; hostesses will be Barbara Gratsch, Bev McKinney, and Leni Smith.

April Meeting

Instead of eating a meal out after the April meeting, members who were to serve as hostesses for the November meeting will serve refreshments.

New Members

Be thinking of names of potential members to submit in March and vote on in April.

New Teacher Scholarships

The Gamma Mu Scholarship committee will get the names of second & third year teachers and send them information by the end of March regarding the \$100 scholarship in which they can apply. The completed applications will be due in early May and the recipient will be announced at the Summer Tea.

June 6-8, 2013

Xi State Convention

The Johnson County Library Reading Program. .

Gamma Mu members will host an Easter Story Hour at the Johnson County Library. A tentative date was set for March 23rd.

Barbara Gratsch gave a report to Gamma Mu members on the planned summer reading program "Digging into Reading" at the library. It will begin on June 14th and be held six Fridays 11:00-12:00. Barbara and Leni will have a detailed list of needs at next meeting.



Just for Fun...

Here is Brenda's delicious chocolate chip cake recipe that we enjoyed so much at the last meeting:

CHOCOLATE CHIP POUND CAKE

1 box yellow cake mix
1 box (4 oz.) instant chocolate pudding mix
3/4 c. water
3/4 c. oil
4 lg. eggs
1 c. sour cream
1 sm. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips
Sift together cake mix and chocolate pudding. Make a "well" in center of dry ingredients and add all other ingredients except chocolate chips. Beat well, then gradually stir in chips. Pour batter into greased and floured tube pan and bake 55 minutes to 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Educational Issue . . .



Written by
Shelia Cruse

Imagine that you are the parent of a child who wants to learn and works hard in school, but you feel increasingly frustrated with the public school she attends. Since state testing began, the school has scored among the lowest performing in the state, and attempts to raise performance have failed. If you had the choice, and it would not cost you anything, would you send your child to a private school, in the hopes that she would learn more, become more successful in all areas of her development?

The idea of school vouchers, often referred to as opportunity scholarships, is before the Tennessee state legislature. Arguments pro and con are being presented, and the overwhelming majority of those arguments are and will continue to be about money.

At first glance, it seems the voucher idea will create a budget crisis for public education. It seems that it will work this way: You decide to send Susy to The Academy of Intellectuals, where the tuition is \$4000.00/year. The state, or the county, claims it costs \$7000.00/year to educate the average student, more if the child qualifies for a special program, so that's how much is allocated to each school, per student. So if Susy does not attend the public school, that's \$7000.00 the school loses. Simple math tells us that it won't take very many students leaving to add up to losing teachers and support staff, to keeping schools from being able to purchase new textbooks and equipment, and a whole host of other budget driven aspects of education. Most of us have no clear understanding of how school budgets work.

Even if our legislatures vote school vouchers in, and parents then have the choice, a private school option probably will not be taken by most. The expenses related to private schools extend beyond tuition: cost of transportation, textbooks, uniforms, fundraising efforts, financial and nonfinancial expectations for parental involvement. There are social situations to think about: is it a good idea to take a child out of the school his friends attend? Will he fit in with new classmates, who may be from a different socio-economic group? Do you live close enough that he can walk or ride his bike to play or study with new friends, or will he be isolated by distance?

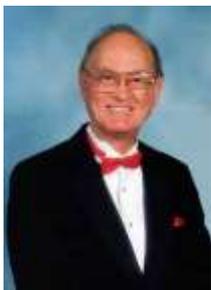
Then, from a purely educational perspective: is the private school accredited, and if so, by whom? Are the teachers state certified? How many students are in each class? What assessment instruments are used to measure academic growth, and what are the scores? Will the school allow you to visit classrooms; could your child spend a day with a class as a "trial run?" If the "choice" school is not transparent, that doesn't bode well.

When it's all said and done, few parents will be interested in or able to take advantage of the voucher system. So what about the majority of the students in low performing schools, who will return year after year? What will be done to improve teaching and learning for them? Public schools and compulsory education are concepts nearly as old as our nation, concepts considered of great importance in a democratic country, where an "educated citizenry" is as necessary now as it has ever been.

There are no easy answers. There is no "one size fits all" educational program. There should, however, be one indisputable and overriding goal: to provide an excellent education to every child, in every city, town and village in this great state, to make every teacher, parent and student accountable for doing their part in the process. The goal should be for every child to succeed to the extent of his abilities. Improving low performing schools should be given priority, and the voucher system may or may not be a piece of the process.

And one more thing: How responsible are our politicians for that? How responsible are we?

Inspirational Quote...



The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires.

- William Arthur Ward

