

Conexión Américas

FRC

at Cole Elementary School



February 2010

Issue 1: Building our community



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A group of Cole parents come three times per week to learn English.

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What is a Family Resource Center? Why one at Cole?

A Family Resource Center (FRC) is conceived as a one-stop shop for health and human services needs. In Nashville, there are 13 FRCs: 7 community-based FRCs and 6 school-based. The last group is the result of a partnership between United Way of Metropolitan Nashville and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

The FRC at Cole Elementary School is focused on creating a dynamic and healthy community where students, parents, faculty and staff are engaged in common goals so that children and families thrive. Our primary areas of focus are: healthy families, adult education, and parent involvement. In order to produce results in these areas, we will establish partnerships and work in collaboration with local non-profit organizations and businesses.

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Building our **community**

by Doris Palomino

There are many things that should be done... Let's focus on these strategies,

Healthy families

A healthy environment is promoted through clinic services and health education.

Adult education

Parents are educated in English and basic computer training skills in order to accompany their children's academic performance. Faculty and Staff become familiar with issues concerning students' diversity.

Parent involvement

The school system is introduced to parents in order to have them as allies in their children's educational process.

Community building

Activities concerning diversity promote cultural awareness and strengthen relationships among Cole community members.

Case management

Clothing and food needs are addressed thanks to the support of donors.

Organizational infrastructure

Stakeholders have meetings with the FRC Coordinator and offer feedback about FRC strategies.

Communication

Cole community is informed about the FRC events through bulletin boards, an electronic newsletter and other means.



Learning Moms' Circle

English needed

by Ellen Tighe

A group of Latino moms* gather together to improve their second language skills and their ability to support their children's learning

Comments

What do the participants say?

I like to learn English all the time because it is very important for helping my children with their homework. I appreciate Doris's and Ellen's help. I add new vocabulary in my life all the time.

Rita Mathe, Pre-K Mom

I am in the support group for parents at Cole Elementary School. I enjoy attending this group for learning how to help my children with their homework and to develop improvements in the society where I live.

Araceli Díaz, K Mom

* The ESG is open to any Cole community member. Lately, we have dads that are joining us.

The English Study Group (ESG) in the 9:00 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are generally 6-8 Spanish-speaking women in the class. They often arrive early, sometimes with a younger, non-school age child in tow. They arrive with their notebooks, dictionaries, their homework of sentences and with many questions, some about the assignment, and some about life in general.

Doris Palomino, the FRC Director, and I, a Community Volunteer, are there as friends, teachers, and advisors to occasionally provide a shoulder to cry on. We have discussed many important topics as we conjugate verbs in the present, past and future. We laugh about things that have happened in our lives and listen to each other's stories. We share recipes and parenting tips. I bring articles from local newspapers and magazines so that the group can be made aware of the variety of things available locally to enrich the lives of their families.

Our hope is that this group has given these women a place where they can learn to improve their English and become more familiar with their community. Hopefully the experience of speaking and learning English will give them the confidence to speak more English and branch out into the greater Cole Elementary School family for friendship and assistance in raising healthy and happy children.

Our Cole Community:

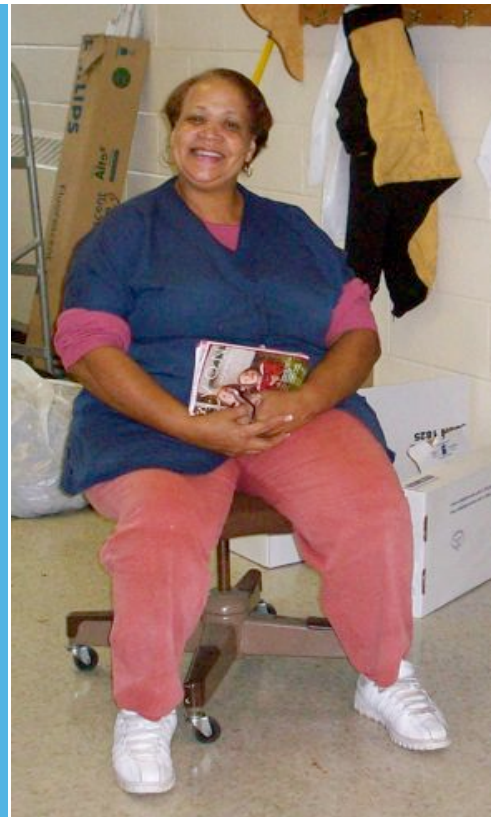
Miss Essie

Essie Gibson is originally from Bolivar, Tennessee. She raised 5 children and, now, she has 8 grandchildren.

Miss Essie is one of the custodians at Cole Elementary. She became part of the Cole community 5 years ago and she considers Cole her home, *"I wouldn't ever have chosen another school"*. When we asked her about her job, she says that what she likes most is working with people and what she likes least is emptying trash.

A good memory at Cole:

"The first day Mr. High came to the school, I was sat down in a chair when he started talking to me. I enjoyed his spirit. You don't see many principals talking and being friendly".



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Portable 5

5060 Colemont Dr.,
Antioch, TN 37013

(615) 333-5043, ext. 1815



Future events

Feb. 26, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Taxpayer Outreach (English)

Feb. 26, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Taxpayer Outreach (Spanish)

Mar. 26, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Parents as Partners (Spanish)

Weekly events

Mon, Wed & Fri, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (with Ellen Tighe)
English Study Group

Mon, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (with Lizzie Conner)
English Study Group

Miss Essie's messages

For our students:
"Study hard! Do good!"

For our parents:
"You do a marvelous job bringing your kids to the school".

For our faculty and staff:
"Great job!"