

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

October 2006

Volume XXII, Number 2

Board Highlights

.... from October 9, 2006

- ✓ The Board recognized Donna Liles, exceptional children's teacher at Vaughan Elementary School as the Stellar Performer for the month of September.
- ✓ Also recognized were September (Responsibility) Lights of Character: Rhonda Mushaw, Hawkins; Ronnie Thorpe, Jr., Mariam Boyd student; Kevonnie Williams, Northside student; Lori Szerensci, South Warren; Lynn Meyers, Vaughan; Chalis Sledge, WCHS student; Gina Lowery, WCMS; Wanda Brown, Central Office.
- ✓ Mariam Boyd Elementary School was recognized as the winner of this month's Best Attendance banner.
- ✓ Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent, introduced Sergeant Anthony Taft, Air Force Junior ROTC instructor at WCHS, who presented information on the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.
- ✓ Iris Ginn, finance officer, presented information to the Board on charter school enrollment data.
- ✓ Costel Evans, associate superintendent, presented information on the twenty-day membership data.
- ✓ Patrick Draffin, Community Schools director, introduced Jeri King-Johnson and Frank Hendrick, who presented the Board with information on the Community Study Circles program.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board approved January 2, 2007 as a calendar make up day for September 1, 2006.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board approved the Vaughan playground bid to Cunningham and Associates.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board approved a field trip request for the WCHS Marching Band to attend the National High Stepping Championship in Birmingham, Alabama from November 10-12, 2006.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board approved a field

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Caught Being Good at South Warren

A new concept has arrived at South Warren Elementary...students are being sent to the office for being good. "Caught Being Good" is a part of South Warren's Positive Behavior Support program. "The idea is that students can be recognized for doing the right thing. I would much rather spend my day not being negative, but focusing on the positive with students," said South Warren Principal, Brian Barrett.

"The operation of the program is relatively simple. Every staff member at South Warren is given a set of tickets, which in turn are given to those students who are caught doing something good or following school rules. School rules are posted everywhere to remind kids of proper school behavior," continued Barrett.

The tickets have two parts, one part is for the student to take home to their parents and the other part is to be placed in a box for a drawing for prizes. On each half of the ticket are spaces for the child's name, what they were caught for, and the staff person's name who caught them. This procedure allows for whomever sees the ticket to know how the student was behaving in a positive manner. Five tickets are drawn daily for prizes. The winner's names and good behaviors are announced over the WROAR, South Warren's in school TV network. Once a child's ticket is put in the box it stays there unless it is drawn out from the box for a prize.

"Caught Being Good is not one of my creations, it is one that I learned while teaching in Pennsylvania. Kids like positive reinforcement. I tell students to go home and tell their parents that they were sent to the office today and show them their half of a Caught Being Good ticket. I hope this makes both the child and their parents proud. I like the being sent to the office part the most. Since we started this program, I get to see good students in my office more often. Not only do I get to do that, but now I am seeing less behavior problems on a daily basis. I can't believe how well it is working."

Mr. Barrett went on to discuss a comment made by a fund raising vendor. "He told me that he had been giving assemblies to school children for 33 years and had never seen a more orderly group of students. I gave out a lot of well deserved tickets that day."

Caught Being Good is only a small part of South Warren's Positive Behavior Support Initiative. PBS is a state initiative located in all Warren County schools aimed at improving students behavior. "I am very lucky and proud to have two individuals at my school who are very dedicated in the area of positive behavior, Michele Jones, South Warren's PBS team leader and Christine Carr, Regional PBS Coordinator. I would like to thank all of South Warren's staff and students for a job well done," concluded Barrett.

This is just one example of successful programs being started this school year in the Warren County District. If you would like a program from your school featured in *Discourse*, please contact Patrick Draffin at 252.257.3184 or email jdraffin@wcsk12.org.



Stellar Performer

Angela "the rock" Richardson

This month's Stellar Performer is Angela Richardson, curriculum specialist at Warren County Middle School.

Richardson was selected for the distinction by the school's administrative team.

"Mrs. Richardson was chosen because she is dependable, steadfast and has a wonderful demeanor," said Danylu Hundley, WCMS Principal. "She's flexible and her ability to multitask several completely different responsibilities at one time is amazing. Even more surprising is her ability to see them all through."

Hundley added that Richardson is an individual who works hard to understand all of the components of both her job and the people she works with. "She has such a positive approach to learning--she can consistently relate to our needs--not everyone has been able to make that happen," Hundley said.

Richardson has been a cornerstone of the WCMS faculty for fourteen years and reflecting on her years at the middle school, Richardson said "I came home and found a home", referring to WCMS.

Richardson is a native of Warren County. She graduated from Warren County High School in 1988 and received an undergraduate degree in English education from East Carolina University. She then went on to receive two masters degrees, one in English from North Carolina Central University and the other in School Administration from North Carolina State University.

Richardson began teaching 11th grade English in 1993 at Northern Vance High School in Henderson, NC. She taught there from April to May of that school year and then was hired at WCMS as a 7th grade English teacher. The majority of her career has been spent working at WCMS, eleven years teaching English and three years working with teachers as a curriculum specialist.

Her decision to become an educator was made during her middle school days when she was positively influenced by one of her teachers at Norlina Middle School. "Ms. Betsy Clark convinced me to teach not with her words, but with her actions. She not only cared about what she taught us but also who we were and what we would become. I liked that and I wanted to be just like her."

Ms. Richardson has become just like Ms. Clark in many ways. "Ms. Richardson is very compassionate and a wonderful friend to everyone she comes into contact with," said Carolyn Walker, 7th grade English/ language arts teacher at WCMS. Brian Kaprive, 6th grade math teacher said, "she has a hard job teaching teachers, not everyone can do that and have success. She does this with so much professionalism and care that I honestly cannot think of anyone who does not think the world of her".

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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. Mariam Boyd takes the Best Attendance banner with a rate of 97.72 percent, slightly above Vaughan's 97.71 percent. Close behind is South Warren with 97.61 percent and Warren County Middle School with 96.90 percent. Northside is next with 96.07 percent, and then Warren County High School with 94.53 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

From DPI...

► **Free Online Professional Development from DPI and Learn NC** the NCDPI is offering free professional development through LEARN NC a variety of research-based, online professional development courses to educators teaching in North Carolina during the 2006-07 school year. All courses follow a researched model for quality professional development and online learning. LEARN NC has developed over a dozen new courses that focus onto critical areas of need in the state: improving the teaching in core areas and closing the achievement gap and global issues as well as subjects where student achievement has been a particular challenge, such as inquiry-based science and mathematics. For more information, please go online to <http://www.learnnc.org/announcements/42>.

► **Holocaust Workshops for Teachers** - The 2006-07 Holocaust Workshops for teachers has been announced. These one day, multi-county workshops feature Dr. Karl Schleunes, a historian and Holocaust scholar, and Gizella Abramson, a Holocaust survivor of the Majdanak death camp. Participants will receive a copy of the Holocaust: a North Carolina Teacher's Resource, a guide for teaching about the Holocaust at the middle and high school levels. This workshop is open to middle and high school language arts and social studies teachers, and is particularly useful for teaching World History or American History as well as Eastern European History. It is also recommended for middle school language arts teachers teaching *Anne Frank's Diary* or high school English teachers studying Elie Wiesel's *Night* and other Holocaust literature. Substitute pay is provided for teachers attending, but space is limited and teachers are encouraged to make early contact with Linda Scher, Workshop Coordinator. Workshops are scheduled as follows: Oct. 19, Shelby, Cleveland County; Oct. 26, Marion, McDowell County; Nov. 9, Wilkesboro, Yadkin County; Jan. 31, 07, Winston Salem, Forsyth County; Feb. 14, 07, Raleigh, Wake County and March 2007, Greenville, Pitt County. For additional information, including registration, please email Linda Scher, Holocaust Education Workshop, at Brisket234@aol.com

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Other teachers who have worked with Richardson since she started at the middle school use words like *dedicated, brilliant, hard worker* and *knowledgeable*. First year teachers also use those words as well. Sarah Bowman, a first year 7th grade social studies teacher, said this about Richardson, "she is very open, and she will always make time for my questions or needs. Her advice is very valuable and has helped me in my classroom a great deal."

"Ms. Richardson always has WCMS on her mind. She is constantly thinking of ways to improve the school, it's staff and it's students. I think the school is always on her mind because I know it's in her heart as well. This is why Ms. Richard deserves this recognition," added Ms. Hundley.

When asked what is the most rewarding part of her job as a curriculum specialist Richardson replied, "It is very gratifying to see teachers become successful in the classroom by using methods that I taught them. I know what the value of a good teacher is because I learned from them right here in Warren County."

"I never expected this honor. I just thought I was doing what I was supposed to do.

The staff at WCMS refer to Ms. Richardson as a "lifer". Like a rock, Richardson has found her place and will hold steadfast continuing to do what she is supposed to do and WCMS will be a better place because of it.

Teachers' Corner

► **DPI's Division of School Improvement** is recruiting assistance team members for the 2007-2008 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 Oct. 31. 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 Coor. 919/807-3358 (dharris@dpi.state.nc.us).

► **Medicines in My Home**-the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently launched an education program for middle school health teachers and their students called "Medicines in My Home" on the safe use of over-the-counter medicine safely and effectively. Students will learn the importance of reading and following the Drug Facts' label, making medicine decisions with a parent or guardian and much more. The program has a teachers' kit with education tools for classroom learning and a students' page for online learning. The program is available online at www.fda.gov/medsinmyhome or by calling Mandy Eisemann, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, 301.827.1670 or by emailing mandy.eisemann@fda.hhs.gov.

Middle School Updates...

✓ **Professional Development:** The Balanced Curriculum for Middle Grades Education

The Middle Grades Division, in collaboration with the Exceptional Children and Instructional Technology Divisions, has developed a guiding document focused on implementing a balanced curriculum in the middle grades. A one day-professional development session has been scheduled for five locations across the state. You are invited to participate in one of the trainings in your geographic region. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/middlegrades/resources/profdev/> for more details and to register.

✓ **Second Annual Middle Grades Institute Planned:** The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is excited to convene its' Second Annual Middle Grades Institute on Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Chapel Hill. The theme for this year's institute is "The Power of Many: Supporting the Dynamics of Middle Schools." Conference organizers are encouraging team representation. The suggested construct of teams should include the principal, curriculum specialist, classroom teachers, counselor or other representatives from the School Improvement Team. Due to limited space, please do not send more than five members per school team. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/middlegrades/resources/institute/> for more information.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trip request from the WCHS SAVE/SADD chapter to attend the 24th annual leadership conference in Raleigh, NC from November 17-19, 2006.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the 2006-2007 instructional supply fee request.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of: Letitia Gregory, EC teacher at WCMS, effective 10/26/06; Josephine Plummer, custodian at WCHS, effective 9/29/06; Lanese Jones, bus monitor, effective 10/5/06; and Madeline Dime, science teacher at WCMS, effective 9/29/06.

✓ The Board approved the employment of: Melissa Alwine, 2nd grade teacher at South Warren, effective 10/0/06; Robert James, JROTC instructor at WCHS, effective 10/10/06; Paula Scott, intervention specialist at Mariam Boyd, effective 10/11/06; Ruby Solomon, intervention specialist at Northside, effective 10/11/06; Gailyn Burchette, intervention specialist at Northside, effective 10/11/06; Erica Roberts, bus monitor, effective 10/6/06; Christine Steverson, food service data entry, effective 8/30-9/30/06; Michelle Hedgpepeth, food service data entry, effective 8/30-9/30/06 and the transfer of Loree Harris from guidance counselor at Mariam Boyd to WCHS, effective 10/13/06.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following individuals as district wide substitute teachers: Audrey Davis, Cheri Wright, Cheryl Royster, Marilyn Wilson, Janet Williams, Quarlie Jackson, Sr., Koteka Ogburn-Jenkins, Sandra Twitty, and Carolyn Harrison.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following individuals as district wide food service assistants: Alice Young, Joyce Galloway, Tawanda Crossin, Mel Jones, Angie Bland, Mamie Durham, Clara Green.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following individuals as district wide mentors: Constance Davis, Bertadean Baker, and Jean Johnson.

✓ The Board approved extra duty assignments to employees and volunteers at HEC, Mariam Boyd, South Warren, WCHS, and WCMS.

✓ Current vacancies include: an EC Pre-K teacher at Hawkins Educational Center; an EC teacher at Mariam Boyd; and elementary education teacher at South Warren; an EC teacher, media coordinator, and custodian at WCHS; an EC teacher and science teacher at WCMS; and an ESL teacher and groundskeeper district wide.

"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
John P. Draffin, Editor
www.wcask12.org

Calendar

October

- 14 South Warren Student Council
Chicken Plate Sale, 12-6 p.m.
- 16-22 National School Bus Safety Week
- 16 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Vaughan Sch. Imp. Mtg., 3:15
- 17 WCMS PTSA, 7:15 p.m.
- 18-20 Reading/Math Benchmark
Assessment I, K-8
- 18 1:00 Dismissal, Staff Development
- 19 Northside SPLASH Math Family
Fun Night GR. K-5, 6-8 p.m.
South Warren PTA/Writing
Family Fun Night, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 WCMS Positive Behavior
Support Dance 7-9:30 p.m.
- 23 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Title 1 Staff, 3:05 p.m.
South Warren Leadership Team, 3 p.m.
- 24-26 NC Computer Skills Test
- 24 IEP Chair Mtg., 3 p.m.
Vaughan Family Reading Night,
6-7:30p.m.
Northside Fall Pictures Makeup Day
- 26 Mariam Boyd Fall Pictures
Northside Dad's Breakfast
Gr. K, 4, 5, 7:45-8:20 a.m.
Hawkins Char. Cel., 9:45 a.m.
- 27 End of 1st 9wks
Northside Dad's Breakfast
Gr. 1-3, 7:45-8:20 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Fall Fes., 5-7 p.m.
South Warren Fall Fes., 5-8 p.m.
- 29 Daylight Savings Time ends--
Move Clocks Back One Hour @ 2 a.m.
- 30 Protected Teacher Workday
Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg. 3 p.m.
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 31 Halloween
Begin 2nd 9 Weeks
WCMS AR Celebration, 2 p.m.
South Warren Reading Renaissance
Celebration 1:30 p.m.
Mariam Boyd AR Celebration

November

American Indian Heritage Month National PTA Child Safety & Protection Month

- 1 Hawkins Fall Pictures
South Warren A Pepsi with the
Principal, 4pm
SW Student Council Election
- 2 1 p.m. Dismissal
Parent Conferences 1:30-7 p.m.
Pre-K - 12 EC progress Report Issued
- 3 1 p.m. DISMISSAL
- 6-10 Mariam Boyd Book Fair Week
- 6 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg, 3 p.m.
- 7 Election Day
WCMS Honor Society, 7 p.m.