

QTL Program Opens Eyes of Teachers

Coming up with new classroom strategies to keep the learning process engaging to the student isn't always an easy task.

Well, Franklin County Schools, teachers have been getting a crash course in new ideas, most involving new technologies that have been installed at many schools in Franklin County. The Quality Teaching and Learning program has been a very useful experience for teachers enrolled in the program – many of the teachers are already using the ideas in their own classrooms.

"We are learning how to integrate sophisticated technology in the class-

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Helping Hands



Marsha Frenkel (back, left) and Matt Raymond share a laugh with kids from the Franklin County Boys & Girls Club during their Spring Break visit.

Boston University Students visit Terrell Lane for Spring Break

Most people who went to college probably couldn't wait to head to some place tropical for spring break to release some stress.

Fourteen Boston University students had something a little different in mind this year – helping out at Ter-

rell Lane Middle School.

That's right - instead of opting for a traditional spring break in Florida or Cancun, they traveled more than 700 miles to Louisburg from Massachusetts to lend their helping hands and minds.

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Carter Receives National Honor

Director of Elementary Education one of three people in U. S. awarded

Dianne Carter's passion for education is second to none, just like her state leadership award presented from the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators (NAFEPA).

Carter, the Franklin County Schools' Director of Elementary Education, was one of just three people from North Carolina to receive the award this March in Washington, D.C.

"It was an honor, and I was very humbled by it," Carter said.

The award is given to members of NAFEPA who have assumed significant roles in the support and promotion of activities and

goals of the state affiliate of NAFEPA. The North Carolina affiliate is the North Carolina Association of Compensation of Compensatory Education (NCACE).

Carter is in her second term as secretary of NCACE. In addition, she is a past member of the Governor's Teacher Advisory and also serves on the North Carolina Committee of Practitioners.

Through 32 years of Education, Carter is as enthusiastic as ever about the subject.

"Education is awesome," Carter said. "Education changes so fast, and it is our responsibility to serve

as role models for the students – you have to do what you expect the students to do."

Carter knew at a very young age, even during her days at Bunn High School, that she wanted to pursue a career in education. After graduating from N.C. State University, Carter returned to Franklin County and taught for four years at Epsom School and then spent 18 more years in the classroom at Louisburg High School as a teacher of Algebra I. Carter received her Masters degree from N. C. State and did other graduate work at East Carolina University and N. C. Wesleyan.

"Education changes so fast — it is our responsibility to serve as role models for the students – you have to do what you expect the students to do."

- Dianne Carter

"This is just something that is in me," Carter said. "I can't imagine myself not working in education, and I've always wanted to work in Franklin County. This is home – I have roots here."

In 1997, Carter opted for a slight career change and started working for the N. C. Department of Instruction as a member of the State Assistance Team. After two years of helping schools that were struggling, she returned to Franklin County to work at the central office as the Coordinator of School Improvement. That eventually led to her current position as Director of Elementary Education and Title I. In addition, she is



Dianne Carter, left, proudly displays her plaque with Franklin County Board of Education Chair Paige Sayles.

in charge of Title II and Reading First programs.

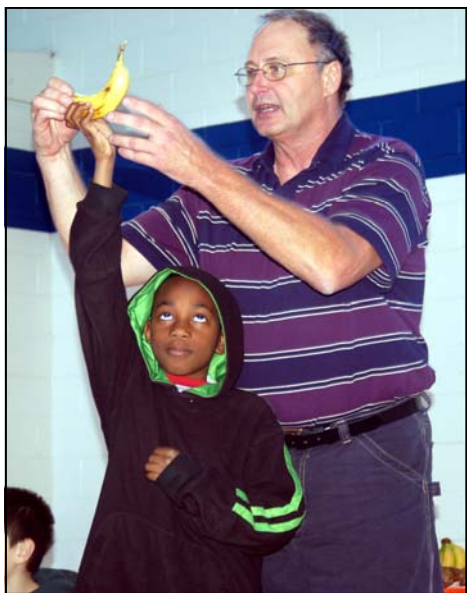
"I've always had a passion for education," Carter said. "I love people, and I love to watch people succeed. It's good to celebrate success with people. It's just something inside of me."

The veteran educator also has firm beliefs on what it takes for extended success in the world of education.

"In order for us to be successful, the whole key is that we all work as a team," Carter said. "If everyone has a passion and works together, it will succeed."

- Nathan Moreschi

Healthy Habits



2007 FCS Child Nutrition Fair



Child Nutrition Program Spreads Healthy Ways of living to second graders through annual fair

It's no secret that regular exercise and a healthy diet can play a big part in living a comfortable and productive life.

But it's easier to talk about exercising and eating healthy than it is to actually do it. Well, The Franklin County Schools' Child Nutrition Department took some proactive steps last week in making sure children understand what living a healthy life really is.

The annual Child Nutrition Fair was held at Royal Elementary last week, and every FCS second-grade student was invited.

The fair included physical games that require movement so people get exercise without thinking about it as well as talks about eating healthy.

"The kids really seem to enjoy it," FCS Child Nutrition Director Jama Stallings said. "I think they enjoy all of the activities, and they like that they can take samples home with them."

Many students won door prizes, and all students got to take sample bags of fruit with them.

"The purpose is to educate the kids on how to make healthy choices," Stallings said. "People need to be physically active, and through this program, we try to make kids more active and have fun with it."

The Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department plays a big part in the physical activity portion of the event. Oliver June Greene, Franklin County Parks

SEE NUTRITION PAGE 4

Keeping America Beautiful

Middle School Grade Report Changes

Beginning in the fall of 2007, all Franklin County middle schools will switch to a nine-week report card marking period. In addition, progress reports will be issued every three weeks.

Also new in the fall of 2007, each middle school will hold report-card pick-up nights at the end of each grading period. These changes were made by Dr. Eddie Ingram, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, at the request of middle school principals.



On February 28, an early release day, the Before and After Program at Royal Elementary School enjoyed an afternoon with Mr. Ed Shearin from the Solid Waste Department. The children learned about recycling and the Keep America Beautiful Program. Pictured in the back row are Site Coordinator Rachel Clark, Mr. Ed Shearin and assistant Tawsha Spivey.

NUTRITION

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and Recreation Services Supervisor, led students through entertaining dances and told them how they can become more active yet have a good time doing so.

"I think it is very important to get them started with some form of recreational activity, along with good eating," Greene said. "I think the nutrition fair was a big success. The kids learned some different things and got some new ideas. I look forward to helping the Franklin County School system in the future."

Other groups involved with the fair were the Franklin County Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Nutrition Services Branch, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and the Federal Department of Defense (produce merchandising department). The Department of Defense was represented by Greg Sankovic. Sankovic visited last year and returned from Florida again last week to educate students about different types of fruits including different varieties of bananas.

The Franklin County Cooperative Extension booth was anchored by Heather Wrenn and Amanda Faulkner (Faulkner is a Vance-Granville Community College student intern for the 4H Club). Children were provided in-

formation about the food guide pyramid and how to have fun with exercising. Participants got a hands-on experience in game of hop-scotch that centered around the food pyramid. In addition, the activity was shared with teachers as a way to bring exercise into the classroom.

Stallings was very pleased with the fair this year and is happy to see that it is continuing to grow. The fair has taken place for more than 10 years now and will take place again next year, probably in March. It takes Stallings and her colleagues several months of careful preparation to assure success of the event.

- Nathan Moreschi

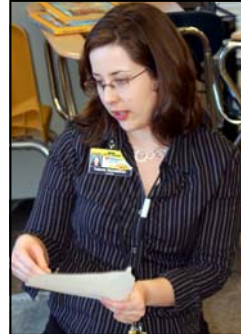
Teachers of The Year



Brenda Solomon – FES



Marchetta Grantham – BMS



Valerie Hawthorne – CCMS



Michelle Harris – BES



Sharon Reams –LMES



Kristy Kane – LES



Marcie Adu Poku – TLMS



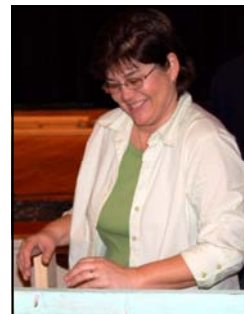
Dean Reed—RES



Tracey May – YES



Randy Whitley— BHS



Lisa Lawrence – FHS



Lauren Stroupe – EBES

Congratulations to the Franklin County Schools Teacher of the Year individual school winners for the 2007-2008 year. The county-wide winner will be announced near the end of the current school year.



Jane Blevins – LHS



FHS' John Grimsley is impressed by the QTL program.

QTL

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room," Franklinton High School social studies teacher John Grimsley said. "Kids can make their own diagrams and graphs. This is a very diverse way to teach, and my students really like it. It makes you think outside of the box."

Grimsley noticed an immediate increase in the participation level of his students and believes this program will help improve overall student performance.

"This has real-world application; it is very hands on, and that is what the students really want," Grimsley said. "I'm using these techniques daily in class."

Annette Privette of Bunn High School voiced similar opinions.

"QTL has given me a variety of new teaching methods by integrating the latest technology."

A few of the technology upgrades that many classrooms throughout the county have received include a data projector, document camera, sound system and an interactive writing board. Students and teachers have

welcomed the change to the new technology. Although dry erase boards are still in use, many teachers first opt for their new technologies.

The program outlines specific strategies for actual activities for classroom use. However the directions can be modified to meet different needs for different classrooms.

Also, the program teaches the actual thinking process for developing these activities. Many of the activities focus on higher-order thinking skills and integrating multiple curriculums with the programs.

New teachers, and teachers who have run out of ideas, find the program very helpful to present course material in the classroom.

Teachers find the training not only useful, but very entertaining. One of the activities includes a scavenger hunt in which teachers form groups, look for certain items and then produce a lesson plan from the items found. The version of QTL training FCS teachers are receiving helps promote the Whole-Faculty Study Group (WFSG) program as well. QTL training has a focus on small learning communities, much like the framework for WFSG.

- Nathan Moreschi



The Big, Bad Wrecker

Towing school buses and other FCS vehicles got a lot easier this month. A new wrecker has entered the fleet of transportation vehicles. The monster machine has an eight-speed transmission and, believe it or not, it is the smallest vehicle of its class.

WFSG Yielding Promising Results

Beginning this month, a handful of schools will be highlighted in *First Thursday* for their efforts with Whole-Faculty Study Groups (WFSG). WFSG is a countywide program designed to encourage staff collaboration to improve student progress.

Cedar Creek Middle School

The "Write-Stuff " Whole-Faculty Study group has been focusing on improving writing skills through student understanding of parts of speech. By collaborating together, our group has been able to acquire and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to increase student perform-

ance. Rusty Hunt says that his favorite part of WFSG is having the time to talk to his co-workers and share ideas. Deborah Young has taken on the challenge of incorporating parts of speech and writing it her art class. Her goal is to help students' appreciate that writing is necessary in all areas of their life. Danielle Brown, a first year teacher, shares her energy and optimism with her fellow group members. She always contributes her ideas and experiences from the classroom. Cade Carter, a veteran

SEE WFSG PAGE 12

Donation Benefits BMS EC Program

Lewis thrilled with new software

Mary Anne Lewis isn't about to let precious funds for her classroom go to waste. So when Lewis was searching for software that best fit the needs of her students in her exceptional children's classroom, she wanted to make sure she was getting a quality program.

"When we order stuff, we have to know that is going to work well," Lewis said. "We want to make the best choice for our students."

Lewis was particularly interested in a program titled Success Maker because it covered several subjects and could be used with children with a variety of abilities.

Well, the only problem was funding. Lewis had funds for part of it, but in the end, a donation was made by Pearson Digital Learning to cover the rest of the costs involved.

"This is so wonderful," Lewis said. "It shows how much people care about classrooms like this. Several years ago, this would be the end of the road, but now people realize how important it is."

The Success Maker software is an interactive program that includes practice in not just writing and reading, but also science, math and social studies.



Mary Anne Lewis (back and center) and her assistant Demetrius Williams (far left) of Bunn Middle School are quite pleased with the generous software donation.

"It will be very nice to use one program for all of the subjects," Lewis said. "It will make it much easier on the students. This program reaches all the kids on all levels, and it is very interactive. It is important to keep the students engaged at all times."

Lewis, who is in her second year at Bunn Middle School, said the program is in use in Wake and Vance counties and hopes to see it spread throughout

Franklin County.

Working with children with disabilities is what Lewis wants to continue doing. She taught art at St. Catherine's in Wake Forest before becoming a substitute teacher and made the move to be a fulltime classroom teacher in 2005.

"I love doing this – the students mean so much to me," Lewis said.

- Nathan Moreschi

BOSTON

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The annual Alternative Spring Break program is open to the first 230 students from Boston University who sign up, but that is not an easy task. Students literally camp out for tickets in hopes of earning a slot in the program, often in adverse weather conditions. This year the weather was so cold in Boston that there was a 15-minute frost-bite warning. The police actually had to ask the students to go inside because it was too dangerous to stay out. Not only were they cold, but they

chose to do this on the night of the Super Bowl.

After the 230 kids are registered, they break into subgroups that go on different trips throughout the United States. The trip to Terrell Lane Middle School is one of the more popular ones.

On top of the waiting and camping out, participants pay \$275 to cover trip expenses. For the most part, the 14 students who ventured to TLMS did not know each other and endured the 700-mile trip in a 15-passenger van with no trunk space.

So, are the students happy with their spring break choice? You bet.

"It didn't cross my mind to go some-

where else, but this has been a great opportunity," Marsha Frenkel said. "It's nice to do something good." Frenkel is majoring in finance.

All of the participants voiced similar opinions and many are considering returning again next year.

Andrew Coder, who is majoring in Economics, is even considering becoming a teacher after the experience.

"The kids are really into it," Coder said. "And they have responded well. They really like the attention. We've been doing a lot of stuff, but there is something about being here – you don't feel tired. I'm really upset it's

[SEE TLMS PAGE 9](#)



Boston University students in the front row are Clark Goldstein, Becky Quinn, Andrew Coder, Adina Rosenthal, Jessica Leving and Emma Kaplan. In the second row are Mark Foelster, Amanda Wybolt, Allison Mansueto, Cassie Schoenwolf, Marsha Frenkel, Matt Raymond, Mike Barbo and Tim Murtha.

TLMS

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gone by so fast. This has definitely increased my consideration of becoming a teacher."

Whether becoming a teacher or not, the participants look at teachers in a different light now.

"I will never look at teachers the same way again," Tim Murtha said. "I have a new respect for them; they do so much."

Murtha is majoring in biology.

Frenkel was impressed with the response from the students of TLMS.

"The students are a lot of fun," Frenkel said. "I can't help but compare them to me when I was in seventh grade. It makes you look at your life differently. They really teach you a lot. It's interesting to see the students respond differently to different teachers. You really learn a lot about different teaching methods also."

Adina Rosenthal, who was a co-coordinator with Allison Mansueto (marketing major), is majoring in education and also enjoyed watching the different teaching styles.

"You really have to learn the basics," Rosenthal said. "I really got to see different philosophies in the classroom at



Clark Goldstein (right) enjoys breakfast with a TLMS student.

work. I've learned that you really have to combine different ones and see what works."

Matt Raymond, who is majoring in history education, learned a little about himself as well.

"You learn more about your own ability because the kids are relying on you," Raymond said.

Teachers were happy to have the group on campus as well. The Boston University crowd helped out with a variety of functions throughout the week,

including the spelling bee, a poetry slam and question and answer session with eighth graders - not to mention a mural painted in the media center.

"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for everyone," TLMS teacher Crystal Cofield said. "It's admirable that they take an alternative spring break. The kids really like them. They are helping the kids get ready for college and the rest of their future. This really gives the students a different perspective."

Apart from the education opportunities with the students, the Boston group has found they really like the Franklin County area.

"It's nice to be out of Boston and in an area where people say hello," Coder said.

Frenkel added that although Boston has a very large population, you often feel lonely because you are always around people you don't know. She was very warm to the small-town atmosphere in Louisburg.

"This has been a great experience for a lot of reasons," Rosenthal said. "I heard some amazing stuff about this trip, and it is true. I'm so happy to be a part of this."

- Nathan Moreschi



Here's the finished mural at Terrell Lane Middle School.

FHS Students Entertain FES for Read Across America

Read Across America Day was a huge success at Franklinton Elementary School again this year. For the second consecutive year, Franklinton High School Students eagerly jumped at the opportunity to share their love of reading with students in every FES classroom. In addition to reading to elementary students, some of the high school guest readers painted their faces and brought props to entertain their young listeners. One even dressed in a Cat in the Hat costume.

In addition to students being read stories written by Dr. Seuss, teachers planned other activities in their classrooms to commemorate the birthday of the beloved children's author. One of the highlights of the day was having Mrs. Linda Frederickson, principal, and Mrs. Patricia Sasser, retired teacher, visit each classroom dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

Mrs. Doris Davis-Williams, media specialist at Franklinton High School, coordinated the event with help from Mrs. Candace Tilley, English Teacher at Franklinton High School, Ms. Amy Leonard, FES media, and Mrs. Patricia



FHS students enjoyed their time reading to FES students.

Sasser, former FES AIG Teacher.

Read Across American has become a national celebration of the magic of books and an opportunity for silly and serious reading events to drive home the message that children who read will achieve. Sponsored by NEA, on

the national level, and promoted by Franklin County NCAE on the local level, this award-winning literacy event encourages activities to keep students reading 365 days a year.

- Doris Davis-Williams

School Enrollment Report (month 6)

Elementary Schools

School	Students
Royal	641
Youngsville	698
Laurel Mill	312
Franklinton	610
Bunn	677
Edward Best	522
Louisburg	498

Total for all
Franklin County
Schools : **8,185**

High Schools

School	Students
Bunn	866
Franklinton	715
Louisburg	675

Middle Schools

School	Students
Bunn	664
Cedar Creek	718
TLMS	589

Singing With Confidence



Scenes from the annual FCS All County Chorus



Scenes from the 2007 All County Band Concert



TLMS

CCMS

BMS

FHS

LHS

BHS



WFSG

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teacher, sums up the WFSG as a "great place for teachers to learn from one another."

Royal Elementary

Royal Elementary has arranged groups by grade level or department.

Each group targets goals related to the school's curricular/academic goals

The specials teachers (Music, Art, etc.) – Tonya Brodie (PE), Lisa Bolton (Art), Nancy Brooks (music) Lauren Hamil (writing) Nikki Valentine (media) decided to focus on improving writing conventions with second grade students. The first half of the year, they targeted beginning capitalization and punctuation. Now, they are concentrating on proper nouns. Each teacher has found creative ways to develop lessons in their respective area that

integrate this objective into the lesson activities.

Examples

Media – Biographies and timelines

Music – Identify proper nouns and coordinate with musical instruments

PE – Relay identifying proper nouns

Art – Drawing pictures of specific people, places, and things

Writing – Letter writing and proper noun brainstorming activity

Teachers have always had good intentions with the idea of integrating base curriculum into the special class lessons, but the WFSG process has facilitated this by providing a structured format to accomplish this feat. Once our Specials teachers gained some experience at it, they found that the process of integration came rather easy.

Exceptional Children's Teachers – Darlene Small, Jennifer Drazick, (EC

resource teachers), Susan Rosenthal (Speech Pathologist), Kimberly Little (school counselor), Lisa Alston (AIG teacher) -

This group has been working on descriptive writing and paragraph form

The teachers are developing lessons that work at building the children's ability to utilize adjectives and adverbs in sentences. They have been working on this since the beginning of the year and are now moving towards the children building upon this skill by using the sentences to develop paragraphs and eventually to writing products that include a beginning, middle and ending.

The WFSG process is the structure necessary for professionals to specify a desired student skill and to really make meaningful discoveries on how to best target that skill instructionally. Without this structure, I do not believe that this would occur, at least not as effectively.