

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

September 2007

Volume XXIII, Number 1

Board Highlights

....from September 10, 2007

✓ Costel Evans presented information regarding membership figures for the first ten days of school. The District's enrollment after the first ten days is 2,730 which is down 88 students from last school year.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the partnership award and agreement for the Learn and Earn Early College High School Project.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Bertadean Baker, Mentor at WCHS, Gailyn Burchette, Intervention Specialist 2-3 at Northside, Sharon Burton, Bus Driver, District-wide, Constance Davis, Mentor at Northside, Vaughan and WNTHS, Sheshina Forsythe, Bus Driver, District-wide, Karen Gervasio, Elementary Education Teacher at Northside, Keisha Royester-Carrawell, Elementary Education Teacher at South Warren, Ruby Soloman, Intervention Specialist K-1 at Northside, Brenda Whitted, Elementary Education Teacher at South Warren, and Mildred Williams, Mentor at Hawkins ALP and WCMS.

✓ The Board approved the Extra Duty Assignments of Brian Boyle, Volunteer Soccer Coach at WCMS, Bill Hunt, Girls Tennis Coach at WCHS, Steven Schott, Soccer Coach at WCMS and Daniel Sellers, Volunteer Assistant Football Coach at WCHS.

✓ The Board accepted the resignation of Carolyn Harrison, Child Nutrition Assistant.

Highlights for the Board's Work Session on September 25, 2007

✓ Jamar Perry, WCS Testing Coordinator provided information to the Board concerning the promotion and retention report for grades K-12 for the 2006-2007

(SEE **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, PAGE 4)

Good News from 2006-2007

Welcome back and for our new staff welcome aboard. It is always good to start a new year with good news from the previous school year. So let's start off with the positive points from the 2006-2007 school year.

Mariam Boyd Elementary School achieved high growth in fifth grade math. The Eagles also met growth in third, fourth and fifth grade reading. Mariam Boyd's fourth graders also met growth in writing this year. As a whole Mariam Boyd met overall growth in reading and math.

Northside Elementary School obtained positive gains by meeting expected growth in fourth grade math. The fourth grade Bulldogs made expected growth in writing.

South Warren Elementary School has a lot to be proud of. Let's start with the fifth grade students meeting expected growth in math and making high growth in reading. The fourth grade Lions met expected growth in reading and showed growth in writing as well. As a whole, South Warren met expected growth in overall reading.

Vaughan Elementary School gained recognition with its third and fifth graders making high growth in math. The fourth graders at Vaughan met expected growth in writing. The school as a whole met expected growth in overall reading. The Vaughan Eagles made AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) by meeting thirteen out of thirteen target goals set by the federal initiative, No Child Left Behind. Way to go Vaughan!

We are proud and would like to congratulate all of the elementary schools and their staff for helping achieve growth in fourth grade writing at all of the county elementary schools.

Warren County Middle School Warriors should be proud for making expected growth in sixth grade math, eighth grade math and sixth grade reading. High growth was met in seventh grade reading and in eighth grade Algebra I. Warren County Middle School achieved overall growth in math and writing and met expected growth as a school.

Warren County High School made growth in writing. The Eagles had a cohort graduation rate of 68.2 for 2005-2006 which exceeded the state average. The Dynamic Marching Machine brought home a national championship title and several first and second place trophies from the National High School High Stepping Marching Band Competition in Birmingham, Alabama. WCHS met expected growth for the 2006-2007 school year.

Warren County Schools has a lot to be proud of, but we still can make greater gains. The accomplishments that were made were not made by just a few individuals but by students and staff that were dedicated to making a change. Let's strive for even greater improvement this year! Good luck and have a successful school year.



Stellar Performer

***Pamela Vedo:
Maker of lemonade***

September's Stellar Performer is Pamela Vedo, second grade teacher at Vaughan Elementary School. Ms. Vedo was selected for this distinction by Vaughan's staff.

"Ms. Vedo was chosen because she is a very professional teacher. She is well planned, therefore she is ready to teach everyday like clockwork," said Noel Robertson, Vaughan's Principal. "She is consistently cheerful with students and adults. She treats people the same, which is always well.

Robertson added that "Ms. Vedo is best summed up by the three C's, calm, cool and collected. She readily accepts extra duties and assignments and is always ready to work on special projects. Ms. Vedo not only agrees to help out but she also follows through with quality work."

Ms. Vedo has been a teacher at Vaughan Elementary for the past ten years. She taught kindergarten, first and second grade for 18 years in Indianapolis, Indiana before relocating to North Carolina. She did take a short break from the teaching profession before moving here. "I missed the kids, so when I moved to the area, Vaughan and teaching were a perfect fit," said Vedo.

When asked what she liked most about teaching, Ms. Vedo, responded, "I enjoy making the kids feel at ease and trying to bring out the best in them. I like giving students confidence in their own abilities. I tell them not to worry, but to show off what they know. This helps keep them at ease."

In response to being given the honor of Stellar Performer for Vaughan Elementary School, Ms. Vedo said, "You know that's what's special about Vaughan school, everyone that works here could have received this award. The whole staff is special. We all work together. I have never worked with such a unique group of people who care so much."

Mrs. Bobbitt, school secretary at Vaughan said, "Ms. Vedo is easygoing and easy to work with. The only time I have seen her flustered was not with a misbehaving student or an angry parent, but with the copy machine and it was not that bad. I would not have noticed it had it been anybody else." Other colleagues used words like quiet, easygoing, and professional. They also used phrases to describe her like "Gets the job done", "Rolls with the flow" and "Doesn't ask for alot."

In response to being asked what advice she would give a new teacher, Ms. Vedo stated, "I would tell them to let themselves learn to enjoy the children. Enjoy their differences so that you know how to try to bring out the best in each of them."

Ms. Vedo likes to play golf in her freetime, she used to love to play tennis in her younger days. Her favorite leisure time activity is reading. "I try to tell and even show my students how fun reading can be. I really hope that my students will learn to love reading as much as I do."

"Ms. Vedo's attitude and demeanor is always positive and this is reassuring to me because I know that she is going to be that way each and everyday," said Mr. Robertson. Ms. Vedo has the uncanny ability to turn lemons into lemonade without making a fuss about any of it. It is her level of professionalism and her character that makes her a stellar performer and a true asset to the staff and students of Vaughan Elementary School.

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

There are No Monthly
Attendance Award Winners for
the month of September.

Please stay tuned for our
winners to be listed in October's
Discourse.

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Warren New Tech High School is Off to a Great Start

August 27 marked a new beginning in Warren County Schools as a new high school opened its doors to students for the first time. Warren New Tech High School is one of several new school projects in North Carolina aimed at improving the method of educating high school students. Not much has changed in the methodology of teaching in high schools. High school students are taught in many ways the same as they were in the past one hundred years.

WNTHS exposes students to very different high school environment. Students use projects to incorporate all of the core-subjects, like English, Algebra, history and science. Project based learning allows students to work together on projects. This in many ways mimics the workplace in the 21st century allowing students to become better prepared for future job rolls. Students are also given access to their own computers during the school day. Technology is a major tool of learning at New Tech, but it is not the main emphasis of learning.

When asked about the start of the school year, Emmy Coleman, principal of WNTHS responded, "It has been great. Everyone is excited how quickly our students have adapted to project based learning and the school's culture." Kenneth Richardson, a freshman at WNTHS said, "I like being here. It is more of a challenge and personally I like that."

Best of Luck to WNTHS and its staff and students as they continue to make history for Warren County Schools.

WARREN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL GOES OFF TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Students at Warren County Middle School are heading to the "outback". No, our middle schoolers are not headed off on a "Walkabout" with characters like Crocodile Dundee in Australia. They literally are going out back of the school to learn about the environment and other nature related sciences.

On September 20, students and staff officially opened WCMS's new outdoor classroom and re-opened the nature trail that has been closed because of fallen debris from past hurricanes and storms. Jacque Teeters, eighth-grade science teacher decided it was time to clean up the area and put it to good use. Ms. Teeters and other WCMS staff went to work writing grants and it wasn't long before they received two, one from Halifax Electric Membership Corporation and the other from Lowe's Home Improvement. Both grants awarded the project \$2,000 each.

Students from both the middle and high school have worked on the outdoor classroom and nature trail since the grants were awarded. One must visit the place to really see how their hard work has paid off. The outdoor classroom and trail offers a lot more to the educational experience than just space. Students can now participate in hands on learning activities that take them to the source of what they are learning about. The outdoor classroom will house six different learning stations that contain lesson plans and supplies to teach environmental science lessons. The six stations will be routinely updated and changed to provide new lessons as the school year progresses. Some of the lessons that are being taught are activities on water properties, plant and animal identification, soil studies and wetlands to name a few of the possibilities.

The opening of the outdoor classroom and nature trail is really just the beginning of this project. Ms. Teeters and her colleagues have already begun to dream of phase II and their grant writing pens have been hard at work. Please take the time to visit Warren County's "outback" and appreciate the fantastic educational opportunities that await our students there.

Points of Interest...

❖ LEARN NC Announces Fall Professional Development Courses for Teachers -Whether you prefer to earn your CEUs at one a.m., from a wireless coffee shop, or simply during your planning period, LEARN NC's professional development courses offer the convenience and flexibility you need to acquire new skills and knowledge. This fall, teachers can take courses in Content Area Reading Comprehension, Teaching Online Courses, ESL, Adolescent Literacy, and much more, all on their schedule. All LEARN NC courses follow a research-based model for quality professional development and online learning. Instructors cutting-edge coursework and research expertise set them apart from other teacher-trainers. To see the current list of courses and to register, please visit <http://www.learnnc.org/courses> or contact Bill Ferris at bferris@learnnc.org.

❖ Education Directory Online - The 2007-08 Education Directory is now available online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org> by clicking on the Education Directory link on the left-hand side of the home page. The directory also is in the process of being printed and will be available the second week in October for distribution.

❖ NC Biotechnology Centers Mini-Grant Program - Applications are now being accepted for the North Carolina Biotechnology Centers 2007-2008 Mini-Grant Program. The Biotechnology Education Mini-Grant Program offers awards of up to \$6,000 to assist in the development and implementation of activities, programs, and courses for biotechnology education and training at the K-12 level. Proposals must be submitted electronically using the Biotechnology Centers online submission process by noon on January 23, 2008. For detailed information or to apply for a Biotechnology Education Mini-Grant, please go to http://www.ncbiotech.org/services_and_programs/grants_and_loans/mini_grant/index.html or contact Amy Black, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, 919/541-9366, or by email, amy_black@ncbiotech.org.

*Welcome To All New
Warren County
Schools Employees*

Rock- In Prevention Makes North Carolina Debut in Warren County

Rock In Prevention, an Iowa based group performed for the first time in North Carolina and it was in Warren County. The group started it's week off on Monday, September 17. Their first task at hand was to train about forty SAVE/SADD (Students Against Violence Everywhere/Students Against Destructive Decisions) high school students. Within five minutes the students changed from Monday morning grumps into vibrant singing and dancing anti-substance abuse warriors. Rock In Prevention (Rock) uses high schoolers as mentors to help teach young students the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Over sixty high school students were trained and participated in the eight workshops over the course of the week. Rock uses positive role models and rock and roll to get their point across to students. With the help of the high school students the elementary students were asked to sing, dance and learn all at once. Students were taught refusal skills and decision making. High self-esteem and good character traits were also approached.

Rock In Prevention was brought to Warren County by Five County Mental Health Authority and Lake Area Counseling. Dr. Ken Blackman met the Rock founder and President, Pat McManus at a Bringing Prevention to Rural America Conference. "I knew we had to have them in Warren County and the program and the response of students and faculty far exceeded my expectations," quoted Dr. Ken Blackman.

Pat McManus, President of Rock In Prevention stated "On behalf of Rock In Prevention we want to thank the many many groups that came together to make this happen for the kids of Warren County. We especially want to thank Dr. Ken Blackman and Foster Norman and Five County Mental Health Authority. We absolutely enjoyed the high school mentors, Sheriff Williams, Chief Younts, school principals, counselors, teachers and students. Pat Boyd from the high school and Pat Draffin from the central office did a great job of handling the logistics for us and the schools. It is absolutely amazing that in four days we were able to reach over 60 high school mentors and have them teach over a thousand elementary kids to live alcohol, tobacco and drug free." McManus also stated, "The people of North Carolina were absolutely fantastic and we hope to do more schools across North Carolina, but we will never forget our first experience in North Carolina and would like to thank the folks of Warren County for making it great!"

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 school year.

- ✓ The Board recieved Information from Jamar Perry regarding the ABC and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data for the 2006-2007 school year.
- ✓ The Board recieved information from Iris Ginn regarding the Time and Attendance Capture System.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Between Warren County Schools and the National Academy of Local Schools, Inc. The purpose of this agreement is for NALS to identify and provide a network of highly qualified teachers to help enhance the education of students and facilitate ther placement of teacher in the district.

The Next Warren County School Board Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, October 8, 2007

"Discourse" is published monthly during the school year by the Community Schools office of Warren County Schools. News items for each issue should be submitted to the Community Schools office by the Tuesday prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Education.

Dr. Ray V. Spain, Superintendent
J. Patrick Draffin, Editor
www.wcsc12.org

Calendar

October, 2007

- 10/01-10/5 Career Awareness Week at Northside
- 10/01- School Improvement Mtg. WCMS
- 10/03- Fall Pictures, Northside
- 10/05- WCHS Homecoming
- 10/08- Staff Mtg. 3:05pm. Mariam Boyd
- 10/08- Fall Pictures, WCHS
- 10/08- Staff Mtg. 3:15pm. Northside
- 10/09-Lions Club Dinner for New Teachers
- 10/09- PTA at Vaughan 7:00pm
- 10/10- Fall Pictures, Mariam Boyd
- 10/10- School Improvement Mtg. Northside
- 10/11- PTA at South Warren, 7:00pm
- 10/16-10/17 County Wide Benchmark Assesment
- 10/16- PTSA Mtg. at WCMS 7:00pm
- 10/17- PSAT at WNTHS
- 10/18 Splash Math Family Fun Night at Northside 6-8:00pm
- 10/18 Family Math Night at Vaughan 6-7:30pm
- 10/19- Picture Retakes at Vaughan
- 10/22- Staff Mtg. at Mariam Boyd 3:05
- 10/23-10/25 Computer Skills Test
- 10/23- Family Reading Night Vaughan 6-7:30pm
- 10/23- Mariam Boyd Burger King Night 4-8:00pm
- 10/25- Pre-K, K,4th and 5th Grade Dads Breakfast Northside 7:45-8:20am
- 10/25 Ident-A-Kid Pictures at Vaughan
- 10/25- Fall Festival at Mariam Boyd 5-7:00pm
- 10/26- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade Dads Breakfast at Northside 7:45-8:20am
- 10/26-School Pictures at WNTHS
- 10/26- Kindergarten Trip to Pumpkin Patch, Vaughan
- 10/26- Positive Behavior Dance WCMS 7-9:30pm
- 10/30- Mariam Boyd AR Celebration
- 10/31-Character Celebration at South Warren
- 10/31-WCMS AR Celebration