

Williams Witnesses Inauguration

*Lifetime Memory for
Franklinton High Student*

When President Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the United States, most people who witnessed it did so via television.

While television captured the moment and made it memorable for millions of people throughout the United States, it was a little more meaningful for Franklinton High School senior Olivia Williams.

Williams saw it live. It's a live moment that will stay with the standout student for the rest of her life.

"It was inspiring," Williams said. "It wasn't just President Obama that made it so great – it was also the people who

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Principal Profile

Learn more about Youngsville Elementary Principal Rick Smith. [Page 2](#)

Parent Involvement

New parent involvement committee starts. [Page 13](#)

\$50,000!



Edward Best Elementary School Principal Debbie Ayscue (center) can't help but smile as she accepts a \$50,000 on behalf of EBES. Debby Myatt, far right, donated the money to the school through Box Tops for Education. Also in the front row are County Commissioner Robert Lee Swanson, Board of Education Chair Paige Sales and Kyna Foster of Food Lion. In the back row are Tony Sissneros of General Mills, Board of Education member John May, FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme and State Representative Lucy Allen.

Myatt Wins Box Tops Sweepstakes, Donates \$50K to Edward Best

To say Joanna and Rebecca Myatt will rule the playground is an understatement.

Thanks to their mother, Debby Myatt, Edward Best Elementary school received a \$50,000 sweepstakes that school officials will use to bolster the school's dated playground equipment.

Representatives with Food Lion and General Mills were at the school Friday to make the presentation, honoring Myatt who diligently bought General Mills products at the local Food Lion.

The school's 500-plus students

and staff packed into the school's auditorium and roared with applause as the check was unveiled.

"It's a great feeling to be part of something so exciting and positive," Debby Myatt said. "When I heard about the program in September, I did what I could, sending in (Box Top) entries. I shopped at Food Lion at least twice a week and bought General Mills products," she said. "Needless to say, we ended up with a lot of Cheerios.

"We ate them every day for five

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Youngsville's Staple

YES Principal Rick Smith

It can be argued that when a person stays in a place long enough, they become that place.

That's a saying that seemingly fits Youngsville Elementary School Principal Rick Smith.

Smith, who began teaching at YES in the early 80s, has spent the past decade as the person in charge at the successful campus.

"This is a great place to be," Smith said. "I feel accepted by this community. It's a great community. The kids are wonderful, and the parents are very supportive and understanding. I'm associated with the Youngsville community, and it's nice."

Smith, a 1978 Louisburg High School graduate, earned a degree in elementary education from High Point University in 1982 and went straight to work at Youngsville Elementary. He spent four years teaching at YES before taking a year to earn his Master of School Administration from UNC-Wilmington in 1987.

Smith returned to YES for two years and landed his first job as principal at Epsom Elementary in northern Franklin County in 1989. The school was shut-



Youngsville Elementary School Principal Rick Smith spends some enrichment time with a few students.

down at the end of the 1991-1992 school year.

When Epsom closed, Smith followed a different path at FCS – transportation director.

He found the job to be quite challenging, especially with the merger of Franklinton City Schools and FCS in 1994.

"It was a very challenging time, and you had to be sure you were making the right decision," Smith said. "That can be very hard to convince people

of."

But in 1998, Smith was really missing students and teachers. That fall he came back to Youngsville Elementary as an assistant principal. One year later Smith was back behind the principal's desk calling the shots.

Smith says he has no difficulty remaining enthusiastic as Principal of YES.

"This is such a great place to

[SEE YES PAGE 6](#)

Moreschi Nets Blue Ribbon Awards

FCS PIO Recognized for News Letter, Photography

Nathan Moreschi, Franklin County Schools Public Information Officer, usually writes stories about the accomplishments of others. This time, however, it is Moreschi's turn for recognition. At the Annual Blue Ribbon Ceremony sponsored by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association, Moreschi was awarded two Blue Ribbon Awards for effective communication in the areas of photography and newsletters (*FCS First Thursday*). The entries across the Tar Heel State were judged by public educators from Georgia and presented during a luncheon held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Durham on January 30th.

"It's always an honor to be recognized by your peers," Moreschi said. "While I received the official recognition, the high quality of work would not be possible without the input of Franklin County Schools' employees. I'm very fortunate to have ample latitude to design and produce information for Franklin County Schools."

When asked, Franklin County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme said, "The public hears about the



The North Carolina School Public Relations Association recognizes PR personnel throughout the state annual with a Blue Ribbon Ceremony. FCS Public Information Officer Nathan Moreschi received two awards on January 30th for his efforts in photography as well as the First Thursday Newsletter.

good work of students, teachers, and administrators in Franklin County Schools because of Nathan's talent."

NCSPPRA President Robert E. Kendall, Jr., public relations director for Wilson County Schools, said the work of the award winners rivaled the best work of public relations practitioners in any field. "The work of these colleagues was judged to be superior and a credit to the practice of school public relations," Kendall said. "This roster of excellence is tangible evidence that NCSPPRA's public relations

professionals are among the nation's finest in any discipline."

Moreschi, 34, is no stranger to awards, having been recognized on numerous occasions by the North Carolina Press Association for excellence in journalism. Moreschi has been the Public Information Officer for the school district since November, 2006.

- Dr. Eddie Ingram

Big Time Performers



Cedar Creek Middle School band members Wil Hoffman and Emily Cook are playing with a little more confidence after earning a spot on the N.C. Bandmasters Central Division All District Band. The audition took place on January 3rd at C. W. Stanford Middle School in Hillsborough. The intense audition included a solo session with music neither had ever seen before. Hoffman and Cook will perform with the All District Band on February 7th at 3 p.m. at Asheboro High School. Hoffman plays the clarinet, while Cook plays the French Horn.

All District Band Performance

February 7th, 3 p.m.

Asheboro High School

Brrr....Let's Exercise



BES Fitness Walk

The Bunn Elementary Fitness Walk continues through the winter months. Despite cold temperatures, students remain enthusiastic, especially when a penguin comes to join them.



YES

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be,” Smith said. “Being around students and watching them grow is always exciting. Teachers share their excitement with me, and I feed off of that. As an administrator, you don’t get to do the same things you might as a teacher, but you get enjoyment on a different level.

“Teachers here are very good about sharing student progress. It makes you feel really good when a student absorbs everything we put out there.”

During his 10 years as principal, Smith has had to deal with a great deal of overcrowding at YES. The school is designed for a little more than 600 students but has had more than 800 on its campus at times.

Currently, there are 465 students enrolled at the school after a round of reassignment in 2008 with the addition of Long Mill Elementary School.

Another big challenge is making sure students are keeping up with state education standards.

“We are always working on ways to improve and make sure are students are performing at a high level and meeting the standards,” Smith said. “The state re-norms the tests when we meet the goals and surpass them, but that really is a testament to how well all the schools are doing.

“To get better, you have to adjust your goals, and that’s what the state does. There’s a lot of misconception when tests are re-normed. The students don’t know any less, they actually know more



YES Principal Rick Smith is thankful for the support he gets from parents and the community. He wants to continue with the path of smiling children and academic excellence.

now than ever before.

“Our teachers give their heart and soul to these kids, and they are going to make sure that they continue to strive to do their very best. They are here early and late and on weekends. They give so much. The parents appreciate that, and the students benefit from it.”

Like many other principals in many different districts, there’s always a need for more computers.

“I would love to see more computers,” Smith said. “We’re thankful for what we do have, but more computers would help the students improve in reading and math and make them more efficient in technology. The good thing is that most of our students have computers at home, and they use them.”

When not at school, Smith spends time with his family. His wife, Wynn, is the Director of Technology for Wilson County

Schools, while his daughter Amanda is a sophomore at Louisburg High School.

He follows his daughter’s volleyball playing in addition to finding time to participate in outdoor sports (hunting and fishing) when possible. Don’t be too surprised if you bump into Smith on the North Carolina coast on a warm sunny day casting a line in hopes of a big catch.

“I’m truly fortunate to live in this area and work with such great people. The staff does whatever it takes to make Youngsville Elementary School work. The people make me happy, and we try to keep the focus on the kids. There’s always room for growth, but I’m very proud of Youngsville.”

- Nathan Moreschi



New Interactive Carts at Franklinton Elementary

A few months ago, Louisburg Elementary School received a wave of interactive technology carts through Reading First. In January, Franklinton Elementary received 17 carts, also through Reading First. The carts help teachers bring their classrooms to life with document cameras, laptops, data projectors and write boards. FCS Technology Facilitator Betsy Bryan recently held a training session for FES teachers to help familiarize the teachers with the technology. These carts are just another example of the dedication to providing ample technology in the classrooms by the FCS Technology Department.



Making News at FES



Soil Erosion Project

Charlie Bass and William Byrum from Franklin County Soil and Water conducted hands-on lessons for all fifth graders on January 23rd. The students learned about soil, natural resources, and erosion. This lesson correlated with the standard course of study lesson that the students had just completed in their classes. Having experts in the field and a hands-on demonstrations, however, made the learning a little more real. Mr. Bass and Mr. Byrum will also visit FES fourth graders for lessons on rocks and then for a lesson on soils with our third graders. Third graders will create sand art with Mr. Bass as well.

Reading Is Fundamental

The Federal program Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is going strong at Franklinton Elementary. Students selected additional books to keep during January. The program is guided by FES Media Coordinator Amy Leonard. The theme for January was Reading in a Winter Wonderland.



\$50K

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months now, and we still love them," she said. "As my kids would say, you guys rock."

School System Superintendent Bert L'Homme said the efforts of parents, such as Myatt, help teachers, administrators and staff provide the best education to children in the community.

"It's a perfect day," L'Homme told those gathered elbow to elbow inside the gym.

"When parents, businesses, teachers ... when everyone can all come together, it is a perfect situation."

School Board member John May said he was happy to see his old school get some shiny new equipment.

"This school has such history," he said. "It's just a wonderful gift for this school."

Edward Best Principal Debbie



Edward Best Elementary School Principal Debbie Ayscue proudly displays the \$50,000 check donated to the school.

Ayscue said the money would be pooled for playground equipment that every grade level will be able to take advantage of.

Parent/Teacher/Student Association President Maribeth Allen said the playground equipment could go in this spring.

State Rep. Lucy Allen said such equipment will be important for a well-rounded and educated school.

"I look forward to coming back when it's finished," she said. "You'll have something wonderful to use to play and grow and become strong."

The \$50,000 award that Myatt was able to procure is the second-largest amount awarded through the Box Tops for Education program.

Prior to this sweepstakes, Edward Best Elementary had earned a total of \$1,391 since 2002.

"Food Lion is committed to the communities we serve and to education," said Kyna Foster, Food Lion Director of Community Affairs and Customer Relations. "This program helps to provide schools with essential tools for learning, and we are always happy to partner with General Mills in this effort."



Edward Best Elementary students, parents and teachers cheer as the \$50,000 check is delivered. Part of the money will help fund a new playground.

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Debby Myatt receives a huge hug from her children during the celebration as local officials celebrate.

EBES

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The Box Tops for Education program has helped schools earn more than \$250 million over the past 12 years.

Volunteer Box Tops coordinators encourage families and individuals to participate in the program through buying groceries featuring the Box Tops coupons that are worth 10 cents each.

“By offering this sweepstakes to Food Lion shoppers, General Mills is able to stand behind its belief that education is vital to our children’s future,” said Tony Sisneros, General Mills Senior Customs Manager.

“Box Tops for Education is a great way to give back to schools

and students across the United States.” Edward Best Elementary School was established in 1953. Located in Louisburg, Edward Best is one of thousands of schools across the United States that benefit from the Box Tops for Education program.

The Box Tops for Education program began in 1996, as more and more schools struggled to make ends meet. Each year, all enrolled schools receive a complete program kit (written in English and Spanish) to help them build their own comprehensive fund-raising campaign. Most schools designate a program coordinator to develop ways to encourage students, parents, school staff and community members to clip Box Tops from participating products and bring them to school.

After the collected Box Tops are

sent in to General Mills, the school receives a check, equivalent to 10 cents for every Box Top redeemed.

Schools can earn up to \$60,000 per year, up to \$20,000 respectively from the Clip, Shop and Charge program components, to spend on anything they choose.

Thousands of schools have used the money from Box Tops for Education to purchase items such as computers and computer software, library books, art supplies and playground equipment.

This story was provided by Franklin Times Staff Writer Carey Johnson and originally printed on January 31st, 2009.

Do You Have the Tools to Protect Your Child in 2009?

The Dangers of the Internet and Gangs are Real!

Join us for an informational seminar:

INTERNET SAFETY AND GANG AWARENESS

Cedar Creek Middle School

February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

All Parents, Students, Educators, and Community Members are invited!

Special Guests

Special Agent Kevin Roughton

SBI Computer Crimes Unit

Presentation on MySpace, Facebook, and other Technology Danger Zones

Security Specialist Larry Dunston

N.C. Dept. of Correction

Division Threat Coordinator

(Gang Specialist)

Presentation on Gang Awareness and signs of gangs in your community

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission

Location: Cedar Creek Middle School

2228 Cedar Creek Road

919-554-4848

Don't miss this free, informative seminar!

Every parent who wants his/her child to be safe in 2009 should attend. There is so much that we do not know about how to be safe on the internet and in our communities. Let's learn together!

Miller named BHS football coach

Bunn High School has named Chris Miller head coach of the varsity football team.

Miller, a 1993 BHS graduate, played for Bunn High under the direction of coaching icon David Howle. Howle stepped down at the end of the 2008 season in order to follow his son Ty's college career at Penn State.

Miller spent three years as head coach at FHS before spending this past season as an assistant at Bunn High.

The former high school quarterback teaches social studies at Bunn High.

New AD at Louisburg High

Louisburg High School basketball coach Chris Davis is the new Athletic Director for the Warriors, while Erica Wammock has been named Assistant Athletic Director.

Wammock is the head volleyball and softball coach and is a 1999 LHS graduate.



Franklinton High School senior Olivia Williams has a different appreciation for the office of the US Presidency after witnessing the Presidential Inauguration in January.

FHS

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spoke. Listening to Colon Powell and Desmond Tutu was incredible. As a young person, it made me feel like I can make a difference and help change problems, such as the economy, through the decisions I make.

"I will remember this forever. It's the biggest inauguration in history. It was special to be a part of it, and I'll be able to tell people that I witnessed it."

Williams was one of 5,000 students who received the chance to attend because she is an alumni member of the National Young Leaders Conference.

Another part of the experience was figuring out how to maneuver through the nearly 3 million people present for the inauguration.

"Being around that many people was frustrating," Williams said. "It was hard to walk, and we had to hold on to each other to make sure we didn't get lost."

Williams, an honor student, is the FHS Chapter President of Skills USA in addition to being a member of the National Honor Society, National Achievers, Spanish Honor Society and will soon be inducted into the National Vocational Technical Honor Society.

She intends on becoming an architect and has applied to the University of Virginia, Cornell University and University of Miami.

"I love to design and draw," Williams said. "I want to design places to help keep people off the streets."

"I'm grateful for everything I have – I haven't had the easiest life and I don't have as much as others, but I am very grateful."

- Nathan Moreschi

Parent Involvement Committee

Nationally recognized authority slated as speaker for new program

Effective parental involvement can go a long ways in strengthening the chances of a child's success in the classroom.

Franklin County Schools values parental involvement and as a result has formed a district-wide parental involvement committee.

The committee is formed under the guidelines outlined by the Title I Federal Funding program. Title I funding is based on the percentage of students within a district who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The committee is headed by FCS Title I and Elementary Director Linda Frederickson, former teacher, assistant principal and principal within the FCS system.

Two representatives from the fourteen schools, totaling 28 people in the district are official members of the committee. The public meetings will continue monthly throughout the remainder of the school year. The committee will continue on a similar schedule next school year.

"The purpose of the District Parent Involvement Committee is to share information that is important to the success of Franklin County Schools," Frederickson said. "Members will be asked to attend information sessions and share information with their respective schools.

"Various formats will be used such as a guest speakers, hand-

Developing a Game Plan for Successful Children

Guest speaker Mychal Wynn, parent, author and motivational speaker, will hold a one-hour public session at Louisburg High School on February 19th at 7 p.m. Admission is free; and everyone is encouraged to attend. Wynn will address ideas on how to help your child succeed in the academic environment.

outs, presentations, surveys, etc. Financial assistance for materials and programs at the district and programs at the district level will be provided by Title I funds and donations."

Topics to be addressed cover a wide variety of issues within Franklin County Schools. Included in the topics, but not limited to, are safety, high school preparation, college prep, dress code, community involvement, physical fitness, motivation and achievement.

The next scheduled event is set for February 19th at Louisburg High School.

Mychal Wynn, a national recognized authority on closing the achievement gap for all children, will speak from 7-8 p.m. in the Louisburg High School Auditorium.

Wynn's program, *Developing a Game Plan for Successful Children*, will address the topics of

school culture, student motivation, communicating with students and the importance of preparing for college.

Admission to the event is free, and the entire public is encouraged to attend.

"Mychal Wynn was selected as our first speaker because he is nationally recognized and among the best in addressing the achievement gap," Frederickson said. "He is among the leaders in school improvement. At FCS, we are committed to school improvement and high academic achievement for all students. Involving the community as much as possible will help lead to increased success for all students."

After February, the committee will meet on March 19th, April 23rd, May 27th and June 18th on the Riverside Campus (53 West River Road) in Louisburg in room A107.

- Nathan Moreschi



Franklin County Schools

Kindergarten Registration & Screening Clinic Dates

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. daily

April 2, 2009	Louisburg Elementary School
April 3, 2009	Laurel Mill Elementary School
April 21, 2009	Youngsville Elementary School
April 24, 2009	Franklinton Elementary School
April 27, 2009	Royal Elementary School
April 28, 2009	Long Mill Elementary School
April 29, 2009	Bunn Elementary School
April 30, 2009	Edward Best Elementary School

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The child must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2009, to be eligible for kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year.

A physical examination is required for children who will enter kindergarten. This health assessment must be done within 12 months prior to the day of school entry. When visiting your child's health care provider for the physical, carry a copy of your child's current immunization record.

It will be necessary to bring your child and his/her following records on the day of registration:

1. Certified Birth Certificate
(A "mother's copy" will be accepted at registration; however, a certified birth certificate must be presented to the school within 30 days from the first day of school.)
2. Immunization records
3. Record of child's illnesses (if any)
4. Kindergarten Health Assessment Report (Form PPS-2K) (physical exam) if completed (Each elementary school's office will have this form)
5. Social security card
6. Statement of Residence form and 2 proofs of residence
(A notary will be present at registration.)
7. Social Security Card (optional).

Required forms may be obtained prior to registration at your child's school or from the central office, Riverside Campus (53 West River Road – Bldg. A., Louisburg, NC) 496-2600.