

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

March 2006

Volume XXI, Number 7

Board Highlights

.... from March 13, 2006

✓ Emmy Coleman, Community Schools director, presented an award to Warren County Schools from the American Cancer Society recognizing their achievement as the top school system in the eastern region.

✓ The Board recognized Sharon West, the February Stellar Performer.

✓ Also recognized were February (Fairness) Lights of Character: Brea Davis, Hawkins; Canecca Davis, Mariam Boyd; Shayn Boyd, Northside; Rowan Morris, South Warren; Noel Robertson, Vaughan; Pamela Jordan, WCHS; Vanessa Jones, WCMS; Odessa LeMay-Smith, Central Office.

✓ Costel Evans, Associate Superintendent, presented the best attendance award for the sixth attendance month to Joyce Long, principal of Mariam Boyd Elementary School. Mariam Boyd was also recognized for the most improved attendance during the sixth attendance month.

✓ Rosemary Lewis, Student Services director, presented the annual dropout report for the 2004-2005 school year.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved an overnight field trip request for members of the WCHS VICA club to travel to competition in Greensboro, NC from April 10-12, 2006.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved the budget amendment for FY 2005-2006.

✓ The Board recognized the retirements of the following: Mischell Townes, teacher assistant at Northside, effective 6/14/06; Janet Farrar, child nutrition director, effective 6/30/06; Judy DuPre, Reading First coach at South Warren,

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WCS Receives Top Honor

The American Cancer Society has recognized Warren County Schools as the top school system in the eastern region for its dedication and initiative in helping to fight the battle against cancer.

Sharon Rose, Community Manager for ACS, presented the award at a reception held on February 23 in Raleigh. "Warren County Schools has gone above and beyond the call in their dedication to promoting cancer prevention among young people," Rose said. "With their participation in the Teen Quitline program at Warren County High School, we are sure to see great benefits among our younger generations...we are thankful to them for their dedication and and proud of their accomplishments."

Warren County High School sponsored the Teen Quitline Kick-Off on September 30 with a pep rally. Held in the WCHS theatre, students from T.A.T.U. (Teens Against Tobacco Use) performed a skit promoting the Quitline, a promo ad from the media was introduced and several guests speakers gave information about the dangers of cigarette smoking to the crowd.

"We are very pleased about receiving this award," said Principal Tony Cozart. "Our students worked hard on this particular project because it is something they believe in...they know the dangers of cancer because it has affected so many of their personal lives and it is something they want to warn their classmates about."

Warren County School Launches New Website

It has been roughly a year since the process began, but finally Warren County Schools officially became a .org entity as of Friday, March 3.

"We are not a commercial or for profit organization," said Dr. Chris Withrow, Warren County Schools director of technology. "The .org domain name labels us as an organization, following Internet standards."

Now, when Internet users type www.wcsh12.org, they pull up a sleek blue website design sporting the new Warren County Schools seal and a broader base of browser selections.

"Users will currently be able to choose from a variety of added features," said Carolyn Buffaloe, Warren County Schools Webmaster. "The new site is more user friendly and will be easier for parents and students to navigate."

The new site allows separate search areas for parents, students, and the community. Each school has an individual link to their own site, which will include individualized school events calendars and special notices.

"This website will also allow us to put out alerts for weather and related issues," added Withrow. "I believe this will be an extremely important vehicle for communication in addition to the Connect-Ed system currently in place."

Also included in the new website are updates to the school system's email.

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Don't Forget to Lend a Hand...

**The Warren Education Fund's 6th Annual Community Spelling Bee
Friday, March 31, 2006**

Warren County High School @ 6:00 p.m.



Stellar Performer

Mattie Boyd "A True Jewel"

This month's Stellar Performer is Mattie Boyd, teacher assistant at the Hawkins Educational Center.

Nominated by the center's director, Mrs. Clara Thompson, Mrs. Boyd is truly loved and adored by all who surround her.

"I can't say enough good things about her," Thompson said. "She is such a devoted person and a true team player. She takes initiative. I call her Dr. Boyd because of the motherly touch she has for nurturing the children."

Rhonda Mushaw, center secretary, echoes Thompson's sentiment.

"You can't find a more wonderful person--she is so personable and caring. She makes other people feel so loved, when you're around that warm, personality, you can't help but smile--we are lucky to have her."

Diariece Jones worked in the classroom with Boyd well over ten years and refers to her as a "jewel."

"Mrs. Boyd knows the teacher's routine and she follows it thoroughly. She does an excellent job reinforcing skills with the students and it is her personality that allows for such a good rapport with both the students and their families."

Yulanda Baskett is not only a colleague at Hawkins, but also a close family friend.

"Wonderful doesn't even begin to describe her--she is the reason I am working here today...better yet, through her eyes and working together, I've come to realize how much I, too, want to work with small children," Baskett said.

Baskett and Boyd started out taking classes together to complete certification for teacher assistant licensure. Boyd completed coursework this past August.

"I miss her going to classes with me," Baskett continued, "but I hope she will go on and complete her bachelor's degree." "She will make an excellent classroom teacher--she has such a unique interaction with the children. She knows how to get on their level, but at the same time, they know when 'Mrs. Mattie' means business."

Shelia Seward, who currently works with Boyd agreed whole-heartedly with Baskett's statement.

"Mrs. Boyd has so much to offer--she is always extending a hand to everyone--administration, staff, and most importantly the students."

This is Seward's third year working with Boyd and she also notes her [Boyd's] strong community involvement.

"She's a trailblazer--she's always spinning her wheels, going somewhere to do something for others--I've never known someone with such a heart full of love," said Seward.

A native of Warren County, Boyd is a graduate of John Graham High School. She owned her own home daycare for approximately eight years before coming to work for Warren County Schools.

"I started working at Mariam Boyd with Bertadean Baker and she instilled so much in me--I learned a lot from her. A special bond grew out of our working relationship and from that pairing, I knew what God's plan for me was--I was always meant to work with children."

Born into a family of thirteen children, Mattie Boyd was raised with her siblings in a household that supported strong beliefs in family, love, and education.

"I remember my father saying that we could be anything we wanted to be. If we wanted to dig ditches for a living, that was fine as long as we did our best and we always promised to live by that golden rule of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us--"

Boyd's father passed away in 1990, but her mother still resides at the family's

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Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

The weather is not the only thing changing for Warren County Schools... towering above all the rest and securing both the Best Attendance and the Most Improved awards for the sixth attendance month is Mariam Boyd Elementary School.

The attendance rate was 96.03 percent, an increase of 0.82 percent over the previous month's 95.21 percent. Next in line was Vaughan with a close 95.78 percent. Following were South Warren with 94.31 percent, WCMS, with 94.25 percent, Northside with 93.85 percent, and WCHS with 90.35 percent.

Spring is just around the corner, and students will need to work hard to keep up the good work for the last few months of school.

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Teachers' Corner

****National Board Certification**-North Carolina teachers planning to seek National Board Certification should complete the online application at www.nbpts.org and then complete the North Carolina application for funding. Guidelines for applying for National Board Certification in North Carolina can be accessed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts/apply.html> by clicking on the appropriate link. Initial NBC candidates will pay a \$65 processing charge to NBPTS before they submit their application. North Carolina pays the assessment fee of \$2,500 for all candidates who meet the eligibility criteria. The North Carolina funding application window for 2006-2007 candidates pursuing National Board Certification is March 1-October 31.

****National Board Certification Professional Leave Days**-Candidates who received state funding to pursue National Board Certification are eligible to receive three professional leave days to work on the portfolio and/or take the assessment center test. Check with the finance officer on how to process the leave request correctly.

****Become a National Board Assessor**-The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is accepting applications from those National Board Certified teachers who are interested in becoming assessors. You can read more about the scoring process, scoring sites, and timeframe for assessing at the NBPTS Website available at <http://www.nbpts.org/standards/assessors.cfm>

For more information on National Board Certification, please contact Deanna Harris, NCDPI Center for Recruitment and Retention, 919.807.3358 or email dharris@dpi.state.nc.us

****Tax Deduction Helps Offset Classroom Costs**-Teachers and other educators can deduct up to \$250 spent last year to buy classroom supplies. The deduction can be claimed directly on Form 1040 or Form 1040A. In the past, these costs could be claimed only if they were included as miscellaneous itemized deductions on Schedule A. Even then, the expenses were useless unless they and all other allowable cost totaled at least 2 percent of the filer's adjusted gross income. The deduction is not limited to teachers. The IRS says you can take the deduction if, for the tax year, you were employed at a state-approved public school system as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide. To read more, please go online to <http://biz.yahoo.com/brn/060213/9760.html?.v=1>

****Teaching Kit Honors the Legacy of Rosa Parks**-Teaching Tolerance and the Southern Poverty Law Center is offering a free teaching kit, "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks." An Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning film retells the story of Parks' courageous stand against segregated busing in 1955 in Montgomery, AL. Her refusal to give up her bus seat--and the 381-day bus boycott that followed--stands as a reminder of the power of one person to change the world. The kit includes a teaching guide, with classroom activities tied to the story of Rosa Parks. To order, visit www.teachingtolerance.org/resources.

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

homeplace.

"I have ten siblings still living and we all have a very special bond. We all come together with our immediate families, to my mother's house on the second Sunday of every month to spend quality family time together."

Boyd's immediate family includes her husband, Henry, and children: Deborah, Timothy, Angelia, Henry, Jr., and Thomas. She is constantly doting on her eleven grandchildren

When she is not busy at Hawkins or involved in a community or family project, Boyd enjoys cooking, crafts, gardening, and believe it or not, spending any free time with children.

"My greatest joy is the compassion and love that fills your heart when seeing a child run to embrace you--to see the happiness that lights up their face--that's what it's all about," Boyd said. "I give praise and thanks to so many people who have been so supportive of me--especially to God--but I do what I do from the heart. It's hard to say 'no' to a little one!"

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "the world belongs to the energetic," which most truly applies to Mattie Boyd--like the Energizer Bunny, she keeps going and going. Mattie Boyd, the world is *your* oyster and *you* are definitely one of it's finest pearls!

Check It Out!

►NASA Mission Educator Fellowship Opportunity-NASA is recruiting 30 practicing teachers or teacher trainers to become the next cadre of MESSENGER Educator Fellows. These Fellows help bring the excitement of this challenging mission to classrooms nationwide by training teachers on the Solar System-focused education materials written in support of the mission. The Fellowship includes an all-expense paid five-day training workshop in Washington, DC in June 2006. Applications are due March 31. For more info, please go to <http://btc.montana.edu/messenger/teachers/fellows.php> or contact MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Coordinator Ken Pulkkinen via email at messenger@usra.edu or phone, 202.689.1238.

►Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science-The 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching will be awarded to K-6 mathematics and science teachers. Teachers must be nominated before completing an application. Nominations may come from anyone (principals, teachers, students, parents, members of the community, or the general public). Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nomination and application information can be found by visiting www.paemst.org. The application deadline is May 1. For additional information, please contact Carmella Fair, PAEMST State Mathematics Coordinator, NCDPI, via email at cfair@dpi.state.nc.us or by phone, 919.807.3840.

►Earn Continuing Education Credits from Home-Are you tired of the endless weekend and evening treks to class to gain continuing education credits? Now is your chance to earn those much needed credits right from your own home. One, three, and five-credit courses are now available from accredited universities at affordable prices. Offering more than fifty courses, using premiere education books and publications. For more information, visit www.armchaired.com.

New Website, continued from page 1

"It will take some getting used to for our staffs," said Buffaloe. "The .com has been in place for several years and it might take a while for people to remember to type in .org when trying to email someone."

Several added features to the site provide browsers with a wealth of information. There are now links to a variety of calendars, school menus, and a staff directory. Additional community resources and information can be located through partnership links.

"There will be room for expansion within this site," commented Withrow. "Especially with advancements in technology and our push to decrease the volume of paper documents currently in use--I see a broad horizon for the future of this work we have started in Warren County."

Designed by Visualzen out of Norfolk, Virginia, the new website is just one of the many new improvements in the area of technology throughout the Warren County Schools district.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

effective 4/1/06; and Gladys B. Smith, child nutrition assistant at Vaughan, effective 6/9/06.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following: Lucy B. Jones, transition specialist at Warren County High School, effective 7/1/06; Loree Harris, guidance counselor at Mariam Boyd, effective 4/1/06-6/14/06; Mahalia Harrison, administrative assistant at the Central Office, effective 3/1/06; Johnnie Higgs, exceptional children bus monitor for Warren County High School, effective 3/1/06; Joyce Galloway, bus monitor for Hawkins Educational Center, effective 2/1/06-6/7/06; Clifton Davis, exceptional children bus monitor, effective 3/7/06.

✓ The Board approved extra duty assignments for the following individuals: Jewel Mitchell, homebound instruction for Northside, effective 2/15/06; Heide Beasley, homebound instruction for Northside, effective 3/14/06; Keisha Anderson, homebound instruction for Warren County High School, effective 2/15/06; James Isaac, homebound instruction for Warren County High School, effective 3/14/06; Christa Moody, after school tutor for Warren County High School, effective 2/1/06; Patricia London, after school tutor for Warren County High School, effective 2/1/06; Angela Vaughan, districtwide CECAS audit, effective 3/15/06; Albertha Valentine, districtwide CECAS audit, effective 3/15/06; Arconstar Powell, districtwide CECAS audit, effective 3/15/06; Donald Moody, assistant baseball coach at Warren County High School, effective 2/13/06; Tami Turner-Keyser, assistant softball coach at Warren County High School, effective 2/13/06; Ann Robbins, head girls soccer coach at Warren County High School, effective 2/13/06.

✓ Current vacancies include: at the elementary level, an exceptional children teacher assistant position (transfer) from Northside to Mariam Boyd; at South Warren, a guidance counselor and a Reading First coach; at Warren County Middle School, an exceptional children's teacher, a math teacher, a science teacher, and Spanish teacher; at Warren County High School, a family & consumer science teacher; at the Central Office, a child nutrition director; and districtwide, 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.wcask12.org

Calendar

March

- 15 1 p.m. Dismissal/Staff Dev.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
WCMS Positive Behavior
Support Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
- 20 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd SIT, 3:05 p.m.
Vaughan SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 21 WCHS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 22 South Warren SIT, 3 p.m.
- 23 Mariam Boyd Vol. Tea, 10 a.m.
South Warren Accelerated
Reader Celebration, 1:30 p.m.
WCMS Accelerated Reader
Celebration, 2 p.m.
Northside SPLASH, 6-8 p.m.
- 24 End of 3rd 9 weeks
- 27 Protected Teacher Workday
Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 28 Begin 4th 9 weeks
- 29 Hawkins Character Celebration,
9:30 a.m.
- 30 Mariam Boyd AR Celebration
- 31 Mandatory Teacher Workday
Parent Conferences, Pre-K-12
Warren Ed. Fund Community
Spelling Bee, 6 p.m. @ WCHS

April

- 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins
Advance Clocks One Hour (2 a.m.)
- 3 Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Staff Meeting,
3:05 p.m.
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4 Management Team, 9 a.m.
Vaughan PTA/Spring Concert,
7 p.m.
- 5 Northside Triple "A" Awards
- 6 South Warren Acc. Reader
Celebration, 1:30 p.m.
Mariam Boyd Talent/Fashion
Show, 7-8 p.m.
WCMS Social Studies Night
5:30-7 p.m.
South Warren PTA/Night of the
Arts, 7 p.m.
- 7 South Warren Super Kids
Awards, 1:30 p.m.
South Warren Talent Show,
5-6:30 p.m.