

# FIRST THURSDAY

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

**Franklin County Schools**

Our *F*uture, Our *C*ommitment, Our *S*tudents

**DECEMBER, 2009**

## FCS Nets \$140K Grant

Franklin County Schools has been awarded a \$140,000 dropout prevention grant from the state to fund an Evening High School.

The school will be housed at the Creative Education Center in Louisburg on the Riverside Campus. The program is designed to offer an alternative time for students who are seeking course credit to get back on track with their studies or who are within a few credits of high school graduation and have dropped out of school. Middle school students who have fallen behind in their studies are also eligible..

Course instruction will be provided through online services. The Evening High School is scheduled to open in late January. For more information, call 296-2600.

### AP Of The Year

FHS' Ernest Wheeler named Assistant Principal of The Year. P. 2

### Grow and Share

Students begin planting. P. 7

## Technology Nerve Center



Internet connectivity, usage and more can be monitored for the FCS Technology Department on the Riverside Campus.

## What It Takes To Run FCS Technology

**T**echnology has become an integral part of the education process, and it easy to take the availability of it for granted.

The Franklin County Schools' Technology Department puts forth a lot of hard work, trouble shooting and dedication required

to keep the system moving smoothly.

So what goes on behind the scenes of technology? Who do you call when your computer is sick, email is down or the Internet is misbehaving? How does classroom technology suddenly appear in the educational envi-

**SEE TECH PAGE 9**

# AP of The Year



Franklinton High School Assistant Principal Ernest Wheeler (left) receives a warm congratulation from Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Lynn Henderson.

## FHS' Wheeler Receives Honor from Peers

It was just a few years ago that Ernest Wheeler was leading a classroom on the middle school level in Durham in addition to serving as a Community Support Specialist. While successful as a teacher and mentor, Wheeler wanted to try his hand in administration.

He received his chance in July of 2007 when he was named Assistant Principal of Franklinton High School. It hasn't taken long for him to make a positive impact, and as a result, he was voted Franklin County Schools Assistant Principal of The Year by his fellow assistant principals throughout

FCS.

"It's a big deal. It's hard to put into words. It makes me feel like I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing. It makes me feel like someone else recognizes the efforts I'm putting forth to make sure our school is successful; and coming from my peers, it means even more to me."

Wheeler worked as a physical education teacher on the middle school level in Durham for eight years before coming to FHS. He earned his teaching credentials during his undergraduate work at North Carolina

[SEE WHEELER PAGE 8](#)



## FOSTER CARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

Cypress Building

3117 Poplarwood Ct., Suite 302

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(919) 872-6447

(919) 872-6671 Fax

[www.kidspeace.org](http://www.kidspeace.org)

Dear Community Member:

Can you imagine how much your contribution will mean to the children KidsPeace serves right here in Raleigh, North Carolina? This letter is to ask for your serious consideration in donating in-kind and/or cash gifts to help give the children at KidsPeace a Christmas to remember. You can either adopt a child's wish list; donate cash or an unwrapped gift. We would greatly appreciate any/all gifts you or your organization can provide.

For a century, KidsPeace Foster Care and Family Services (FCFS) has been helping kids develop the confidence and skills to overcome emotional, behavioral, and psychological challenges in their lives. More than 100,000 kids have been directly helped since KidsPeace was founded in 1882. Our focus is Kids. Our message is courage. Our goal is to ensure that no child in need ever goes without help.

Please consider a donation to KidsPeace. No gift is too big or too small. Many of these children have not had the opportunity to explore and enjoy what it truly means to be a child. Currently, we have forty-six kids in care, and each one of them is wishing for a Christmas to remember. Any services, products, or financial aid that you give go directly to the children we serve right here in Raleigh, NC.

If you have any questions or would like to make arrangements for someone to pick up your gifts, please call (919) 872-6447. Please notify us if you would like a verification form for your tax records, as your gifts are tax deductible.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience with the good news. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping these children overcome.

Sincerely,

Paige R. Pait, MPA

Program Manager

Paige.pait@kidspeace.org

## LHS Career Fair



Franklin County Cooperative Extension



Marines



Vance-Granville Community College

Louisburg High School students recently received a chance to explore different career opportunities at a career fair. Career fairs are annual events at each of the three high schools in the county. Sharon Cannon, of the FCS Career and Technical Education Department, organized the event. Above are a few scenes from the successful program.

## Bunn Middle's Sledge Wins Poster Contest

Bethany Sledge, a seventh-grade student at Bunn Middle School, won a recent local poster contest sponsored by the Pilot Lions Club.

Sledge's poster was among more than 375,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 22nd annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

The poster was selected by three Bunn High School teachers for its originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the theme "The Power of Peace." The judging was held

Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Bunn Middle School cafeteria. There were 50 contestants.

Pilot Lions Club President William "Bill" Wallace said he was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students at BMS. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions.

"Bethany's poster will advance to face stiff competition through the district, multiple districts and international rounds of competition if she is to be declared the international grand prize winner," Wallace

said.

The grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500, plus a trip for the winner and two family members to New York City for the awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. Twenty-three merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

Locally, Sledge and first runner-up Christian Pearce, along with second runner-up Karrie Cooke, will be honored for their participation at the Pilot Lions Club building on Thursday, Feb. 11. Their parents will also be invited to attend.

View international grand prize and merit award winners at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).



## TLMS Field Trip

Terrell Lane Middle School seventh graders recently went on a field to visit the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science in Durham and then enjoyed lunch at a popular Japanese restaurant. While at the museum, students were able to view exhibits such as how sound waves move, different species of butterflies, how much acid is in your beverages you drink, and the museum's famous Dinosaur Trail. While at the restaurant, students were entertained by the talented chefs as they performed various stunts while preparing the hibachi-style lunch. At left, students enjoy the action taking place the restaurant.

## Honoring Those Who Serve



Bunn Elementary first graders received a special visit from Sergeant Leo McKeithan on Veteran's Day. McKeithan, who served in Iraq, shared stories and pictures from his tour with students. At left, McKeithan shows students a memorial for soldiers who lost their life.



**Louisburg Elementary Meets Food Drive Goal**

Louisburg Elementary third graders and staff have been working to collect food for people in need for the past 8 weeks. The school surpassed the goal of 1,000 cans with a final tally of 1,093. The project was part of a Citizenship Unit, and the food will be donated to Care and Share. Mrs. Cunningham's class donated the most with 273 cans.



**Turkey or Potato?**

FES Cafeteria staff found this huge potato and decided to make the best of it by dressing it as a turkey just prior to Thanksgiving.

## Little Green Thumbs



Students and parents at Long Mill Elementary share excitement while planting turnip greens.

## Long Mill, FES Team Up with Grow and Share

Elementary school teachers are going green in Franklin County, NC, with installation of school gardens. Teachers are adding gardening to their lesson plans for science, nutrition, and other subjects. Produce grown in these gardens will feed the students, the teachers, and other local residents.

Working with Franklin County school teachers and Dale Byrns, Creative Education Center, several gardens are being installed. In Spring 2010, over 100 elementary school students will be growing food for themselves, learning about nutrition, working in the garden, and sharing their produce in the local community.

The first gardens — five raised beds — were installed November 4th at Long Mill Elementary. These raised bed gardens are overseen by several first grade teachers, first graders, volunteers, and representatives from Grow And Share. Over three tons of organic garden soil was used to build the gardens, with all the soil donated by Old Castle Lawn and Garden of Louisburg. Woodlief Supply Co. of Youngsville provided greens seed for some experimental fall planting.

“It was great to see businesses in the community dive in and help these schools. Their

*SEE GREEN PAGE 11*

## BMS Crime Prevention Presentation



Ms. Barbara Denton and Mr. Dale Murphy invited the Crime Prevention Division of Franklin County Sheriff's Department to Bunn Middle School recently. The officers presented valuable information on topics ranging from bullying, drug abuse, and gang activity to our health classes. Bunn Middle's SRO, Deputy K. Horton, was the liaison between BMS Staff and the Sheriff's Department in arranging the presentation. Deputy Horton also provided visual aids displaying gang attire and examples of drugs. Sergeant B. Manson along with Deputy M. Tharrington and Deputy C. Evans conducted the presentation with an informative PowerPoint. Students were given opportunities to ask questions about the topics being discussed. All the officers shared strategies and thoughtful insights to the students to steer clear of criminal behavior and be productive citizens.

## WHEELER

Continued from page 2

Central University (majored in PE, minored in history) and earned his Master of School Administration from the University of Phoenix.

FHS Principal Charles Fuller praised Wheeler for his performance and initiative at the school.

"Mr. Wheeler has excellent rapport with the students," Fuller said. "He brings energy to the school. He directly oversees our Freshman Academy and has made a big impression. His goal is to make a dif-

ference in students' lives, and he is doing that. He takes time to get to know the students personally."

A prime example is the video game club Wheeler started. Wheeler saw a need and decided to volunteer to run the program after school.

"He's an excellent role model," Fuller said. "He's proactive about keeping kids out of trouble. He talks to students and parents regularly to help prevent trouble from occurring."

During his tenure as an AP, Wheeler views his profession in a different light.

"I have a different perspective

now," Wheeler said. "It's not as black and white as it seemed to me when I was a teacher. There is a whole lot of gray when dealing with all aspects of education. From behavior to academics, it's not cut and dry. It's just not that way."

Wheeler is also grateful for the opportunity to work at FHS and enjoys working with Fuller and fellow Assistant Principal David Averette.

"I love working here," Wheeler said. "I'm really happy I've had the opportunity to start here."

As for his future in education, Wheeler hopes to become a school principal within three years.

- Nathan Moreschi



The FCS Technology Department has regular staff meetings to ensure good communication among employees.

## TECH

Continued from page 1

ronment?

With a staff of 11 people for 8,400 students and nearly 1,200 employees, there's never a lack of things to do.

FCS Technology Director Chris Shearer praises his staff for the excellent job they continue to do.

"With the nature of an educational entity, you need a diverse group," Shearer said. "That's what we're lucky to have here in Franklin County: a very skilled, diverse group that goes beyond expectations in what they can achieve. The students and staff of Franklin County may not fully realize the talent level of this technology team"

There are two main areas of focus for the department, one being the technical side and the other being the instructional side.

Technology Coordinator Leamon Brantley spends his time making sure everything is running smoothly. A major part of his duties include network security and monitoring the amount of bandwidth being used by individual schools. He finds himself working very closely with, Jim Leonard, System Engineer. Leonard monitors the ins and outs of keeping the servers up and running as well as diagnosing problems with individual PCs and laptops.

Layne Denton finds his hands inside of computers quite often as well. Denton not only fixes machines but

also connects new installs and runs CAT cable to extend connectivity to the Internet.

Brantley, Leonard and Denton all spend time keeping the wireless area network up and running. While each FCS campus is locally connected directly using cable, the connection between schools is wireless. FCS is one of the few systems that implements radio frequency technology for the wide area network. The result of the system has been fast, reliable connection to the Internet.

There is a host of technology facilitators who bring new ideas and innovation directly to students and teachers. All of the facilitators teach people a variety of topics ranging from how to use Moodle, a content management system, to tools they can use while using the Internet. This results in technology savvy students and staff who are better prepared for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

There are six Technology Facilitators, and each is assigned to specific schools. The highly talented facilitators consist of Mary Brantley (Long Mill Elementary, Bunn Elementary, Laurel Mill Elementary); Cathy Palmer (Edward Best Elementary, Royal Elementary and Youngsville Elementary); Sondra Ayscue (Terrell Lane Middle, Louisburg High); Betsy Bryan (Franklinton Elementary, Louisburg Elementary, Long Mill Elementary); Lesley Coe (Cedar Creek Middle, Franklinton High) and Dottie Averette (Bunn Middle and Bunn High).

If you've ever called the Tech Department and been

**SEE FCS PAGE 10**

## Chamber of Commerce Donates to LHS, FHS



The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce recently donated \$100 to the Franklinton High School VICA club (left) as well as the Louisburg High School ROTC Program (right). The programs earned the money by helping the Chamber with the annual Tar River Festival. At left FHS teacher Clarence Walker poses with a FHS student as well as Chamber President Laureen Jones. At right, Jones presents the award to Louisburg High School ROTC Colonel Johnson.

## FCS

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greeted by a friendly voice, then you've talked with Karen Gay. Besides answering and routing phones for technology, she also helps in filling quote requests and tracking orders.

Don't be too surprised if you find the facilitators taking on the rolls of regular classroom teachers. All of the facilitators are licensed teachers and utilize their teaching skills quite often. Cathy Palmer often teaches students how to make PowerPoint presentations and how to properly document image sources. You may find Betsy Bryan guiding students through a virtual field trip or Lesley Coe teaching students at Franklinton High how to setup spreadsheets for a class project. Dottie Averette can be found helping students out with applications software or processing a message to be sent to parents via telephone using Bright Arrow software or helping teachers set up their NCWISE grading system. In the summer, you

might see Mary Brantley leading a robotics camp, or during the school year you could find her teaching students how to use Net Books or helping teachers utilize their Smart Boards.

Sondra Ayscue is no stranger to the teaching process and often helps students with Discovery Education. She also supports students and staff with distance learning opportunities.

Many of the facilitators lead summer technology camps as well. Whether its utilizing GPS technology or building robotics, the FCS Technology Facilitators can handle it.

Among the more popular staff programs in which the facilitators teach is the Quality Teaching and Learning program. Currently, FCS teachers and administrators have been taking an advanced QTL course titled QTLCS.

Don't look for the technology department to slow down any time soon; this January, the department will begin rolling out a new laptop program for middle school students.

- Nathan Moreschi

## GREEN

Continued from page 7

contributions kept the total garden costs under \$50 for all the school gardens," said Frank Whatley of Grow And Share. Grow And Share, a local non-profit, delivered the supplies and donated landscape timbers for the beds. Additionally, Grow And Share will provide the students with free garden plants in April.

At Long Mill Elementary, the teachers are using this gardening experience to teach the students hands-on about the parts of a plant and how plants grow (a science objective). Growing the plants lines up with the teachers' objectives of teaching science lessons on what a plant needs to grow. "The students will also be learning about health and nutrition as part of our health initiatives... good choices, food pyramid, etc.," says first grade teacher Laurie Baker.

"We're working with schools, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and other children," said Kay Whatley, Creative Director at Grow And Share, "helping the next generation hear the message: you can grow your own food. As adults, each will decide if gardening is something they want to do. We're glad for the opportunity to work on youth-oriented projects like the school gardens."

From Kimberly Ferrell, Long Mill Elementary School Principal: "It was an awesome opportunity for our first grade students to see and understand the process of starting a garden. At Long Mill Elementary School, our goal is to educate our students about healthy living and

Students are already seeing the results of their planting from early November. The turnip greens are sprouting.



choices. This project is part of our Wellness Program that leads to greater rewards in living fit."

An additional school garden is planned for Franklinton Elementary, with groundbreaking expected in the first quarter of 2010. Students ages 1-5 in the AIG program at Franklinton Elementary will grow produce in the garden, and then share it with a local senior center.

Michelle McGhee, AIG Specialist at Franklinton Elementary, is in charge of that school's garden. She says, "I am excited about getting in the dirt and providing my students hands-on gardening instruction. We will be learning about plants in our science study and will integrate the study throughout math and reading in my AIG classes for grades 1-5. My students will engage in planting seeds, pulling weeds, and harvesting the produce. We will distribute the vegetables at our local senior

center where we can also provide community outreach. We just can't wait to experience our own gardening."

"Franklin County Schools recognizes that proper nutrition and healthy living habits are very important for a child's education," Franklin County Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said. "We are thankful for the efforts Grow And Share is putting forth to help the children and staff of Franklin County Schools make healthy decisions."

Both schools' gardens will be in full swing by April, designed to allow students to harvest food before school ends for summer vacation. All students participating in the program will be able to give back to the community while learning to feed themselves.

*Information written and provided by Grow and Share.*

# Mixing It Up!

Franklinton High School students participated in Mix It Up Day in November. The event encourages students and staff to sit with different people at lunch in attempt to get to know other people. The successful event produced a lot of smiles and laughs. Pictured are a few scenes from the program.

