



FIRST THURSDAY

JANUARY, 2008

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students



Tatum's students Grayson Parrish and Forrest Plyer near the completion of a classroom science exercise.

10K Grant

Tatum Scores Toshiba Grant For Terrell Lane

In the past three years, Katie Tatum's name has become synonymous with education grant at Terrell Lane Middle School.

The eighth-grade science teacher is known for her ability to earn grants, and her latest grant has created a buzz. That's what a \$10,000 grant will do.

Tatum, who had earned a little more in \$8,000 in grants prior to receiving the one for \$10K, was searching the Internet for a grant to fund her latest class project titled "You and Your Environment: How Chemicals Affect You." Her search led her to the Toshiba America Foundation.

Tatum went through



Terrell Lane Middle Science Teacher
Katie Tatum.

the process of applying for the \$10K and was later notified she would be granted the full amount. The check arrived at Terrell Lane two days after returning from the holiday break.

"I really wanted the students to be able to go through with this

project and I knew we needed a lot of science supplies to go through with it," Tatum said. "I'm very excited about this. This will allow us to perform labs so students can see what is really going on.

"Kids look forward to this, and they really get excited. The students really like to do stuff and get involved."

Tatum's latest class project will introduce students to the role that chemistry plays in their daily lives, from innocuous materials such as cosmetics and cologne to dangerous substances including cigarettes and drugs. The grant money will allow

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FHS Artists Earn Awards In Art Show

Franklinton art enthusiast ventured to the old town train station recently to view the works displayed in the annual Franklinton Women's Club Art Show.

Students of the Franklinton art program entered nearly 80 pieces into the annual event – many of them walked away with awards.

The following is a list, by category, of awards earned by FHS students.

Charcoal Drawing

Christina Weaver – 1st place

Painting

Mandy Peedin – 1st place

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The Franklinton Women's Club Art Show drew a respectable crowd.

Real Dedication



Franklinton Elementary's Annie Walker retired at the end of December.

Walker Retires After 37 Years of Service

For the past 37 years, countless Franklinton Elementary students have been greeted at breakfast and lunch each day with a warm smile from Annie Walker.

But students will have to look to a different source for smiles in the cafeteria now, as Walker retired the final day of school in December.

"I'm going to miss all of the staff and the little children," Walker said. "I'll probably take the turn to drive to school still by habit. I've been coming here a long time, and I'm really going to miss it."

Walker first began working at Franklinton Elementary in 1969. After her first year, she began working in the cafeteria and remained there until

retiring a few weeks ago.

Walker has six children who all attended school in Franklin County. Their ages range from 41 to 52. Her son Clarence is a masonry teacher at Franklinton High School and is the head varsity boys' basketball coach. She's been married to her husband Napoleon for 50 years.

So what's on tap for retirement? Walker intends on continuing to bake and staying around the house more, but she knows she'll probably be as busy as ever.

- Nathan Moreschi

What's New at FCS?

Address Change

The mailing address for Franklin County Schools' Central Office officially changed to 53 West River Road, Louisburg, NC 27549.

The old post office box is no longer in service. If you wish to contact FCS through mail, please use the new address.

Web Feature Determines School District

If you are moving into the area or simply have a need to find out what school your children will attend, you can figure it out on the Franklin County Schools' website (www.fcschools.net) using EDU-LOG.

On the left side of the webpage, there is a link titled "Locate Your Child's School."

Click on the link, and then key in the partial street name of your child's residence. The schools corresponding to your child's grade level will appear.

It is important to key in only part of the street name. If you key in the full name and it isn't an exact match with the database, your results will not yield an answer.

Twenty-One Credit Graduation Program

Earning a high school diploma is a major step toward success for a person, and Franklin County Schools is taking measures to make sure more students accomplish that goal.

The Franklin County Board of Education adopted a new 21-credit high school diploma policy on October 22 that is intended to prevent at-risk students from dropping out of high school.

"This is another road to graduation," Franklin County Schools' Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Eddie Ingram said. "It gives students who may have become discouraged hope that graduation and higher education is possible."

The State Board of Education requires students earn 20 credits and successfully complete a graduation project to earn a diploma. The standard FCS program requires eight additional credits that most colleges and universities require for admission.

"I'm very pleased that this program received full support from the Board of Education, the Superintendent (Dr. Bert L'Homme), and our high school principals," Ingram said.

The 21-credit program will give stu-

dents a high school diploma and the opportunity to enter a college transfer program from a community college.

This program is not open for all students; the student must demonstrate the need to enter this program, meet certain requirements and get the approval of a committee. The additional credit stems from a local FCS requirement of a composition class.

Bunn High School Principal Robin Faulkner is very pleased with the start of the program.

"It's going to decrease the dropout rate, and it gives students a chance to get back on track," Faulkner said. "Students who have gotten behind on credits often get discouraged and eventually dropout, but this gives them the opportunity to graduate with the class they started with."

This program could be a big appeal to students who enter ninth grade at the age of 16. Students in this category are historically at a high risk of dropping out of high school.

"We are essentially knocking seven electives out of the curriculum and preparing them to move directly into community college," Faulkner said.

There are a variety of reasons a

student can enter the program, including chronic truancy, behavior problems, credit deficiencies, previous dropout, retention, depression, substance abuse, pregnancy and judicial reasons.

For quality assurance, a panel making the final decision on whether to accept the student into the program must consist of the school principal, guidance counselor, student support specialist and a central office representative.

"This program, in no way, should be interpreted as watering down standards," Ingram said. "A panel will review each application to ensure that students meet the appropriate criteria."

The new FCS program is modeled after similar programs in Dare, Craven and Currituck counties. Other counties have taken interest in the new FCS program as well.

"There is no one path to success," Ingram said. "This program provides another route to success. As educators, we must provide as many options as possible for our students."

- Nathan Moreschi

TLMS

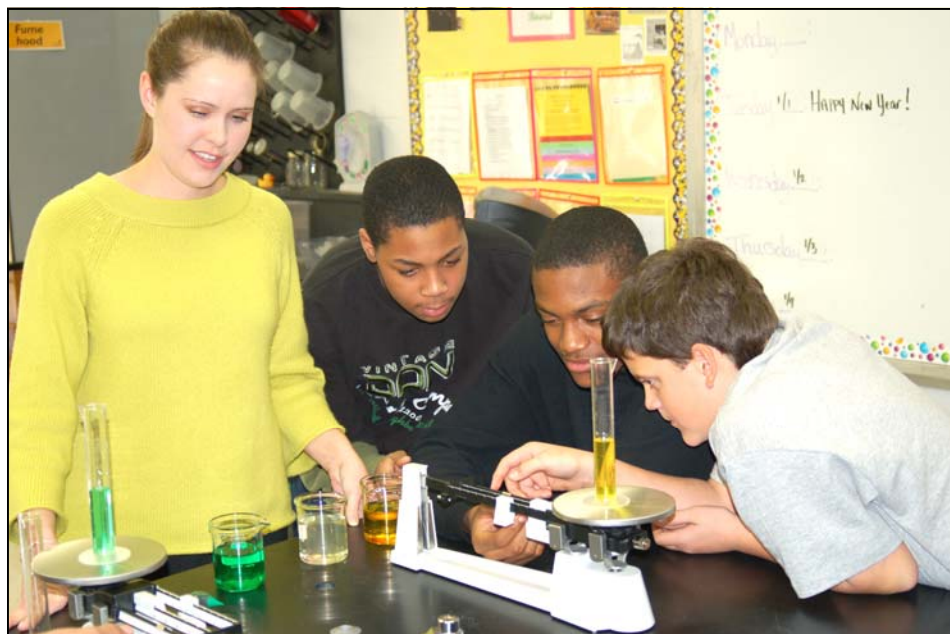
Continued from page 1

students to study several chemical reactions that take place in the human body, including respiration and digestion. Students will use plants to study the harmful effects of certain substances, and they will share their findings in a school-wide smoke and drug free campaign.

The mission of the Toshiba America Foundation is to contribute to the quality of science and mathematics in U.S. communities by investigating in projects designed by classroom teachers to improve instruction for students in grades K-12.

Toshiba America Foundation is a non-profit organization that has been supporting improvements in science and math education through its grants program since 1990. The Foundation was created by Toshiba Corporation, Toshiba America, Inc. and the Toshiba America Group companies. For more information, visit www.taf.toshiba.com.

Tatum also received a grant earlier



Tatum's students, such as Peter Wilshire, Kevin Ruffin and Corey Stamper, find her class very engaging. Tatum has earned more than \$18K in grants and uses the money for intriguing classroom and out of classroom labs.

this year. One of her grants even yielded funding for a document camera that hooks directly to a microscope (Wake Electric Bright Idea Grant). It

has proven very valuable to class instruction.

Tatum, who has been teaching for four years, is very pleased with her teaching situation at Terrell Lane and hopes her students continue to enjoy her class. The current project is scheduled to be finished in April. Part of the process includes an in-depth report to Toshiba outlining how the money was actually used.

In all, Tatum has secured seven grants for herself since coming to TLMS three years ago and has helped the school get seven additional grants.

She hopes to continue to help the science department grow through grant money.

"I think my students really enjoy my class," Tatum said. "This is very hands-on, and they really learn about science."

- Nathan Moreschi



Drama Program Excelling at FHS



Lawrence's class produces plays from the ground up—including props.

Lawrence pleased with recent turnout

In her first year as an English teacher at Franklinton High School, Lisa Lawrence realized she needed to spice things up in the classroom.

After reading essay after essay in a composition class she was teaching, she decided the students needed more hands-on learning, and that turned into a project that involved rewriting a script and using common movie tag-lines. Ultimately, it led to the formation of the current and very successful Franklinton High School drama program.

The quality of the program is now drawing the attention of the community, as evidenced by the turnout for the FHS dinner mystery theater program that took place in December. Eighty people were served dinner in the cafeteria, and 181 people showed up for the play.

"This is a great opportunity for my drama students and for Mrs. (Maria) Styers' Foods II class."

The dinner was prepared by the Foods II class, and students from that class taught the drama students how to serve people. Drama students served patrons in costume.

"Serving in character ties it all together," Lawrence said. "The kids get a chance to get comfortable with being in character,

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DRAMA

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and the audience gets a chance to meet the characters. It's a win-win situation."

Lawrence got the idea of dinner-theater setup when she was on a mission trip. She met a drama teacher from Savannah, Ga. and learned about it after exchanging ideas.

"We used to do three or four one-act plays, and it worked ok, but it was difficult for me to work with four different groups. This makes it much more manageable."

December marked the second time FHS put together the dinner theater, and it will become an annual event. Attendance rose from 130 to 181 this year.

"People are showing a big interest in this," Lawrence said. "I get phone calls way before hand from people asking when the show will be."

The next big event for the FHS drama department will take place in the spring with the production of *Anastasia*. Lawrence wrote the play with bits of the movie and also changed the characters around. Last spring, the drama department put on a production of *Aladdin*.

"You need plays that are very strong in character," Lawrence said. "We had 26 on stage at one time (in December)."

Drama has become very popular with the Red Ram student body. The Drama I program is 28 strong, and



The Franklinton High School Drama Department has had many successful performances, including *The Wizard of Oz* earlier this school year.

there are 30 people in the drama club. The Drama II, III, IV class are combined into one and is capped in the mid-twenties. Lawrence already knows she will have to turn people away.

"The students really like this class," Lawrence said. "It's a good opportunity to get on stage. Teenagers learn more by doing than sitting. All but one student has had a talking part, and all of them have been on stage."

When it comes to producing an event, it's a class-wide event, and everyone gets involve from acting, to managing, to building props. Lawrence's husband Jeff helps the club out in a big way with building props.

"It's a really neat to find out what students have a knack for," Lawrence said. "Some are leaders, some are

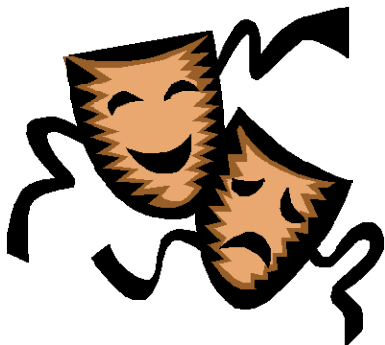
great followers and some are good at setting up the stage."

Events are held in the FHS auditorium, which now has a new sound system that is far superior to the former system. The system cost \$4,000 and was funded through the drama department and the Franklinton Area Community Theater. Both groups agreed to pay half.

As for the future, Lawrence hopes to see more drama classes available at FHS so all students who wish to be in the program and meet the requirements can do so.

"It's a growing program, and I want to keep up with the demand," Lawrence said.

- Nathan Moreschi



Perfect Fit



Louisburg College Men's Basketball Coach Aaron Denton (left) is thankful for his opportunity to lead the Hurricanes. Denton is active in the community in many ways, as evidenced by his participation in the annual United Way basketball game (above).

BHS' Denton Leading The Hurricanes

Figuring out what profession you would like to truly do is a difficult task for the majority of people, but it wasn't for 1996 Bunn High graduate Aaron Denton.

Denton, who played multiple sports in high school and graduated first in his high school class, knew from a young age that his dream was to become a college basketball coach.

Not only is he leading a strong Louisburg College men's team, now, he's living in the area where he wants to be most – home.

"My goal was to coach college basketball

– it's a dream, and I'm doing what I want to do and where I want to do it," Denton said.

So how did Denton earn the job at Louisburg College? Denton got his start in coaching as a student-athlete at Guilford College. He played both football and basketball there, but a football injury kept him sidelined so he was invited to become a student coach.

He went on to be an assistant hoops coach at Greensboro College, head high school coach at Southeast Guilford High

SEE DENTON PAGE 12

WFSG – It Works



The Royal Elementary School First Grade Whole Faculty Study Group team is taking strong strides when it comes to helping students read better.

Four years in, Whole Faculty Study Groups (WFSG) is producing strong results.

WFSG is a platform for teachers and staff to collaborate with each other and try to improve a specific classroom need in a broader subject area.

One of the latest noteworthy successes is the first grade group from Royal Elementary School.

Laura Smith, Roxanne Gallup, Lisa Wroblewski, Megan Potts, Bethany McNair, Laurie Baker and Aria Lewis have developed a reading program over the past two years that continues to flourish.

Last year, the group focused more on students who were reading on level or above, and they watched students do even better. This year the focus has broadened to students who were retained or have other deficiencies.

“We’ve developed a level system in which the books get more difficult as students move up,” Gallup said.

Teachers start the year by diagnosing students through the Developmental Reading Assessment Test (DRA). The DRA is required, but this group has gone a step further and implemented a more in-depth test – Early Reading Screening Instrument.

“This gives us more detailed information, and because of that, we can fit each child’s need a little better,” Smith said.

Even though the group brought in more students who are struggling, they are maintaining the old parts of the program. The new part is simply an addition to what already exists.

“We’re not done yet,” Smith said. “We want to meet the need of each child; we want to help children to continue to advance and read on a

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ART

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Ani Puchaicela – 2nd place
Christina Waver – 3rd place

Pen and Ink Drawing

Kaitlyn Averette – 1st place
Tracy Setta – 2nd place
Mandy Peedin – 3rd place

Colored Pencil Drawing

Hollie Estes – 1st place
Lane Hurley – 2nd place
Rasheka Crudup - 3rd place

Sculpture

Tracy Setta – 1st place
Ashley Stowe – 2nd place
Hollie Estes – 3rd place

Graphite Pencil Drawing

Lindsay Golden – 1st place
Kaitlyn Averette – 2nd place
Stephanie Bingham – 3rd place

Pastel Drawing

Andrea Greer – 1st place
Cameron Cagle – 2nd place
Stephanie Bingham – 3rd place



FHS students Kaitlyn Averette (Sr.), Lane Hurley (Sr.), Stephanie Bingham (So.) and Andrea Greer (So.) proudly display their awards from the Franklinton Women's Club Art Show held January 6th.



by Christina Weaver



by Hollie Estes



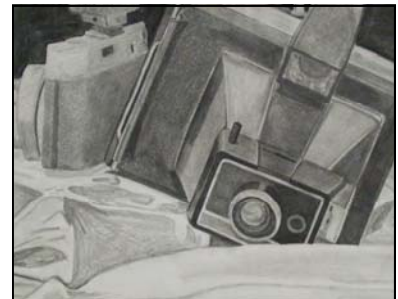
By Tracy Setta



by Andrea Greer



by Kaitlyn Averette



by Lindsay Golden



by Jaclyn Hall



Bunn Students donate in memory of Hernandez

The Bunn High School student council, pictured left, recently raised \$1,332 and donated it to Franklin County Safe Space in memory of Elvira Hernandez. Hernandez, who was a BHS student, tragically lost her life in the spring of 2007. Students raised the money during spirit week with the Powder Puff football game. At left, student council members proudly display the check totaling \$1,332.

LES' Virtual Field Trip



Louisburg Elementary students went on a field trip (thanks to a distance learning cart) in December and didn't even have to leave the school. LES held a virtual field trip in the library through the NC Museum of History. The program was titled *History Mystery: Colonial Life* and students learned about the process historians use to analyze artifacts. Prior to the session, the museum sent reproduction artifacts that were distributed to students during the session. Students got to handle these artifacts, make observations about them, hypothesize and analyze their predictions.



Down With Scrooge



Cedar Creek Middle Students Post Quality Performance

Cedar Creek Middle School students in Johnny Walter's class experienced firsthand how to put on a play prior to the holiday break. Walter's class acted out a version of Ebenezer Scrooge and put together a full set in the classroom. Walters was very pleased with the performance of his class and the props that were made.

DENTON

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and then moved to Florida to assist at Miami Dade College. In 2006, he was informed that long-time LC coach Enid Drake was stepping down. He applied for the spot, and then he was packing his bags to come back to North Carolina.

"This really means a lot to me," Denton said. "I know a lot of people around here; my family is here – so it is personal. I don't want to let people down."

Denton, now in the middle of his second season as head coach of the Hurricanes, led the squad to a 17-13 record in his first season and has his troops at 10-2 through 12 events this season. They were 3-0 in Region X action, too.

The Hurricanes are traditionally a competitive program, and Denton plans on keeping it that way.

"Coach Drake and Coach (Mike) Holloman (LC Women's basketball coach) have done a tremendous job here," Denton said. "This place is very rich in history, and I want to continue with that success."

Coaching the Hurricanes is

'I'm doing what I want to do and where I want to do it.'

- LC Coach Aaron Denton

proving to be a very special time for Denton. It's a demanding job. He spends many hours with his team and on the road looking for potential players, but his love for the game of basketball drives him.

When he's on campus coaching an event, his two biggest fans are always there to watch. Who are his biggest fans? His mom (Vicky) and dad (Van) make sure they are at each home event.

"It's really nice having them there," Denton said. "They help out around the gym, and we work on it together. We're hoping to get new bleachers."

Patrons of the hospitality room during game get to sample something that even the biggest of arenas usually can't provide – home cooking.

"People tell me they'll come

back just to have my mom's cooking again."

Denton has found that his family is really extended to his players as well.

"The relationship I have with my players is my favorite part of this," Denton said. "Here the goal is to get kids to another level. The structure that the college provides is great for the kids. It encourages them to do well in the classroom and try to get better on the court."

It's not uncommon for Denton to spend more than an hour on the phone catching up with former players when he comes to his office.

Denton isn't planning on leaving LC anytime soon.

"I'm very fortunate to be here, and I'll stay as long as I can keep the program competitive."

Denton's duties at Louisburg College aren't just limited to coaching basketball. He teaches a math class each semester, and he is the head coach for the cross country team in the fall.

If you are interested in attending a LC basketball game, you can view the schedule through the college website at www.louisburg.edu. Admission is only \$5.

- Nathan Moreschi

WFSG

Continued from page 8

higher level."

Students who struggle with the English language actually get 30 minutes of individualized instruction each day.

"This is really helping a lot,"

Smith said. "We wish we could provide this attention with every child."

The WFSG program was met with its share of resistance throughout the county, but Gallup is quite pleased with it.

"This is designed to make us better teachers and to make our students better," Gallup said. "In my 25 years of teaching, this has been

the most valuable tool of its type. It forces you to sit down and talk with each other, and as a result, you continue to improve. We wanted to make a sustainable model. Hopefully other teachers will want to use it. It has the potential to impact all grades."

- Nathan Moreschi