

FIRST THURSDAY

OCTOBER 5, 2006

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

Biotechnology Program

Franklin County Schools is involved in a partnership with Novozymes and Vance-Granville Community College in offering a new biotechnology program to our students. North Carolina is a national leader in biotechnology. Franklinton High School has the distinction of being the first high school in North Carolina to offer a biotechnology course. Five other high schools in our state will follow suit next semester. Biotechnology is a field of work that offers endless possibilities for our students and for our economy.

Assistant Principal named for BMS

It just seems appropriate that Carla Pleasants Coble, a graduate of Franklin County Schools, would return home to work for the school system. She is the daughter of Carl and Shelby Pleasants and a graduate of both Louisburg High School and Louisburg College. She continued her education at Atlantic Christian College where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. After teaching in Halifax County for seven years, she relocated to Wilson County and took a teaching position with the Nash Rocky Mount Schools at Bailey Elementary School.

She earned Master's degrees in Education and School Administration from East Carolina University. She is also a graduate of the Principal's Executive Program for Future Leaders. During her tenure with Nash Rocky Mount Schools, she served as a cooperative teacher with East Carolina University, North Carolina Wesleyan College and Barton College. She also assisted with new teacher orientation, mentor training, conducted parent workshops and provided staff development workshops for the Nash Rocky Mount Schools. During this same

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Whole-Faculty Study Groups

Whole-Faculty Study Groups, an embedded on-going professional development model, is off to a good start for the 2006-2007 school year. The professional development model is grounded in the following essential questions:

“What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will have a deeper understanding of what they teach?”

What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will be more skillful in how they teach?

What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will challenge students to learn difficult and fundamental concepts? and,

What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will give students the skills to be deep thinkers and problem solvers?” (Murphy & Lick, 2005)

Again, teachers will be in small groups of 3 to 5 members to determine student needs, complete pre-assessments, work collaboratively on strategies to implement in their classroom, and complete post-assessments for student mastery. All teacher groups will complete an action plan to drive their work and document on logs after each WFSG meeting their accomplishments. Each group meets twice monthly, one of which is on an early release day.

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FIRST THURSDAY

Longtime CN Director Betty Collins retires



Director of Child Nutrition honored at reception

A reception honoring Director of Child Nutrition Betty Faye Collins was held September 28 at the Mitchell Media Center. Ms. Collins retired after nearly 30 years with Franklin County Schools. In the photo, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Tommy Piper presents Collins with a gift to commemorate her years of service to Franklin County Schools. Thank you, Betty Faye, for a job well done!

(Photo courtesy of The Franklin Times)

Jama Stallings named new Child Nutrition Director



Jama G. Stallings has been appointed as the new Director for Child Nutrition for Franklin County Schools. Mrs. Stallings began her employment with Franklin County Schools in April of 1999 and has filled several roles in the Child Nutrition Office, including accounting technician, office operations specialist and Child Nutrition Supervisor. A Franklin County native, Mrs. Stallings is a 1995 graduate of Bunn High School and attended Nash Community College. She graduated in May of 1999 from Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. This summer, Mrs. Stallings earned her credentialing as a School Food Service and Nutrition Specialist (SFNS). She joins over 800 of her colleagues in achieving this nationally recognized prestigious designation. A member of the School Nutrition Association, Mrs. Stallings serves as District III Director for the state association. She has also served on the Nutrition Committee at the state level. Mrs. Stallings is a member of the Student Health Advisory for Franklin County Schools, Frankly Healthy, and the 5-A-Day Coalition.

Deb DeSantis

Additional construction funds approved by County Commissioners

As most of you already know, the increased cost of fuel and demand for materials abroad have significantly increased the cost of construction materials here at home. Specifically, the cost of concrete, steel, copper and most other commercial building materials are affected. As a result, the \$30,000,000 school bond referendum passed in November of 2004 will not completely fund all projects identified as part of the 2004 bond package.

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners addressed this issue at their October 2, 2006 meeting. After a presentation and discussion, the commissioners authorized the Franklin County Board of Education to proceed with the final design of a new elementary school. In the same motion, they also endorsed a supplemental funding strategy which involves the issuance of approximately \$13,000,000 in Certificates of Participation to fully fund the 2004 bond projects and provide a full-size, new elementary school to accommodate growth. This action will help the school system meet the needs of students throughout the county. We will keep you informed as this process continues.

Doug Moore

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The National PTA and National Education Association of the United States give the following suggestions when preparing for, attending, and following up on parent-teacher conferences:

- Start the conference right: be there on time, and plan not to run over the amount of time that has been set aside, usually about 40 minutes.
- If you are a working parent who can't arrange to meet during regular hours, make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a time to meet that is good for both of you. The best conferences are those in which both teachers and parents stay calm and try hard to work together for one purpose and one purpose only: to help your child do well. Arguing, or blaming each other for problems your child is having, helps no one.

Getting Ready: Each teacher will probably come prepared with samples of your children's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should

get ready for each conference, too. Talk to your children before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your children if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teachers. Make sure your children don't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher(s) are meeting together in order to help them.

The Conference: Some good questions to ask are these:

- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? Have you

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Girl Scouts Blanket the Community

Help your community sleep tight and stay warm by donating new or clean, gently-used blankets to this service project. Your donations will benefit local women's shelters, homeless shelters, foster homes, animal shelters, and other local community organizations.

POC Girl Scout Council

Contact Sondra Ayscue at 496-2227 if you have donations or questions.



The Louisburg High School parking lot was nearing completion at lunchtime Tuesday (photo left and below).

Pardon our dust!



Photo left, blocks were going up on the LHS campus Tuesday as well.

At right, students on their lunch break seem to be taking the construction in stride.



Deb DeSantis

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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time period, she traveled throughout the state as a consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and served as a Performance Based Licensure assessor and site trainer.

After teaching in the classroom for 15 years, Mrs. Coble returned to Franklin County in February 2005 to fill the position of curriculum specialist at Bunn Middle School. While serving in this position, she pursued further educational

training at the National Institute for Reading Apprenticeship and at the National Whole Faculty Study Group Conference. As curriculum specialist, she was responsible for the implementation of the Reading Apprenticeship program, provided classroom support observations, was the Whole-Faculty Study Groups coordinator, supervised the Empowering Writers program, and coordinated the selection of textbooks and other curricular materials.

She also monitored all student Personalized Education Plans, assisted and approved teacher IGP's, served

as staff development coordinator, was responsible for implementation of staff development initiatives, and served as site administrator for the 21st Century Grant Afterschool Tutoring Program.

In August 2006, Mrs. Coble became assistant principal for Bunn Middle School.

"I want Bunn Middle School to be a safe place for all students and a positive learning environment so each student will fulfill his or her potential. I see Bunn Middle School as a place where the focus will be on academic excellence and recognition of achievement, therefore producing lifetime learners," said Mrs. Coble.



"I want Bunn Middle School to be a safe place for all students and a positive learning environment so each student will fulfill his or her potential."

She thoroughly enjoys her new job and loves walking around to make sure students are focused and engaged in learning. She loves to assist teachers, encourage the students and communicate with parents.

David Hawks

WHOLE-FACULTY STUDY GROUPS



Congratulations to Freda Clifton, Assistant Principal at Bunn High School, on the birth of her son Alijah Zakai Clifton, born September 30th!

Study group at Bunn Elementary School hard at work

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Make-Up Days

- October 20 will be a regular school day for Franklin County Schools' students on the traditional calendar. This is a make-up day for school closings on September 1st due to inclement weather.
- Youngsville Elementary's make-up day was September 27.

Carlene Murphy, the district's consultant and founder of WFSG, met with all administrators and central office on September 25-27 to assist in the initial stages of this year's continued implementation.

Each school's principal shared the action plans of their groups and the student data that is the driving force of the group's work. Mrs. Murphy was pleased with the work of the teachers and administrators as we focus on the needs of the students and search for best practices to meet those needs in our schools.

Franklin County School teachers and administrators will be presenting at the Whole-Faculty Study Group National Conference in Augusta in February highlighting the successes of WFSG in the district. Two Franklin County Administrators will be attending the National Staff Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in December to co-present with Carlene Murphy on Whole-Faculty Study Groups. In addition, several of our schools will be sighted in an upcoming book with vignettes of the WFSG process in the school.

Dianne Carter

Event	Date	Time	Location
PE Teachers Quarterly Meeting	10/5	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Foreign Language Teachers Quarterly Mtg.	10/5	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)	10/6	8:30 a.m.	Child Nutrition Annex
BOE Meeting	10/9	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Early Release Day	10/11	---	Traditional Calendar
Principals' Meeting	10/12	8:30 a.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Teacher Workday	10/16	---	Year-Round Calendar
Assistant Principals' Academy Meeting	10/17	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus - A107
Superintendent's Teachers Advisory Council (STAC)	10/18	4:00 p.m.	Laurel Mill Elementary School

Continuing coverage of new Positive Behavior Support Program at Cedar Creek Middle School...

Greetings from Cedar Creek Middle! We have had one of the best beginnings of our school year ever, due largely to our school-wide PBS initiative. PBS, or Positive Behavior Support, is not simply a system of awarding students for their positive behavior—it's a mindset that permeates everything we do here. From the teachers to the custodians to the cafeteria staff to the administration, everyone has adopted a mindset that we are looking for what's good about our students! And we are finding that there's plenty!

Each day, students are eligible to receive tickets for displaying fantastic behavior in four categories: being respectful, being responsible, being safe, and being kind. The tickets then can be turned in for prizes and privileges, including raffles of some really neat stuff! Students are eagerly holding the doors for each other, picking up trash left in the hallways, turning in assignments on time, and speaking kindly to each other—to name a few examples. This PBS initiative is transforming the climate here at our school by turning our attention toward what is right rather than always focusing on what is wrong.

The results? Quieter classrooms where more learning is going on from bell to bell; a safer environment where students feel confident they can come to school and learn and not get hurt; friendlier halls and classrooms with positive attitudes, demonstrated by a noticeable upswing in staff and student morale. Cedar Creek is becoming a place where students are excited to be engaged in authentic learning activities and teachers are enthusiastic about teaching! And these are just a few of the benefits of focusing our lens on positive behavior—looking directly at what is working.

Now this isn't to say that we have no room for growth. We certainly have many areas for improvement as we try to increase test scores, lower suspensions and create a dynamite middle school to serve our community. But we are extremely pleased with the start of our school year, and we are confident that with the transformed mindset here at CCMS, brought on by our school-wide PBS initiative, our super start will become a fantastic finish, making the 2006-2007 school year the best one ever!

Brooke Wheeler

Conferences

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noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?

- What kinds of tests are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

After the Conference: Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make

sure he or she knows that you and the teacher care. Stay in regular touch with the teacher to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teachers should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teachers are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

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Board Notes

Property Negotiations

At the September 25 Board of Education Meeting, the Board authorized the attorney to proceed with negotiating contracts for the following properties:

- * Forest City property on Cedar Creek Road for the new Franklinton High School and
- * Mitchell property on the corner of Burt Winstead and Long Mill Roads for the new elementary school site.

Retreat

The Board of Education announced that their annual retreat will be October 23 at the North Carolina School Board Association Conference Room.

Debbie Williams

School Board minutes and agendas can be found on our homepage at www.fcschools.net