

Community Meetings Underway

FCS Facility Needs Meetings Answering Public Questions

The first of a series of five community meetings summarizing current Franklin County Schools' facility needs and projects funded from the 2004 Bond was held October 30th at Cedar Creek Middle School.

Board of Education member Gil Johnson and County Commissioner Don Lancaster presented a program to a group of 62 community members and responded to questions and comments.

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Look Inside!

Read the story of a Holocaust survivor who visited Louisburg High School on page 2.

Top Notch



2008 FCS Principal of The Year Kim Ferrell (right) gets a huge hug moments after learning of her award.

Laurel Mill's Ferrell Voted FCS Principal of The Year

During her tenure as a teacher at Bunn Elementary School, Kim Ferrell's Principal Connie Horton told her that she should consider getting into school administration.

That suggestion has led to one of the biggest honors Ferrell has

ever earned – Principal of The Year.

Ferrell, Principal of Laurel Mill Elementary, was informed of her award by Franklin County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Bert

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Holocaust Truth



Holocaust survivor Ghzella Abramson (left) takes time to meet interested LHS 10th graders.

Holocaust Survivor Shares Life Story With Louisburg High School 10th Graders

Reading a book or watching a movie about the Holocaust is moving for most people, but it is an all together different experience when one gets the opportunity to hear the story from someone who lived through it.

Louisburg High School 10th graders had the story delivered to them from Holocaust survivor Ghzella Abramson on a rainy October morning.

While Abramson has a soft, gentle appearance,

her story is quite different as she captivated an audience of more than 200 people for two hours.

"Why I'm alive – I really don't know," Abramson informed the audience as she began to tell her story.

Abramson was in school in 1939 when the Soviets began to mount their attack that led to the take over of her home country of Poland.

The Soviets were in control of Poland from

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Holocaust

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1939 through 1941 before losing control to Nazi Germany led by Adolf Hitler.

Abramson's father was a military officer, and after returning from battle informed her that "Poland was no more."

Despite Soviet rule, some normal facets of life continued in Poland. In 1941 after the end of a school year, Abramson was leaving her home for vacation on June 16th. It was the last time she ever saw her parents. By June 22 the Nazis were bombing Poland. Abramson spent two straight days in the basement – but those two days would seem easy as the horrors of the Holocaust were on the horizon.

Jewish people were stripped of their rights shortly there after and literally treated worse than animals.

The object then was simple – survive.

Abramson recalled how humiliating it was to be cussed at, spit on and forced to walk in the gutter when on the street. Wearing a patch indicating she was Jewish didn't help matters either. She often didn't wear the patch in effort to make the Nazis not realize she was Jewish.

Stories of hiding children in dressers to avoid the Nazis caught the attention of students and administrators, but it was the seriousness of Abramson's voice that seemed to chill people the most.

Staying healthy and looking healthy was a must according to Abramson. The Nazis used Jews as slaves, and unhealthy ones were put to death. But the reality was that any Jew was at risk of being executed.

Abramson described a time when she was in a room with hundreds of Jews who were gunned down and



Ghzella Abramson (right) intently listens to a question posed by a Louisburg High School student. The entire LHS sophomore class got to experience Abramson's message.

killed, but somehow she managed to survive – only to wake up to friends and others who were dead.

"You just hoped to survive another day and hoped that America would stop the Germans."

Despite everything, somehow Abramson made it through the nightmare with her life. Within one year of the end of World War II, Abramson moved to the United States.

Abramson found herself to be very bitter after the Holocaust.

"I hated Germans, and I realized that the hate was killing me – I couldn't stop hating," Abramson said

Realizing she needed to change, she gradually became less and less hateful.

"Do not hate - you cannot live your

life hating people," Abramson said. "You must respect all people."

Abramson moved to North Carolina in 1970 and was a social studies teacher for a period of time. She spends time passing her message along to groups of all ages now, in addition to expressing the importance of learning from the past.

Abramson's past is one that will never be forgotten, and she was quick to point out the reality of her story to a thankful student.

"This is not a story, this is my life – a story is a figment of your imagination – this is real."

- Nathan Moreschi

FCS Closing In On United Way Goal



Franklin County Schools is the largest contributor to the Franklin County United Way. Each year FCS sets the pace in United Way contributions and has set yet another lofty goal this fall. There is still time to contribute to the school system's 2007 goal of \$23,000. As of October 31st, contributors have given \$21,428.

"I am confident that our employees will rise to the occasion and meet our

goal," System-wide United Way Coordinator Dale Byrns said. "I greatly appreciate the effort that each employee has made to support this worthy cause."

Employees may continue to contribute to the cause through payroll deduction or a one-time gift. If you have not received a United Way contribution form, please call Byrns at 496-7349 by November 15th.

Central Office Address Change

Mailing something to the FCS Central Office? You may want to make note that Post Office Box 449 is being phased out.

The new mailing address is as follows:

FCS Central Office
53 West River Road
Louisburg, NC 27549

This is the physical address of the new central office located on Riverside Campus.



We're Off To See The Wizard

Cedar Creek Middle School teachers Mrs. Hawthorne, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Halford and Mrs. Dubose lived up to their end of a deal with fellow students. Students were challenged in a magazine fundraiser, and by meeting the goal, teachers dressed up as the cast of the classic *The Wizard of Oz*.



Laurel Mill Elementary School Principal Kim Ferrell was bombarded with a standing ovation when she entered the school auditorium and it was announced that she was FCS 2008 Principal of The Year. Ferrell is in her 4th year as Principal of LMES, but began teaching in the system at Bunn Elementary in 1990. She was also an AP at Royal Elementary.

POY

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L'Homme Wednesday afternoon in front of the entire LMES student body and staff.

"I was really shocked," Ferrell said. "The caliber of principals in this county is very high; and all of them can be Principal of The Year. It really means a lot to be honored by your peers."

Each year the Principal of The Year is determined by two rounds of voting from principals and administrators throughout the FCS system. The first round breaks the list down to three candidates for the final round of voting.

The 2008 Principal of The Year is from Knightdale and went on to earn a degree in education from Fayetteville State University after graduating from East Wake High School.

After teaching at Bunn Elementary for eight years, Ferrell was up for a new challenge, and before she knew it, she was earning her Masters in School Administration while continuing to teach in Bunn.

After 12 years at Bunn Elementary, Ferrell found herself helping Principal Rob Bendel open Royal Elementary in 2002 as an assistant principal.

That eventually led to a principalship at Laurel Mill Elementary.

"I'm really thankful for all of the help I continue to get from everyone around the county. Connie Horton and Jewel Eason did so much for me when I was at Bunn Elementary."

Eason is the current Principal of Bunn Elementary School. Ferrell also praised Rob Bendel, Principal of Royal Elementary.

Ferrell remains extremely happy and proud of her staff at Laurel Mill.

"Coming here, I wanted to build relationships because nobody here really knew me," Ferrell said. "I knew that would be the key to everyone being on the same page and striving for student achievement. I wanted to build a family here, and we have that. It really is like a family – we get along very well, and when there is a rough spot, we work our way through it and do what is best for the children."

Ferrell has a third-grader of her own in Wake County Public Schools and

said that adds extra motivation for helping students at Laurel Mill Elementary.

"I want my little girl to have the best education, and I want to make sure that others get that, too. I treat and care for our students like they are my own children."

Ferrell isn't just about getting the job done and meeting the status quo, she believes doing a little extra.

"My parents always taught me to do more than what is expected."

Needless to say that is one element that has helped lead to her latest honor.

"This validates what the entire staff here works for," Ferrell said. "This award is for the staff and children. It makes me feel good, but its better knowing that this represents the students and staff and what's best for these children."

By winning this award, Ferrell is automatically qualified for the Wachovia North Carolina Principal of The Year award. Regional winners will be announced in February.

- Nathan Moreschi



FCS

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There were many questions concerning the \$53.3 million bond referendum that will be on the voting ballot on May 6th.

Lancaster and Johnson expressed the importance of the voting for the bond as it is the cheapest way to fund school construction.

Forty-one million of the \$53.3 would fund a new Franklinton High School located between Youngsville and Franklinton at the intersection of Lane

Store and Cedar Creek Roads. Both Lancaster and Johnson also expressed that a new high school would benefit the entire county because of the economic gains it would provide.

The proposed bond will provide school improvement at 12 schools throughout the FCS system.

If you would like to view a presentation concerning current facility needs, visit www.fcschools.net. Click on Community Meetings Presentation on the far left side of the page to view it.

There are four more meetings on the schedule.

- Nathan Moreschi

Above, area resident Scott Sample converses with County Manager Chris Coudriet at the conclusion of the first community meeting which was held at Cedar Creek Middle School.

Community Meetings	
Location	Date
Edward Best	Nov. 1
Bunn High	Nov. 8
Louisburg High	Nov. 13
Franklinton High	Nov. 15

Surprise! Surprise!



Board of Education Vice Chair Dannie Williams (left) poses with Layne Denton.



Audie Hicks (left) receives congratulations from FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme.

Hicks, Denton Named Top Employees

The first year of the FCS Employee of The Quarter award is now complete, and it couldn't have ended any better for Layne Denton and Audie Hicks.

Denton and Hicks were named FCS Employees of The Quarter in Early October by the FCS Leadership Team.

Hicks, a custodian at Bunn Middle School, was nominated by BMS Principal Bill Askins, while Denton, a member of the FCS Technology Team, was nominated by Director of Elementary Education Dianne

Carter. Both employees have shown their intense dedication to the system for several years.

For example, in attempt to arrive a few minutes early to surprise Hicks at Bunn Middle, Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme arrived 20 minutes early, only to get into the school and see Hicks showing up early for work to begin his afternoon duties.

Denton, who is often called McGuyver by his peers because of his uncanny ability to make things work, was equally surprised when

his coworkers organized a surprise party to alert him of his award.

Denton and Hicks round out this year's winners. The other six winners were Diane Revelle, Joy Mylin, Shirley Harris, Rosa Johnson, Jimmy Floyd and Jenny Radford.

All FCS employees are eligible for the quarterly award and can be nominated by fellow coworkers. Winners receive a plaque and check for \$500.

- Nathan Moreschi

Youngsville Elementary Teacher Dianne Payne Receives Honor

A Day Made Better Award Nets \$1,400 For Classroom

There are countless teachers who do an amazing job deserving of an accolade of some form, and many times those teachers' efforts go unnoticed.

Well, that's not the case for Youngsville Elementary School Teacher Dianne Payne.

Payne recently received the regional A Day Made Better Award from Office Depot. For her outstanding performance in the classroom, she received \$1,400 in classroom equipment and supplies.

Youngsville Elementary School Principal Rick Smith praised Payne for her continued service to the school.

"She's constantly looking to find things to make her classroom a better place and herself a better teacher," Smith said.

"She's a top-notch person. She really and truly cares about everything that everyone of her kids learn."

"I saw that this award was out there, and it seemed like somebody like her should get. This was a chance for her to get the recognition that she deserves."



Youngsville's Dianne Payne receives the plaque associated with her award earned in October.

- Nathan Moreschi

Sprucing Up The Mill

Lucy Pullen, a third-grade teacher at Laurel Mill Elementary School, took the time to apply for 21 azaleas through the Keep NC Beautiful program sponsored by WRAL-TV 5, and it paid off. The news station granted all 21 azaleas to Pullen and her students. The class and Pullen's husband Tony (pictured) helped plant them on October 19th.





Wildcats Return to Competition

The Bunn High School Marching Band (left) competed in an organized contest for the first time in nearly 10 years on the final weekend of October. The students presented their Jackson Five show and took home third place in music performance and third place in visual effect. Band Director Melody Causby praised the band for their hard work and dedication and for a strong showing at the competition.



Characters Come to Life at FES



Franklinton Elementary students got a real life picture of some of the book characters they read about during the final day of October. Teachers dressed up as various characters and entertained students throughout the school day. Is that Little Red Riding Hood at left? Actually, it is Lindsay Craven. To the far left is FES teacher Beckie Bishop who is posing as Aunt Josephine from the Lemony Snicket books. Pictured on the right are Jennifer Gibson as Humpty Dumpty and Carol Williams as Raggedy Ann.

TLMS Students Enter Duke Program

Each year, Duke University sponsors the Talent Identification Program for seventh graders in over 6,000 junior high and middle schools in a 16-state region. The Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending middle school. This year, eight 7th graders from Terrell Lane have qualified for inclusion in this program. These students are: Justin Benfield, Molly Boutwell, Ashley Cargill, Christina Coley, Mark Denton, J.T. Falkner, Zoe Hinton, and Colleen Leonard.



Eight TLMS students have qualified for a academically talented program at Duke.

The goal of TIP is to assist young people with excellent mathematical or verbal aptitude. Students are provided with information about their abilities and introduced to a network of services and programs. Enrollment provides several unique oppor-

tunities for our students, including pursuing above-level testing experience, which will provide them with more information about their academic abilities; learning more about their academic abilities and be

able to compare the results with other academically able youth; learning more about educational opportunities and options for the future; and receiving recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Need More Quality Time With Your Children?

There's no doubt we live in a busy society and that makes it difficult to spend quality time with the ones that matter most to us—including our children.

Many parents work long hours then add extra hours of overtime with the best of intentions, but the price is less extra time to spend with others.

Despite our busy and hectic schedules, there may be ways that you can spend some quality time with your children without altering your current schedule.

One way is to have breakfast together. Get up 10 minutes early and make a point to eat with your children.

Offer to help your children with homework, even if it is simple encouragement or a pat on the back for working hard.

Attending after school activities is another good way to get involved with your children, and talking openly about your day and your child's day is always nice, too.

When your children go to bed at night, put them to bed yourself—this

can mean a great deal to a child—it is comforting to them.

Instead of assigning chores to your children to do on their own, help them out with them. The work will get done quicker and you'll be spending time together.

Whenever both of you have leisure time, make sure to spend some of it together as well.

All of these items will not only help build a better relationship with your children, but also result in better performance in the classroom.