

# "Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of  
Warren County Schools

November 2005

Volume XXI, Number 3

## Board Highlights

.... from November 1, 2005

✓ Mr. Evans announced the ABC accountability status for two Warren County Schools. The Board recognized Mariam Boyd Elementary School and presented them a banner as a School of Progress, Met Expected Growth. The Board also recognized Warren County High School with a banner as a Priority School, High Growth.

✓ The Board recognized Susan Lynch, business education teacher at WCHS, who was named Stellar Performer for the month of October.

✓ The Board recognized October Lights of Character: Devontae' Seward, Glenda Watson, and Ardeze Richardson, Hawkins; Jerry Branch, Northside; Mary Henderson, South Warren; Willie Cooper, Vaughan; Leah Williams, WCMS; Daishha Shelton, Hawkins Alternative Program and Holly Nixon, Central Office.

✓ Mr. Clanton presented an update on the Positive Behavior Support initiative. Christine Carr has been hired as the regional PBS coordinator and assumed duties on Nov. 1. WCMS has been designated as the local demonstration site for PBS.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the district goals for the 2005-2006 school year.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the purchase of a mobile computer lab for Northside Elementary School at a cost of \$31,650.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved an increase for those school bus drivers who are classified as temporary employees at a rate of 0.53 per hour effective Oct. 1.

✓ The Board approved the resignations of Ruth Holloway, EC teacher,

(SEE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 4)

## New Tech Director Works at High Speed

Since his first day on the job, Dr. Chris Withrow has been working at "high speed." Equipped with a full staff and innovative, as well as creative thinking, Dr. Withrow has already brought some aging technology up-to-date throughout Warren County's school system.

Some of his most recent technological triumphs include the purchase of mobile computer labs to be housed at Mariam Boyd, WCMS, and WCHS; the revitalization of computer equipment in Mr. Dennis Carrington's classroom (WCMS); a collaborative learning lab in Mrs. Jacqueline Teeters' classroom (WCMS); resurrected computers in the WCHS Media Center; and a PXE party on Oct. 15 which created 53 new computers for Northside Elementary.

The mobile computer labs will be a welcome accessory to teachers' classrooms where they will be able to provide wireless access to all necessary teacher/student applications. The labs will not only provide students with the latest advancements in technology, but they also free up space that would otherwise be necessary to build a computer lab.

The revitalization of computers for Mr. Dennis Carrington's students brought about something called "thin client" technology. All of the terminals in his room were actually turned into "dumb terminals"--meaning they require nothing more than a server connection to run. This process benefits our system greatly because we do not have to spend extreme amounts of money on computers--we get the benefit of only having to support the server, not the hardware of each separate machine.

[See *New Tech Director*, Page 3]

## WCS Welcomes Interim Finance Director

Dr. Ray Spain and the Board of Education welcome Ms. Iris Ginn as interim finance officer for Warren County Schools.

"I'm very pleased to have Ms. Ginn come and work for us," said Dr. Spain in a recent interview. "It is difficult to find someone with her experience and level of expertise to come and help us during this interim period. I have had the pleasure of working with her for several years and know that she is one of the best in her field."

Ginn earned her bachelor of science degree from Mount Olive College and a master's of business administration from Campbell University.

From 1965-1989, she worked with Greene County Schools in Snow Hill. In August 1989, she began working with the Lenoir County Schools, retiring in June of this year.

Ginn assumed her duties as interim finance director on Oct. 17 and described her first week as "extremely busy," pointing out that she is "really enjoying working with the personnel here." "Warren County Schools has a wonderful staff," Ginn said. "I know that I am going to enjoy getting to know more people as I have a chance to get around to the schools."

Ginn already has a running list of things that need immediate attention. "I'm going to work as hard as I can to help the school system get the things they need--that's what I'm here for."

## School Report Card Date Delayed Yet Again

The official release of the 2004-05 NC School Report Cards has been delayed for a second time. The new date is now set for Tuesday, Dec. 6. On this day, a statewide press conference will be held to declare Dec. 6 as "NC School Report Card Day." The NC School Report Cards provide parents and communities with important information about the state's public schools. Principals will send home to parents a snapshot of schools' report card either the day of the release or soon after.



## Stellar Performer

*Willistine Williams is  
"the best"*

This month's Stellar Performer is Willistine Williams, Reading First Coach at Mariam Boyd Elementary School.

Nominated by colleagues at the school, Williams is quoted to be "100% professional and 200% heart."

"She goes far above and beyond the call of duty," said Joyce Long, principal at Mariam Boyd. "She is so thorough and dedicated to the profession. If you ask her a question, she will not leave you hanging. She is truly data-driven; she looks at data, analyzes it and creates a plan based on that data--I depend on her to keep me informed good or bad."

"She is so warm and inviting," said Canecca Davis, assistant principal at the school. "Her concern is not only for the teachers and students, but for the total staff. She encourages everyone at Mariam Boyd to support the fact that "team-work makes the dream work."

Chelsa Jennings, third grade teacher, began her career as Williams' assistant. "I learned so many things from her. I learned many great techniques concerning classroom management and instruction. She's the reason I'm teaching today."

Darlene Hawkins, teacher assistant, worked with Williams for two years before Williams was transferred to the position of literacy specialist. "I learned so much working with her," Hawkins said. "She truly loves what she does and she makes you feel like you are part of her family. She has inspired me to pursue my degree in teaching--I want to continue to make her proud."

Williams is a graduate of Elizabeth City High School. She attended Hampton University and received a teaching degree from Elizabeth City State University.

Her first teaching job was actually supposed to be in a small area of Maryland. "It's actually a funny story," said Williams. "I graduated from college and went to Maryland for the job interview--they informed me that the position would amount to no more than a roving substitute. I said 'no thanks' and came home. It was some time around December and I called the university to ask about something and they asked me why I wasn't in Maryland--so I told them. That's when they said a gentleman from Warrenton had called looking for a teacher. I then called the school system immediately and came to Warrenton to interview for the job. I immediately accepted the job and of course needed a place to live. I was told about a nice lady named Mrs. Christmas who rented rooms to young teachers--I met her and she offered me a home and I didn't have a car--that's when I met another lady, Mrs. McGreer, who offered me a ride to Vaughan to work every day. From that moment on I felt like Warrenton was home and since that first day in town--I've never wanted to be anywhere else."

Williams taught at Vaughan Elementary Schools for six months and started the next thirty-four years of her career at Mariam Boyd.

"I taught 1st grade for 30 years and found out that first grade is what I loved the best," Williams said. "When I decided to leave the classroom and become a literacy specialist and then a Reading First coach--I jumped in head first--as long as I'm in education I want to better myself--when I'm not learning, I know it's

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

## Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

This month, the good news is that Vaughan students did the best job of getting to school. They will take the Best Attendance banner after charting an attendance rate of 97.62 percent.

The bad news is that there will be no Most Improved attendance banner - FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH! Attendance has declined again, such that all schools fell into the minus column when it comes to improvement.

Close behind Vaughan is Mariam Boyd, with 96.75 percent, followed by Northside, with 96.32 percent. WCMS charted a rate of 95.62 percent; South Warren, 94.90 percent, and WCHS, 92.04 percent.

The Most Improved banner is mildewing! Please stress to students and parents the importance of good attendance.

## Monthly Attendance Award

*Most Improved*



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

**New Tech Director cont'd from Page 1...**

The collaborative learning lab for Mrs. Jacqueline Teeters came about when she received a new science curriculum and it was full of Internet activities and applications. She wanted her students to take full advantage of everything the curriculum offered and she requested several computers for her classroom/lab. Six computers were installed and currently all eighth grade science teachers rotate in and out of her room--they collaborate on plans and conduct team teaching activities among their students.

Laura Richardson, WCHS media specialist, is ecstatic. Thanks to some cleaning, rearranging, and revitalization--she now has eighteen new computers in the media center. "The teachers are so excited," Richardson said. "For several years, research has been so difficult to conduct, at least from an Internet standpoint--because we were so limited. Now we have enough computers for a class."

The revitalization runs along the same lines as "thin client"--the computers are all "dumb terminals" running their operating systems from a main server.

Dr. Withrow's most recent project was actually an interactive event. On Oct. 15, he hosted a PXE party for several high school students in the WCHS media center. Together with two technicians, Dr. Withrow, Dr. Spain, Mrs. Janet Dunderdale, WCHS computer education teacher, and nine students put together a total of fifty-three computers to be given to Northside Elementary School.

All of the computers were turned into "dumb terminals" to be run off a main server at the school and through this process approximately \$42,000 was saved.

"I got to put my hands on stuff that I had not learned before--together with the curriculum," said Dunderdale. "I got a better feel for the vision Dr. Spain and the technology people have for our school system. I got a better sense of how we are going to overcome the money issues in the area of technology and make better use of our hardware."

Wayne Mobley, a WCHS junior, was a little more excited, "it was good to have our hands on some hardware. With what I learned, I feel I will be able to look at a computer differently--especially when someone is having a problem. I'll have more information to help them fix it."

James Seward, another WCHS junior agreed, "I learned more about problems that I wouldn't have known before. In the future, based on what I learned, I can analyze problems better and use information and help fix my own computer, as well as others. I really had a good time."

Dr. Withrow, himself, was surprised at how well the event turned out. "I figured we could get about 15-20 computers finished--I never really anticipated 53--I did not realize how fast the students were going to be--they did a great job and I believe we all learned a lot in the process," Withrow said.

High speed? From the way it sounds this is just the beginning for technological upgrades for Warren County Schools. With the running list of projects that are in the works for completion in November and December--maybe we should reclassify things more along the lines of "lightning speed?" Obviously there is much more on the way from the technology department!

**STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

time to retire. I definitely plan to stay around to finish the Reading First initiative and I'm so optimistic about the result for our school, as well as the district."

Williams and her husband Wesley have three sons; one in New Orleans, one in Raleigh, and the youngest is a junior at NC Central University. Williams has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild

She enjoys spending her free time playing Bingo and "collecting people." She enjoys traveling and keeps a collection of where she has been, along with the various people she has met along the way.

"I also love to hang out with the younger folk any chance I get." Williams said.

"Willistine Williams looks for the best in everyone; children and adults," said Loree Harris, Mariam Boyd guidance counselor.

It is obvious that the students and staff at Mariam Boyd Elementary School found one of the best in Willistine Williams.

## Teacher's Corner

**Olive Garden's Writing Contest**--Has your life been changed by a specific person or experience? Olive Garden wants to know. As part of its 10th annual Pasta Tales national writing contest, Olive Garden is asking kids to: "Describe how a person or experience has made an important impact on your life." Through Dec. 5, Olive Garden will accept essays of 50 to 250 words from writers in 1st through 12th grade. Entry forms and complete rules are available online at [www.olivegarden.com/ourcommunity/pastatales](http://www.olivegarden.com/ourcommunity/pastatales). The grand prize is a trip to New York, dinner at the Olive Garden in Times Square and a \$2,500 U.S. Savings Bond. A winner will also be chosen in each grade category and will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and dinner with their family at their local Olive Garden. Entries must be submitted either online or postmarked by Dec. 5 and sent to Pasta Tales, PMB 2000, 6278 N. Federal Hwy., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308-1916.

**Free Teaching Aids**--Literally thousands of videotapes, computer resources, films, booklets, charts, teacher's guides, activity books, and more are available in the 2005-06 series of Educators Guide to FREE Materials. The guides are available at [www.freeteachingaids.com](http://www.freeteachingaids.com). Special discounts are available only through the site and sample listings of free materials are also available, including new materials not listed in the Guides.

**North Carolina Principals Fellows**

**Program**--Applications are now being accepted for the 2006-07 NC Principal Fellows Program, which assists selected individuals to prepare for a career in school administration. Each scholarship loan will provide funding for up to two years in the amount of \$20,000 per year to support students who enroll in and complete a full-time, two-year master's degree program in school administration at one of the participating institutions of the University of North Carolina. Recipients of the scholarship loan must be willing to practice at an approved site in North Carolina as a full-time administrator for two years for each year of funding (four years) or repay in cash. The deadline to apply for the 2006-2007 academic year is Jan. 16. For applicant requirements and an application, you may write to the NC Principal Fellows Program, Attn: Director, 140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; or call 919/962-4575; email [murdike@northcarolina.edu](mailto:murdike@northcarolina.edu); or fax a request to 919/962-4328. Program information also is available online at [http://www.ga.unc.edu/Principal\\_Fellows/](http://www.ga.unc.edu/Principal_Fellows/)

**NC Office of School Readiness' Newsletter Online**--The inaugural edition of the North Carolina Office of School Readiness' newsletter is now online and contains the following articles: Collaborating for Children's Success; Announcing the North Carolina Office of School Readiness, Professional Development, and School Readiness Resources. To read more, please go online to <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/Office/Education/Newsletter.asp>

## Gov. Easley Unveils Pay Raise

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, Governor Easley announced a plan to bring teacher salaries to the national average within four years and substantially increase the competitiveness of North Carolina's beginning teacher salary. By the 2008-09 school year, teachers in North Carolina will earn an average of \$52,266, which is above the national average estimated by the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) to be \$52,206 for that year. Easley and his staff consulted with legislators, education leaders and teachers throughout the development of the plan.

"Good teachers are one of the keys to a child's success in school and we must do all that we can to keep qualified educators in the classroom," Easley said. "We want to be the best place to teach and learn in America. That means providing good working conditions, competitive salaries and high standards for both teachers and students."

Easley's plan provides for an increase of \$750 for teachers on an annualized basis this year effective in the November paycheck. This permanent increase is in addition to the average 2.24% increase already provided in the 2005-06 budget. There will be additional average annual increases of 5% for the following three years. This will significantly increase pay for new teachers. Future raises may be provided as flat-rate, percentage increases or some combination of both to meet the state's goal.

When asked to respond to the recent news, Dr. Spain was in strong support of Easley's promotion. "I applaud the Governor's commitment to raising the salary of teachers to the national average. I think in the long run it is going to have a positive impact on our efforts to recruit and retain teachers," said Dr. Spain.

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

South Warren; Almeda Worthan, teacher assistant, South Warren; and Christine Carr, counselor, Hawkins Alternative Program.

✓ The Board recognized the retirements of Andrew D. Robertson, painter, Districtwide, effective December 31, 2005; Vanilla Moss, child nutrition manager, WCHS, effective December 22, 2005; and Veronica Boyd, teacher assistant, Vaughan, effective January 1, 2006.

✓ The Board approved the following for employment: at Northside, Tonia Davis, media coordinator; at WCHS, Joan Steele, EC teacher assistant, Robert Marlin, social studies teacher, and Shrounda Douglas, transitional specialist.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Christine Carr, Positive Behavior Support Regional Coordinator (NCDPI).

✓ Approved as systemwide substitutes are Clara M. Alston, Gloria Alston, Brenda Shearin, Lucretia Davis, and Geraldine W. Collins-Lynch (afterschool program only).

✓ The Board approved the following for extra duty assignments: at Northside, Ethel Alston, Gail Burchette, Jacqueline Cozart, Rebecca Grant, Kimberly Jones, Elise McCaffrey, Jennifer Perrin, Orinda Perry, Joanna Persio, Jaycynthia Robinson, Mary Walton, Sharon West, Barbara Alston, Heide B. Beasley, Tonia Davis, Tamekia Glass, Kendra Davis, Patricia Williamson, JoAnn Wright; at WCHS, Christie Graves, Jason Schlafer, Amy Strecker, Keisha Anderson, Carlos Bardales, Bill Hunt, Patricia London, Maria Pinlac, Kimarlo Ragland, Heather Rippetoe, Charles Tysinger, Anton Wesley; at WCMS, Elizabeth Allyn, Mary Arrington, Paula Aycock, Sarah Bowman, Carla Burgess, Nikeesha Boyd-Kearsey, Dennis Carrington, Julia Conrad, Karen Fleming, Vanessa Jones, Janet Lessor, Deanna Lewis, Arnetta Lucas, Elvelon Mason, Sarah Prescott, Earlene Palmer, Angela Richardson, Veronica Richardson, Jonathan Ricks, Daniel T. Riley, Geoffrey Rutledge, Annie Skipwith, Virginia Sykes, Jacqueline Teeters, Gwendolyn White, Morris White, III; at Vaughan, Madeline Williford, Arie Taylor, Sherricka Fogg, Evonia Lynch, Gladys Smith.

✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, a health/occupations teacher, family & consumer science teacher, guidance counselor, child nutrition manager; at WCMS, 8th grade social studies teacher; at South Warren, an EC teacher and a teacher assistant; 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](http://www.wcask12.org)

## Calendar November

- 9 Northside Triple "A" Awards  
Northside SIT Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
- 10 South Warren Super Kids Awards  
Prog., 1:30 p.m.  
Vaughan Fall Fes., 5-7:30 p.m.  
Northside Fall Fes., 6-8 p.m.
- Mariam Boyd Cultural Extravaganza/PTA,  
7 p.m.
- 11 Veteran's Day Holiday
- 14 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Vaughan SIT Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
- 15 WCHS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 16 WCMS Nat. Am. Prog., 9 a.m.  
South Warren SIT Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 17 Northside Mom's Breakfast Gr. K, 4, 5,  
7:45 a.m.  
Vaughan K-1 Parent Lunch, 11 a.m.  
South Warren Reading Lock-In, 3-6 p.m.
- WCMS Math/Reading/Writing/Science Night,  
5:30-7 p.m.
- Mariam Boyd Reading/Writing Fun Night,  
6-7 p.m.
- Northside PTA/Fall Concert, 7 p.m.
- 18 Mariam Boyd Soil & Water  
Conservation Program  
South Warren Fant. Fri., 1:30 p.m.
- 21 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Mariam Boyd SIT, 3:05 p.m.
- 22 WCHS Senior Dues Deadline  
SW Parent Luncheon Gr. K-2, 11:15 a.m.
- 23 Teacher Workday
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 28 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 29 Mariam Boyd Gr. 2 Writing Prompt  
SW Nat. Am. Program Gr. K-2, 1:30 p.m.
- 30 Hawkins Char. Cel., 9:30 a.m.  
SW Nat. Am. Program Gr. 3-5, 1:30 p.m.

## December

- 5 Interim Progress Reports Issued  
Leadership Team, 10 a.m.  
Mariam Boyd Staff Mtg, 3:05 p.m.
- 6 WCMS Ath. Awards Prg., 6:30 p.m.
- 8 MB Christmas Prg. Gr. K-3, 7 p.m.
- 12 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Management Team, 9 a.m.  
Hawkins Christmas Prg., 6 p.m.  
SW PTA/Christmas Prg., 7 p.m.
- Vaughan PTA/K-2 Night of the Arts, 7 p.m.
- 14 South Warren SIT, 3 p.m.  
Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 15 Northside Drama/Chorus Prg., 7 p.m.  
WCMS PTSA/Winter Concert, 7 p.m.