

Board Highlights

.... from April 11, 2005

- ✓ The Board recognized Stacey Williams, Child Nutrition assistant at South Warren, as the March Stellar Performer.
- ✓ The Board recognized the following as Lights of Character for the month of March: at Hawkins, Kamaya Robinson, Debby Brannock; at Mariam Boyd, Nicole Bernandez, LeAnn Wooten; at Northside, Cody Shirley, Zandra Spruill; at South Warren, Khadijah Brown, Glenda Solomon; at Vaughan, Cory Sondgeroth, Sherrika Fogg; at WCHS, Ronald Perry, Alberta Jeffers; at WCMS, Shanice Pritchard, Wenona Anstead; at the Central Office, Holly Nixon.
- ✓ Receiving the Best Attendance and Most Improved Attendance banners for the seventh month were Vaughan and Northside, respectively.
- ✓ Joshua Jenkins and Zachary Fields were recognized for being accepted to the 2005 session of North Carolina Governor's School in English and mathematics, respectively.
- ✓ The Board recognized the system's most outstanding volunteers for 2005: Jessie Cameron, Hawkins; Lemira Jones, Mariam Boyd; Phillip Coleman, Northside; Stephanie Morris, South Warren; Ray Ratcliffe, Vaughan; Carolyn Jordan, WCHS; and Lynn Martin, WCMS.
- ✓ A quarterly financial report was presented to the Board by Gary Ward, Finance officer.
- ✓ A report on School Plant Operations was presented to the Board by Costel Evans, associate superintendent.
- ✓ Nanci Lucas, AIG/Professional Services director, presented an overview of the system's Third Generation AIG Plan.
- ✓ The Board approved overnight field trips for the Young Scholars

(SEE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 4)

Gargoyles win WEF Spelling Bee

The Vance Granville Community College "Gargoyles" was the winning team at the fifth annual Community Spelling Bee, sponsored by The Warren Education Fund on Friday night, April 8.

The team, composed of four instructors at the college, Martha Bergeron, Dana Jenkins, Steve McGrady and Button Brady, correctly spelled the word "phreatic" in the final "Master Blaster" round to capture the first place trophy.

The second place winner was Lakeland Cultural Arts Center. Team members were Cheryl Sebrell, Terry Harris, Henry Finch and Judy Hand. The third place trophy was presented to a Vaughan Elementary School team, Sherrika Fogg, Marilyn Lesak, Robin Cross and Sherry Alston.

The spelling bee was hosted by the Fund at Warren County High School to raise money for various projects it sponsors, including the Teacher MiniGrant Program and the Schoolwide Grant Program.

"This is our fifth annual effort," said Portia Hawes, Fund president. During the bee, teams of four are seated at tables. When words are called out, team members may collaborate on the spelling, writing down their "best guess" on a tablet within time constraints. Floor judges determine if the word is correctly spelled when the word is shown on a large screen.

"If the team spells the word correctly, it remains in the competition. If the word is incorrectly spelled, the team has the option of 'buying' the word for \$10," Hawes said, "to remain in the competition."

"We are particularly grateful to Time-Warner Corporation for giving us a \$1000 grant to support the Spelling Bee," said Hawes. The Warren Education Fund was among several community organizations and foundations in the area to receive a grant from Time-Warner to fund projects that carry out the organization's mission.

"Especially outstanding was the Warren County Association of Educational Office Personnel team," Hawes said. "That team out raised the other teams, turning in \$505."

In all, 298 words were purchased, totaling \$2980. Added to the funds collected in registration fees, additional donations and sponsorships, the amount collected was over \$6,000.


Refreshments purchased for the evening were prepared by the Warren County High School Family and Consumer Sciences Department under the direction of Halona Richardson.

Make-up days scheduled

Just when Spring seemed to be here to stay, Mother Nature surprised us with one more snow shower—on March 17.

Following Board action on Monday night, the day that was missed due to the unexpected precipitation will be made up on Thursday, May 26. Students will dismiss that day at 1 p.m.

The Teacher Workday originally scheduled for May 26 will be made up on Wednesday, June 8.



Stellar Performers

**William Eaton and Jimmy Haynes -
'The Gold Standard'**

The Stellar Performers for this month are William Eaton and Jimmy Haynes, custodians at Vaughan Elementary School.

"They keep a beautiful school," said Stewart Steverson, custodial supervisor. "They take pride in their work—their school is the prettiest in North Carolina."

Steverson asserts that what makes the difference for Eaton and Haynes is that they work together as a team. "They know how to keep it up. They work very hard on not getting behind—they even work on Saturdays."

Joe Mustian, Maintenance/Transportation director, agreed with Steverson. "They have the cleanest school in the county, and it always looks like that."

Eaton is from Halifax County. After working with JP Stevens in Roanoke Rapids for 31 years, he worked briefly for Roanoke Rapids City Schools, then began at Vaughan in 1999, placing him only nine miles from his home.

Haynes is originally from New York City and came to Warren County in 1981, enrolling at Warren County High School. While in school, he worked with Pete Bullock and Clyde Smith, custodians at the school at the time. After graduating, he worked at Warren Hills Nursing Center for about 15 years, then began working at Vaughan in 2000.

Eaton credits his parents with teaching him what he needed to know to do his job well. "Cleanliness is a part of raising," Eaton said. "We were brought up to keep things straight."

For Eaton, making Vaughan attractive is a source of tremendous satisfaction for him. "I'm not satisfied with 'just doing,'" he said.

Haynes said that he learned the "tricks of the trade" when working with Bullock and Smith at WCHS through the Manpower Program.

"And now, working with Mr. Eaton is great. He had a good place when I came here. I wouldn't want to work with anyone else. We met and clicked—we've never had an argument—we are teaching each other. He gives me good advice, and we do good work together."

Haynes maintains that the job that he and Eaton do affects the student achievement in the school. "Kids need a clean environment in order to learn," Haynes said.

Both Eaton and Haynes remarked that the family atmosphere at Vaughan affects the work that they do at the school. "Everyone helps around here," Eaton said.

Haynes and Eaton agree that the key to their success at the school is the routine that they have established for themselves. "The key is to stay on top of it all," Eaton said.


Noel Robertson, principal at the school offered that he could not say enough good about the two.

"They have high expectations of themselves and are self-governed. And they are involved in the total school program—they connect what they do with everything else that goes on at the school."

Eaton and his wife, Inetter, are members of Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church where he is deacon, Sunday School superintendent, president of the Male Chorus

(SEE *STELLAR PERFORMER*, PAGE 3)

Monthly Attendance
Award




Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Vaughan Elementary School grabbed the Best Attendance Award this month, with an attendance rate of 93.82 percent, slightly edging Northside's rate of 93.81 percent by .01 percent. Very close behind was Mariam Boyd with 93.63 percent. South Warren ranked fourth with 93.39 percent, and WCMS and WCHS came next with 92.56 percent and 90.24 percent, respectively.

Northside received the Most Improved banner. Students there were the only in the county who showed improved attendance. Their attendance was elevated by .10 percent over the previous month.

Monthly Attendance
Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Teachers' Corner

► **The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT)** provides a number of professional development opportunities for North Carolina public school teachers at no cost to participants. Seminar materials, lodging at NCCAT, meals, substitute teacher pay, and most travel expenses are covered. All seminars are aligned with the NC Standard Course of Study, are multi-disciplinary, and are based on experiential learning principles. Several five-day seminars have been added for this summer for teachers employed full time for at least three years in North Carolina schools. For more information, including seminar topics and registration, please go online to www.nccat.org or call NCCAT at 800/922-0482.

► **The NCDPI's PreK-Elementary Division** is sponsoring its second annual Elementary School Conference, "Building on Success," on Oct. 10-11, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center, Research Triangle Park. Call for proposals and registration forms can be accessed online at www.ncpublicschools.org by clicking on the Events and Conferences link, then the Elementary School Conference link. Registration is limited to 800 participants. For more information, please contact Michelle Palmer Weaver, School Improvement Division, NCDPI, at 919/807-3937, or by email, mepalmer@dpi.state.nc.us.

► **The Lawyers in the Schools Committee** of the North Carolina Bar Association invites high school social studies teachers to apply to participate in the inaugural Justice Teaching Institute (JTI). The Institute will be held Oct. 16-18 at the North Carolina Bar Center, Cary. This intensive 2-1/2 day institute will increase teachers' understanding of the court system and judicial process and give them the tools they need to pass that knowledge on to their students (consistent with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study). Teachers successfully completing the program will be installed as JTI Fellows. Registration is limited to 20 teachers. Applications must be postmarked on or before April 25. Applicants will be notified of their selection status no later than mid-May. For more information about JTI, and an application to become a JTI Fellow, please visit <http://www.ncbar.org/public/lis/index.aspx> and click on the first Justice Teaching Institute link under Current News.

► **The State Board of Education** is sponsoring scholarships for teams from 20 North Carolina public schools or LEAs to attend the upcoming Annual Senior Project Training (June 22-24) sponsored by the Partnership for Dynamic Learning. This year's training will be held at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel in Asheville. The hotel's room rate is \$119 per night for single or double occupancy. Hotel reservations must be made by May 21. The Board's scholarships will be for \$1,000 each to support the cost of participating in the workshops. Information regarding training and registration can be found online at www.seniorproject.net. Registration forms for the scholarship can be obtained by calling or emailing Jane Worsham, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, at 919/807-3400, or jworsham@dpi.state.nc.us. Use the registration form on the senior project Web site to register for the training. The deadline for applying to SERVE and the SBE is June 1. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and in the Gospel Choir. Haynes and his wife, Vickie, have three children, and he uses spare time to catch up on his fishing and enjoys working as a DJ.

Both Eaton and Haynes enjoy yard work.

And if you happen to be a betting person, you should put your money on this team as having the prettiest yards around.

Summer School plans finalized

At Monday night's meeting, the Board of Education finalized plans for the 2005 session of Summer School, following a recommendation by Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent.

Summer School will begin for teachers on June 10 with a teacher workday and end with teacher workdays on July 14 and 15. Students will report on June 13, and their last day will be on July 13. July 4 will be observed as a holiday both by teachers and students.

College students from Warren County who are in the state's Teaching Fellows Program, as well as Warren County Schools' Challenge Scholars, will be given the opportunity to work as instructional aides in the Summer School program.

The summer program will serve students in grades 3, 5, and 8 who do not meet state and local accountability standards.

In addition, first graders not reading on Level 15/16 as determined by the K-2 Literacy Assessment and the Reading First intervention process will be served. Summer School classes also will be offered for students in grades 9-12 who have failed English, competency math, and competency reading, for fifth year seniors in 2005-2006 who need only one additional credit for graduation, for rising ninth graders who completed the eighth grade at the middle school but did not meet the competency reading and math standards on the eighth grade end-of-grade assessments, and for seniors who did not meet the computer skills requirement for graduation.

Other summer programs include English as a Second Language (ESL), Young Scholars Programs, Warren County SEMAA, Warren County 4-H "Kids Financial Club," and Summer Scholars, sponsored by the Warren Family Institute.

Teachers working in the summer program must be certified, and applications for employment will be available in a few weeks.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Program at Mariam Boyd to travel to Atlanta, GA, June 2-5; and for the Indian Education Program students to travel to the Native American Youth Conference in Winston-Salem, June 7-10.

✓ The Board approved plans for the 2005 Summer School Program. The program will begin for teachers on June 10 and for students on June 13. Summer school will end for students on July 13 and for teachers on July 15.

✓ The Board approved the operation of the Seamless Summer Food Service Program provided through the NC Department of Public Instruction. Children 18 years old and under are eligible to participate in the program and receive meals at no cost.

✓ Upon Dr. Spain's recommendation, the Board approved Stormwood, Inc. and Dell Marketing L.P. as E-rate vendors for the installation of cabling for wireless networking. E-rate will cover 86 percent of the cost of the networking and purchase of servers. Warren County School's cost will total \$45,600.

✓ The Board approved raising the capitalization threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000, based upon the system's auditor's recommendation.

✓ Upon Dr. Spain's recommendation, the Board approved an application for the Board to maintain an account for short-term investments with the North Carolina State Treasurer.

✓ The Board approved a plan for making up the day missed on March 17. Students will attend school on May 26, dismissing at 1 p.m., and the workday scheduled for that day will be made up on June 8.

✓ The Board approved a minor revision to the 2005-2006 school calendar: November 3, 2005 will be an early dismissal day (1 p.m.).

✓ The Board voted to extend the contract of the superintendent.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Renee Mizelle as Reading Coach/Reading Specialist, Vaughan, effective April 12, 2005. The Board also approved the employment of the following tutors: Fran Bussey, WCHS; Nathaniel Lewis, Northside; and Jean Johnson and Glenda Solomon, South Warren. Approved as a homebound teacher for WCHS is Elaine Hester, and as substitute custodians, all schools, Lucilla Hargrove and Randolph Terry. Approved as substitutes for all schools are Sharon Bailey, Jessie Boyd, Lisa Harmon, Lakeeta Vaughan and Latishia Watson.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Mary Hunter, Community Schools director, Brenda Brothers, fourth grade teacher at South Warren, and Mary Catherine Harris, counselor at Northside Elementary, who will retire, effective July 1, 2005. The Board also accepted the resignations of Leonard Northington, Transition specialist, WCHS, Amy Sponsler, Spanish teacher, WCMS, Theotice Alston, Child Nutrition assistant/bus driver, and Angela Fields, teacher assistant, WCMS.

✓ Current vacancies include: at SW/VE, a Spanish teacher; at South Warren, a fourth grade teacher, a third grade teacher and a custodian; at WCMS, a sixth grade EC teacher, a 6th grade language arts/social studies teacher, an eighth grade science/math teacher, a Spanish teacher, an assistant principal and a Child Nutrition assistant; at WCHS, a curriculum specialist, an EC teacher and a transition specialist; at Northside, an assistant principal, a counselor and a second grade teacher; districtwide, an Occupational Therapy assistant, a Technology technician assistant, a speech pathologist, an EC coordinator/data manager, and a Community Schools director.

"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
Mary Lang Hunter, Editor
www.warren-countyschools.org

Calendar

April

- 11-15 Nat. Library Week
- 12-14 NC Competency Test
- 14 Mariam Boyd Spring Pictures
South Warren PTA/Night of
the Arts, 7 p.m.
Northside SPLASH, 6-8 p.m.
- 15 Hawkins Fun Day, 9:30 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Adult Hobby
Day, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
South Warren National Library
Week Read-In, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
WCMS Spring Festival
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 18-22 Public School Volunteer Week
- 18 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Vaughan Sch. Imp. Team
Meeting, 3:15 p.m.
- 19-20 High School Comprehensive
Test, Gr. 10
- 19 WCMS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 21 Interim Progress Reports Issued
WCMS Scholar's Banquet
7 p.m.
- 22-23 Relay for Life
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Shakespeare's Birthday
- 25-29 Administrative Professionals'
Week
- 25 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Sch. Imp. Team
Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
- 26-28 Reading and Math Benchmark
Assess. IV, Gr. K-8
- 27 Administrative Professionals'
Day
- 28 Northside PTA/Spring Concert
Gr. K-2, 7 p.m.
South Warren Volunteer
Appreciation, 12 Noon
- 29-30 Vaughan Safety Patrol Trip
- 29 Hawkins Character Celebration
9:30 a.m.
- 30 WCHS Prom, 8-12 Midnight

April

- 1 Senior Citizens' Prom, 4-6 p.m.
- 2 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 3 National Teacher Day
Hawkins Parent Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 4 South Warren Sch. Imp. Team
Mtg., 3 p.m.