

The Bright School

CELEBRATING A CHILD'S NATURAL DELIGHT IN LEARNING

The pair of wooden shoes from the Netherlands that are on display in a room at Bright School are much more than a sample of the traditional footwear in that northern European country. Those shoes and the many other artifacts collected by Mary Gardner Bright and displayed in the school

she founded almost a century ago are a testament to the natural curiosity of children and their delight in exploring the wonders of the world around them.

Ms. Bright believed deeply in the importance of "encouraging initiative in work, play, and the conduct of school affairs." This visionary educator made the creation of a "happy place where children gladly come" her life's work. As the headmistress of the school for 48 years, she never lost sight of those goals.

The Bright School of today has changed dramatically from the school that Ms. Bright established in 1913 in a small rented house on McCallie Avenue in Chattanooga. Quickly outgrowing its original site, the school has expanded and relocated over the years to its present 25-acre campus in the Riverview area. Now serving children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, Bright School completed its last major building expansion in 2001. Facilities include a 15,261 volume library, comprehensive physical education program,

six spacious pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms, a sports courtyard, and a 2,000 square foot multi-purpose room.

While Bright School's physical plant may have changed over the years, Ms. Bright's vision of complete and well-rounded development of her students has never wavered. As the oldest independent elementary coeducational school in Tennessee, the school remains committed to the intellectual, artistic, physical, and moral growth of young boys and girls. Throughout their journey, Bright School students build a firm foundation upon which they will become wise and compassionate citizens of the world.

It accomplishes that mission by offering a rich and rigorous child-centered curriculum and a learning environment designed to stimulate critical thinking, creative inquiry, and intellectual achievement. More than 40 percent of the school's staff hold advanced degrees in education. The enrollment of approximately 350 students features small class sizes for optimal learning opportunities that focus on the individual child. A wide array of afterschool activities, sports, and Bright's "Funstitute



Summer Program" round out the school's offerings.

In 2013, the parents, teachers, and staff at Bright School will celebrate one hundred years of children coming to this award-winning learning center to broaden their horizons.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Bright School as its Head during the last six years," states O.J. Morgan. "Building upon the strong foundation established by Miss Bright, we are preparing our students for the world they will inherit in the next few years. Like Miss Bright, we want them to develop the confidence, imagination, and skills to make a difference in the world, extending for yet another century the wonderful impact Bright School has made upon the lives of children in our community."

▲ Computer proficiency is pursued at all levels.

Students are introduced to

► A beautiful campus complements the successful learning environment.



◀ A colorful airballoon challenges Bright students to read.