

FIRST THURSDAY

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

Franklin County Schools

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

FEBRUARY, 2010

ECHS Running Well

January 26th marked a historical day for Franklin County Schools and Vance Granville Community College.

The Franklin County Early College High School opened smoothly that day with 42 students. This is the first program of its type for FCS, while Vance-Granville Community College became the only community college in the nation to host four such schools.

School Principal Jim Harris reported the students and faculty are excited and ready to work.

The Early College High School is a five-year program in which students earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit at no cost.

For more information, call 919-496-2600.

Makeup Days

Snow makeup days for students and staff. **P. 9**

NBCT Teachers

New wave of NBCT teachers honored. **P. 2**

Keep Moving Forward



Princess Richardson, who is currently completing her student teaching at Franklinton Elementary, will earn her teaching degree this coming May. It's been a 20-year process for the Franklin County native.

Richardson to Earn Degree After 20 Years

May 15th, 2010 will mark a normal Saturday morning for most people, but not Princess Richardson. It's a day 20 years in the making. Richardson will earn her Bachelor's degree in education from North Carolina Central University at 9 a.m. that day.

The 1983 Bunn High School graduate has always had a drive to teach, so much that she took a considerable pay cut 20 years ago to become a teacher assistant for Franklin County Schools.

For many people the idea of

taking 20 years to complete a degree is out of the question – not for Richardson. She's not just simply earning a degree; she's graduating with honors with a 3.63 GPA.

"I never thought about quitting," Richardson said. "There were setbacks along the way, but time will always pass. There were never any excuses to not continue. I was determined to do this, and I'm not stopping here. I've learned how to manage my time better and balance family, work and school."

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Nationally Certified



FCS new National Board Certified teachers include: in the front row from left to right are Kristy Crawford (LES), Rosanne Dickerson (RES), Dr. Janet Taylor (LHS) and Erin Lynch (FHS). In the back row are Mary Anne Lewis (BMS), Gina Bass (LES), Jason King (CCMS) and Stephen Vick (FHS).

Eight FCS Teachers Earn National Board Certification

One of the highest recognitions a teacher can earn is National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Franklin County has enjoyed a rich crop of newly National Board Certified Teachers over the past several years, and 2010 is no different. Eight FCS teachers from six different schools were recognized for earning the certification Tuesday night at a dinner held in Louisburg.

Earning certification this year were Gina Bass and Kristy Crawford from Louisburg Elementary, Rosanne Dickerson (Royal Elementary), Jason King (Cedar Creek Middle), Dr. Janet Taylor (Louisburg High School), Mary Anne Lewis (Bunn Middle) as well as Stephen Vick and Erin Lynch from Franklinton High School.

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Franklin County Schools' Public Information Officer Nathan Moreschi displays two NCSPPA Blue Ribbon awards for First Thursday and photography.

PIO Nets NCSPPA Blue Ribbon Awards

It's safe to say Franklin County Schools' Public Information Officer Nathan Moreschi isn't resting on past success.

Moreschi followed up last year's North Carolina School Public Relations Blue Ribbon awards with two more this year.

The three-year PIO earned accolades in the newsletter and photography categories at the annual Blue Ribbon ceremony held by NCSPPA in Durham on January 22nd.

"It's always a thrill to get recognized for your work," Moreschi said. "I receive a lot of helpful in-

put and editing from many people who work for Franklin County Schools. Without the input and help from others, the quality of *First Thursday* and other publications would suffer greatly. I'm highly appreciative of the help I receive from others."

NCSPPA recognizes award winning work each year from school districts throughout the state at the annual Blue Ribbon Ceremony.

"These awards are well-deserved," FCS Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said. "Mr. Moreschi is a hard-working employee who is dedicated to performing well. His performance is quickly earning

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Royal, Long Mill Receive Recognition for Health



Above is a recently assembly at Long Mill led by the Skip Its from Salem Elementary. The jump-rope team, led by Tommy Hager, visited Long Mill, Royal and Franklinton Elementary in late January. This assembly are just some of the healthy programs elementary schools throughout the county are supporting.



Healthy Living

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation recently recognized Long Mill Elementary and Royal Elementary for some of the successful healthy programs each school has implemented. Long Mill was recognized for its Morning Movers Program. The early program features morning dancing each day in the gymnasium. The popular program was featured on a national TV show last year. The program has resulted in an increased number of students who come for a healthy breakfast in the morning. Royal Elementary was recognized for its successful walking program. The Walk It Out club awards students reaching walking milestones and has created a walking culture among students and staff.

TEACH

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Richardson is married with two children who have now graduated from high school and is a proud grandmother.

"I've had a lot of support along the way, and without it, I would not have gotten this far." My husband (Calvin) has been very understanding throughout the entire process."

This past year, Richardson clamped down to finish the final five courses of her degree and is currently completing her student teaching requirement at Franklin Elementary. After earning her degree in elementary education, she hopes to become a full-time teacher within Franklin County Schools. She also has her mind set on earning a Master in Exceptional Education.

So what has kept Richardson so driven throughout her 20-year path?

"I'm here as an advocate for children," Richardson said. "I love being here. I would never leave Franklin County. I really believe that love is contagious. I love the children. I want to help them in any way possible. I think the kids realize that."

The path to success has not been an easy. At times she struggled to find funds to pay for her constant trips back and forth the N.C. Central University in Durham. Her friends, family and church often chipped in to help her out with traveling expenses.

"I'm so grateful for all of the help," Richardson said. "I would



Princess Richardson believes teaching is her true calling.

not have made it without so much support."

Richardson found extra work when available to help fund travel and other expenses. She sometimes found herself cleaning houses.

"I'm not ashamed of work," Richardson said. "Anything worth having is worth working for."

Richardson's desire to become a teacher stems from her fourth-grade experience.

"My fourth-grade teacher inspired me," Richardson said. "I'll

never forget her (Linda Jones, former Franklin County elementary teacher). She gave me confidence that led to other things. Linda Jones was strong and made me a better person."

There have been several other inspiring people throughout the journey for Richardson. Among the helpers include former Bunn High School math teacher Hope Coats. Coats helped Richardson recently with college statistics. Included in

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Princess Richardson shares a thought with Franklin Elementary School Principal Carol Davis. Richardson, who has worked as a teacher assistant for 20 years in Franklin County, is currently completing the final step of her Elementary Education Degree by student teaching at Franklin Elementary (where she also serves as a TA). Richardson will graduate this coming May. It's an accomplishment 20 years in the making.

INSPIRE

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the group is current Louisburg Elementary Assistant Principal Judy Stover. She worked with Stover when a pre-school was started at Youngsville Elementary in the 1990s.

"I loved working with her (Stover)," Richardson said. "She gave it everything she had, and she loved it. It was very inspiring."

Richardson's 9th-grade science teacher is also among the inspiring mentors.

Next fall Richardson hopes to be leading a classroom of young children on her own.

Richardson, who was named Franklin County Teacher Assistant of the Year two years ago, plans on using similar strategies used as a TA when she becomes a lead teacher.

"I don't have a magic secret," Richardson said. "I care for stu-

dents, and they always know if you really mean it. I care so much because somebody cared for me. God has placed me here."

Richardson's balance of humor, seriousness and care could pay great dividends for many students in the future.

"I want to be remembered for liking, laughing and loving," Richardson said. "I will always be here for children."

- Nathan Moreschi

NBCT

Continued from page 2

Teachers received gifts and pins and were given words of praise from Board of Education members Paige Sayles (BOE Chair), John May (BOE Vice Chair) and Mary Vollmer as well as Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram, veteran FCS educator Judy Lassiter (event organizer) and 2008 North Central Region Teacher of the Year Paige Elliott.

“This is tremendous for both the teachers and for the students,” FCS Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said. “This strengthens our teaching core and will benefit students and other teachers in the years to come. We encourage teachers to seek National Board Certification.”

North Carolina leads the nation in total number of teachers who are nationally certified. Franklin County Schools now has more than 40 teachers with recognition.

Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve



Louisburg Elementary teacher Kristy Crawford receives a congratulations from LES Principal William Harris.

National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. NBPTS offers 25 certificates that

cover a variety of subject areas and student developmental levels. Reaching the achievement is not an easy task. The intense process takes course during the majority of school year in which teachers compile a portfolio with many written entries, a

video entry and many other items. The event culminates with a high security assessment that includes many essays. From that point, the National Board determines which teachers have met the proficiency requirement. For teachers who do not qualify after the process, they only need to take certain elements of the program over again to meet the required certification score.

Also of note from Tuesday’s ceremony, Freda Brodish of Cedar Creek Middle School and Lois Edwards of Long Mill Elementary School were recognized for renewing their National Board Certification. The certification lasts for 10 years. The renewal process includes more portfolio entries as well as assessments.

- Nathan Moreschi



Royal Elementary School teacher Rosanne Dickerson (right) receives a pin from Royal AP Francemise Kingsberry.

Franklinton Elementary, Franklinton High School Teachers Awarded Toolbox for Education Grants

Franklinton High School teacher Tommy Kemp earned a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant, while Franklinton Elementary teachers Jodi Freudig and Patricia Russick collected a \$2,925 grant through the same program. Kemp will use the funding to move forward with a landscaping project at FHS that will include plants and materials for items such as steel decorations and benches. In addition, roots from the plants grown will be used at the new FHS. There will also be an herb garden planted in a combined effort with the FHS Foods II class. Freudig and Russick will use the grant to fund a beautiful butterfly sanctuary and outdoor learning garden.



Tommy Kemp



Jodi Freudig and Patricia Russick

PIO

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respect statewide. We are lucky to have a person with his talents as our Public Information Officer. He handles sensitive topics with class and continues to emphasize the many positive stories and events taking place within the district."

Moreschi is responsible for maintaining the FCS website (www.fcschools.net), taking photos at events throughout the county, writing stories, press releases and generating the monthly newsletter *FCS First Thursday*. *First Thursday* is free and emailed to nearly 3,000 homes each month. For more information, visit the FCS homepage. In addition, Moreschi plays a key role in the Board of Education Policy process by managing the process for new policies and revisions to existing policies.

After graduating from Franklinton High School in 1993, Moreschi earned a BS in Geography from UNC-Charlotte in 1998 before entering the world of journalism for six years as a sportswriter and photographer.



Franklin County Schools' Public Information Officer happily accepts a Blue Ribbon award from North Carolina School Public Relations Association President Jeff Nash. Moreschi began working with FCS in 2004 as a social studies teacher at Franklinton High School. He became the Public Information Officer in November of 2006.

Snow Makeup Days Scheduled

All Franklin County Schools' campuses were closed February 1st, February 2nd and February 3rd due to a snow storm. The school calendar is designed to handle unscheduled closings.

For traditional calendar students, the makeup days will be February 22nd, March 26th and June 10th.

For students who attend year-round school (Youngsville Ele-

mentary), the makeup days are scheduled for February 22nd, March 29th and March 30th. Should you have questions, please contact Nathan Moreschi at 919-496-2600.



Big EBES Snowball Fight

Edward Best Elementary Principal Debbie Ayscue dodges a make-shift snowball during a school-wide Relay for Life fundraiser. EBES students raised \$822.47 by buying recycled paper at 25 cents a sheet. The leading donators were allowed to throw snowballs made of recycled paper and trash bags at the principal. The highest donating grade level was third. The group will receive a frozen treat for it.

Visit www.fcschools.net

Franklin County Schools

Kindergarten Registration

& Screening Clinic Dates

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Daily

Franklin County Schools will hold registration and evaluation for children entering public kindergarten in the 2010-2011 school year in the local schools on the following dates:

March 9, 2010 Bunn Elementary School

March 12, 2010 Edward Best Elementary School

March 25, 2010 Franklinton Elementary School

March 26, 2010 Youngsville Elementary School

March 29, 2010 Louisburg Elementary School

April 14, 2010 Long Mill Elementary School

April 23, 2010 Laurel Mill Elementary School

April 16, 2010 Royal Elementary School

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *The child must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2010, to be eligible for kindergarten for the 2010-2011 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.*

On the day of registration, please bring your child and his/her following records:

****Certified Birth Certificate***

****Immunization Records***

****Record of Illnesses, (if any)***

****Kindergarten Health Assessment Report (Form PPS-2K/physical exam), if completed. (Each elementary school's office will have this form)***

****Social Security Card (if available)***

****Statement of Residence form: Only 2 proofs of residence accepted. (Deed or lease of primary residence and a current utility bill.)***

Required forms may be obtained prior to registration at your child's school or by contacting the Central Office at 919.496.2600 (Riverside Campus – Building A).
