



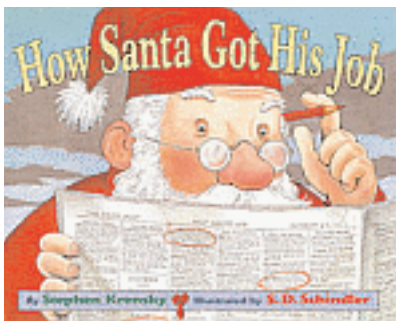
eConnections

Special Holiday Issue, December 2008

Connects students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

Santa's Career Path: Midlands Students Take a Closer Look

Several Midlands students are exploring careers in a festive way this holiday season -- by learning about the career path of who else, but Santa Claus! MEBA team members **Kay Barlow** and **Stacey Westberry** have spent time sharing the wonderful story of **How Santa Got His Job** with students in **Lexington School District Two, Lexington/Richland School District Two,**



School District Five and Richland School District Two.

The book, written by **Stephen Krensky** and illustrated by **S. D. Schindler**, takes readers on a jolly adventure through Santa's career path. From his first job cleaning chimneys to positions with the post office and an all-night diner, Santa finally finds the perfect career fit in the job that has made him famous. Through the book, we see how Santa's work experience gives him the skills he needs for success and helps lead him to the job that's right for him. Midlands students have loved this spirited and clever take on career study and the MEBA elves who have shared it with them. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Curriculum Alignment Committee

January 8, 2009

9:30 – 11:30 am

MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

Executive Committee

January 9, 2009, 7:45 am – 9:00 am

MTC Bellline Campus,

President's Conference Room

Health Science Alliance

January 14, 2009, 11:20 am - 1:00 pm

Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals,

Bruner Conference Room

Education & Training Alliance

January 16, 2009, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

West Metro Chamber of Commerce

Healthcare Educator Field Study

January 20, 2009

For more information or to register, please visit MEBA's website.

Manufacturing Alliance

January 22, 2009, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Hayward Career & Technology Center

3560 Lynhaven Drive, Columbia

Career Specialists/Guidance Committee

January 26, 2009, 9:00 - 11:00 am

MTC Airport Campus

We hope you enjoy this holiday issue of *eConnections*, MEBA's electronic newsletter. Please look for a full issue in January 2009, including a special look at MEBA's successful Educator Field Studies Series, a new Faces of MEBA profile, and much more! Happy Holidays!



Add MEBA to Your Gift List This Holiday Season!

Please Donate to MEBA Today!

Have you made your list and checked it twice? MEBA has been extra good this year. With numerous field studies, networking opportunities and resources for all, MEBA has worked hard to strengthening the important connection between education and business in the our community.

During this season of giving, we hope you will remember to give a gift that will keep on giving. Your donation to MEBA is a beneficial investment because the return is a better qualified workforce, a stronger economy and a vibrant Midlands community.

If you have not already made your contribution to MEBA's Annual Fund, please consider doing so today! Remember, your gift is tax-deductible! To contribute or for more information, please contact Holly D. Cummings, MEBA's Director of Development & Philanthropic Relations by phone at 803-290-4212 or by Email at hcummings@mebasc.com. You also may mail your donation to: MEBA, Annual Fund Campaign, P.O. Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202.

Save the Date!

Mark your 2009 calendar for these exciting events! More information soon.

Business Matters Seminar
February 13, 2008

**Framework for Understanding
Poverty Training**
March 16 - 17, 2009

**National Hydrogen Association
Conference and Hydrogen Expo**
March 30 - April 3, 2009
Columbia, SC
www.hydrogenconference.org



Happy Holidays!

As we enjoy this holiday season and prepare for a new year, our thoughts and gratitude are focused on those who have helped in the continuous achievement of MEBA's mission.

In this spirit, we offer our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a joyous holiday season and prosperous new year

*The Staff of the Midlands Education
and Business Alliance*



We want to hear from you!

As we get set for the New Year, please take a moment to tell us how MEBA has made a difference for you as a teacher, parent, business or community member. Has one of our educator field studies help provide a valuable resource for your school? Maybe a student has become excited about his or her future because of a MEBA job shadowing experience? Is MEBA helping to address the workforce needs of your business? Please help us celebrate our successes and work to serve the Midlands better in 2009. E-mail us at ashleythomas@mebasc.com.

Your Child Is Job #1: Parenting Through the Holidays

Too often the demands and needs of the holiday season can leave us feeling less jolly and more bah humbug. Kay Barlow, MEBA's Community and Parent



MEBA's Kay Barlow

Education Director and resident supplier of good cheer, has some tips to help us put the holiday season in proper perspective and to embrace our most important and meaningful job of all - that of parent.

✓ **Take a time out.**

Try to have 15 minutes of quiet time

each day. Some people plan, some pray, some meditate. Taking time to recharge will make a difference in how we feel and act. Attitude is everything.

✓ **Money doesn't mean meaningful.** "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," encourages Barlow. This year, the contrast between the wants of our children and the thickness of our wallets may be rather bleak. So, get creative! Can you sew, cook or do carpentry? Often our favorite possessions are those that are homemade. Time spent together is also a gift to cherish.

✓ **Don't focus on limited time, limited money or limited help.** Focus on what is truly important instead. Holidays are a great time to make special and lasting memories with our families. Make a list of all the memories you can make with your child and get to it. It will bring you great joy now and for years to come.

✓ **Learn to say No.** Carefully consider invitations and commitments. Do you really have time to do everything? Sometimes saying "no," to something means saying "yes" to you and your family.

✓ **Work together.** Pair up with a friend or family member and lighten the burden of shopping, cooking or babysitting. Get the entire family involved. Younger

children can help pick out cards, teenagers can babysit or run errands, and Grandmother can help with the cooking. Share the load - it's easier and more fun!

✓ **Spend more time on your life list rather than your "to do" list.** Stay focused on who and what really matters. Listen with your ears and also your heart to the sounds and joys of the season. Love yourself, love others and love life.

✓ **Celebrate!** Celebrate who you are, where you are and what you are right now. Hard times and good times never last. Celebrate!

Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

147 Dept. of Juvenile Justice parents

35 Midlands Middle College parents

73 Tyson Foods employees

107 Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals employees

362 people reached in November and December!



www.mebasc.com

Midlands Education and Business Alliance does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its programs and activities.

EConnections is an electronic publication of Midlands Education and Business Alliance. For more information, please contact Ashley Thomas at ashleythomas@mebasc.com.