

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

February 2006

Volume XXI, Number 6

Board Highlights

.... from February 13, 2006

✓ Princine Jefferies, Assistant Superintendent, presented an award to Warren County Schools from Oak Grove Baptist Church as recognition for their participation in Martin Luther King Day.

✓ The Board recognized Dakisha Perry, teacher at South Warren, as the January Stellar Performer.

✓ January Lights of Character (Honesty) recognized at the meeting were: Sheverly Jones, Hawkins; Teri Ashley, Mariam Boyd; Rashad Hite, Northside; Gail Cooper, South Warren; Erica Daves, Vaughan; Crystal Jordan, WCHS; Sarah Powell, WCMS; and Susan Nelson, Central Office.

✓ The Best Attendance Award for the fifth attendance month of school was presented to Noel Robertson, Principal of Vaughan Elementary School. The Most Improved Attendance Award was presented to Dr. Tony Cozart, Principal of Warren County High School.

✓ Dr. Pete Eberhart and Carlotta Armstrong with the LEAAP (Local Education Agency Assistance Program) presented the Board with information regarding the district's endeavor to increase student achievement.

✓ Princine Jefferies and Dr. Tony Cozart presented the Board information on the newly acquired Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Warren County High School.

✓ Costel Evans, Associate Superintendent, reviewed EOC data from the first semester at Warren County High School.

✓ Costel Evans presented the Board with information concerning the Indian Education Formula Grant.

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Evans Reviews EOC Scores

Costel Evans, Associate Superintendent for Administration, presented a review of the first semester end of course scores for WCHS at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

Evans presented board members and others with a three-year comparison of the high school's results in eight tested areas.

Evans highlighted the areas where Warren County students made high performance gains such as physics (100%), chemistry (74%), and English I (71.2%). "We are still not where we want to be with our student performance...our scores still show growth...but we have areas that we have to work on" said Evans.

Evans pointed out that plans are in place, including the work of the LEAAP (Local Education Agency Assistance Program) team and COST (Central Office Support Team) team to help assist teachers and staff with performance goals.

"We are doing everything we can to continually improve achievement for our students," Evans said.

WCHS Tapped for ROTC Program

Time and patience has finally paid off for Warren County High School. The long awaited announcement was made official at Monday night's Board of Education meeting. WCHS has been tapped to host an Air Force Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) programs beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

"We couldn't be happier and more excited," said Principal Tony Cozart. "This program will provide our students with such a wonderful opportunity. They will be able to explore new avenues of academics, as well as train in the core values leadership and citizenship. It will also provide them with the ability to seek out another means of college entrance."

After an announcement by Assistant Superintendent Princine Jefferies, Dr. Cozart presented board members with a brief overview of how the ROTC program will be utilized at WCHS.

"It will be open to all students in grades 9-12, where they will focus on aerospace studies," Cozart said. "We are expected to keep 10% or 100 students enrolled in the program--something I don't see us having a problem doing."

Cozart went on to say that he saw the program as a great way for the students to get more involved in community activities and programs as the ROTC program was further developed.

"I see this as an opportunity for our students to be asked to present the colors at many community events. It will give them a chance to showcase their dedication to service."

Both Cozart and Jefferies were in high praise of the program as a whole and looked forward to it being added to the WCHS curriculum.

WCHS put in its application for the Air Force Junior ROTC on April 17, 2001 and they had been on a waiting list up until January 23, 2006. It was on this date that a letter was received from Colonel Norm Balchunas requesting that an agreement be signed if the district desired to host a program.

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Stellar Performer

Sharon West: Stellar Indeed

This month's Stellar Performer is Sharon West, fourth grade teacher at Northside Elementary School.

Nominated by Principal Wanda Hunt, West is quoted to be "a cornerstone" of the Northside family.

"I can go to her about anything and trust that she has the best interest of the students at heart," said Hunt. "I value her input and opinions tremendously. She seems to internalize everything from a schoolwide perspective--I appreciate that."

"She's a positive teacher and very concerned about children," said Jackie Cozart, Reading First coach. "Her biggest strength is her ability to pull from various resources to help students succeed--she uses anything she can get her hands on to assist children with learning."

West's two fourth grade teammates, Tokie Dawkins and Mary Walton, both say their colleague is "extremely dedicated and puts in hours far beyond the three p.m. dismissal."

"She's always on top of things," said Walton. "She's willing to learn more and try new ideas."

Dawkins concurs and adds that West is more than willing to lend a hand to colleagues and wants to be sure that everyone has the necessary materials and resources for student success.

West is a graduate of Dinwiddie High School, VA. She attended Halifax Community College in Weldon, NC and spent several years working for both CP&L and BB&T before deciding to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. West received her bachelors degree from NC Wesleyan in 2000 and master's in elementary education from East Carolina University in May 2005.

"It's never too late for older adults [especially women] who have a desire to go back to school to step out of the box and do that," said West. "In ten years time I have earned my bachelors and master's degree and hopefully will earn my National Board Certification--it's been tough, but well worth it."

The pitch in West's voice rises with excitement as she talks about teaching and her classroom at Northside.

"I love teaching my students the things they don't get at home, like science. I try to bring things to the classroom that they have never been exposed to."

West says one of the most important aspects of her teaching is taking up time with the students.

"They need someone to talk to and very often they don't have parents at home who have the time to spend one-on-one with them," West said. "If it's one thing I can give to every child--it's my time."

Principal Hunt says that West lives by this statement. "Mrs. West volunteered to come to the school on Saturdays during February to sit down with students and their parents to explain the parameters of the state writing test and help tutor the students who are in need of extra assistance--her depth of caring is obvious."

"Sharon West exemplifies the level of professionalism all educators should follow," said John Ferguson, assistant principal. "She is concerned about both

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Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Vaughan receives the trophy this month for the Best Attendance for the fifth attendance month of school.

With an average daily attendance rate of 96.08 percent, students are setting the bar high! The race for second place is a close one, with Northside, Mariam Boyd and South Warren charting 95.62 percent, 95.21 percent and 94.43 percent, respectively. Rates of attendance for WCMS and WCHS were 94.36 percent and 91.86 percent, respectively.

Warren County High School showed a dramatic attendance increase for the fifth month, rising 1.60%. This earned the Mighty Eagles the Most Improved banner for January!

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

ROTC, continued from Page 1

On January 30, 2006, the Warren County Schools district happily received the news from Captain Sharon Simpkins-Jones that the high school had been selected to host an Air Force Junior ROTC program beginning with the next school year.

"We are extremely grateful to a large host of people past and present for their assistance in making this effort possible," Mrs. Jefferies told board members. "Our high school students will greatly benefit from such a wonderful opportunity."

WEF to Host Sixth Annual Spelling Bee

The Warren Education Fund will host its sixth annual Community Spelling Bee on Friday, March 31 at Warren County High School.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments, and the actual spelling bee will begin at 7 p.m.

The competition is open to adults and high school students. The bee will be limited to 40 teams of four persons each at a cost of \$40 per table (\$10 per person). During the event, teams will be given 30 seconds to determine the correct spelling of each word called. If a word is misspelled in one of the early rounds, a team has the opportunity to "buy" the word for \$10 and remain in the competition. During the final elimination round, teams will not have the option to buy words, but must rely on their spelling talents to stay in the competition.

All schools are encouraged to support teams for the Bee, and organizations at Warren County High School are encouraged to sponsor student teams. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 10.

Funds raised at the Bee are used to support the Teacher MiniGrant Program and Schoolwide Grant Program.

For further information or to register a team, see a school principal or contact Emmy Coleman in the Central Office, 257-3184, or Portia Hawes, Fund President, 257-9194.

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the students and her fellow teachers."

"She is just a fun, wonderful person," said Barbara Coleman, Northside secretary. "She is so genuine...she shares what she has with the staff and she is so good with the students...they like her a lot."

"Ever dilligent in the classroom--she is an extremely focused person," said co-worker Heide Beasley. "But what I love about Sharon most is the fact that she is not only dedicated to her school and family, but she's also a good friend--she is someone you can always count on."

Married for 24 years, West and her husband Scott have two children, Jamie, a junior at East Carolina University, and Joshua, a 2005 graduate of WCHS and recent enlistee in the US Marines.

When she is not busy at Northside, West enjoys carpentry projects, crocheting, reading, and at the moment, working on her National Board portfolio.

"I truly love what I do...knowing that my being here everyday is making a difference in someone else's life...makes it all worthwhile," West said.

Sharon West spends every day striving to help young people achieve educational success because she knows what the value of a good education means. The Irish poet William Butler Yeats once said, "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." It is the STELLAR work of Sharon West that is lighting many fires among the students of Northside Elementary School.

Teachers' Corner

❖ *Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps--Conference X--March 27th through 29th!*

The 2006 Raising Achievement and Closing Caps Conference X has major emphasis on rigor, relevance, and relationships implementing the recommendations of the NC Advisory Commission on Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps, discovering ways to assist all subgroups to make adequate yearly progress (AYP), and exploring strategies for improving academic growth for high performing students. For conference information, contact Angela Hopson at 919.807.3609 or ahopson@dpi.state.nc.us.

❖ *Middle Grades Curriculum Aids Now*

Available Online: Several new items have been added to the English Language Arts Middle Grades Resources page. Don't miss "Connecting the Dots: Grades 6-8 English Language Arts Handbook," "English Language Arts Overviews, Grades 6-8," "Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Matrix" and the "NC Middle Grades Writing Exemplars." All of the documents are available online in PDF format at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/languagearts/middlegrades/>.

❖ **Essay Contest:** The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is sponsoring its fifth annual essay contest for students in fifth through 12th grades to honor the 168 people killed in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The essay contest invites students to share their insights about "personal responsibility and making a difference in the world." Winning essays become a part of the Memorial's Virtual Archives. Winners in each division will receive a monetary award in addition to being recognized along with their teachers at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Additional information, including essay topics and submission procedures are available online at http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/media/medi_pres_deta.htm?id=2458573 or by contacting Lynne Roller at 405.235.3313 or lynnroller@oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org.

*The Warren Education Fund
Making an Imprint
Support the Sixth Annual
Community Spelling Bee
March 31, 2006
Registration Deadline is March 10th
Call Emmy Coleman @ 257-3184
for more information*

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Additional meetings will be held with the parent committee during the month of February before the grant process is completed.

- ✓ Iris Ginn, Interim Finance Officer, presented information concerning the 2006-2007 budget timeline.
- ✓ Iris Ginn, along with a representative from Dixon Odom, PLLC, presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the food and supply bid submitted by US Foodservice for the period of February 1, 2006-July 31, 2006.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved a \$1,500 donation from the American Lung Association to be used by Warren County High School's Not On Tobacco (NOT) program.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the acceptance of a \$1,000 scholarship in honor of Mrs. Holly Nixon, former Central Office employee. This scholarship was generously given by her family and is to be granted to a 2006 graduate of WCHS.
- ✓ An overnight field trip for the WCHS SADD Chapter was approved for March 3-5. The group will be attending a Leadership Conference in High Point, NC.
- ✓ The Board approved the employment of the following: Clayton Hall, 21st Century Community Learning Center Director of After School Programs; Maggie King, health occupations teacher, WCHS; Amanda Hollifield, music teacher, Mariam Boyd; Matthew Crawford, child nutrition food transporter, HEC; Carolyn Laster, child nutrition assistant, Vaughan; Jacqueline M. Davis, child nutrition assistant, WCHS; Irene D. Royster, child nutrition assistant, WCHS; Rob Evans, volunteer baseball coach at WCHS; and Kenneth Buffaloe, karate enrichment at Vaughan.
- ✓ The Board approved the transfer of Steven Floyd from music teacher at Mariam Boyd to WCHS; Lamont Seward from teacher assistant at WCHS to HEC Alternative Program; and Tonya Carter from After School assistant at Mariam Boyd to After School coordinator at Mariam Boyd.
- ✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Carol C. Fouts, child nutrition assistant at Vaughan, effective 1/25/06; Tamara Clary, administrative assistance at Central Office, effective 2/10/06; Suzanne Reeves, exceptional children's teacher at WCMS, effective 2/3/06, and Elizabeth Allyn, social studies teacher at WCMS, effective 2/24/06.
- ✓ Approved as district-wide substitutes were Janytta Bell and Erica Waller.
- ✓ Extra duty assignments were approved for employees of South Warren, Vaughan, Northside, Mariam Boyd, and WCMS.
- ✓ Extra duty assignments were approved for: Herley Moss, girls softball coach at WCHS and Tami Turner-Keyser, volunteer girls softball coach at WCHS.
- ✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, a transition specialist, a family & consumer science teacher, a guidance counselor; at WCMS, a Spanish teacher, an exceptional children's teacher, a social studies teacher, a math teacher; and district-wide, a Title I/Federal Programs director, a painter.

"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
Emmy L. Coleman, Editor
www.wcsc12.org

Calendar

February

Black History Month
 American History Month

- 20 President's Day
 Teacher Workday
 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 21 WCHS PTA, 7 p.m.
- 22-24 NC Computer Skills Test
- 22 South Warren Black America
 Read-Aloud
 Interim Progress Reports Issued
- 23 Mariam Boyd Black History
 Program, 10 a.m.
 Northside SPLASH, 6-8 p.m.
 WCMS Black History Program,
 9 a.m.
 South Warren Black History PTA/
 Black History Program, 7 p.m.
 WCHS Black History Program,
 7 p.m.
- 27 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
 Vaughan SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 28 Hawkins Black History Program &
 Character Celebration, 9:30 a.m.
 Vaughan PTA/Black History Program,
 7 p.m.

March

American Red Cross Month
 Music in Our Schools Month
 National Nutrition Month
 Youth Art Month

- 1 WCHS Fresh./Soph. Career Fair
- 2 Read Across America Day/
 Dr. Seuss Day
- 3 Vaughan Spring Pictures, 9 a.m.
- 6 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
 Mariam Boyd Staff Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
- 7 NC Writing Assessment, Gr. 4, 7, & 10
- 8 Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 9 Vaughan Family Reading Night, 6-7:30
- 13 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14-16 Reading/Math Benchmark III, Gr. K-8
- 14 Management Team, 9 a.m.
- 15 1:00 Dismissal
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
 WCMS Positive Behavior Support
 Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.