Franklin County Schools

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FIRST THURSDAY

DECEMBER, 2007

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

UNC Chancellor Visits LES

Moeser gets closer look at TRI Program

Louisburg Elementary students and staff received a treat Monday afternoon when University of North Carolina Chancellor Dr. James Moeser visited.

Chancellor was on campus to get a first-hand look at the Targeted Reading Intervention Program in use at LES. The program was developed by the UNC College of Education.

"This program is unique in

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UNC Chancellor James Moeser

A Sharper FCS

Scheduled to open for the 2008-2009 school year, Long Mill Elementary Schools is one of the major results of the $30 million 2004 school bond.

Campus Upgrades, New School Highlight '04 Bond

Franklin County residents voted for a $30 million school bond in 2004, and the results can easily be seen throughout the county.

As a result of that vote, Franklin County Schools is a much-improved system with campus upgrades and even a new school.

In the past, it was difficult to find the main office at Louisburg High School, but that is no longer the case. LHS has a grand front entrance now – an entrance that leads directly into the new administrative offices, media center and other classroom space.

Once you walk into LHS, you may also notice the new cafeteria – a cafeteria that was built with safety in mind. Students no longer have to exit the main building to the Mills classroom building either; it is connected to the building, providing a seamless walk to class.

In addition, LHS now has a new

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Top Rate Teachers

Amy Tunstall—BMS

Diana Hamner—YES

Donna Jones—EBES

Genevieve Hillaire—BES

Jill Massey—BHS

Heather Shipley—YES

Tara Smith—YES

Jennifer Lupo—BES

16 Teachers Earn National Board Certification

The highest level of certification a K-12 teacher can obtain is to become nationally certified. It may seem like a simple idea, but the process couldn't be any more difficult.

A record sixteen Franklin County Schools teachers passed the National Boards Test recently – nearly doubling the total number of nationally certified teachers in the FCS system.

"Franklin County Schools is extremely proud of these 16 outstanding teachers," FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme said. "Our teachers really are among the best in the state, and this strengthens the system even more. It's wonderful to see so many teachers putting forth the hard work and dedication to helping our wonderful students and taking their own careers so seriously."

Seven of the 13 schools in the system had teachers earn a certificate. Jennifer Lupo, Elaine Ihrie and Genevieve Hilaire qualified from Bunn Elementary. Hilaire and Ihrie are exceptional children teachers while Lupo teaches kindergarten.

Bunn Middle School sixth-grade language arts teacher Amy Tunstall and Bunn High English teacher Jill Massey round out the Bunn area.

Youngsville Elementary had a system-high five teachers earn the title. Among them were Nanette Rhyne (kindergarten), Rob Heller (4th grade), Tara Smith (5th grade), Diana Hamner (2nd grade) and

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Nanette Rhyne—YES

Melissa Pendleton—RES

Rob Heller—YES

Lisa Bendel—EBES

TEACH

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Heather Shipley (AIG).

"I'm not just proud of these teachers, but all the others who also took the test," YES Principal Rick Smith said. "It's a tough process, and the whole thing makes you a better teacher. All of these teachers were already good to start with, now they are even better. We've got nine on our staff now and more on the way – I'm sure. It really says a lot about their commitment to the school."

Rob Bendel, Principal of Royal Elementary, was equally thrilled for his two teachers who made it. Melissa Pendleton (4th grade) and Laura Smith (2nd grade) both passed on the first try. The process takes up to three years, and teachers can re-take the test the following year if they do not qualify.

"It's a symbol of the highest standard of teaching," Bendel said. "It demonstrates a commitment to excellence and shows our teachers are willing to take the leap and get nationally certified."

When a teacher is nationally certified, they are literally qualified to teach in any state in the country. In addition, they receive an automatic 12% raise in pay.

Franklinton Elementary AIG teachers Michelle McGhee and Rebecca Bishop made FES Principal Linda Frederickson proud after earning their new distinction. Frederickson literally danced when an onlooker mentioned it last week.

Edward Best Elementary teachers Lisa Bendel (3rd grade) and Media Specialist Donna Jones complete the group of 16.

"I'm very proud of both of them," EBES Principal Debbie Ayscue said. "It's well deserved – they put forth three long years of work for our students."

Earning the certificate takes extensive study time, a portfolio of a teacher's work and passing a six-question essay exam.

All 16 teachers will be honored at the annual FCS National Board Certification Banquet in January.

- Nathan Moreschi

Elaine Ihrie—BES

Rebecca Bishop and Michelle McGhee—FES

Laura Smith—RES

A Natural Fit

FHS alum Coy Floyd thoroughly enjoys his position as Director of Information Technology

People, Technology A Good Mix For Floyd

When Coy Floyd was walking the halls as a student at Franklinton High School, he was known for two things – a nice guy who was also very technical minded.

Well, after earning a degree in Information Technology from UNC-Greensboro and serving in the National Guard, Floyd found himself back in Franklin County utilizing his strong people and computer skills.

Floyd took his first degree-related job in 2000 as Systems Administrator with the Franklin County Department of Social Services and was named Franklin County Information Technology Director in April of 2006.

"It's really the best of both worlds for me," Floyd said. "I love working with people and meeting new ones, and I've always enjoyed working with computers. It always seemed to come naturally

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FLOYD

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to me when I was taking computer courses as a student at Franklinton High School. My second choice was math, but I just believe there were more professional opportunities in the computer field."

Floyd graduated from FHS in 1993 and, after entering basic training with the National Guard in the fall of 1993, became a fulltime student at UNCG in January of 1994 and went on to graduate with a degree in Information Technology. This November he became nationally certified after completing a 10-month program that included 240 hours of course work.

He originally planned to stay in the Greensboro area but ultimately ended up back in Franklin County.

"I came back for family reasons, but really, I think it was probably my destiny to come back here and live." Floyd grew up in Kittrell and has enjoyed watching Franklin County grow in terms of technology.

"I'm very excited and proud of my career path," Floyd said. "I like the challenges I face and the opportunity to enhance technology in the area. The county has come a long ways, even since I was in high school.

"The biggest growth seems to be in the awareness of what technologies we have in this county. People are really starting to understand what we can do and the capability we have. I think employees have gotten much more comfortable with technology, also."

Coy Floyd spends a lot of time debugging problems and making sure county employees are connected to the world. Floyd's desire to work in a technical environment began during high school in Franklinton.

Floyd, who was the first person hired by the county to be a full-time Information Technology Director, is happy with the continued growth of the department. Floyd was a one person show in the beginning but has since hired Barry Thorpe as an assistant.

"With Barry being here, we can do even more," Floyd said. "Our workload continues to increase, but that is a great thing for us. We want to be more than a fix-it shop. We want to push and enhance technology to make it better for the county."

Floyd and Barry find themselves quite busy each and every day – the service all Franklin County offices.

Despite being swamped most days, Floyd finds time in the spring to Co-Chair the Leadership Franklin program. The program gives people the chance to learn about business opportunities in the county, as well as a means of networking.

"I was a student of the program myself when I worked with DSS, and the last two years I've had the chance to Co-Chair it," Floyd said. "I really enjoy it, and I've met a lot of different people through this program. The opportunity to meet people is invaluable."

Floyd hopes to see the Information Technology Department to continue to grow in the years to come and is very proud that he can give back to Franklin County.

"I grew up here, and it's very nice to help others as the county continues to grow."

- Nathan Moreschi

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vocational building, new parking lot and driveway and overall fresh look after renovations to existing classrooms on the campus.

Bunn High School received a state-of-the-art vocational facility as well. The past shop was outdated and simply too small for the existing vocational programs at Bunn. Now there is an eye-opening 8,000 square foot building that provides new classroom space and shop space for projects.

Nearing completion in Wildcat Country is a new 10-room classroom building and a new auditorium.

The new Wildcat Cafeteria opened last May and has erased overcrowding at lunch time. The new building also is more acoustically friendly – providing a much quieter lunchtime atmosphere.

Franklinton High School, one of the most noticeable buildings in the county because of historic 1920s architecture, has just begun construction on a 10-room classroom building. That building is being built rather than 12 modular classrooms. Also at FHS there will be a 23-classroom facelift, replacement of 75% of the windows, corridor renovations, a new cafeteria elevator and exterior masonry repair.

The hope is to build a new Franklinton High School in the very new future, so one might ask why spend money on the existing campus? Easy – the existing campus will be used for a middle school in the future. Currently, FHS is overcrowded with limited parking spaces. The campus would be capped at 500-600 students, and parking is less of an issue in middle school because most students do not drive to school.

Youngsville Elementary used to be a nightmare to get in and out of in the morning with traffic backed up to the highway. Well, that isn't the case anymore. The 2004 bond provided money for a new parking lot. The parking lot has a much better entrance and way more parking spaces.

YES also renovated its existing Exceptional Children's classroom.

Bunn Elementary received a solid art and music building, thus opening up more classroom space in the main buildings.

Laurel Mill Elementary recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand

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The new art, music and Exceptional Children building at Laurel Mill Elementary School meshes well with the existing campus.

Tickets? Tickets? The new auditorium at Bunn High is taking shape.

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opening of its new art, EC and music building. In the past, heavy rains meant flooding in the main building lobby at Laurel Mill – but that problem has been fixed. A new drainage system and walkway were engineered to fix the past problem.

The first project of the 2004 bond was a new classroom building at Terrell Lane Middle School. That building has been in use for two years and is holding up well. It houses sixth graders.

Maybe one of the more exciting projects from the bond is the new elementary school – Long Mill Elementary. Long Mill is scheduled to open for the 2008 school year. It is located at the intersection of Bert Winston and Long Mill Roads west of US 1 between Youngsville and Franklinton. If you haven't had a chance to see the progress, you might want to pass by the site – the progress is overwhelming.

- Nathan Moreschi

The sixth-grade classroom building at Terrell Lane Middle School was the first project tackled from the 2004 bond. The building relieved overcrowding at TLMS and allows for future growth at the school. The building, like many other projects completed designed by Jon Long of MBAJ Architecture, provides a seamless connection with the existing buildings.

The art and music addition at BES filled a big need.

Louisburg High School looks like a completely different campus. The new entrance gives the school a fresh, distinct look.

FHS Students Attend Mid-Atlantic Farm Show

Tommy Kemp's agriculture students at Franklinton High School attended the 32nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Farm show November 2nd in Concord. The students got to experience a wide variety of agricultural opportunities.

The students attended small seminars of round-table discussions to learn about areas such as turf-management, biotechnology, forestry, wildlife management, and animal science.

Also, colleges such as NC State University, Haywood Community College, and Wayne Community College were on hand to talk to the students about agriculture courses that they offered. Some other things the students participated in at the Farm Show were pony and geese races, moon-pie eating contests, and a selection of agriculture vendors.

The pony races were quite a hit with FHS students and crowd.

Fetal Pig Dissecting

Seventh-grade students in Brian Fouts' Bunn Middle School science class got up close and personal with fetal pigs last month. Students dissected the pigs in a class project.

Pointers From a Pro

Nearly 40 third and fourth graders from Franklinton Elementary School participated in a pre-show costume workshop by professional actress Pauline Faneuf (The Fairytaler). After the workshop, the students presented *Alice and Wonderland* to the school in separate sessions. This is the first enrichment program funded through a Bright Ideas grant received by FES Teacher Michelle McGhee.

UNC

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that it focuses on early childhood intervention," Moeser said. "It's wonderful to see the research applied to the actual teaching environment. We can test the students and see positive results to what we are doing."

Targeted Reading Intervention (TRI) is now in its second year at LES. It primarily focuses on students in grades K-2, with the majority of activity coming from first grade. The program targets students who are behind grade level in reading. The program is funded by a grant, and Dr. Lynne Vernon-Feagans of UNC moved forward to get a grant for the second year.

Chancellor Moeser has a few words with a student and teacher Kristy Kane.

It's often found that students are not reading on grade level for reasons other than a learning disability. For example, in some cases the reading deficiency is due to poor vision.

Moeser observed three LES teachers (Amber Bottoms, Janelle Brink and Kristy Kane) in a one-on-one setting with a student Monday and was impressed with the performance of each teacher.

"I got to see three wonderful, dedicated teachers today," Moeser said. "You (Franklin County Schools) are very fortunate to have teachers of that caliber. I was impressed by their teaching skills and their excellent techniques. They are very caring and relaxed with the students. Every success the student had was celebrated. That is very important, and it makes reading enjoyable for these kids."

After observing the three teachers, Moeser and other UNC staff met with LES Principal William Harris, Assistant Principal Judy Stover and FCS Director of Elementary Education Dianne Carter to offer his thoughts and answer questions.

"It was a grand opportunity to get the grant for a second year," Stover said. "We really want to help the children of our school. We look at them with a microscope and try to figure out how to help them. We have very good teachers implementing this program.

"The Chancellor's visit is an accolade for the program, and he got to see it actually make a difference. It's making such a difference that they are talking about expanding the program. It's very exciting that Louisburg can be a part of something so important. We are really trying to help each child."

Stover has been in the education field for 35 years.

"I was very impressed by Moeser," Stover said. "He was so down-to-earth, and he really wanted to talk to the teachers and administrators and hear about the program and the children. He wanted to see how this can be implemented and help all schools in North Carolina."

- Nathan Moreschi

Chancellor Moeser and LES AP Judy Stover Share a laugh.

Numbers Night at BES

Bunn Elementary parents and guardians recently got a hands on look at math at their child's school. BES held a math event in which parents visited classrooms and observed math lessons and took at crack at math problems on their own. This exercise was designed to help the parents and guardians understand what their child is trying to accomplish so the parent will be better prepared to help the child with homework and math questions.

EBES Students —*Writing In a Winter Wonderland*

Edward Best Elementary students began their *Writing In a Winter Wonderland* camp the first Monday in December with a visit from Frosty the Snowman. Frosty guided students on a parade around the school, and everyone sang the song at right.

Sing It!

School bell rings, camp is starting
Let's pretend snow is falling!
We'll plan and we'll write about a good snowball fight,
Writing in a Winter Wonderland

Gone away are the dull words,
Here to stay are impressive words.
A beautiful story because it's not boring,
Writing in a Winter Wonderland

In the schoolhouse we can write a story
And pretend that we are Spiderman!
Going on adventures in the blizzard,
While flying on a carpet, cause we can!

Later on, when we're finished,
We'll revise and we'll edit!
A wonderful thing when we write a song and we sing,
Writing in a Winter Wonderland

United Way Grant Reception

United Way Grant winners: Nicole Sheldon (LMES), Dawn Martin (LMES), Dianne Payne (YES), Christina Alaimo (BMS), James Hinton (BES), Karen McKeithan (BES).

United Way Grant winners (all from TLMS): Zoe Austin, Chad Moore, Crystal Cofield, Tammy Raynor, Catina Jordan.

FCS Teachers Net More Than $20K In Grants

The annual United Way Grant reception was held the final Thursday of November as $20,631 of grant money was handed out to FCS teachers throughout the county for various classroom programs.

Earning grants this year were James Hinton and Tracy Davis, Karen McKeithan (BES), Christina Alaimo and Marchetta Grantham (BMS), Danielle Brown and Shania White (CCMS), Amanda Wheeler (CCMS), Crystal Williams (EBES), Rebecca Bishop (FES), Jonathan Phillips (FHS), Barbara Jean Howell (FHS), Nicole Sheldon, Gale Flowers, Tamatha Nicholson (LMES), Dawn Martin (LMES), Crystal Cofield (TLMS), Tammy Raynor (TLMS), Zoe Austin (TLMS), Chad Moore (TLMS), Catina Jordan (TLMS) and Dianne Payne (YES).

United Way Grant winners: Rebecca Bishop (FES), Crystal Williams (EBES).