

BES Leads Relay For Life Charge

The fight against cancer is tireless, and so is the will to find a cure.

Each year all 13 schools in the Franklin County School System organize Relay for Life campaigns to raise money for cancer.

For the second straight year, Bunn Elementary has led all schools in funds raised for Relay for Life – with this year’s totaling surpassing \$22,000.

With any great performance, there are great people or great teams; Bunn Elementary is no exception.

Michelle Harris and Bet Oakley, both who work at Bunn Elementary School, help spearhead the successful team of 42 people each year.

“We all work together very well as a team, and Michelle

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Next Month

August will bring the Back To School edition of First Thursday. The issue will contain detailed information about each school.

FCS Honors Day



Terrell Lane Middle Principal Novella Brown (center) is proud of Ozell Mangum (FCS TA of the Year) and Katie Tatum FCS Teacher of the Year.

Tatum, Mangum Sparkle for Terrell Lane Middle School

Tatum FCS Teacher of the Year; Mangum Top TA

Franklin County Schools is loaded with talented teachers and teacher assistants, so earning the title Teacher of the Year or Teacher Assistant of the Year for the entire system is quite an honor.

At the annual year-end Honors Day ceremony in June, the system-wide Teacher of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the Year is announced—this year Terrell Lane

Middle School swept the categories as Katie Tatum was named FCS Teacher of the Year and Ozell Mangum was named FCS Teacher Assistant of the Year.

Tatum, a science teacher, has earned more than \$20K in grants in her three years at TLMS and is extremely grateful for earning her latest accolade.

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Bridges to Life Scholarship Winners



Rebekah Perez De Leon



Ebony Reaves

Statistics show there are several factors that can lead to students dropping out of school. Rebekah Perez De Leon and Ebony Reaves were both endangered of dropping out of high school, but beat the odds. Not only are both now graduates of Franklinton High School, but both are on their way to college. For their outstanding work and determination, each earned the Bridges to Life Youth Guidance Program Scholarship (\$500). Rebekah will continue her education at Peace College in Raleigh this fall, while Reaves will attend Vance Granville Community College. Recipients were determined by letter of recommendation from guidance counselors and teachers, essays and other factors such as attendance and acceptance to a college or university.

Math EOG Scores Soar

Three years ago the North Carolina End-of-Grade math test was modified to match up with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) standards.

In the initial year of the alignment (2006), math scores across the state went down. Since then, Franklin County Schools' scores have continued to increase. The latest preliminary scores support the above statement.

An overwhelming majority of grade levels in the grades tested (3-8) have shown substantial growth since the test was realigned to the NAEP standard. "Our students and teachers have a lot to celebrate," FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme said. "Knowing that they are competing on a national level makes their progress even more special. Although we still have a long way to go, I am pleased with their progress, and I'm looking forward to even greater progress next year."

Over the past three years, Laurel Mill fourth graders have experienced the biggest leap. This year's preliminary results show a 34.2 percent increase to 78 percent proficiency. Bunn Elementary fourth graders have increased 29.1 percent to 76 percent, while Cedar Creek Middle seventh-grade students jumped 28.6 percent to 72.1 percent.

Terrell Lane Middle School sixth graders are up 23.9 percent from 2006 reaching the 63.7 percent proficiency mark. TLMS seventh graders increased

School	Grade	2005/6	2006/7	2007/08	3 Y +/-
BES	3rd	66.3	70.77	80.00	13.7
BES	4th	46.9	60.58	76.03	29.1
BES	5th	52.6	63.83	56.76	4.2
EBES	3rd	75.0	75.86	69.23	-5.8
EBES	4th	65.3	82.05	85.71	20.4
EBES	5th	67.6	74.07	85.06	17.5
FES	3rd	43.3	41.82	53.06	9.8
FES	4th	45.0	31.73	55.66	10.7
FES	5th	44.1	57.14	51.61	7.5
LMES	3rd	51.9	71.15	65.45	13.6
LMES	4th	43.8	60.78	78.00	34.2
LMES	5th	46.0	56.25	61.70	15.7
LES	3rd	36.6	40.48	51.95	15.4
LES	4th	43.9	53.85	61.45	17.6
LES	5th	43.8	44.62	58.11	14.3
RES	3rd	84.7	71.68	87.21	2.5
RES	4th	77.8	90.48	89.29	11.5
RES	5th	59.8	72.34	82.30	22.5
YES	3rd	76.8	75.96	81.20	4.4
YES	4th	66.3	76.15	85.32	19.0
YES	5th	73.3	66.33	79.84	6.5
BMS	6th	61.8	65.32	71.84	10.0
BMS	7th	76.1	66.02	69.87	-6.2
BMS	8th	71.1	75.74	48.62	-22.5
CCMS	6th	53.4	65.38	64.17	10.8
CCMS	7th	43.5	52.89	72.13	28.6
CCMS	8th	50.7	50.88	62.61	11.9
TLMS	6th	39.8	54.40	63.70	23.9
TLMS	7th	43.2	39.49	59.20	16.0
TLMS	8th	44.6	50.78	52.41	7.8

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2008 FCS Math EOG Scores Comparison

HONORS

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Mangum is quite active with students both in and out of the classroom. When the bell rings for students to go home, Mangum's day isn't even half over as he prepares to step into the players field and begin coaching. Mangum coaches multiple sports each year for Terrell Lane Middle School.

TLMS Principal Novell Brown is extremely proud of both Mangum and Tatum and honored to have them teaching at Terrell Lane.

There were many awards and recognitions during honors day. The event was held at the new Bunn High School auditorium.

2008 FCS Honors Day Awards

Award	Recipient	School
Teacher of the Year	Katie Tatum	Terrell Lane Middle
Teacher Assistant of the Year	Ozell Mangum	Terrell Lane Middle
Principal of the Year	Kim Ferrell	Laurel Mill Elementary*
Assistant Principal of the Year	Genie Faulkner	Laurel Mill Elementary**
AIG Teacher of the Year	Kim Leonard	Louisburg Elementary
Dianne Massey Carter Award	Jackie Hartsfield	Louisburg Elementary
Superintendent's Service Award	Dale Byrns Monty Riggs	Creative Education Center Central Office
School Service Award	Franklinton Elementary	N/A
EC Teacher of Excellence	Genevieve Hilaire	Bunn Elementary

* Kim Ferrell is now the Principal of Long Mill Elementary School

** Genie Faulkner is now the Principal of Laurel Mill Elementary School



Dale Byrns (left) and Monty Riggs (Center) happily accept the Superintendent's Service Award for FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme.



Jackie Hartsfield (left) received the first annual Dianne Massey Carter Award. The award is in memory of the Dianne Carter—former Elementary Education and Title I Director.



Truly Engaged

Every teacher aims to have his or her students authentically engaged during a lesson. It's obvious Terrell Lane Middle School science students were engaged during the final week of school during a water conservation project that took place in the Tar River. Students of Katie Tatum's class take sharp notice of fish that was caught during the event.



36-Hour Effort!

Bunn High School graduate Pablo Antonio Perez Diaz officially graduated in December of 2007 and then moved to Mexico to be with his family. Despite that, he was determined to attend the Bunn High Graduation Ceremony in June. It took him 36 hours to drive (alone) to Louisburg for the event, but he wasn't about to miss out on walking across the stage and celebrating the day with friends.

RELAY

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kind of holds us together," Oakley said. "Many of us have been affected by cancer one way or another, so that just motivates us more."

Harris receives a lot of praise from team members but insists that the total team effort is what makes it such a successful program.

"This has always been a successful program," Harris said. "We all care, and we all realize that we could be saving our own life someday."

So how does a school raise \$22K?

Well, it's a combination of many fundraising events throughout the year. Whether it is an auction, kiss-o-gram, cookbook sale or selling of advertisements – it all adds up in the end.

The biggest single source of funding comes from the school-wide penny war. The penny war is a competition among each class to see which one can come up with the most weight in pennies. This year the school amassed more than \$7,000 in pennies. That's 700,000 pennies.

Each year that goes by, the team wonders if it will be able to equal or surpass the mark set the previous year. The doubts have been removed every year so far, as the team continues to beat previous marks.

"It's very exhausting, but it's all worth it," Harris said. "It's a big team effort and almost all



Forty-two members of the Bunn Elementary School staff make up a very successful Relay for Life Team. BES led the county in Relay donations this year; however, every school in the FCS system donated in the fight against cancer.

show up on the night of relay."

The actual relay is held each year at Bunn High School. People from all over the community come out and walk around the track to show their support in fighting cancer and remembrance of cancer survivors and those who have lost their lives to cancer.

"When you see the luminaries lit, it really has a lasting impact," Oakley said.

- Nathan Moreschi



Huge Writing Gains

State Writing Test Scores Rise Across The County

The preliminary state writing scores are in, and 12 of the 13 schools that make up the Franklin County Schools system experienced substantial growth.

The annual writing test is administered to all students in grades 4, 7 and 10.

On the high school level, the average number of students at Level III or higher climbed dramatically for an overall increase of 27.4 percent.

The maximum level a student can achieve is a Level IV, while the minimum is Level I. A score at Level III is the minimum target for proficiency set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

“Our teachers and students have risen to the challenge, and they are

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School	2006 % III and IV	2007 % III and IV	2008 % III and IV	Change from 2007
BES	36.7	52.0	54.5	2.5
EBES	47.0	60.8	67.5	6.7
FES	31.6	35.9	41.7	5.8
LMES	28.0	38.8	51.1	12.3
LES	31.5	26.6	36.1	9.5
RES	42.2	55.4	69.4	14.0
YES	54.7	71.3	65.1	-6.2
BMS	45.3	39.4	52.8	13.4
CCMS	39.9	40.8	60.0	19.2
TLMS	25.0	33.2	50.0	16.8
BHS	36.7	54.0	71.1	17.1
FHS	39.8	40.1	79.7	39.6
LHS	34.8	55.6	72.3	16.7

MATH EOG

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16 percent, while eighth graders are up 7.8 percent.

Royal Elementary fifth graders showed huge gains as well, climbing to 82.3 percent for an increase of 22.5 percent. Royal Elementary had 89.29 percent of its fourth graders and 87.21 of its third graders make proficiency.

Edward Best Elementary fourth graders have surged 20.4 percent in the

last three testing periods to 85.7 percent. Fifth graders from Edward Best are up 17.5 percent to 85.1 percent proficiency.

Youngsville Elementary fourth-graders have continued to improve. Fourth graders leaped to 85.32 percent (19 percent increase), while third-graders are up 4.4 percent to 81.2 percent and fifth graders climbed 6.5 percent to 79.84 percent.

The biggest gain from Louisburg Elementary was 17.6 percent for fourth graders. However, third-grade students climbed 15.4 percent and fifth-

graders were better by 14.3 percent when compared to the 2006 numbers. Franklinton Elementary School third and fourth graders rose by an average of 10 percent.

View the spreadsheet for more information pertaining to the preliminary 2008 EOG math scores.

Reading scores will not be released from the North Carolina Department of Instruction until August. The test has been modified from last year and the scoring process takes longer the first time around.

- Nathan Moreschi

Biotechnology Coordinator Recognized

Vance-Granville Community College Biotechnology coordinator/instructor Julie Kinlaw was recently recognized by Franklin County Schools for partnering with the school system.

Since 2006, Kinlaw has worked with Laureen G. Jones, Director of Career Technical Education for Franklin County Schools, on a successful grant request called "Biotech Partners" from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, in partnership with the N.C. Community College System. As a result of the grant, Franklinton High School was able to purchase lab equipment necessary to offer an "Introduction to Biotechnology" course, and VGCC began offering its "Bioprocess Manufacturing" course for high school students on the college's Franklin County Campus. Kinlaw was the instructor for that course.

Participating high school students earned college credit which they could



FCS CTE Director Laureen Jones (left) presents an award to Judy Kinlaw of VGCC.

transfer to VGCC's Bioprocess Technology degree program, and they learned skills that are required to work for area biotech companies such as Novozymes North America. One 2007 Franklinton High School graduate was actually hired as a Process Technician by Novozymes after completing the

VGCC course.

Also as part of the grant, the VGCC Franklin County Campus hosted a two-day Biotechnology Summer Institute on June 24-25 for twelve Franklin County teachers and counselors. The high school and middle school personnel had the chance to see lab experiments performed and hear about the field from representatives of North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and Novozymes.

Kinlaw and Jones have made numerous local presentations explaining the importance of the project to members of the community. They were also selected to speak about the partnership at the 2007 National Career Pathways Network conference in Kentucky.

- Submitted by Andrew Beal of Vance Granville Community College

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competing favorably and successfully with their peers statewide," FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme said. "This is a testament to all of the hard work and dedication our students and staff put forth to improve. Our community has something to be proud of. We will continue work to improve even more."

Franklinton High School soared from 40.1 percent in 2007 to 79.7 percent.

Bunn High surged 17 percent to a level of 71 percent proficient as Louisburg High finished at 72.3 percent, up 16.7 percent from 2007.

Middle school scores increased by an average of 16.5 percent, and the elementary performance spiked an average of 6.5 percent.

Cedar Creek Middle set the pace for grade seven with 60 percent proficiency. The Jaguars increased by 19.2 percent, while Bunn Middle (up 13.4) finished with 52.8 percent and Terrell Lane was at 50 percent (up 16.8).

Royal Elementary jumped the high-

est percentage level among elementary schools with a 14 percent increase and finished with the highest proficiency level of all seven elementary schools at 69.4 percent. Edward Best had a cumulative increase of 6.7 percent and finished at 67.5 percent. Youngsville Elementary experienced a 6.2 percent decrease in proficiency level, but at 65.1 percent, remains among the top three performing elementary schools.

- Nathan Moreschi

In Memory of Dianne Massey Carter



FCS Plants Memorial

Friends and family of the late Dianne Massey Carter gathered on the morning of June 13th to plant a tree in memory of Carter. Carter's career in Education spanned more than three decades. Carter, former teacher and Director of Elementary education and Title I for Franklin County Schools, suddenly passed away in February of 2008. She made a lasting impression on nearly everyone she spent time with. Her warm smiles and relentless work ethic are truly missed. The first annual Dianne Massey Carter award was handed out later that morning to Jackie Hartsfield of Louisburg Elementary School. Above, friends and family of Carter take part in planting the tree in her memory that is located on the grounds of the FCS Central Office at the Riverside Campus in Louisburg.