

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

May 2006

Volume XXI, Number 9

Board Highlights

.... from May 8, 2006

✓ The Board recognized Brittany Anstead, Megan Coleman, Jessica Edwards, Donna Francis, Jerron Jones, Jamar Mayes, and Jessica Wilson, who participated in the FCCLA state leadership conference. Jamar Mayes was noted as being the first Warren County student to hold a state office in the FCCLA organization. Mrs. Oney Jones was recognized for her 25 years of service as an FCCLA advisor.

✓ The Board recognized WCMS student, Javion Henderson for his acceptance into the East Carolina University School for Leadership Development.

✓ The Board recognized winners in the Soil and Water Conservation District Area IV competitions: Sterling Evans, first place for 7th grade public speaking; Darrian Lynch, first place for 8th grade public speaking; Mechelle Nicholson, third place for 7th grade public speaking; and Michaelah Richardson, second place for 6th grade essay contest.

✓ The Board recognized WCMS student, Jesse Alston for his qualifying to represent WCMS at the state level of the National Geographic Bee competition.

✓ The Board recognized WCMS student, Darrian Lynch for winning first place in the African-American History essay contest.

✓ The Board recognized the WCMS Battle of the Books team which captured the first place win for Region 3. The team members are coached by Cheryl Sebrell and Gwen White and include students: Jesse Alston, Ashley Davis, Bradlie Dunham, Gerald Hawkins, Bryon Hoadley, Christopher Hunter, Megan Lynch, Denise Milam, Elizabeth Moseley, Jennifer Quick, Angelique Taylor, and Matthew Taylor.

✓ The Board recognized WCMS 7th grader Matthew Taylor as the Grand Champion in the SAT Duke Talent Identification Search.

✓ The Board recognized WCMS 7th grader Oakley Green as the second place winner in the New Face-New Name contest to name the Warren County Animal Shelter.

✓ The Board recognized the local Volunteers of the Year throughout the school system. Those individuals include: Sylvia Brown,

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Summer School plans finalized

At Monday night's meeting, the Board of Education finalized plans for the 2006 session of Summer School, following a recommendation by Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent.

Summer School will begin on June 16 with teacher workdays set for June 16 and 19 and end with teacher workdays on July 27 and 28. Students will report on June 20, and their last day will be on July 26. July 4 will be observed as a holiday both by teachers and students.

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. A new reading and math remediation program for grades 6-8 will be offered to those students who need additional instruction. Summer school classes also will be offered to those students in grades 9-12 who have failed English, competency math and competency reading, for fifth year seniors 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.

Teachers interested in working with the Summer School program must be certified, and applications for employment are available upon request.

Other summer programs include a 9th Grade Transition Program, enrichment program for LEP students, Warren County SEMAA, Warren County 4-H, and Summer Scholars, sponsored by the Warren Family Institute.

Bennett initiative reviewed

An evaluation of an initiative with Bennett College for Women in Greensboro was presented to members of the Board of Education at Monday night's meeting. The initiative was made possible through a grant awarded to Bennett.

The initiative, known as "Project Soaring High," centered on assisting teachers and teacher assistants with developing high quality teaching strategies to be incorporated into classroom activities.

There have been between twenty-two and twenty-four participants in the initiative from Warren County Schools, who along with staff from nine other school systems, have participated in training opportunities provided by the college.

Warren County's project involved designing a classroom module that infused diversity, classroom management, technology and differentiated instruction into all aspects of working with students in individual classrooms or the entire school. Goals for the entire project were to develop leadership planning and facilitation cadres to support professional development in the Eastern and Piedmont regions of North Carolina and to provide professional development and training through a local, state, national and international network of providers.

"I could not ask for any better cooperation than from the individuals from Warren County," project director Dr. Millicent C. Rainey told Board members. "The individuals from your school system produced excellent projects, an outstanding scrapbook and the display presented at the final event was truly exemplary. I must commend the participation of your teachers, teacher assistants, as well as your Central Office staff--I can't thank you enough for the effort you put into this work."



Stellar Performer
Patsy Tucker
Maintaining Maintenance

The Stellar Performer for this month is Patsy Tucker, administrative assistant to the maintenance department.

“I just can’t get over how organized we are now--we are so proud to have someone like Patsy working with us,” said Joe Mustian, Maintenance director.

Mustian asserts that since Tucker’s arrival she has straightened out all the office paperwork and helped set up the new work order and preventative maintenance system. “She keeps all the guys on task and everyone else happy--we just love her.”

Stewart Steverson, custodial supervisor, agreed with Mustian. “Everyone noticed a change the first week she was on the job--not only does she keep us organized, but she makes the atmosphere around the office so much more pleasant. She cares about us as much as we care about her.”

Tucker is a Warren County native and very proud to say a graduate of the first graduating class of Warren County High School (1982). She worked at Fashion Cleaners and for a local attorney for a few years before coming to the Central Office. Transferring to Vaughan Elementary School in 1991, Tucker worked there until moving into her present position.

“I really enjoyed my time at Vaughan,” she said. “I started out as a teacher assistant and eventually became an administrative assistant. While I was there I started working on my associate’s degree at Vance-Granville Community College--I finally finished in 2004.”

For Tucker, completing her degree brought forth a source of tremendous pride and self-satisfaction.

“I started that degree so many years ago and finally finished...once you have educated yourself, no one can take that away from you.”

Tucker maintains that her education is still at the forefront of her thoughts. “Going on and furthering my education is something that I have considered--there are just so many things that I’m interested in.”

One of Tucker’s greatest passions is for music. An accomplished pianist, one may tune their listening ear into her playing at Gospel Baptist Church every Sunday. She also plays three Sunday mornings a month for the residents of the Warren Hills Nursing Center and one Sunday for those at the Floyd McKissick Assisted Living Center.

“My mother insisted on the piano lessons and I’m so glad she did. It [music] has become such an important part of my life.

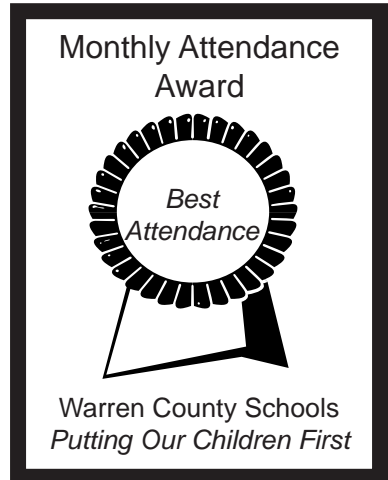
Tucker comes from a large, supportive family with five brothers and five sisters. Her strong work ethic comes from lessons instilled in her while growing up.

“Working hard has always been a part of my life...it is what I do best.”

Tucker enjoys spending any free time with her three young nephews and joining in part time cattle farming with her close friend, Glenn Watkins.

As for her time with “the boys” as she refers to them. “I’m really enjoying working with these guys,” Tucker said. “They are a great group--they go well out of their way to make sure things are done right and taken care of for the

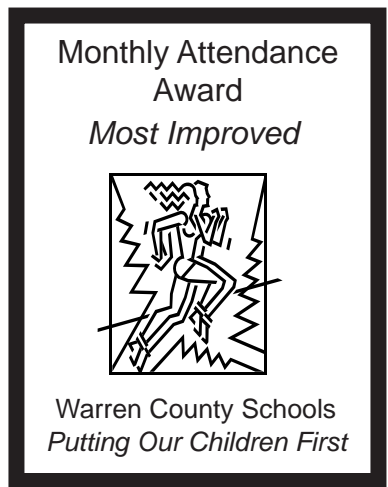
(See *Stellar Performer*, Page 3)



Final figures are in for the seventh attendance month and capturing the trophy for best attendance for the second straight month is Mariam Boyd Elementary School. There was a turnover, however, with the most improved attendance and Warren County High School now edges out the competition and takes home a winner!

The attendance rate for Mariam Boyd was 96.56 percent, an increase of 0.53 percent over the previous month’s 96.03 percent. Next in line was Vaughan with 94.48 percent. Following were Northside with 94.31 percent, WCMS with 94.12, South Warren with 93.51 percent, and WCHS with 91.32 percent.

Congratulations to both Eagles on their fine finishes!



Teacher's Corner

***Professional Opportunity for 7th Grade Social Studies Teachers-** NCDPI's Middle Grades Division in conjunction with Exploris Museum is conducting a professional development opportunity for seventh grade social studies teachers, "Africa: Bridges and Barriers," on July 11-12 at Exploris Museum, Raleigh. Participants will examine the strengths and resources (the bridges) and the possible barriers to economic growth and political stability in the African nations of South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan. Participants will experience hands-on, engaging activities that they can take back and implement in their classrooms. The registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch and materials. Space is limited to 50 participants. You may go to <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/socialstudies/middlegrades/> to download a registration form and obtain additional information. For questions, please contact Lew Nelson at lnelson@dpi.state.nc.us; 919.807.3881 or Fay Gore at fgore@dpi.state.nc.us; 919.807.3954.

***2006 Meredith Mathematics Institute for Elementary Teachers-** Meredith College is hosting two Mathematics Institutes for elementary teachers this summer: July 30-Aug. 1 for kindergarten through fourth grades and Aug. 2-4 for third through fifth grades. Third and fourth grade teachers can attend either workshop. Led by TEAM II project teachers with assistance from DPI mathematics consultants, all participants will have a special Web resource session and an opportunity to plan grade-level specific Web investigations. Teachers who complete classroom activities in Fall 2006 and submit specified documentation are able to earn 2.0 CEUs rather than the 1.8 CEUs earned by participation in the Institute alone. For more information, please contact Jeane Joyner at joynerj@meredith.edu or 919.760.8479 or Meghan Griffith at griffmeg@meredith.edu or 919.760.8756. To register, download forms at <http://www.meredith.edu/math/team2> and return with registration and housing fees as indicated.

***2006 State Mathematics Conference-**Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2006 State Mathematics Conference scheduled for Oct. 5-6 at the Koury Convention Center, Greensboro. The conference provides a wonderful opportunity to share research, classroom strategies, activities, and resources with colleagues across the state. Conference information is available online at www.ncctm.org.

***Teacher Leadership Newsletter-**The Teacher Leaders Network publishes a free resource newsletter with a leadership focus. The biweekly eSource includes Web links to new research, important reports, significant news stories and interesting conversation about advancements in teacher and school leadership. The TLN eSource also includes resources on mentoring, cutting-edge staff development, best instructional practices, and more. To subscribe, please go online to <http://www.teacherleaders.org/newsletter.html>.

***Elementary School Conference-**The North Carolina Association of Elementary Educators will be hosting the third annual Elementary School Conference on Oct. 9-10 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park. For more information, including registration and call for program proposal forms (must be postmarked by June 16), please visit www.ncelementary.org.

Stellar Performer, Continued from Page 2

schools in the county."

When asked about working with Tucker, James King sums it up best. "Patsy is so efficient at what she does. She takes care of us. I guess you could say her best asset is that she maintains maintenance."

Check It Out!

***World Pen Pals--**World Pen Pals, which was founded in 1950 at the University of Minnesota, offers students a learning opportunity in cultural diversity. It is an international correspondence exchange program which promotes friendship and cultural understanding among young people throughout the world with their American counterparts. This program is a fun, educational means for students to learn about young people their own age living in a different country.

Teachers of students in grades 4-12 who wish to take part in this program by corresponding in English with students abroad, may request more information by contacting World Pen Pals at: Post Office Box 337, Saugerties, New York 12477, or www.world-pen-pals.com.

***Spring Edition of Making the Grade Available--**From laptops to LCDs, technology is an important tool used by educators to engage students in the learning process. "Making the Grade: Technology in Education" explores how teachers use technology and how parents can support a child's interest in the use of technology to boost learning and build skills for the future. Visit http://www.ncpublicschools.org/student_promotion/making_grade.html and click on the appropriate link to learn more.

***Math Sample Test Information Now Online--**Effective with the 2005-06 school year, the North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG) mathematics tests will measure the goals and objectives as specified in the 2003 North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The 2003 release items for Math EOG test for grades 3-5 (as well as 6-8) are now available. To access visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/eog/math/> and click on "Sample Test Items-based on the 2003 Standard Course of Study are under development" then click on the appropriate grade level.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hawkins; Lemira Jones, Mariam Boyd; Mary Frances Alston, Northside; Yolanda Pettaway & Carolyn Pitzing, South Warren; Tammy Evans, Vaughan; Diane Pinnell, WCHS; and Donna Ricks, WCMS.

✓ The Board recognized the Stellar Performer for the month of April, Hazel Richardson from the Hawkins Educational Center.

✓ The Board recognized the April Lights of Character (Citizenship): Sunny Shearin (student), Hawkins; Raven Harris (student), Mariam Boyd; Carter's Lock and Key (business), Northside; James Clark III (student), South Warren; Aniyah Barr (student), Vaughan; Will Killian (student), WCHS; Ashanti Harrison (student), WCMS; Angela Roberts (citizen), Central Office.

✓ Dr. Chris Withrow, Technology Director, presented information on plans for summer computer refurbishment and updates.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved the addition of a creative dramatics course to the course offerings at Warren County Middle School.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved plans for the 2006 Summer School program.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, 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.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved a \$750 donation from Wal-Mart to Mariam Boyd Elementary School for student incentives and general needs.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved a bid received from North Carolina Systems Services Company for intercom systems at Hawkins Educational Center and South Warren Elementary School at a total cost of \$45,314.

✓ On a recommendation from the Superintendent, the Board approved a bid from Alarm-Tel for installation of a surveillance system at WCHS at a cost of \$33,000. The new system will be funded through the Rural and Low Income Federal Grant Fund monies received by the school district.

✓ The Board approved an overnight field trip for members of the WCHS FCCLA to travel to Nashville, TN for the National Leadership Conference and Competitive Events, July 8-14, 2006.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Deborah Foster as Reading Coach at South Warren, effective 8/7/06; James E. Hargrove as a district wide painter, effective 5/29/06; Percy Williams, Jr. as a Resource Officer at WCMS, effective 4/1/06.

✓ The Board approved both Vernell Silver and Patricia Russell as district wide substitutes, effective 5/9/06.

✓ The Board recognized the retirement of Martha Moss, teacher assistant at Vaughan, effective 7/1/06.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Geraldine Jones, effective 4/11/06; Sharon Moore, effective 6/9/06; Adrian Rodriguez, effective 6/14/06; Tiffany Hairston, effective 6/14/06; Mary Walsh, effective 6/14/06.

✓ The Board approved extra duty assignments for the following individuals: Aaron Leach, after school tutor for Vaughan, effective 4/10/06; Deives Torres, after school tutor for Vaughan, effective 4/10/06; Melinda Chambless, homebound teacher for WCHS, effective 4/7/06; Tami Turner-Keyser, asst. softball coach at WCHS, effective 4/4/06; Donald Moody, II, asst. baseball coach at WCHS, effective 2/28/06; Lamont Seward, girls track coach at WCHS, effective 3/23/06; Johnny Williams, boys track coach at WCHS, effective 3/23/06.

✓ The Board approved all probationary and career personnel as listed.

✓ Current vacancies include: at Mariam Boyd, a custodian; at South Warren, an elementary education teacher and a guidance counselor; at Warren County Middle School, an EC teacher, a math teacher, a science teacher, a science/math teacher, and a Spanish teacher; at Warren County High School, an EC teacher and a family & consumer science teacher; at the Central Office, a child nutrition 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
Emmy L. Coleman, Editor
www.wcsc12.org

Calendar

May

- 15 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 16 WCHS Awards Day, 10 a.m.
WCHS Senior Banq., 7 p.m.
- 17 South Warren K Regis., 1-7 p.m.
- 18 WCHS Night of the Arts, 7 p.m.
- 19 South Warren Fantastic Fri., 1:30 p.m.
- 22 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd SIT, 3:05 p.m.
- 23-24 Competency Test, Seniors Only
- 23-26 End-of-Grade Tests for Grades 3-8**
- 23 Comp. Skills Test, Seniors Only
Hawkins Parent Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 25 WCHS Ath. Banq., 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Mariam Boyd Field Day
South Warren AR Celeb., 1:30 p.m.
Vaughan Char. Cel., 1:30 p.m.
- 29 Teacher Workday**
Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 31 Northside K Celeb., 1 p.m.

June

- 1 Northside Awards, Gr. 1-2, 9 a.m.
South Warren K Celeb., 9:30 a.m.
WCMS Ath. Awards Prog., 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Hawkins Pre-K Grad.
Northside Awards, Gr. 3-4, 9 a.m.
South Warren Field Day
Vaughan K Awards, 10 a.m.
Vaughan Awards, Gr. 1-4, 1:30 p.m.
WCMS Acc. Reader Celeb., 2 p.m.
WCMS Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
- 5 Mariam Boyd Awards, 9 & 1
Leadership Team, 9 a.m.
Vaughan Per. Att. Celeb., 1:30 p.m.
WCMS Greatest Gains Get-Together,
1:30 p.m.
Mariam Boyd Staff Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
South Warren 5th Gr. Grad., 6 p.m.
- 6-7 End-of-Grade RETEST**
- 6 Vaughan Scholars Reception
Grades 3-5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 7 Mariam Boyd K Grad., 9 a.m.
- 8 Mariam Boyd AR Celebration
Northside 5th Gr. Celeb., 1 p.m.
Vaughan 5th Gr. Grad. Awards/Celeb.,
10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd 5th Gr. Grad., 6 p.m.
WCMS 8th Gr. Awards Celeb., 7 p.m.
- 9 Last Day for Students**
South Warren Awards Day, 10 a.m.
WCMS Perf. Attend. Celeb., 2 p.m.
- 10 WCHS Graduation, 10 a.m.**
- 12 Teacher Workday**
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Teacher Workday**
- 14 Annual Leave Day**