

FIRST THURSDAY

JULY 6 2006

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

Welcome to First Thursday

Welcome to our very first issue of the Franklin County Schools' e-newsletter. You don't have to wonder when you'll get another — always on the *First Thursday!* We will keep you updated on all the news from your school and across the county. We welcome input! What do you need to know? And if you need to know sooner than the next First Thursday, please go to our website (www.fcschools.net) for the very latest!

Reading scores up across county

Reading test scores are up in every school! Franklin County Schools' superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme announced the results based on preliminary results of this year's End-of-Grade tests.

The EOGs are state mandated assessments in grades three through eight and are measured by a percentage of students who score "proficient" (at or above grade level).

"We are particularly pleased with the results," Dr. L'Homme said. "We can see a steady improvement in every school, in almost every classroom. This is very good news for students and teachers who have worked so hard and have been so focused on increasing reading skills for all students."

Dr. L'Homme added, "Now we are looking forward to a new school year. We know we are headed in the right direction, but we have a lot of work still to do."

Countywide, 90.3% of fifth graders, 85.5% of fourth graders, and 82% of third graders hit the mark. At middle school level, 88.5% of eighth graders, 88.6 % of seventh graders, and 82.8% of sixth graders scored at or above

proficiency.

Teachers and administrators give the credit to a lot of hard work.

This doesn't happen by accident, said veteran educator Connie Horton, now teaching fourth grade at Royal Elementary. On-going improvement is a step-by-step process.

"The students worked hard, the teachers worked hard and the parents worked hard," she said.

Supplemental reading is important, she added, including self-selected reading every night and a lot of parental involvement.

Broken down by school and grade level, some increases were dramatic, others small. Edward Best fourth graders posted a small .4 percent improvement over last year, to 85.7 percent.

At Franklinton Elementary, fourth graders jumped 23.4 percent, to 76.8 percent. A one percent decrease was marked by FES fifth graders, but the overall proficiency was 91 percent.

The highest scores were hit at Riverside fifth grade, 100 percent; Edward Best fifth grade, 98.6 percent; and Youngsville fifth grade, 98 percent. In

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The earth has moved at Louisburg High School – and Bunn High renovations and additions are right behind! The school board awarded bids on both these projects last month, consuming the lion's share of the \$30 million 2004 school bond.

Both schools will receive extensive construction. At Louisburg, the cafeteria and dining hall areas will be

enlarged, the office and media center will move, an ag building plus additional vocational classrooms will be constructed, and existing classrooms will be renovated.

At Bunn, an ag/wood shop with supporting classrooms will be constructed along with a new cafeteria and kitchen, new classroom building, additional vocational

—See UPDATE, page 4

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS FROM HONORS DAY

Plenty of smiles and kudos filled the gym at Louisburg Elementary School for Honors Day June 14. In addition to recognition of 33 retirees and the Teacher of the Year (see page 3), awards were handed out in many areas.

Betty Oakley of Bunn Elementary School was named Teacher Assistant of the Year. Media Center assistant, Mrs. Oakley also has duties in a first grade classroom, bus and cafeteria. A 27-year veteran at Bunn Elementary School, she goes "above and beyond" expectations, said Jewel Eason, BES principal.

Superintendent Awards were given to Maintenance Director Jimmy Floyd,

Director of Elementary Education Dianne Carter, and the entire financial staff: Fred Carter, Quinnley Hedgspeth, Dianne Revelle, Angela Ward, Joy Thorne, Diane Jones, and Mitzi Abbott.

Assistant Superintendent Tommy Piper presented Service Awards to the Custodial Staff of Royal Elementary and to TIMS Operator Linda Loftin.

Principal of the Year Chris Blice and Assistant Principal of the Year Roosevelt Alston, both of Louisburg High School, were recognized.

AIG Honors went to Carolyn Neal of Bunn Elementary and to Carol Cheves.

Cindy Vierheller of Franklinton Elementary was named Exceptional Children's Teacher of Excellence.



Betty Oakley



Fred Carter, Diane Revelle, Quinnley Hedgspeth, Angela Ward, Joy Thorne, Diane Jones, Mitzi Abbott, Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme and Doug Moore.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Online safety for kids ages 13 to 17

With summer vacation in full swing, many teens are spending unsupervised time on the Internet, which can put them at potential risk of online predators. With few regulations in place to protect children, parents should create their own online safety zone:

- Talk to your kids about their online friends and activities just as you would about their other friends and activities.
- Know what chat rooms or message boards your teens visit. If you allow chat rooms, insist on monitored or public chat rooms. Be aware of the web sites that your teens frequent. Make sure they are not visiting sites with offensive

content or posting personal information or photos of themselves. (Check out MySpace which has 73 million members.)

- Insist that your teens never agree to meet an online "friend."
- Teach your kids not to download programs, music, or files without your permission. This could be illegal.
- Help protect teens from spam. Tell them not to give out their email address online, not to respond to junk mail, and to use email filters.
- Encourage your teens to tell you if something or someone online makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened.

FCS Vision Statement

Franklin County Schools' faculty, staff, and parents are responsible for teaching all children knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be productive citizens.

—Adopted by Board of Education June 5, 2006



Dennis Tabron

BMS math teacher named FCS 2006-07 Teacher of the Year

"It seems very appropriate that an individual that was born here, went to Bunn Elementary and graduated from Bunn High School...should be selected as [our] Teacher of the Year," said BMS principal David Hawks of seventh grade math teacher Dennis Tabron.

"He began his educational career in Franklin County and has taught here for over 20 years. In fact, he is a lifelong native of Franklin County and a product of its schools system."

Tabron attended Duke University on a full athletic scholarship. After graduation, he was drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1982. His goal then was to "make a lot of money playing pro football and come back to Franklin County and start at recreation program," he says with a laugh.

Well, part of it came true.

He did play pro football, but during the off-season, while substitute teaching at Louisburg High School, Tabron saw a clear path to what he knew he was called to do: to help

young people.

"He is always willing to help any child that is struggling and provide him or her with assistance, encouragement and even a ride home," Hawks said. Tabron tutors students who are failing and cheers students who are succeeding. He coaches numerous sports and sponsors many student clubs and activities.

He has developed remediation and intervention programs for the school and established a recreation program in the community called OFFER (Organized Family Fun Education and Recreation).

"He can always be depended on to be a strong voice for the children, parents and the Bunn community as a whole," Hawks said.



Teachers of the Year for Franklin County Schools are, from left, (front row), Marcy McDonald, LHS; Kerry Wroblewski, REMS; Wendy Faulkner, RES; Cathy Madden, TLMS; Pam Denton, YES; (middle row) Valerie Church, BES; Samuel Bryant, FES; Monique Bell, FHS; Lisa Whitley, LMES; Mary Wyatt Allen, LES; (back row) Dennis Tabron, BMS and FCS; Patricia Leonard, BHS; Rusty Hunt, CCMS; and Gretchen Gupton, EBES.

2006-07 Bell Schedules

- All FCS elementary schools will run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Hours for middle schools will be 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- High schools will begin at 7:45 a.m. and dismiss at 2:45 p.m.

— SCORES (Continued from page 1)

addition, third graders at Royal and Youngsville; fourth graders at Laurel Mill, Royal and Youngsville; and fifth graders at Bunn and Franklinton all posted scored over 90 percent.

Middle schoolers also did well, particularly at Bunn seventh grade (93.3 percent) and eighth grade (92.1 percent).

The largest improvement was at

Cedar Creek Middle sixth grade with a 16.7 percent increase.

By overall school, reading proficiency measured: Bunn Elementary, 87.9; Edward Best, 88.9; Franklinton Elementary, 77.9; Laurel Mill, 82.2; Louisburg Elementary, 76.1; Riverside, 85.7; Royal, 91.5; Youngsville 93.9; Bunn Middle, 89.5, Cedar Creek, 86.8; and Terrell Lane 82.9.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Location
Summer School Second Session	7/5-18	—	Louisburg Elementary School Terrell Lane Middle School
Board of Education Regular Meeting	7/10	7:00 p.m.	Board Room, Mitchell Media Center
Teacher Workdays for Year-Round Calendar	7/17-20	—	Youngsville Elementary School
First Day of School for Year-Round Calendar	7/21	—	Youngsville Elementary School
Board of Education Special Called Meeting	7/24	7:00 p.m.	Board Room, Mitchell Media Center
BOE Student Reassignment Committee	7/31	TBA	Mitchell Media Center
Annual Principals' Retreat	8/10	8:30 a.m.	Louisburg United Methodist Church
Board of Education Regular Meeting	8/14	7:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Early Dismissal Day for YES	8/16	12:45 p.m.	Youngsville Elementary
Teacher Workdays	8/18-24	—	All Schools (except Youngsville)
Annual FCS Convocation	8/21	8:30 a.m.	Bunn High School
Teacher Workday for YES	8/21	—	Youngsville Elementary
First Day of School	8/25	—	All Schools (except Youngsville)

June 15 was a big day for Franklin County Schools and 450 of our latest success stories. FHS graduated its largest class in school history, 165 students. Bunn handed out diplomas to 176 students and Louisburg graduated 109.



Board Notes

Recent Action:

- After years of low participation, the School Board voted in June to close Laurel Mill's Before and After School Daycare Program.
- With limited funding for pending construction, the Board gave the green light to classroom additions at Youngsville, Laurel Mill and Bunn Elementary while Franklinton High School renovations and a new western elementary school remain on hold.
- A new Vision Statement and Strategic Priorities were adopted in June.

On the Agenda for July:

- Discussion of short and long-term use of Franklinton High facility
- Property acquisition for new elementary school

News:

- FCS Board member Dannie Williams received a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree from N.C. State University at the spring commencement. Congratulations!

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

—UPDATE (Continued from page 1)

classrooms and a long-promised auditorium.

Construction costs has skyrocketed in the past two years and facility needs are outpacing funding. After the fully completed classroom project at Terrell Lane and these two high school renovations, more projects remained than money to build them. Still on the table were three small elementary classroom buildings, land for a new high

school, land for a new elementary school and the construction of a new elementary school. In June, the board decided to move ahead on the elementary projects then go back to the county commissioners for more funding.

Receiving the green light were planned classroom additions for art, music and special education at Youngsville Elementary, Laurel Mill Elementary and Bunn Elementary.