

# Franklin County Schools



## Friday Update March 19, 2004

**Happy Days:** I think I saw Shelby Street dancing a jig this morning when she received word that our "Reading First" grant has gotten the nod. Our request was for \$3.75 million over the next five years for K-3 students at Franklinton, Louisburg, and Laurel Mill elementary schools. Mrs. Street will get things rolling on April 20 with a "train the trainers" day for several teachers from each of the three schools. They will, in turn, work with teachers and staff over the summer to have the program fully operational for next school year.

**Important Reminder to Principals:** If it's not my birthday, I don't like surprises. Please notify my office *immediately* if you have any occurrence at school that necessitates calling law enforcement, or that may become controversial, or could generate calls to me or to School Board members. If you are unsure, call. I want to hear it first from you, not from a parent or from a reporter or "through the grapevine." Remember that state statute *requires* you to notify law enforcement of some incidents, such as assault with a weapon, sexual assault, or assault resulting in serious injury. Do this early. If you are not sure if the incident fits one of the categories, call my office. Debbie always knows where I am. If I am out of town, call Tommy Piper. He and I are coordinating our calendars so you will always be able to reach one of us. Whenever I am unavailable, Tommy will be the "Supe du Jour."

**Can You Spell Glossolinguist?** Propinquity? Immiscible? Spelling Bee champs from all our elementary and middle schools met Thursday for Word War XXIII and they impressed everyone present with their spelling prowess. (Ephemerally? Plenipotentiary?) Cedar Creek sixth grader **Mary Powers** took top honors for the county, nosing out Bunn Middle School eighth grader **Xavier Bowden** after a long word duel. Other winners were **Jackie Berton**, seventh grade, Bunn Middle; **Bianca Smith**, fifth grade, Edward Best; and **Alexander Cockman**, fourth grade, Laurel Mill.

**Top-Notch Teachers:** An independent, multi-year study funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education has confirmed the effectiveness of National Board Certification. The results showed that students of NBCTs improved an average of 7 percent more on their year-end math and reading tests than students whose teachers attempted but failed to gain certification. Gains were more pronounced for younger and lower-income students whose scores improved up to 15 percent. North Carolina leads the nation in the number of teachers who have earned this extra credential. In Franklin County we have 11 NBCTs and we are proud of each one of them: **Judy Stover**, **Pat Fowler**, and **Phyllis Daugherty** from Riverside Magnet, **Freda Brodish** and **Susan Pearce** from Cedar Creek, **Pamela Hartman** and **Johnita Williams** from Youngsville, and **Deborah Murray**, **Maria Styers**, **Pat Perry** and **Tommy Kemp** from Franklinton High.

**From Dr. Keith:** Franklin County is growing brainy kids young! The Junior Quiz Bowl will be held Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Wiley Mitchell Media Center. Our Junior QB is a Franklin County Schools sponsored event modeled after the Public Library's high school Quiz Bowl. Our three middle schools are fiercely competitive and will be vying for more than a trophy – their pride is on the line!

**On the Calendar:** School Board C&I Committee and C & I staff meeting Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., MMC. Shelby says bring a covered dish and a smile.

**A Box of Chocolates:** The State Board of Education's March meeting addressed a wide range of issues. Forrest Gump's mother would say a State BOE meeting is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you are going to get. This month, several items are worth noting:

- After receiving almost 3,300 survey responses, the State Board approved **Honor Schools of Excellence** as the name of the new designation for the ABCs accountability model. The new category refers to schools that meet the requirements to be Schools of Excellence and that also meet Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind. (The federal law required a recognition category to incorporate AYP.)
- The State Board also approved a plan to recognize alternative schools and alternative programs that meet high standards was approved. These schools or programs will be recognized annually at the North Carolina Association of Alternative Educators Conference. I wouldn't be surprised to see our own **Creative Education Centre** receive one of the first statewide recognitions!
- Everybody is squeezed for money. The State Board will ask the legislature for \$11.5 million in its supplemental budget request this year, 5 percent of total public school funding, the maximum request amount allowed. (Remember, this is a "short session" year in the General Assembly.) The request focuses on additional funds for vocational education, children with disabilities, and supplemental services for poor or disadvantaged students plus funds to provide teacher assistants in K-3 and school testing facilitators at a rate of 1:1,200 students.

**Healthy Active Children:** The new State Board policy on Healthy Active Children (may be accessed online at [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state\\_board](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state_board)) has several specific requirements for schools. For reporting purposes, each school improvement plan must describe how the school is meeting the Healthy Active Children policy. Since all our school improvement plans are complete for the 2003-2004 year, each school will need to address this as an addendum to the current SIP. Dianne Carter will be in touch with you the first of the week to give you the necessary forms and talk about timeline. Plan to have this completed by April 28 so the plans can be compiled for our Board's approval. They will need to be presented to the BOE at the May meeting for action at the June meeting in order to meet the July 15 deadline to be submitted to the state. This plan will become a permanent section in the School Improvement Plans beginning in the 2004-2005 school year.

**Happy Birthday!** Bouquets this week to **Bunnie Williams**, homebound teacher *extraordinaire*, who is celebrating on Thursday, and to **Mitzi Abbott** in finance (if you are nice to her, she might let you keep your computer), who is celebrating next Sunday.

**Spring has Sprung!** By the time you read this on Monday, Spring will be officially here! Bye-bye snow...hello sunshine!

Have a great week!

--Bert