

## Board Highlights

.... from December 11, 2006

✓ The Board elected Mr. Al Cooper to replace Dr. Charles Grady as Board Chair. Mr. Calvin Jones was elected as the Vice Chair.

✓ The Warren County Board was recognized for receiving the Special Achievement Award for successful completion of the 12-hour training requirement by all members of the board.

✓ The Board recognized John and Sandi Thompson for a \$5,000 donation to the South Warren Elementary School Library Project.

✓ The Board recognized LaDaaysha Hicks, third grade student at Mariam Boyd Elementary School as the winner of the Superintendent's Christmas Card Contest. Also recognized were Aleesha Patterson, 2nd place winner from Hawkins Pre-K and Meagan Asselta, 3rd place winner from Mariam Boyd.

✓ The Board recognized Angela Vaughan, exceptional children's teacher at Mariam Boyd, as the November Stellar Performer.

✓ November Lights of Character (Cooperation) recognized at the meeting were: Mattie Boyd, Hawkins; Anna Brickey, Mariam Boyd; Jacob Powell, Northside; Roberta Richardson, South Warren; Hannah Quintal, Vaughan; Hardy Ray Copeland, WCHS; Kelly Eom, WCMS; and Donna Martin, Central Office.

✓ Dr. Ray V. Spain, Superintendent, provided information on the Dress Code Policy Study Committee Nominees.

✓ Dr. Mason, HR Director provided information on the Fast Track to the Classroom Scholars Program to the Board.

✓ Upon recommendation of the

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

## Mariam Boyd's Mrs. Soloman Jumps on the Fast Track

Across our nation, many school districts are suffering from serious teacher shortages; Warren County is no different. Maintaining highly qualified teachers in the classroom continues to be a problem faced by Warren County and other school districts throughout the State. The College Foundation of North Carolina has estimated that North Carolina must "hire 10,000 to 12,000 new teachers each year to keep up with the growing population." Until now the paraprofessionals such as teacher assistants have been a basically untouched resource.

The North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium has designed a plan to help motivate North Carolina school paraprofessionals to become fully certified/licensed teachers. The program has been named the "Fast Track to the Classroom." The NCMTEC has received funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation, Inc., to start a pilot program which will assist eligible teacher assistants and other paraprofessionals who are within two semesters of completing coursework and student teaching requirements. The funds will be used to help compensate for the loss of income while taking a leave of absence from their jobs to attend classes on a full time basis.

The "Fast Track to the Classroom" project is funding 26 school paraprofessionals in North Carolina. The idea is to keep local people in place in schools. Warren County is very fortunate to have one of our own teacher assistants be selected to participate in the project. Rebecca Soloman, 1st grade teacher assistant with Ms. Leete at Mariam Boyd School, met the high level of qualifications and was chosen to become part of the program.

"Mrs. Soloman is an excellent teacher assistant that exhibits the qualifications not only of becoming a teacher, but being a master teacher," said Mariam Boyd's principal, Canecca Davis. Mrs. Soloman is now working in her 21st and last year as an assistant teacher at Mariam Boyd. When Mrs. Soloman returns to Mariam Boyd after her 18 month leave of absence, Mrs. Soloman will begin her first year as a certified teacher. Mrs. Davis mentioned the importance of supporting the professional growth of school paraprofessionals. "I have already seen other paraprofessionals become motivated and interested in professional development because of Mrs. Soloman's award. Warren County Schools does a good job encouraging life long learning to it's employees."

Mrs. Soloman responded "It is all I ever wanted to do," when asked why she wanted to teach. "I love working with children and I know what kind of difference a good teacher can make. It is like a dream come true, I've come full circle. I started out a student in Warren County and now finally, I will have become a teacher."

"This program will help the entire state and we are very lucky to have someone as qualified and motivated as Mrs. Soloman chosen," Said Dr. Linda Mason, Warren County School's Executive Director of Human Resources. "We also need to thank Dr. Shirley Arrington, the Executive Director of the NCMTEC, who worked very diligently to see this pilot to fruition. Dr. Arrington hopes that the

(See **Fast Track**, Page 4)



## Stellar Performer

**Debra “No Place Like Home” Foster**

Nominated by her principal and colleagues, the Stellar Performer for the month of December is Debra Foster, Reading First coach at South Warren Elementary.

“Mrs. Foster is truly a blessing, we are very lucky to have her at South Warren,” said Brian Barrett, principal at South Warren. “Her leadership and presence at our school has made all the difference. She has made many improvements to our Reading First program. Mrs. Foster is definitely the right person to help lead our school out of Title I sanctions. She has only been here four months and I already don’t know how I made it without her.”

Mrs. Foster has just returned to Warren County Schools from Granville County, where she was an assistant principal at C.G. Credle Elementary School. C.G. Credle is the oldest public school in North Carolina that is still in operation. “The school was beautiful and a great place to work but it was not home, and there is really no place like home. It is great to be back in Warren County Schools,” added Mrs. Foster.

Foster graduated from Vance High School in Henderson. She received her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from North Carolina Central University in 1985 and then went back to Central and received her Masters in Elementary Education in 1993. Mrs. Foster also received a Masters in School Administration and Supervision in 2004 from North Carolina State University.

Her teaching career began at Northside Elementary in 1986 when Mr. Green hired her as a 2nd grade teacher. She taught 2nd grade and Pre-K there until Hawkins opened and she moved there. She did return to Northside to teach 1st grade. Mrs. Foster left Northside to become an administrator in Granville County for one year and is now at South Warren.

“We are lucky to have her back,” said Mrs. Pearl Sims, kindergarten teacher at South Warren. “I have known her for years, in fact, she was my mentor at Northside when I first started teaching. She has always been very thorough with her teaching and she is no different when it comes to being a reading coach. She always follows through with instructions or resources that helps us teachers succeed in the classroom.”

First year teacher, Meredith Cochrane had this to say about Mrs. Foster’s help. “She is really one of the greatest resources I have as a teacher. Mrs. Foster is in my classroom every day even if she is just checking in with me. She is so enthusiastic about reading and wanting to help students learning to read. She obviously loves what she does and that is good for such an important job.”

When asked, why she decided to teach, Mrs. Foster stated, “I have always loved children and I could not think of anything better to do with my life. As a reading coach I get to work with more children and I like that. It is hard sometimes to teach teachers but my experience has helped me gain a certain level of trust with the staff. Reading is such a powerful tool and it is necessary to do the very best you can, to see that all children are given good reading skills.”

(SEE **STELLAR PERFORMER**, PAGE 3)

### Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

Mariam Boyd once again deserves the accolades this month, having received the Best Attendance banner for the third attendance month of school.

With an average daily attendance rate of 96.68 percent, students there are certainly challenging students across the county. The race for second place is a close one, with Northside, Vaughan and South Warren charting 95.92 percent, 95.20 percent and 94.86 percent, respectively. Rates of attendance for WCMS and WCHS were 94.45 percent and 92.11 percent, respectively.

No schools showed improvement over the last month. South Warren only had a difference of -0.05.

### Monthly Attendance Award

*Most Improved*



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

## Northside Teacher Receives State Recognition

Albertha Valentine was recently recognized as a North Carolina Teacher of Excellence by the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Mrs. Valentine was given this award for her outstanding contributions to the education of exceptional children in Warren County. Mrs. Valentine was one of seventy-four teachers in North Carolina to receive this recognition.

Twenty six years ago, Mrs. Valentine was fresh out of North Carolina Central University and looking for a job. Her search ended at Northside Elementary when she decided to take the only vacancy the school had. It was not a classroom teaching job for which she was best educated for but a job with special needs children. That meant back to Central and so back she went. She did not stop at a bachelors in special education but completed her masters degree. She taught special needs students for twelve years. She then tried the classroom, where she taught third grade for four years. She missed the special needs students and returned to the special needs population as a remedial reading teacher where she still teaches today.

Mrs. Valentine will tell you that her motivation to teach has changed over the years. "In the beginning it was my job, don't get me wrong, I enjoyed it, but it was more about doing what I was supposed to do. Over time, it became about the kids. Today it is so rewarding for me to help students with low self-esteem. To see kids do things that they thought they couldn't do, is better than any award."

When asked about her goals for her students, Mrs. Valentine said she would like to ultimately see them become self sufficient and self motivated to learn. She wishes to give them life long skills that will make them independent. It is her goal that her students can take what she has taught them to other settings outside of the school.

Mrs. Hunt, principal of Northside Elementary, had this to say about her new Teacher of Excellence. "Mrs Valentine is invaluable to me, the staff and the students of Northside. She serves the school in so many ways, I just don't know what I would do without her. She is most deserving of the honor of becoming a Teacher of Excellence."

Mrs. Valentine takes little credit for her award when asked about it. "It is a very humbling experience. Most teachers do not teach to be recognized. We teach to serve others." It is this that makes Mrs. Valentine a true teacher of excellence. Mrs. Hunt got it right, Mrs. Valentine you are most deserving. Congratulations.

---

### STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Mrs. Foster is married to James, who is a meat manager at Harris Teeter. The Fosters have two daughters, Bria and Chevon. Bria is a Physicians Recruiter and Chevon is a 5th grade student at Mariam Boyd. Mrs. Foster likes to spend her free time writing in calligraphy or shopping. She is member of the "Stamp it up" Club where she makes cards. She also enjoys collecting angels and bears.

One professional interest of Mrs. Foster is being a National Board Certified Teacher. She became the 2nd teacher in Warren County to become Nationally Board Certified. Currently Mrs. Foster acts as one of two Liaisons for the North Carolina State Farm National Board Certified Teachers group where she recruits teachers to increase their level of professionalism and finds support for them to do so.

Mrs. Foster it is good to have you home. Your superior level of professionalism and your love for children makes you and your performance truly stellar.

## Points of Interest...

❖ New Student Support Site Launched  
Student Support Services, also known as "student services" or "pupil services," includes prevention, intervention, transition and follow-up services for students and families. This new site is home to information and resources for school social workers, counselors and psychologists and other student support staff. Bookmark <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/> today!

## Teachers' Corner

❖ Kindertransport Exhibit - The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is once again offering the Kindertransport Exhibit free of charge to middle and high schools. This traveling exhibit contains 17 panels of heavily captioned pictures on the Kindertransport or Children's Train, the rescue effort that brought approximately 10,000 Jewish children out of Nazi Germany to safety in Great Britain between 1938 and 1940. Schools requesting the exhibit also get a copy of the award-winning documentary on the Kindertransport, "Into the Arms of Strangers." Teachers and media center coordinators interested in obtaining more information about this exhibit should contact Amy Davis at [adavis@wcpss.net](mailto:adavis@wcpss.net).

❖ K-5 Integration Institute - NCDPI's Elementary Education Division's ELA/Social Studies consultants will be conducting a two-day, K-5 Integration Institute on Feb. 1-2. The topics of focus include Teaching Reading Through Social Studies and Financial Literacy. The registration deadline is Jan. 19. For more information, including registration, please go online to <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/socialstudies/elementary> or contact Amy Turnbaugh at [aturnbaugh@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:aturnbaugh@dpi.state.nc.us) or Michelle Palmer Weaver at [mweaver@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:mweaver@dpi.state.nc.us)

❖ Middle Grades Science Resources added four new resources for middle grades science educators are now online. These extensions to the support documents include transparencies, "DNA Percent" decoder, "Middle Grades Science Support Document Resource Pages" and "Classroom Management Strategies for the Middle Grades Science Teacher." Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/science/middlegrades/> and click on the appropriate link.

**Best Wishes  
for a Safe and  
Wonderful  
Holiday!**

**Fast Track**, Continued From Page 1

pilot will be a success, so that other North Carolina paraprofessionals can become certified classroom teachers in the years to come.

Mrs. Soloman considers herself lucky to be able to participate in such a great incentive program, but it is Warren County that is truly lucky. Warren County is fortunate to have access to a program like the NCMTEC's "Fast Track to the Classroom" project and to have such a dedicated and qualified paraprofessional to become part of it. Warren County Schools will also be lucky to have Mrs. Soloman in the classroom in 18 months.

Good luck and take care, Mrs. Soloman and we will see you in August 2008 at the New Teachers Reception.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent, the Board approved the use of GovDeals, Inc to sell school surplus over the internet.

✓ Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the partnership with the National Academy for Local Schools, Moneague College in Jamaica, East Carolina University and Warren County Schools to help prepare and employ quality math and science teachers.

✓ Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board Approved the field trip request for Mariam Boyd's Safety Patrol to go to Washington, D.C. on April 27th and 28th, 2007.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the donation of a die cut machine made by the South Warren Elementary School PTA for their school.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the donation of six DVDs of *Warren County, North Carolina: The First Three Centuries* for each media center in the district.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following: Carolyn Faucette, Curriculum Specialist, WCHS, Jamie Wilkerson, Media Coordinator, WCHS, Steve Hummel, Guidance Counselor, WCMS, Gladys Banks, Interim Tots 'N Teens Director, WCHS, Mildred Williams, Mentor at NS and VE, Virginia Bernard, ESL Tutor, NS, SW, and VE, Walter Powell, Bus Driver, DW, Joseph Ayscue, Special Population Teacher, WCHS, Devonna Fautleroy, Office Machine Operator, WCHS, and Colette Briscoe, Office Helper, WCHS.

✓ Approved as a district-wide substitutes are: Rodney Strong, Substitute Bus Driver, Tammara Hargrove, Substitute Bus Driver, Charlene Debnam, Substitute Bus Driver, Tammy Walker, Substitute Bus Driver and Carralton Johnson, Substitute Teacher.

✓ Extra duty assignments were approved for 2 employees of WCHS as assistant Basketball Coaches and 18 employees at WCMS as After School Tutors.

✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, English Teacher and EC Teacher; at WCMS, EC Teacher and Science Teacher; at Hawkins Educational Center, Alternative School Teacher and EC Pre-K Teacher, Mariam Boyd, EC Teacher; South Warren, Elementary Education Teacher and Intervention Specialist; at the District Wide Level, Testing Coordinator, Web Programmer/ Technician, Instructional Support Leaders in Science, Social Studies and Math, and an ESL Teacher.

# Calendar

## December

- 14 Northside Drama/Chorus Program, 7 p.m.  
WCMS PTSA/Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- 15 South Warren Safety Patrol Christmas Dance, 3-6 p.m.
- 18 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
South Warren Staff Mtg. 3 p.m.  
Vaughan SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 19 Mariam Boyd Christmas Program K-3, 6 p.m.  
South Warren Parent Luncheon, Gr. 3-5, 12 noon  
Hawkins Char. Celeb., 9:30 a.m.
- 20 1:00 Student Dismissal  
Vaughan 2nd & 3rd Gr. Parent Luncheon, 11 a.m.
- 25-26 Central Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa Begins
- 31 New Year's Eve

## January

- 1 New Year's Day  
Central Office and Schools closed  
Kwanzaa Ends
- 3-5 Reading/Math Benchmark Assessment II, Gr. K-8
- 5 WCMS Positive Behavior Support Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
- 8 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Vaughan Career Day, 9:30-Noon  
S. Warren SIT, 3 p.m.  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9-10 NC Competency Test
- 9 Management Team, 9 a.m.  
WCMS Geography Bee  
IEP Chair Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 10 Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 12 WCMS Yearbook Money Deadline  
WCMS Accelerated Reader Celebration, 2 p.m.
- 15 Martin Luther King Holiday  
Schools and Offices Closed
- 16 Northside Staff Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- 18-19 WCHS Exams/EOC Tests
- 18 Mariam Boyd Accelerated Reader Celebration  
End of 2nd 9 Weeks
- 19 Mandatory Teacher Workday

**"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.wcask12.org](http://www.wcask12.org)