

## **\$53 Million Bond on May Ballot**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the residents of Franklin County will be asked to weigh their approval or disapproval of a \$53.3 million school construction bond in the primary election.

Information outlining the construction needs within Franklin County Schools can be found on the system website at [www.fcschools.net](http://www.fcschools.net).

Twelve of the existing 13 schools would receive renovations or upgrades if the bond is approved by the public. The cost to the public would be \$50 per \$100,000 of taxable property.

The biggest of the projects is a replacement site for the current Franklinton

**SEE BOND PAGE 11**

## **Look Inside!**

**Read all about the  
Bunn High School CTE  
program — page 2.**

## **New Age Learning**



Laurel Mill students are genuinely excited with their laptop computers.

### **iPods, Laptops a Big Hit At Laurel Mill**



LMES teacher Emily Williams and LMES Principal Kim Ferrell help a student out with a laptop activity.

**T**here's no doubt that students, and adults alike, have a strong interest in both laptops and iPods. Some students at Laurel Mill Elementary students are experiencing both in their own classrooms and the net result is improved reading results.

iPods are devices commonly used to record and play music, but they can also be used to record your own voice, which is coming in quite handy at LMES.

While every classroom in Franklin County Schools has at least one computer, the joy of having your own per-

**SEE LMES PAGE 4**



## Learning Life Skills

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Bunn High teacher Randy Whitley is very pleased with a partnership that has formed with the Carolina Mudcats.

## Plenty To Offer In Wildcat Country

Students seeking a career path provided by the Career and Technical Education program in Franklin County Schools have many options.

All three FCS high schools have a variety of programs, including Bunn High School.

While Bunn is the home of a new 8,000 square foot shop facility that harbors a strong agricultural program run by Bob Frisbie and an equally strong carpentry program led by William Longson, there are many other opportunities in the CTE curriculum within the school.

Randy Whitley, who teaches drafting and marketing, is very pleased with the partnership that has developed with the Carolina Mudcats baseball team.

The Mudcats came directly to Whitley hoping his students and other students at Bunn High School might be interested in working at the Mudcats stadium during the season.

The Mudcats got an overwhelming response this past

month, producing 42 applicants from both students and a few teachers.

Whitley hopes to develop a similar partnership with the Carolina Hurricanes, Raleigh's standout team in the National Hockey League.

Furthermore, Whitley is excited about the prospects of a new class that is directly related to both professional teams previously mentioned – Sports Marketing.

Wildcat students, in addition to students at the other high schools in the county, get their fair shake at improving their computer skills during class as well.

Cindy Reavis, a Bunn High School Digital Communications teacher, leads a pair of Digital Communications classes and rounds out the day with a computer skills class.

In digital communications, students focus on speech

[SEE BHS PAGE 9](#)

# MOODLE IT

## *New application allows parents, students easy access to information*

In the thick of the information age, new ways of communicating are developing constantly – the challenge is finding ways to effectively utilize new and existing methods.

For a school system, it can be challenging to distribute information efficiently - not just to staff and parents, but also to students.

There's no doubt that the Internet is a history changing creation in terms of information transfer, and now it's becoming a little easier for Franklin County Schools' employees and students to take advantage of the Internet through the use of Moodle.

Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Development Learning Environment) provides a method to receive and send information electronically using the Internet. It's very simi-

lar to the previous Blackboard program FCS used.

Teachers and staff are currently being trained to make their own information websites in which parents, students, and anyone else can check into for updates on class assignments and related news. Students may also submit work through Moodle.

FCS Technology Facilitator Lesley Coe is the primary source for Moodle information and has been teaching small groups of teachers and administrators how to use the powerful program.

"It's similar to Blackboard in that it can deliver instruction, but we are using it as a way for teachers to have web pages," Coe said. "These are pages that everyone can edit with very little difficulty. It's a webpage in its simplest form."



### **Students and Parents can have quick access to class assignments and events by using Moodle**

Teachers could potentially put an entire course on Moodle, but it will act primarily as an information source. With Moodle, parents can remain up-to-date with their child's class simply by logging onto the corresponding class page.

In addition to being a strong method of communicating to

students, staff and the community – Moodle is totally free.

If you want to check out Moodle in action, feel free to log on to the FCS website at [www.fcschools.net](http://www.fcschools.net). There is a special button for the program on the top of the page.

- Nathan Moreschi



## **Long Mill Elementary Update**

Long Mill Elementary School remains on schedule to open this August.

Currently, the redistricting process is taking place, and a proposal of new district lines will be brought to the Board of Education on March 10th at 7 p.m. on the Riverside Campus in Louisville.

A final decision will be

made after public hearings in March at the April 14th Board of Education meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about this process, you may call the central office at 496-2600 or attend the March 10th meeting, public hearing meetings and the April 14th BOE meeting.

## LMES

Continued from page 1

sonal laptop for learning is a whole new learning experience for the students for students in Emily Williams's and Natasha Vonklingler's class.

The mini laptops are used to access a variety of interactive websites, while the iPods are used so students can record themselves while reading.

By recording themselves and then listening to their recording, students are able to improve their skills when reading aloud to the class. Williams noted a big improvement in several of her students. Students who were not comfortable reading aloud before are now very comfortable and, as a result, are reading much better now.

"This is going so well," Williams said. "I'm so excited, and



Not only are students learning new material, they are also developing computer skills.

the kids are doing so well." The iPods have a timer, and

students try to read as much as possible, without mistakes, during the allotted time. Students then check each other on their fluency.

In addition to fluency, Williams has the students put their results in an Excel spreadsheet.

Students in Williams' class each have their own laptop and get to bring them home to work on Powerpoint presentations, word documents and excel spreadsheets. All of this is being used to help improve student achievement which is tested on the End-Of-Grade test at the conclusion of the school year.

Vonklingler uses similar practices in her class; however she has just two laptops available for her students.

She notes equal success with the iPods and said that her students really enjoy the process.

"We have discussions to

have students dissect their reading and personally identify reading errors and strong points," Vonklingler said. "Students who do not like reading aloud are reading regularly (now). Student fluency is improving, and they are reading with more expression.

"Students who are below grade level have improved to at grade level, and students are taking responsibility for their reading when they are able to hear themselves."

Even with just two laptops, Vonklingler's students are much more engaged in class. They are using the mini laptops to build math skills, cooperative learning and overall reading skills.



Natasha Vonklingler (right) helps one of her students with an exercise using an iPod.

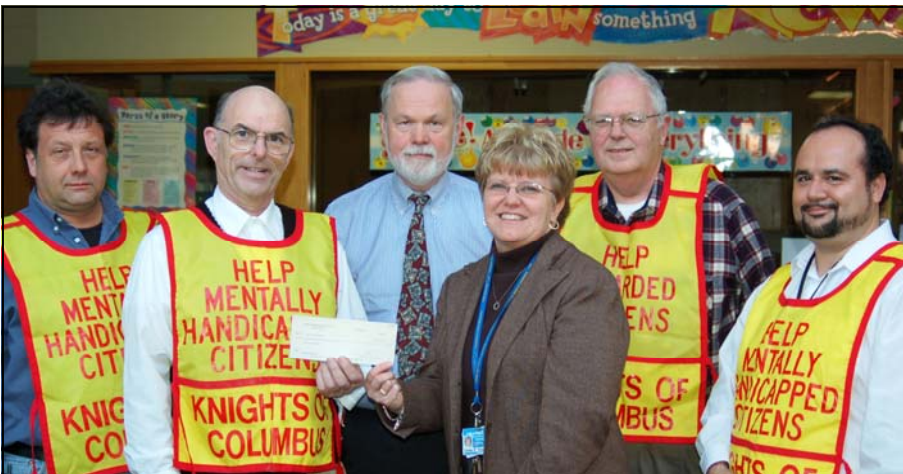
- Nathan Moreschi



## Future Mathematicians?

Cedar Creek Middle School math students sparkled at the regional Math Counts competition in February. Dylan Moss and Jake Lewis took third and fourth place respectively to qualify for the state individual competition on March 14th, while the team of Vinnie Joostema, Dylan Moss, Justin Wolz and Will Hoffman were second in the regional event to qualify for the state team competition also on March 14th. Former Cedar Creek Middle School math teacher and current Assistant Principal Jeff Smale directed the group into their first competition and was very pleased with the results. Picture above in the front row are Jeff Smale, Justin Walker, Dylan Moss and Justin Wolz. In the back row are Vinnie Joostema, Devin Hoffman, Jake Lewis and Bradley Tull. Not pictured is teammate Will Hoffmann.

## Knights of Columbus Donate to FES



Franklinton Elementary School received \$1,186.28 from the Louisburg chapter of Knights of Columbus to be used for the Exceptional Children's program. FES teacher Sheila Allers' classroom will be the primary beneficiary of the donation. This is all part of the Knights of Columbus LAMB program which is an acronym from the biblical quotation: "Whatsoever you do to the Least Among My Brethren, that you do also to me," Matthew 25:40. The program specifically targets children with mental disabilities. The money is collected through the annual Tootsie Roll drive that often takes place at large retail stores. Pictured above are Louisburg Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Ken Gregorious, John Lawrence, Franklin County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme, FES Principal Linda Frederickson, Jay Illingworth and David Gentry.



Some students of Michael Kearney's Digital Media class are using their newly learned skills to promote a band.

# Truly Hands On

## *FHS Digital Media Opening Doors for Students*

**S**tudents often struggle to see the relevance of a specific course, but that's often not the case for students taking a class that is part of the Franklin County Schools' Career and Technical Education Program.

While masonry, auto-mechanics, agriculture, welding and carpentry are often the paths vocational courses lead students, Franklinton High School students are getting a feel for digital media.

Michael Kearney, who is in his first year of teaching at FHS, is leading students through the world of digital media. He offers two levels of the class in which students learn a variety of hands-on skills including video creating and editing.

In fact, a handful of students have already netted a few dollars in their own pockets from the skills they have earned through Kearney's class.

"The fact that they can take what they learn from class, use it and make money so quickly is great," Kearney said. "Videos are probably the most powerful media there is right now. Videos can build a person up or bring a person down."

Lane Hurley and Ben Brodish have made a video that outlines their band Aim for Cadence. They've used the social websites of MySpace and UTube to post their video and pictures and have gained notable publicity through it.

The New York based magazine Pop Start published an unsolicited piece on the group after finding them on the Internet.

"This is the most effective class I've taken as far as helping us with the band," Brodish said. "Mr. Kearney points us in the right direction, and he really knows a lot about software. He's a tremendous help."

*SEE DIGITAL PAGE 7*



It safe to say FHS digital media students are authentically engaged in their lessons each day.

## DIGITAL

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Brodish and Hurley are part of the Digital Media II class. Both, as well as other class members, are incorporating skills learned from the Digital Media I class.

In that class, students learned how to use different programs that focused on video editing and photo editing.

Students also needed to familiarize themselves with copyright laws, different file types and video formats.

"There really is a lot to learn, but it is easy to pick up because it is very hands on," FHS senior Shay Barclay said. "This is a fun way to learn."

Kearney praised the students for their continued progress.

Junior Thomas Piper echoed similar thoughts. "This really is an easy way to learn, and it so much better than book-work."

Piper added that this class will be instrumental in helping with his plans to pursue a computer-related field. He's learned quite a few skills through the digital media class that will help in his future studies.

"It's very encouraging to watch the students be able to pick this up," Kearney said. "We go from a training level of software to the professional level. I want to help them make money with what they learn in this class. I would like to see this class continue to grow and eventually

produce a self-sustaining 30-minute program for Time Warner Cable and possibly do a program for the Carolina Mudcats. It would give the students real-world experience."

Kearney is considering putting a course prerequisite that students take a computer class and business class.

The Digital Media class is one of three new programs throughout FCS this year. Louisburg High School has started a Construction Technology course under the direction of Claude Perry, while Bunn High is beginning a new marketing with Randy Whitley teaching the class.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Business of Saving Lives

## LHS Students earn EMT certification

There's a host of Louisburg High School students gaining skills that will help save lives through the Allied Health class taught by Joyce Mangum.

The class, consisting of students from Bunn, Franklinton and Louisburg, took part in an emergency preparedness exercise late last fall.

Students and local emergency crews gathered at the Louisburg High School football field to simulate a terrorist attack. There were mock victims, and they were rushed to Franklin Regional Medical Center as part of the drill.

Activities like this captured the interests of class participants, including seniors Steven Gupton, Darryl Ragland and Jared Nobles. Each of these students took their interest to a higher level by becoming a certified Emergency Management Technician (EMT).

"EMS can be very challenging, and it offers a lot of diversity," Gupton said. "I like being in diverse atmospheres, and there is no better feeling than knowing you've helped save a life and giving back to the community."

Gupton is also a junior fireman for the Gold Sand Rural Fire Department, in addition to being a state certified medical responder.

Much like Gupton, Ragland is a junior fireman and a state certified medical responder.

"I like helping people in need and supporting the community," Ragland said. "I really enjoy the work."



LHS seniors Darryl Ragland and Steven Gupton (pictured) and Jared Nobles are very proud of becoming certified EMTs. Each of the students got an interest through their Allied Health class.

Nobles became an EMT as part of his interest in becoming a medical doctor.

"I chose to be an EMS volunteer because of the experience I will gain in order to become a doctor," Nobles said. "I also enjoy helping people and seeing the smiles on their faces. There's nothing like it in the world."

Nobles hopes to attend medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Students have expressed an interest in having an actually EMT class for the county, and there is motion in place to make it happen.

Franklin County Schools' CTE Director Laureen Jones is optimistic that the class can be formed.

- Nathan Moreschi





In addition to new programs, BHS also offers traditional CTE programs.

## BHS

Continued from page 2

recognition, personal digital BHS devices, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, Powerpoint, and email environments.

"It is a fun program because we learn a lot and don't spend days and days on any one

task," Reavis said. "With what students learn in digital communications, they should be competent to use the skills in the future."

Jamie Beckham teaches Career Management at Bunn High and had Chief Officer of Probation and Parole, Bobby Dickerson, speak to her classes for National CTE month. Dickerson is a graduate of Bunn High and in-



Students in Mrs. Reavis' Digital Communications class learn to use a variety of computer applications programs.

formed students of the nature of his work, work environment, education and career outlook.

Dickerson was invited based on an interest expressed from the students.

Frisbie, who also leads the Bunn Chapter of Future Farmers of America, had a variety of events throughout the month, including a talk from Bob Royal. Royal was encouraging people to entertain the idea of working for Southern Piping Company.

Frisbie and the FFA Chapter take part in numerous events throughout the school year and have a knack for finding good deals on equipment, including a used John Deere tractor in recent weeks.

Here's a list of the events FFA has been a part of throughout the current school year:

- Open house
- Membership Drive (60 members)
- Animal Ag Day
- Landscaped Wester Residence
- Tar River FFA Truck and Tractor Driving career development - Nick Bell 3<sup>rd</sup> in trac-

tor driving, Chris May 1st in truck driving

- Cattlemen's Beef Roast
- Pig cooker construction
- Fruit sale - \$7k
- Local family thanksgiving
- Landscaping at Rock Spring Church
- Family Sponsorship at Christmas
- Southern Farm Show (Chris May 11<sup>th</sup> in truck driving event, others met with NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler)

• Horticulture class secures landscaping contract for construction at Bunn High

• Ag Mechanics class constructs five picnic tables for new cafeteria

As you can see, the Bunn High FFA chapter is quite active.

These are just a few of the courses offered at Bunn High School, and there are many more. Rounding out the Bunn High CTE teaching staff are department chair Steve Pace, Leslie Pate, Lisa Place, Jennifer Burnette Angela Baker.



Carpentry remains a popular program among students.

# Serve It Up!



Franklinton High School students prepare food for their hungry customers.

## Foods II Serves Franklinton High

As part of the Foods II curriculum at Franklinton High School, students learn about entrepreneurship. To do so, the class set up the Exquisite Taste Café. Class participants of Maria Styers' class prepare and served bag lunches to teachers and staff who pre-ordered. The meal consisted of a sandwich, fresh fruit, beverage and dessert. In all, 30 customers signed up for the event.



Customers enjoy the food as well as a few laughs.



And the cleanup process begins.



## CCMS Tunes

Cedar Creek Middle School band students entertained a crowd at a recent PTSA meeting. The CCMS band is directed by Bobby Rathbone. In this event the band capped an evening that featured a hot dog dinner fundraiser and eighth-grade parent night. The parent night was led by FHS principal Charles Fuller, who offered advice on transitioning from middle school to high school.

## BOND

Continued from page 1

High School. This project would cost \$41 million and would be built on an already existing 75-acre site at the intersection of Lane Store and Cedar Creek Roads between Youngsville and Franklinton.

Within four years, Franklinton High School is expected to have nearly 1,000 students. Currently the school can hold 795 students and is within 20 students of maximum capacity now.

The current Franklinton High School, which is at capacity and has no room for further growth, would be turned into a middle school for 550 students. An additional middle school would ease overcrowding issues at all three FCS middle schools.

Many people may recognize that there is a building currently under construction at FHS. That is a 10-room classroom building that is funded through a \$30 million bond that was

approved by the voting public in 2004.

The 10-room building would be converted into a gymnasium once the middle school is in place. This would solve the existing problem at FHS in which the gym is three blocks from the main campus. The old gym would still be used for competitions.

The 2004 Bond money has produced several impressive structures throughout the county which are outline on the last page of this issue of First Thursday.

Some of the more notable projects include the new administrative and classroom building at Louisburg High School, along with a new vocational building and cafeteria at Louisburg High School.

Bunn High School has a new 8,000 square foot vocational building in addition to a new cafeteria and a new auditorium that is scheduled to be completed in May.

The Franklin County government is required by law to provide adequate public school facilities, and the least expensive way to borrow money for

these projects is through bonds.

Bonds are paid back over a period of 10 to 20 years, which means people moving into the county share the expenses with people who already live in it.

The FCS student population is conservatively estimated to increase to more than 10,000 students within the next year. Considering there are approximately 8,500 students in the system now and 10 of the 13 schools are at or above capacity, there will be a strong need for expanded facilities in the new future.

Another topic that comes up is the North Carolina Lottery. FCS receives and estimate of \$500,000 per year from the state lottery. Unfortunately this is not enough money to keep up with our growing population.

If you have any questions regarding the bond or any other aspect of FCS, please call Nathan Moreschi at 919-496-2600. You may also email him at [nathanmoreschi@fcschools.net](mailto:nathanmoreschi@fcschools.net).

- Nathan Moreschi



# 2004 Bond Results

*The outcome of your \$30 million*



Louisburg High School Main Building

#### Louisburg High School

- New administration and classroom building
- New Career and Technical Education building
- New cafeteria and media center
- Extensive renovations
- New parking lot and driveway

#### Bunn High School

- New 8,000 foot CTE building
- New cafeteria
- New classroom building
- New auditorium
- All projects complete by May 2008



Long Mill Elementary

#### Franklinton High School

- New 10-room classroom building
- 23 classroom facelift
- Window replacements (75%)
- Corridor renovations, masonry repair
- Cafeteria elevator
- 75 acres purchased for a new high school at Cedar Creek and Lane Store Roads

#### Terrell Lane Middle

- New classroom building

#### Laurel Mill Elementary

- New art, EC, music building
- Improved drainage system

#### Bunn Elementary School

- New art and music building

#### Youngsville Elementary School

- New parking lot
- EC classroom renovations



Bunn High School CTE Building

#### Long Mill Elementary School (COPS Project)

- Set to open August of 2008
- Capacity 650 students