

# University-Assisted Community School Program: Pond Gap Elementary

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   T E N N E S S E E   &  
K N O X   C O U N T Y   S C H O O L S

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## Community Greenhouse Project

The University-Assisted Community School is excited to announce that a community greenhouse is being planned and scheduled for construction at Pond Gap Elementary. A generous donation from Mrs. Jenny Boyd will be used to build a greenhouse and raised garden beds. This will be the catalyst for future plans which will include a reading garden, educational nature paths, and a outside learning lab. John Mashburn with **ArchKinetic** and Doug Burdette with **Cornerstone Farm Construction** have stepped forward to *donate* their time and expertise, to create a design and help with all phases of the project. Professor Mark Fly with the University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, and several others in his department have also committed their time and efforts with developing this community greenhouse endeavor. Throughout the construction of the project, we will be having the students help and will also be looking for support from parents and any community member. The greenhouse will be a COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE, so what is grown will be distributed to those in the Pond Gap community, but the upkeep will also be dependent on those same community members.

Stay tuned for more updates on the Greenhouse project.

Thank you ArchKinetic, Cornerstone Farm Construction, Jenny Boyd and UT's Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries.



## Celebrate Black History Month

Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month, is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. The remembrance began in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week". This week was chosen because it marked the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Woodson created the holiday with the hope that it eventually be eliminated when black history became fundamental to American history.

*This year's theme "Black Women in American Culture and History" honors African American women and the myriad of roles they played in the shaping of our nation. The theme, chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History urges all Americans to study and reflect on the value of their contribution to the nation. (Library of Congress)*

## The Confucius Institute is coming to Knoxville: Welcome Ming & Trassy

The Confucius Institute is named after Confucius (551-478 B.C.), whose philosophy and teaching have influenced China and other East Asian countries for over 2500 years. The Confucius Institute was established in partnership with Hangzhou Normal University in China, with the sponsorship and authorization of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), under the Ministry of Education, China.



The mission of the Confucius Institute is to enhance the understanding of Chinese Language and culture, facilitate engagement with China and create opportunities for exchange and collaboration between communities in Tennessee and China. The Institute seeks to become a hub for China-related activities and a resource center for Chinese language, history, contemporary society and culture.

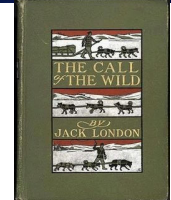
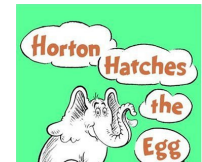
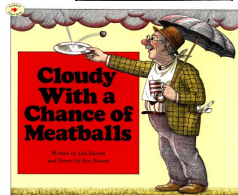
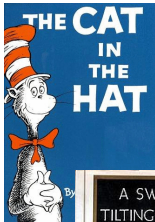
MTSU has partnered with UT's University-Assisted Community School Program to have two University Teachers from China work with the students and families in the Pond Gap neighborhood. Ming and Trassy arrived in Knoxville last month and will be working with the program for 2 years. Both teachers will be at Pond Gap every Monday and Tuesday. We are very excited to have both of these ladies in Knoxville and appreciate the collaboration with MTSU.

## Advance Readers and the Benefits Of Reading To Your Child

It is so important to begin reading to your child when they are just an infant. Some parents even begin reading to their children before they are born. As your child listens to you read to them, they are developing in so many ways. Your child is learning the rudiments of language, and they will try to repeat the sounds and the cadence of your voice as she grows and matures. Reading is an excellent way to encourage your child to learn new words and expand their vocabulary.

Reading opens up a world which is virtually inaccessible to those who are illiterate. People who are literate rarely have limits, unless they have set those limits upon themselves. Reading inspires learning. Prolific readers desire knowledge, and that desire never stops. Children who are read to as infants and continue to read throughout their academic years have a better chance of attending college and graduate school, and they have more success in their subsequent employment.

Head down to your local library and get a library card, check-out a great book from Pond Gap's library or borrow a book from a teacher.



### Program Staff:

- Blaine Sample
- Rachel Mashburn
- Kusum Hemnani
- Ronda Mostella
- Lissa McCloud
- Jake Weinstein
- Melissa Zempleni
- Jon Miller
- Mussaab Hussain
- Lee Mitchell
- Dr. Bob Kronick
- Susan Espiritu
- Shawnda Ernst



Two Master Gardeners from UT's Extension Programming spent several weeks working with Pond Gap students. The master gardeners are trained volunteers that participate in the community to educate and train the public in the latest gardening information and techniques. The volunteers spent time working with the students prepping soil, planting seeds, and harvesting the vegetables that were produced. After picking the vegetables, the group was able to sit down to enjoy a meal of what they grew. The students learned about gardening and gained some valuable experience. Thank you Jennie and Maggie for your time and support!



# Adult Workshops, Presentations, and Seminars: Community members welcome

(February & March 2012 )

Below is a list of the current adult classes and workshops that will be offered at Pond Gap Elementary School. If you are interested in any of these, please contact Mark Benson at 909-9040 for further information. Anyone is welcome...you don't need to have a student enrolled at Pond Gap Elementary School to attend. Additional workshops will be scheduled periodically.

**GED Classes:**

General Education class to prepare for taking the General Education Diploma Test  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:30

**ESL Classes:**

Support with English language skills  
Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00

**Exercise Group:**

Come jog, run sprints and gain some endurance—good for the heart!  
Mondays from 7:15 – 7:45

**Women's Support Group:**

Discussion and support for women—moms, grandmas, sisters, single, married..all are welcome  
Thursdays from 5:45 – 6:45

**Chinese Language Class**

Basic and conversational Chinese language course taught by Confucius Institute Teachers  
T.B.A.

**Spanish Language Class**

Beginning Spanish and conversational skills class  
T.B.A.

*Please note: The KCS calendar is followed –when students are not in school there won't be any workshops or classes.*

Thank you!

**Servant Leadership & Social  
Justice Class Partners with  
Pond Gap**

The Servant Leadership and Social Justice Seminar course taught by UT's Kasey Robinson will be partnering with the community school program to allow UT students a chance to explore the connection between leadership and service through components of servant leadership, social change, social justice, and community service. The course intends to increase awareness and action addressing community and societal needs, provide a sense of community and support for growth, examine the role of social justice in leadership, and to promote and encourage active community involvement and social change.

Engagement by UT, high school, and middle school students along with that of any other volunteer is a building block for the community school program and it's continued success.

"Through community service, I learn what it means to be a part of something bigger than myself"



Volunteers, mentors, and tutors are always needed and appreciated. Whether you're helping a child with their reading, playing basketball, doing art, or helping around the school, the attention you provide to the students and support for the program, goes a long way.





**UNIVERSITY -  
ASSISTED  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**uacs.utk.edu**

1401 Hollywood Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37909

Phone: 865-909-9040  
Fax: 865-909-9012  
<http://pondgapes.knoxschools.org>

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Needs You!**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee has agreed to work with the Pond Gap Community School to offer a school based mentor program for the students after school. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, please call:

Kara Finger  
Site Based Manager  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of E. Tennessee  
865-523-2179 ext. 14

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP LEADER**

Pond Gap is looking for that special someone to step forward and help begin a Girl Scout Troop. If you or someone you know would be interested in coordinating a Girl Scout Troop at Pond Gap, please contact the school or Anna Dirl at 865-688-9440 or [adirl@girlscoutcsa.org](mailto:adirl@girlscoutcsa.org).

**Community Spotlight:  
Partnerships and Growth in the Pond Gap Community**

**ArchKinetic**  
**John P. Mashburn, Architect**  
*architecture-planning-development-  
design*

**John Mashburn, AIA**  
NCARB, LEED Green Associate  
Owner/Principal Architect  
[johnm@archkinetic.com](mailto:johnm@archkinetic.com)

PO Box 26068 \* Knoxville, TN 37912  
PH 865-310-3115 \* FX 877-496-3929  
[www.archkinetic.com](http://www.archkinetic.com)

**Cornerstone Farm  
Construction**

**Douglas Burdette**  
**(865)548-8103**

*"Build from a strong foundation"*

**Dependable, Knowledgeable, and  
Trustworthy**

**1216 Mitchell Bend Road  
Blaine, Tennessee 37709**

Holy Land Market  
3601 Sutherland Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
(865)525-4659



Part of the Bearden landscape for nearly 13 years. The Holy Land offers a hot lunch/dinner/deli menu that patrons can take to go or eat a few cozy tables up front, overlooking the small town foot traffic on Knoxville's Sutherland Avenue.

*Community support is a cornerstone of the Community School Program.*

**Thank you to these businesses on Sutherland Avenue for displaying our newsletter:**

- Strawberry Fields Market,
- The Family Bubble Laundromat,
- Holy Land Market,
- DaVinci's Pizzeria & Calzones,
- Osaka Hibachi & Sushi, Subway,
- Farm Fresh Produce,
- European Motor Werks,
- Dollar General, Mojo Coffee,
- Red Onion Pizzeria, Cricket Cellular,
- Radio Systems Corp./PetSafe

Advertise a business or upcoming event in this space.

If you have a need or need some help, inform the community in this space.