

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

October 2005

Volume XXI, Number 2

Board Highlights

.... from October 10, 2005

✓ The Board recognized Mariam Boyd's Joyce Long who has been named Principal of the Year. Also recognized was Diariece Jones, HEC pre-K teacher, who was named Teacher of the Year. Also recognized as participants were: Chelsa Jennings, Elvelon Mason, Tamekia Glass, Donna Liles, Celestine Perry, and Michael Perry.

✓ Rhonda Bobbitt was recognized as the September Stellar Performer. Also recognized were the September Lights of Character: at Hawkins, Rhonda Mushaw; at Mariam Boyd, Noah Henderson and Elaine Leet; at Northside, Alayna Gallager and Virginia Davis; at South Warren, Payton Holland and Sharon Moore; at Vaughan, Justin Fitts and Martha Moss; at WCHS, Garrett Hendricks and Phil Burgess; at WCMS, Victoria Sondgeroth and Cheryl Sebrell; at the Central Office, Derek Long.

✓ The Board recognized Pat Riethmeier, teacher at Mariam Boyd, as the Ag in the Classroom Ambassador for Warren County.

✓ Vaughan Elementary School was recognized as the winner of this month's Best Attendance banner.

✓ Dr. Spain presented information on a joint research project by the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ) in collaboration with the North Carolina Public School Forum, *What Works for Teacher Recruitment and Retention*.

✓ Dr. Spain reviewed the district goals for the 2005-2006 school year.

✓ Mrs. Jefferies and the district Reading First Coaches presented a brief overview of the Reading First program for all the elementary schools in the district.

✓ Mrs. Farrar recognized the child nutrition employees for their hard work and dedication. All district cafeterias have been inspected for the first time and their scores were outstanding. All the school district cafeterias received the following ratings: Hawkins (97.0), Mariam Boyd (97.5),

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Principal/Teacher of the Year named

Joyce Long, principal at Mariam Boyd, and Diariece Jones, pre-kindergarten teacher at Hawkins Educational Center, have been named Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year, respectively.

Diariece Jones was inspired to teach at a very early age due to the motivation and guidance of her parents. "They gave me the initiative to go to college and make a difference," Jones said. It was role models like her elementary teachers who instilled within Jones the value that education was a family objective. "My teachers were much like my parents--they treated me like their child and showed me they cared about me. It was then I knew that [teaching] was what I wanted to do for children."

A native of Warren County, Jones graduated from John Graham High School and received a BA in Education from NC Central University. She has also earned a licensure endorsement in technology from VGCC.

She began her teaching career in 1978 at Mariam Boyd where she taught second grade for fourteen years. The last fourteen years of Jones career have been spent in the pre-kindergarten classroom both at Mariam Boyd and the Hawkins Educational Center.

Joyce Long is also a native of Warren County. She graduated from Norlina High School and received a BA in Intermediate Education with a concentration in math and science from Elizabeth City State University.

She began her career in education in the Warren County School System when she was hired in 1977 to teach at North Warren Junior High. Long taught for 20 years (also at Norlina Middle School and Warren County Middle School), then worked with Dr. Shirley Turnage in the Roanoke River Valley Consortium, serving as a master teacher and lead teacher, grades K-12. She then began working at Mariam Boyd as an instructional specialist and after three years, was appointed assistant principal.

Long received a Master of School Administration from NC State University in 2002, the same year she became principal at Mariam Boyd.

This is Joyce Long's second consecutive year as Principal of the Year. "I am honored to once again represent Warren County Schools, in particular all of my principal colleagues. We are all Principals of the Year. All the principals in this system are a tight, close knit group--we support each other. Teamwork is what the job is all about," Long said.

Local Legislator Pays District Visit

In honor of North Carolina Legislators Week, Representative Michael H. Wray of the 27th District spent Wednesday, September 21st in the Warren County Schools district. Representative Wray's purpose was to visit several of the county's schools, to meet local students, teachers and administrators, and to observe firsthand the needs to the school system.

Dr. Ray V. Spain, Warren County Schools Superintendent, provided Representative Wray with an overview of the district's goals and objectives before they set out on the day's agenda. The first stop was the Hawkins Educational Center where they toured the pre-kindergarten classes, the Second Chance program, and the Parent Place.

"They [Warren County Schools] have some excellent educational resources--obviously the teachers are the greatest resource," Wray said.

The day's tour continued at Warren County High School and Warren County Middle School. Representative Wray stopped to meet administrators at both schools and praised their facilities. "You have some nice facilities; however, there are still

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Stellar Performer

*Susan Lynch crosses
'generational gaps'*

Susan Lynch, business education teacher at Warren County High School, proudly smiles as she reflects on a recent encounter with a former student. "It makes you so proud just to hear them say 'thank you,' but then when they go on and say that they have majored in computers because of your influence--that's when you truly know you've made an impact," she said.

In her 26th year of teaching, Lynch, this month's Stellar Performer, is one who embodies the example all teachers should follow, according to Dr. Tony Cozart, principal at WCHS who nominated Lynch for the recognition.

"Mrs. Lynch epitomizes someone who touches the lives of a lot of young people," he said. "She's consistent, flexible, and she views things as both a teacher and a parent. She maintains mutual respect among her students."

Cozart added that Lynch is a teacher who works hard to understand all of her students--despite the difference in generations. "She has such a positive approach to learning--she can consistently relate to our young adults---not everyone has been able to make that transition," he said.

Lynch has been a cornerstone of the WCHS faculty for many years and reflecting on her career notes that students are relatively the same, although styles and culture most definitely have changed. Regardless, Lynch still bridges that "generational gap" as she and her students explore the ever-changing world of technology together.

"They are what keeps me young at heart. I surely can't pull out lesson plans from twenty years ago and expect them to work. I can't even use those from just a year ago--the technology and the kids are too fast-paced. We adjust all activities according to their interests and the curriculum," Lynch said. "There are too many exciting things out there for my students to even think about getting bored during class--we laugh a lot and we learn a lot."

Lynch is a native of Weldon, North Carolina. She graduated from Northeast Academy in Halifax County and received an undergraduate degree in business education from East Carolina University.

She is married to David Lynch, a Warrenton native, who has two children; Sydney, a tenth grader at WCHS and Will, a sixth grader at WCMS.

Lynch began teaching in 1979 at Norlina High School and moved to WCHS when the school opened in 1981. Her career has been spent working with the Warren County School system.

Her decision to become an educator was made during her senior year in high school. "A young, bubbly business education teacher--who is still teaching today--swayed me. She had such a good rapport with her students, but she was very strict. I liked that and I wanted to be just like her."

Lynch very often runs into former students or their parents and their praise is much appreciated. It is the most recent accolades from colleagues, however, that cause tears to well in her eyes.

Evelyn Reese has worked with Lynch in the business education department for over fifteen years. "Susan is such a great leader. She knows the problem areas and exactly how to fix them. She is always conscientious of others and

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Attendance figures for the first month of school are in, and it looks as though students are eagerly arriving to school in record numbers. Vaughan takes the Best Attendance banner with a rate of 98.05 percent, slightly above Mariam Boyd's 97.70 percent. Close behind is Northside with 97.43 percent and Warren County Middle School with 96.69 percent. South Warren is next with 96.34 percent, and then Warren County High School with 94.46 percent.

Since this is the first attendance month of school, there is no Most Improved Award this month. Please encourage all students to attend on a regular basis!

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

DPI launches new calendar site

The Communications and Information Division recently unveiled a new calendar site that highlights educational seminars, workshops, job fairs, etc. across the state. In addition to a new design, other features include: upgraded "Add a Calendar Item" function; monthly view that shows events in calendar format and a view of all events in a single category. Check out the new calendar site at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/calendar/> and be sure to update your bookmarks to point to this new URL.

Grant opportunities for teachers...

► **Youth Garden Grants Program--Home Depot** will provide gift cards to 150 child-centered, outdoor garden programs that emphasize education, plant-to-food connections, environmental awareness, entrepreneurship, or social aspects or gardening. The maximum award is \$500 gift cards for the purchase of gardening materials and supplies. Applicants must plan to garden in 2006 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 years. The deadline to apply is Nov. 30. For more information, please go online to <http://kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>

► **Outdoor Classroom Grant Program--Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer!** classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curricula by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. The maximum award is \$20,000 (to districts or schools with major outdoor classroom projects) and \$2,000 to individual schools. The application deadline varies. Additional information is available online at <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html>

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the treatment they are or are not receiving. She truly enjoys what she does. She is a first rate teacher and her main priority is the student body." Reese said. "And what she does with our school's graduation is unbelievable. She proudly watches each student walk across the stage--all the hard work and time she has put in has been solely for their benefit. She genuinely cares for our kids--everything she does...it's for them." Janet Dunderdale, business education teacher, echoes Reese's comments. "Susan's so knowledgeable--we turn to her for everything. You can go to her at the last minute for just about anything and she will always be there for you with an answer or a solution to your problem. She has such a wonderful relationship with the students. She's a great person and an exceptional teacher."

As that magical thirty year mark in the education profession looms close by, Lynch says she sees herself retiring, but probably doing something else.

"I taught part-time at Vance-Granville Community College for ten years. I may return to something along those lines--who really knows what the future holds," Lynch said.

Susan Lynch may decide that something else or something different awaits for her, but one thing is for sure, she will forever remain active in the hearts and minds of her students and her colleagues.

Teachers' Corner

► DPI's Division of School

Improvement is recruiting assistance team members for the 2006-2007 school year. Interested applicants should check with their LEA on loan policies before applying. All general and application information can be found online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schoolimprovement/assistance/application/>. Questions may be directed to Jackie Colbert at the Division of School Improvement at 919/807-3915.

► **Teachers interested in applying for National Board Certification** need to get paperwork in by Nov. 15. See <http://www.nbpts.org/> to review the areas offered for certification and the standards for those areas of certification. Teachers also MUST apply at the NC site if they are requesting funding from the state. All portfolios are due to NBPTS by March 31, 2006. Contact Deanna Harris, NC National Board Certification Coord. 919/807-3358 (dharris@dpi.state.nc.us).

► **The Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program** offers teachers and administrators of grades 1-12 a fully funded, three-week professional development opportunity in Japan. The 2006 JFMF study visits will take place in June, October and November. The application deadline is Dec. 10. Interested individuals may apply online at <http://www.iie.org/jfmf> or request further information from the Institute of International Education at 888/527-2636.

► **Mentors Needed for NC A&T University Candidate Support Program--**NC A&T State University is looking for mentors for NB Certification support sessions. Mentors assist candidates by reading entries, addressing directions and standards, and watching candidates' videos. Mentors are paid a stipend. If interested, call Patricia Faison at 336/334-7323, ext. 2288 or email at pjfaison@ncat.edu by Nov. 1.

► **37th Annual NCSTA Professional Development Institute--**"Making Connections from the Mountains to the Sea," will be held from Nov. 10-11 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Contact ncsta@vnet.net or www.ncsta.org/institute for more information.

Legislator Pays Visit, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some space issues that need to be addressed--it is obvious you are feeling the growth that other systems are," Wray said. There were several stops at classrooms and computer labs at WCMS. Rep. Wray was impressed with the work of Mrs. Jacqueline Teeters, eighth grade math/science teacher. Mrs. Teeters explained how her students had expanded an ecology project to include the use of computer technology to cultivate and tag butterflies. "You are the kind of teacher they [the students] will remember for the rest of their lives." Rep. Wray told Mrs. Teeters. "We need more teachers like you across our district and our state--that is what our children need to get them interested in learning."

The afternoon continued with visits to two of the districts' elementary schools, Northside and Mariam Boyd. Dr. Spain and the schools' administrators showed Rep. Wray the additions to the schools that provided additional space for classrooms and multi-purpose rooms. At Mariam Boyd, both gentlemen took time to address a class of rather excited fifth graders, who showered them with requests for pictures and autographs. The day ended with invitations to visit Raleigh and the Representative any time.

"Your district is in good shape. I am happy with your school system and happy with your leadership." Wray told Dr. Spain. Dr. Spain was appreciative of the time and energy Rep. Wray dedicated to making a difference for our school system and our district.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Northside (99.5), South Warren (101.0), Vaughan (98.5), WCHS (97.0), and WCMS (99.0).

✓ Mr. Evans presented information concerning local enrollment in area charter schools. He also highlighted the reduction in funding resulting in charter school enrollments.

✓ Mr. Evans presented information concerning the limited fuel supply.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the acceptance of a roll dispenser from the PTA to South Warren Elementary School.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the acceptance of the Technology plan.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the Class.com contract.

✓ Overnight field trips were approved for the WCMS National Junior Honor Society to attend the Leadership and Development College Tour in Washington, DC, November 11-14, 2005 and for the WCHS Marching Band members to attend the National High Stepping Championship in Birmingham, AL, November 11-14, 2005.

✓ The Board accepted the resignation of Sarah King, 7th grade math/science at WCMS, effective September 29, 2005.

✓ The Board recognized the retirement of Loree Harris, guidance counselor at Mariam Boyd, effective September 30, 2005.

✓ The Board approved the following for employment: at Hawkins, Ida Nettles, pre-K teacher; at Mariam Boyd, Loree Harris, interim guidance counselor and Danielle Verzaal, afterschool assistant and at the Central Office, Michael Guillory, workstation technician. Extra duty assignments were approved for teachers at WCHS and WCMS.

✓ Approved as systemwide substitutes are Angelica Davis, Brenda Brothers, Sandra Butler, Donna Goswick, Ogletra Powell-Cooper, Maurice Crump, Sharelle Daniel, Jean Evans, Sue Grice, Sandra Robinson, Tiwanda Talley, Ethel Williams, and Loretta Woodard.

✓ Approved as systemwide substitute custodians are Calvin Cook and Lurenda Risko.

✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, a health occupations teacher, family & consumer science teacher, guidance counselor, and transition specialist; and districtwide, an HVAC technician.

Calendar

October

- 15 South Warren Student Council
Chicken Plate Sale, 12-6 p.m.
- 16-22 National School Bus Safety
Week
- 17 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Vaughan Sch. Imp. Mtg., 3:15
- 18-19 Reading/Math Benchmark
Assessment I, K-8
- 19 Northside School Pics, 9:45 a.m.
South Warren SIT, 3:15 p.m.
WCHS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 20 Northside SPLASH, 6-8 p.m.
Vaughan Reading Night
6-7:30 p.m.
South Warren PTA, 7 p.m.
- 21 WCMS PBS Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
- 24 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd SIT, 3:05 p.m.
- 25-27 NC Computer Skills Test
- 25 Mariam Boyd Fall Fes., 5-7 p.m.
- 26 Mariam Boyd Fall Pictures
Northside Dad's Breakfast
Gr. K, 4, 5, 7:45-8:20 a.m.
South Warren AR Cel., 1:30 p.m.
- 27 End of 1st 9wks
Northside Dad's Breakfast
Gr. 1-3, 7:45-8:20 a.m.
Hawkins Char. Cel., 9:30 a.m.
Mariam Boyd AR Celebration
South Warren Fall Fes., 5-8 p.m.
- 28 Protected Teacher Workday
- 30 Daylight Savings Time ends--
Move Clocks Back One Hour
- 31 Halloween

November

American Indian Heritage Month
National PTA Child Safety & Protection Month

- 1 Mariam Boyd Native American
Program
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 2 Management Team, 9 a.m.
SW Student Council Election
- 3 1 p.m. DISMISSAL
Parent Conferences, 1:30-7:00 p.m.
Grades Pre-K - 12, Report Cards issued
- 4 1 p.m. DISMISSAL
- 7-10 Mariam Boyd Book Fair Week
- 7 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Staff Mtg, 3:05 p.m.
- 8 Election Day
WCMS Honor Society, 7 p.m.

"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.

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