

New education initiative 'Parents Are Teachers Too' launches in Holmes County

Press Release

Parents have a tremendous influence in the academic success of their children. Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) is launching a new education initiative providing Holmes County parents with tools and strategies to help families learn together at home.

The Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT) initiative will launch in Holmes County and 19 Mississippi other counties at the end of February. In each community, current teachers, retired teachers, librarians, college instructors and other educators will serve as MPB PATT facilitators for the program. They will lead participating parents in six one-hour sessions.

The sessions include open discussions on various topics, fun hands-on activities, tips and strategies to use in the home to extend what their child is learning in

school, ways to make reading fun, and suggestions for family activities. PATT provides parents with tools and resources to create an atmosphere of families learning together. The goal is to encourage and empower parents to be more engaged and work confidently with their children.

MPB is piloting this family educational initiative in 19 more Mississippi counties: Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, DeSoto, Hancock, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Jones, Lafayette, Lee, Madison, Oktibbeha, Pike, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, Winston and Yazoo.

There is no charge for families to participate. Space is limited. Parents/guardians can contact the facilitator in the county nearest them to get detailed information on time, date and location of the local program. Contact information for PATT facilitators in each county can be

found on Facebook - @MPB Education.

"As a result of MPB's long-time involvement in early childhood programs and family engagement activities, PATT was developed to help close the gaps between parent-child and parent-teacher relationships," said Shelia Brown Robinson, MPB's Early Childhood Director.

"MPB educators have watched how many of the parent-child relationships advance and witnessed children's grades improve because of the parents' participation in the school and home. We listened to the needs and concerns of the parents participating at our events. Also, we heard teachers and other school administrators declare that parents need to be more involved," said Robinson.

PATT is sponsored in part

by these generous sponsors — Donna and Jim Barksdale, Sheryl and Jay Davidson, Martha and Marty Hederma and Origin Bank.

MPB's Early Childhood Division is dedicated to providing best-practice resources to parents, teachers and community advocates for children birth to twelve years old. By using the trusted PBS KIDS platform, the MPB broadcast network and early literacy initiatives, MPB educators provide quality services across Mississippi. Our literacy goals and objectives lead the pathway into the communities as we are on a mission to encourage families to learn together. We approach each outreach opportunity with the hope of introducing the power of MPB and PBS programs, information and services.

MPB's Early Childhood team provides books to build home libraries and offer families extended activities. Parents are the child's

most important first teacher and teachers are the parent's best partner. Creating and nurturing these relationships ensure all children receive quality education and positive school experiences. Inspired by those we have impacted, the MPB Early Childhood team continues to do more boots-on-the-ground-work in early childhood education.

The ultimate goal is to support families by building programs that are encouraging and engaging for the entire family.

For more information regarding MPB, visit mpbonline.org.

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF LEBANON WATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Lebanon Water Office, 20379 Highway 17 North, Lexington, MS 39095.



March is Poison Prevention month with Poison Prevention week being March 15 - 21, 2020. The third week in March each year is nationally recognized to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

Over 3.1 million poisonings are responded to each year by the 55 Poison Control Centers across the United States. More than 93.5 percent of these poisonings occur at home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years old.

You have to be extra aware in times of stress or when family activities are taking place. This is a common time for poisonings to occur.

The first step in preventing unintentional poisoning is to keep medications and common household chemicals out of sight and out of reach of children. You should store medications, cleaners and chemicals in locked cabinets and on higher shelves. Special locks and safety latches are available for cabinets and drawers.

If there are young children in your home, always ask your pharmacist for child-proof containers. One should never refer to medication as candy and don't make a game of taking medication. You should not let children play with a medication container, even if it is empty. You should teach children to ask an adult before putting anything into their mouths and since children like to imitate adults, avoid taking medications in front of them. Never store chemicals or

cleaning products in unmarked containers or food and beverage containers. There are many colorful drinking products on the market and each year thousands of adults and children mistake poisonous chemicals for what they thought were harmless drinks of lemonade or juice. One such chemical, anti-freeze, resembles some of the drinks on the shelves today because of its sweet taste and its lovely color.

There are a number of indoor and outdoor plants that can also be poisonous. Check with your local library for books on poisonous plants or your plant nursery for help with identifying what may be harmful.

Some pharmacies stock poison first aid kits. These kits contain syrup of ipecac, activated charcoal and Epsom salts. You would use these products only after seeking professional advice as to whether to induce vomiting or not.

NEVER treat your child unless you have spoken to a poison control center, your physician or hospital emergency room first.

The number to the Poison Control Center is 1-800-222-1222.

For more information, go to www.poisonhelp.hrsa.gov.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

ATTENTION ABSENTEE VOTERS for the March 10, 2020 Primary Elections (Democratic & Republican)

The Circuit Clerk's Office will have extended office hours for qualified Absentee Voters, to-wit:

Monday thru Friday from 8 A.M. until 7 P.M. Starting February 11, 2020 and Tuesday thru Friday February 18 thru February 21 Monday thru Friday February 24 thru February 28 Saturday, February 29, 2020 and March 7, 2020 from 8 A.M. until 12 Noon

REMEMBER: The Deadline for all qualified electors to cast an absentee ballot will be Saturday, March 7 @ 12 Noon

SUBMITTED BY: Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk