

### Special Olympics

Franklin County Special Olympics draw large crowd in what turned out to be a near perfect day .  
Page 8

## Dropout Rate Rises Slightly

Franklin County Schools experienced a slight increase in the student dropout rate for the 2008-2009 school year from 5.34 to 5.38 percent. The state average for the same time period was 4.37 percent.

Dropout rates for a particular year are reported from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction nearly one year after the completion of that year.

"It's always disturbing to see anyone drop out of school," FCS Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said. "Seeing an increase is even more unsettling. Despite the small increase, we will continue to explore new avenues to lower the rate."

While the dropout rate increased, the FCS four-year graduation rate has risen over the past few years. In

[SEE DROPOUT PAGE 13](#)

## International Flavor



In addition to nearly 30 schools from NC, a high school from Tokyo, Japan visited Bunn High to participate in the annual FFA Land Judging Competition.

## BHS Hosts Statewide Agricultural Event, School From Tokyo, Japan Visits

**L**and and soil use become more and more critical as areas develop in terms of infrastructure, and students across the state got to put their skills to test the final Saturday in March at the 56th annual North Carolina Future Farmers of America Land Judging Contest held in Bunn.

Bunn High School hosted the event for the first time as nearly 30 high schools throughout North Carolina and one high school from Tokyo, Japan attended.

"This was a wonderful opportunity

for all of us," Bunn High School agriculture teacher Bob Frisbie said. "Students were able to exchange ideas and learn from each other."

The actual land judging took place at Mitchell Farms in Franklin County near Bunn. Students test their skills by rotating through four different stations and inspecting soil for a variety of factors including texture, structure, permeability, grade of slope and more. Students are assigned to teams of four but work independently.

"Students try to determine the

[SEE FFA PAGE 5](#)

# In-House Field Trip



FCS fourth-graders enjoy a tour of a fire truck used by the Gold Sand Fire Department.

## 4th Graders Swarm Riverside for Technology Adventure

Anyone who went on a field trip as a fourth-grader probably has remembered it for the rest of his or her life. While most field trips involve tradition settings such as museums, farms or government offices, the recent Franklin County School's field trip to central office for fourth graders was a bit different.

With financial limitations, travel is limited for field trips. So FCS curriculum resources

pulled together and came up with the idea for a fourth-grade technology field trip.

The event was held the third week in March and went smoothly.

In all, nearly 600 FCS students as well as a handful of students who are home schooled visited the district central office on the Riverside Campus in Louisburg to see how technology changed throughout time and how it is

utilized today. The list below highlights the activities that were available for students.

- North Carolina Virtual Public School (outlined online learning through NCVPS)
- Ham Radio
- Interactive history how technology has changed how we play games

[SEE TRIP PAGE 3](#)

## TRIP

Continued from page 3

- Biotechnology
- Use of technology in the health field
- How technology is used to protect citizens (law enforcement, fire, etc.)
- Agriculture
- Robotics
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Golf
- Music
- Technology Museum (Mr. White and son)

The well-run event took two full days with students attending two-hour sessions. The success of this event can be correlated to the help and team work from

FCS Curriculum Resource Teachers, Career and Technical Education teachers, Franklin County Boys and Girls Club, FCS technology department, Louisburg Police Department, Youngsville EMS, NC State Highway Patrol, Gold Sand Fire Department, Bull Creek Golf Club, FCS Public Information Department and Franklin County 4H.

Franklin County Schools Elementary Education Director and Title I Director Linda Frederickson and FCS Technology Director Chris Shearer served as the primary event planners. Both were very pleased with how well the event was received by students

and teachers and are already looking to holding a similar event next year. Frederickson and Shearer have received a wealth of positive feedback.

“This is an excellent use of resources,” FCS Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said. “Holding an event of this magnitude within the county is testament to how dedicated our teachers and staff are to educating our students. Everyone worked very well together, and it is very satisfying to see our students learning as direct benefit. I hope we can continue to have programs like this in the future. I believe it was very informative for not just the students but also adults. This is education at its finest.”

- Nathan Moreschi

## Enquiring Minds



Above, students learn about some of the ways technology has changed agriculture over the years. At left, FHS teacher Winn Clayton guides students through a lesson in Biotechnology.

## Boston University Makes Annual TLMS Visit



Pictured in the front row are Boston University students Zachary Ranger, Jamie Shaw, Shelysa Rapoza, Berkeley Talamo, Zach Nicol (coordinator) and Dan Essrow. Pictured in the back are David Lee (chaperone), Jane Horstmann, Ben Murphy, Dorothy Shi (coordinator).

### *TLMS Students Learn from College Standouts*

Boston University students completed a week of volunteer service at Terrell Lane Middle School in early March. The Boston University students were part of the Alternative Spring Break program at their university, which allows college students to provide valuable services at agencies throughout the country. This has become an annual event at TLMS.

The BU students tutored individual Terrell Lane students, with a special focus on making up missing school work, learning study skills, and research. Learning poetry elements and beginning research on the Middle Ages were both big topics during the week.

The Boston volunteers also ran the all-school Spelling Bee on Thursday and assisted with the annual TLMS Poetry Slam

on Friday. The volunteers left TLMS with a new mural in the cafeteria, featuring a quote by Dr. Howard Thurman, a Boston University Dean and Chaplain and a civil rights advisor. "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go and do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

## FFA

Continued from page 1

best use for the soil,” Frisbie said. “Some soils might be best used for agriculture, while others could be best used for a high rise building or a landfill.”

Soils are categorized by quality on a scale from 1 to 8 with 1 being the best.

Frisbie stated this process is becoming more and more critical and that is important that industries are careful when picking sites for use. He cautioned that if all of the good soil is used, areas could be in danger of not having land to produce needed items.

The group from Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Engei High School) brought quite a thrill to the several hundred students who attended. While the trip wasn't centered on the Land Judging Competition, it fit well with the schedule of the group's visit to N.C. State University's agriculture department. Frisbie praised the team from Tokyo for its actions.

“The first thing I spoke to my class about was the students from Tokyo,” Frisbie said. “They were very well behaved and did what was expected the entire time. This was a group that was very honorable, and we can all learn from them. I couldn't have been any more impressed.”

In addition to about 10 students, the agriculture-based school from Tokyo was represented by a teacher and the school principal. At the conclusion of the event, school members from Tokyo presented BHS with a banner from Japan. The banner reads “In appreciation for your



Students carefully inspect soil at Mitchell Farm near Bunn High School. This was the first time BHS hosted this event.

hospitality and friendship.”

“It was a very nice gift, and we are honored to have it,” Frisbie said.

The event kicked off Friday night with a formal dinner in the Bunn High cafeteria. According to National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Alexandria Henry (from Michigan), it was her favorite FFA event in recent history. Henry posted kind words regarding the hospitality and singing on her blog. Former Bunn High student and active FFA member Larry Frick entertained the audience Friday night with his singing.

You can read more about the event on Henry's blog at <http://ffanationalofficers.blogspot.com/2010/03/adventures-of-alex-partnership-visits.html>

As with any organized event, money is needed to make it go well. Frisbie was quite happy with the \$2,500 raised for Friday's dinner. Much of that money was provided

from the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation Service (guided by Charlie Bass) as well as Farm Bureau Insurance and Carvel Cheves of Clover C Farm. Other major sponsors of the event included Duke Energy and Soil Science Society of North Carolina.

Students received a great opportunity to ask questions about a career in soil conservation. NC Soil Conservationist JB Martin was present, as were two Doctors (Dr. George Naderman and Dr. Joe Kleiss) of Soil Science from N.C. State University.

“Hopefully some of these students will consider a career in soil science,” Frisbie said. “It's not only important, but it can be very rewarding.”

Polk County High School picked up the top prize of \$1,500. The money will be used to help fund a trip to the national contest that takes place each fall.



The Franklin County Health Department entertains questions from Franklinton Elementary School students.

## FCS Nutrition Fair Expresses Healthy Habits

The Franklin County Schools Child Nutrition Department held another successful Nutrition Fair in March. The program, held at Royal Elementary, targeted second graders throughout FCS. Nearly every second-grade student attended (close to 700) and viewed a variety of exhibits expressing the importance of eating healthy and exercise. Stations included information provided by the NC Department of Agriculture, dental hygienist, school nurses, Franklin County Health Department and Franklin County Parks and Recreation. After visiting the stations, students were allowed to “Shop” at the Children Nutrition Produce Department for fruits, activity books, pencils, fruit erasers and rulers. Before leaving for the day, students visited the Pet Mil cow and had their class photo taken.

## Long Mill Teacher Assistant Ginger Preddy Receives High Honor from NCCU

Ginger Preddy has enjoyed her 11 years as a teaching assistant for Franklin County Schools (10 at Franklinton Elementary and 1 at Long Mill Elementary) but is now ready to take the leap to being a lead classroom teacher. For the past five years Preddy has been working on her teaching certificate at North Carolina Central University and has excelled. Her dedication, hard work and stellar 4.0 GPA has earned The 2010 University Award at North Carolina Central University. The University Award recipient is determined by the Office of the Registrar and is based on the criteria of having met the requirements for graduation during the current academic year, with at least fifty (50) hours completed at NCCU for at least four (4) consecutive semesters of degree work at NCCU with a cumulative GPA of 4.0. She is one of four who will be honored on April 9th at NCCU. LOMES Principal Kim Ferrell praised Preddy for her outstanding accomplishment.



Long Mill Elementary School teacher assistant Ginger Preddy will be honored on April 9th.



## Regional Battle of The Books

Cedar Creek Middle School students prepare for an opening round in the regional Battle of the Books competition held at Bunn High School in March. Cedar Creek qualified for the eight-team regional after winning the county level event with Bunn Middle and Terrell Lane Middle. Ligon Middle Magnet School of Wake County won the event and will compete for the state title in May. Other schools participating were Githens Middle (Durham), McGee's Middle (Johnston), West Edgewood Middle (Edgewood), North Granville (Granville), Parker Middle (Nash-Rocky Mount) and Forest Hills Middle (Wilson).

# FES' Treasure Island

Franklinton Elementary students spent the past several months prepping for a production of *Treasure Island* through the guidance of FES drama teacher Tasha Hatten. The event came to fruition last weekend with showings on Friday night and Saturday afternoon (proceeds to Relay for Life). Patrons filled the seats of the Franklinton High School auditorium to witness what turned out to be an outstanding performance. Nearly 50 students were involved in the acting portion, while 12 students from the art club pitched in with help for stage props. Another dozen or so volunteers also helped the production go smoothly. At left, a couple of pirates battle in front of the audience.



# 2010 Special Olympics



FHS' Deran Coe helps light the Olympic Torch with Athletes Samantha Munson and Joshua Rodgers.

## Sunshine, New Venue Lead to Bigger Crowds

With the Winter Olympics fresh on most people's minds, it wasn't hard to get into the spirit of the Franklin County Special Olympics on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

For the third-consecutive year, the event grew. This time, 38 athletes from Franklin County participated in a variety of events with hopes of finished and perhaps moving onto the regional competition.

In 2008, the Special Olympics returned to Franklin County after a 10-year absence.

While qualifying benchmarks will not be known for a few weeks, the regional event is slated to take place May 1<sup>st</sup> in Kernersville. The state-level event will take place June 4<sup>th</sup> at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh.

This year's crowd was up from years past. The weather was perfect, and a change of

venue to the Bunn High School stadium made for a fun-filled morning and early afternoon.

Athletes of all levels and different sports received quite a thrill as the cheers from the crowd and other participants pushed through the finish for a podium finish. This program often brings out an element of sports that sometimes gets for-

[SEE OLYMPICS PAGE 10](#)

# OLYMPICS

Continued from page 9

gotten – participation. Fans, athletes and event organizers found themselves frequently cheering not just for someone to win, but simply to finish the race.

Event organizers Wendy Vavrousek and Karen Cooke, both of Franklin County Schools, praised the efforts of the nearly 90 volunteers from each of the three high schools, area business including Novozymes North America and Franklin County Parks and Recreation. Vavrousek is the FCS Director of Student Services, while Cooke serves as a FCS Program Specialist.

Complete results of the memorable event are posted below.

\* DNS means the participant was absent and did not start the event.

## 25M Walk

Division 1

1. Mitchell Burrell/ 00:29.13
2. Rebecca Plummer/ 00:30.66
3. Jonathan Newell/ 00:31.22

## 25M Race

Division 1

1. Reid Holmes/ 00:56.22

Division 2

1. Antwan Reid/ 00:17.50

## 50 M Walk

Division 1

1. Reid Holmes/ 01:15.60
- Participant. Jocquell Harris  
DNS. Matthew Williams

## 50M Run

Division 1

1. Jalen Best/ 00:12.91
2. Jocquell Harris/ 00:19.90

## 100M Walk

Division 1

1. Michael Lane/ 00:58.35
2. Austin Schneller/ 01:17.19

Division 2

- Participant. Avery Clark/ 00:58.72

## 100M Run

Division 1

1. Ronald Richardson/ 00:30.66
2. Yajaira Sanchez-Parada/ 00:33.28

Division 2

1. Malek Cooke/ 00:17.63
2. Kevin Mitchell/ 00:19.20
3. Shante Kearney/ 00:21.63

Division 3

1. Timothy Carter/ 00:20.41
2. Brandi Spivey/ 00:26.34

Division 4

1. Jasmine Roa-Ortiz/ 00:27.78
2. Seth Crudup/ 00:32.50

Division 5

1. Joshua Rodgers/ 00:14.47
2. David Velazquez/ 00:15.59
3. Stephen Phillips/ 00:17.19

Division 6

1. Samantha Munson/ 00:17.00
  2. Durrion Davis/ 00:20.13
- DNS. Chris Arnette/ 00:00.00

Division 7

1. Destiny Williams/ 00:17.97
2. Doaquin Davis/ 00:24.03
3. Wayne DeZern/ 00:24.25

Division 8

1. Shanikwa Bowden/ 00:29.00
2. Julena Hargrove/ 00:56.97

## AT 200M Run

Division 1

1. Valentin Vazquez/ 00:45.03
2. Julena Hargrove/ 01:40.00

Division 2

1. Seth Crudup/ 01:20.75
2. Brandi Spivey/ 01:28.59

Division 3

1. Caleb Cottrell/ 00:44.84
2. Mallory Harp/ 00:45.62
3. Ashley Richardson/ 00:46.00

Division 4

1. Joshua Thomas/ 00:31.87
2. Malek Cooke/ 00:38.61
3. Timothy Carter/ 00:52.56

Division 5

1. Shante Kearney/ 00:49.72
- Participant Doaquin Davis/  
00:44.03

Division 6

1. Joshua Rodgers/ 00:33.25
2. Samantha Munson/ 00:36.84
3. Kevin Mitchell/ 00:45.75

Division 7

1. David Velazquez/ 00:34.37
  2. Destiny Williams/ 00:40.22
- DNS. Chris Arnette/ 00:00.00

Division 8

1. Mychael Parker/ 00:35.88

## 400M Walk

Division 1

1. Shanikwa Bowden/ 04:26.07

[SEE RESULTS PAGE 11](#)

# RESULTS

Continued from page 11

## 400M Run

### Division 1

1. Mychael Parker/ 01:28.00

### Division 2

1. Joshua Thomas/ 01:33.41
2. Ashley Richardson/ 01:56.65
3. Mallory Harp/ 01:59.97

### Division 3

1. Valentin Vazquez/ 01:41.35
- Participant. Caleb Cottrell/  
01:50.69

## Tennis Ball Throw

### Division 1

1. Erica Rodriguez/ 4.3800 m

### Division 2

1. Mitchell Burrell/ 4.6300 m
2. Jonathan Newell/ 4.4000 m
3. Rebecca Plummer/ 3.2600 m

## Softball Throw

### Division 1

1. Antwan Reid/ 4.1400 m
  2. Reid Holmes/ 2.1200 m
- DNS. Matthew Williams/ 0.0000 m

### Division 2

1. Jalen Best/ 12.7000 m

## Standing Long Jump

### Division 1

1. Jalen Best/ 0.5100 m
2. Jocquell Harris/ 0.3700 m

## Running Long Jump

### Division 1

Participant. Julena Hargrove



The Louisburg High Schol JRAFROTC Color Guard helped get things underway during opening ceremonies.

### Division 2

1. Doaquin Davis/ 0.7000 m
2. Ashley Richardson/ 0.6600 m
3. Avery Clark/ 0.3400 m

### Division 3

1. Brandi Spivey/ 1.6000 m
2. Austin Schneller/ 0.5500 m
3. Ronald Richardson/ 0.3600 m

### Division 4

1. Seth Crudup/ 1.5400 m
2. Kevin Mitchell/ 1.1600 m
3. Yajaira Sanchez-Parada/  
1.6000 m
4. Jasmine Roa-Ortiz/ 0.7000 m

### Division 5

1. Mallory Harp/ 1.3800 m
2. Shante Kearney/ 1.3600 m
3. Michael Lane/ 0.5000 m

### Division 6

1. Samantha Munson/ 2.3000 m
2. Wayne DeZern/ 1.4600 m
3. Malek Cooke/ 1.4500 m

### Division 7

1. Timothy Carter/ 1.4400 m
  2. Caleb Cottrell/ 1.3400 m
- DNS. Chris Arnette/ 0.0000 m

### Division 8

1. Joshua Thomas/ 2.8600 m
2. David Velazquez/ 2.5300 m
3. Joshua Rodgers/ 2.4400 m

### Division 9

1. Mychael Parker/ 1.9100 m
2. Valentin Vazquez/ 1.5100 m



Long Mill Elementary School teachers join in the fun during the school's multicultural day held in March.

## Learning About Others

Long Mill Elementary School hosted a multicultural celebration assembly last week that included the entire student body. Parents and community members filled the gymnasium to hear a selection of songs from different nations from each grade level. In addition to singing, there were African story telling and accordion/guitar performances. Perhaps the highlight of the event for students was when teachers and administrators danced in front of the entire group. At left, kindergarten students sing along during the African story telling session.



## FCS Technology Facilitator Published

Franklin County Schools Technology Facilitator Cathy Palmer, who is passionate about teaching technology to students, recently had an article published in *Creative Educator*.

Palmer’s article describes how she uses the animation software Frames during the FCS Summer Technology Camp. You can read all about it at the following link: [http://www.thecreativeeducator.com/Uploads/pdfs/v08/Creative\\_Educator\\_v1n8.pdf](http://www.thecreativeeducator.com/Uploads/pdfs/v08/Creative_Educator_v1n8.pdf). Palmer’s story is on page 8 of the document.

“It’s nice to see Mrs. Palmer receive recognition for her outstanding work with Frames,” FCS Technology Director Chris Shearer said. “We have a talented staff and programs like this help make the Technology Camp a success.”

Summer Technology Camp registration begins May 1st. Details will be posted on at [www.fcschools.net](http://www.fcschools.net).

Year	Dropout rate
2008-2009	5.38%
2007-2008	5.34%
2006-2007	6.13%
2005-2006	5.97%

Year	Graduation Rate
2008-2009	74.2%
2007-2008	71.6%
2006-2007	66.5%
2005-2006	61.5%

## DROPOUT

Continued from page 1

2009, the rate was 74.2 percent, preceded by 71.6 percent in 2008, 66.5 percent in 2007 and 61.5 percent in 2006.

Franklin County Schools has implemented three new programs in the past two years that are aimed at increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the dropout rate.

This past January, Franklin County

Schools opened a new Early College High School and also started an Evening School that targets students who have dropped out of school and want to return to work on graduation requirements at night. The Evening School has provisions for students who have dropped out or are at-risk of dropping out. The program is funded by \$140K grant received this past fall from the state.

A third program, which began a few years ago, is the 21-credit high school diploma. This program is for

students who are at-risk of dropping out who are not near the normal FCS 28-credit program. The standard FCS program requires seven additional credits than the state minimum of 21.

“I’m confident that these programs will only improve our dropout rate,” Ingram said. “Our system is determined to do what it takes to produce more graduates and fewer dropouts.”

- Nathan Moreschi



Franklinton Elementary students are getting excited about science after being guided by Cedar Creek Middle students.

## CCMS and FES Combine Forces in Science

The Cedar Creek Middle school science department, led by Dr. Thom Tomlinson, and fifth grade teachers at Franklinton Elementary worked together in March to inspire fifth graders to do well on the upcoming science end-of-grade test and gain a taste of middle school science. Eighth-grade science students from CCMS came to FES and were hour long teachers/mentors to fifth grade students. The eighth-grade students shared a vocabulary strategy that they use weekly in their own class to help teach the fifth graders new science terms. The fifth-grade students are beginning a unit on "Force and Motion" the last nine weeks of school. This project gave the students a jump start to understanding the vocabulary included in this unit of study. The fifth-grade students loved this experience and shared that the buddies explained the vocabulary in a way that was interesting and understandable. Now the fifth graders can take this vocabulary strategy home and make connections while studying the terms. This is a perfect example of two learning communities that came together and demonstrated engaged learning. The only complaint given by both communities was that they wished they could have worked longer. The next step in this collaboration project will be for the fifth graders to visit CCMS and observe a science lab.



## Report Card Night at FHS

A popular way to promote parent involvement is to host report card pick-up nights. The administration of Franklinton High School recently held report card pick-up night and was pleased with the turnout. At left, FHS Teacher of the Year Luann Corsale hands a report to a student. The evening also featured a pizza dinner provided by the Franklinton High School PTSA.



## Tuning Up

Louisburg High School band students (both concert and symphonic) put on a free concert in March as a tune-up for its evaluation in the NC Central East Band Festival. LHS, led by band director Brian Miller, received an Excellent rating and also received a perfect score in Sight Reading. **The Bunn High School Band, led by Melody Causby, also received an Excellent rating.**