

Friday Update December 15, 2006

Volume 4 #12

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Teacher Workday for Year-Round Calendar	12/20-21	-----	-----
Holiday Break	12/21 -1/1	-----	-----
BOE Meeting	1/8	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus, A107
Principals' Meeting	1/10	8:30 a.m.	Riverside Campus, A107
BOE Policy Meeting	1/11	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus, A107

New BOE Chair and Vice Chair:

Special congratulations go out to Franklin County Board of Education members Paige Sayles and Dannie Williams. Sayles was named Chairperson this past Monday, while Williams was named Vice Chairperson. Sayles was sworn in for another term on the same night, as were Gilbert Johnson, John May and Bernard Hall.

Exceptional Math Teacher? Are there teachers in your school with at least five years teaching experience at the 7-12 grade levels in math or science whom you believe are worthy



of state and national recognition for their excellence in teaching? Please take time to consider nominating

outstanding grade 7-12 math and science teachers for the Presidential Awards. In order to allow the nominated teacher adequate time to complete the application, all nominations have to be submitted to DPI no later than February 28, 2007; therefore, Dianne Carter needs your nominations no later than February 15th to submit to DPI for the district. If you have questions, please go to the website www.paemst.org for information about eligibility, applications and recognition.

Happy Holidays!

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's been a great year for Franklin County Schools. Despite a handful of setbacks, we have plenty to celebrate - increased supplement for teachers, major construction projects at our high schools, and our reading scores are headed in the right direction.

We have reason to be rightfully proud, but no one is prouder than I am. I get to work with a great faculty and staff and wonderful students. This week I was in a fourth-grade classroom reading a book that kicked off an entire week of writing activities focused on the winter holidays. I asked each student to tell me the name of the book they were reading - each student was anxious to tell me not only the title of the book, but the author and the central theme. I followed with questions concerning vocabulary, genre and setting. They correctly answered every question. Reading is vital to our students' success, and the more our students read, the better they will perform in school.

Last week I visited a high school English class. Small groups of students were huddled around wireless laptop computers; obviously they were engaged in learning. I know this gifted teacher, and she knows how to make learning an unforgettable experience. Long after graduation, the students in her class, and classes throughout the county, will treasure their memories of powerful learning experiences taught by dedicated and talented teachers.

After three years in Franklin County, these are just two of hundreds, maybe even thousands, of positive examples of our students and staff productively working together. There are scores of teachers, administrators, custodians, bus drivers, carpenters, and many others who go the extra mile so that all students thrive in Franklin County Schools. For their hard work and dedication, I am truly grateful and blessed to be part of such a positive and rewarding school system.

The holiday season gives me an opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work and wish you a very Merry Christmas, a Feliz Navidad, a Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy Hanukah. However you celebrate the holiday season, you will be part of my hopes and certainly part of my prayers.

Warmest best wishes,

Dr. Bert L'Homme
Superintendent

Researcher Needed: The historic Porch Building located on the Riverside Campus will undergo renovations in the near future. The goal is to get the Porch Building on the National Registry of Historic Places. In order to do so, we need a history written about the building. We are recruiting any teacher who would like to lead this process and who could finish it by the end of February, 2007. If you are interested, contact Dr. L'Homme at 496-2600.

Important Tax Information: Don't Forget to Review Your W-4 Withholding Status for 2007. You may need to review your IRS W-4 status and to file a new W-4 if your filing status or number of withholding allowances will change in the coming year. *Why would the number of withholding allowances change from year to year?* There are many lifestyle, work, and family-related reasons for employees to change withholding from one year to the next. Here are some of the possibilities:

- *Marriage
- *Divorce
- *Birth or adoption of a child
- *A child who may no longer be claimed as a dependent
- *Purchase, sale or refinancing of a home
- *Retirement
- *Taking a second job
- *Having a spouse go back to work



*Receiving income not subject to withholding such as rent, dividends, interest or capital gains
Why should employees consider their filing status and allowances? Form W-4 determines the amount of taxes that will be withheld from an employee's pay. If too much is being withheld, the employee is making an interest-free loan to the U.S. government. If not enough is being withheld, the employee may face a penalty when filing his or her personal income tax return.

The following Web site can help to determine your optimal W-4 Withholding:

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html> . Look for IRS Withholding Calculator in the middle column of the page and click to go to the calculator.

The following Web site provides the blank Form W-4 which can be printed, completed, signed and forwarded to the Finance Department if you need to make changes to your withholding status: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4.pdf>

- submitted by Fred Carter

Recycling At Its Best: The Franklin County Care and Share backpack program got a nice treat last week. Pam Tant informed us that each child will receive a sweater made completely from recycled water bottles. The sweater is very similar to fleece and very comfortable to touch. In all, 700 sweatshirts were donated. Franklin County Solid Waste Manager John Faulkner reported that 30 million Aquafina bottles were used in the joint project with Sam's Club.

Bullying Meeting: There will be a seminar concerning bullying on February 18th on the Riverside campus. There will be two three-hour sessions with a lunch break in the middle. Principals, administrative staff and select teachers will be invited to the event. More information will be available in the near future.

**Have A Great Weekend,
Bert L'Homme,
Superintendent**