

The Discourse

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEATURING THE STAFF
AND STUDENTS OF WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS



Jacy Evans enjoyed reading with her mom Afreda Evans during Vaughan's Elementary School Family Reading Night. (Photo credit Trina Tucker Paynter)

"It just makes my eyes water and my heart smile when watching parents interact with their children," was the reaction of Vaughan Elementary School principal Renee Mizelle as her school held a Family Reading Night program on Jan. 18.

As the second reading night held this school year at Vaughan, the program is designed for parents to attend school and read library books with their children. After reading with a parent or other family member, students take Accelerated Reader tests. The interactive program allows parents to encourage their children to read while receiving a firsthand glance at how the Accelerated Reader program works. All students who participate in the program receive a free book of their very own.

"It looks wonderful to see the parents out with their kids," Mizelle exclaimed. "Sometimes the parents would read a page and then their child would read the next. Then the parents would help with the Accelerated Reader quizzes.

"We are also seeing a correlation with our students by reading and taking the EOG," Mizelle added. "The more they read it makes for further improvement with the EOG's."

Vaughan hosts a total of four Family Reading Nights each year. Mizelle added after the recent inclement weather conditions the county has encountered, she was pleasantly surprised at the attendance rate for the program. The next Family Reading Night is scheduled on March 29 from 6 until 7:30p.m.

Student Service Director Retires

After dedicating 18 years of working within the school system, Warren County Schools Director of Student Services/Psychologist Rosemary Lewis retired in January. Lewis expressed her overall enjoyment of working for the District and shared her fond memories.

"I have learned a lot and have been exposed to a lot of different experiences," Lewis said. "Since I've been here I've had the opportunity to learn about a lot of programs like safe and drug-free schools. I've had the opportunity to write grants and serve on several community agencies. Overall it's been a rewarding experience."

Prior to working in Warren County, Lewis served 11 years as an Exceptional Children's Director/Psychologist with Edenton-Chowan school district.

"I'm very appreciative of the opportunities that I have been afforded while I was with Warren County Schools," she said. "I have received help from every aspect of the school environment."

Lewis said her future plans are to rest for a month and work towards other goals she has set for herself.



The month of January marks the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy towards equal rights for all mankind. As we interact with students, parents and other employees throughout Warren County, let us continue to exemplify positivity in our profession as educators.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." - MLK, Jr.

REMINDER: Stay Healthy

Exercise instructor Donna Shields offers exercise classes from January 31 until April 7. This ten week session, for the price of \$25, will be offered every Monday and Thursday from 6 until 7 p.m. Services will be provided at Mariam Boyd Elementary School in the school's multi-purpose room. For additional information please call 252-213-1485.

Personal Trainer and Fitness Director Shannon Jones offers an aerobics class at Warren County Middle School two days a week, Monday and Wednesday from 6 until 7p.m. The class will offer a strict workout as well as nutritional and diet advice and is designed to change your life to healthy living. The class will be open to ALL staff at \$55 a month.



*K-8
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT*

CTE Celebrates in February

Students and faculty at Warren County Schools will celebrate the month of February as National Career and Technical Education Month. Among the special activities scheduled are student and faculty promotional videos, a special presentation to the Warren County School Board, and feature programs on the Warren County CTE website. This year's theme is "Learning Today, Earning Tomorrow", which will highlight the critical need for career and technical education (CTE) programs to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be competitive in today's global economy.

"The activities planned over the next month will illustrate the rigor and relevance of CTE courses that are offered to our students," said Ernie Conner, director of the Warren County School's CTE programs. "By partnering with the business community, CTE programs are investing in students' lives with the latest technology and skills that will prepare them to become successful employees as well as future leaders. Check out our CTE programs at <http://www.warrencaaretech.org>."

CTE is a major part of the solution to myriad national economic and workforce problems, such as high school dropout rates, a weakened economy, global competitiveness and massive layoffs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly one-third of the fastest growing occupations will require an associate's degree or a post-secondary vocational certificate. Research also indicates that 80 percent of current and emerging occupations require two-year technical degrees, while just 20 percent require baccalaureate degrees.

WC Board meets with Board of Commissioners

A brief overview of the 2010-2011 school year was discussed during the annual joint meeting between the Warren County Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 31.

Testing and Accountability Director Chelsa Jennings along with Executive Director of Finance Carrie Neal, presented before the Boards the system's testing and accountability review and report card information. The district report card was explained as providing the public with an overview of the District's profile, student performance and the quality of teachers and administrators.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Linda Mason, provided overall information pertaining to the state's Race to the Top grant. She shared that Warren County Schools received a total amount of \$532,289 over a four year period and the grant's activities will begin in August 2011. Dr. Frank Polakiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, discussed teacher recruitment and retention information and further elaborated on the District's transportation challenges. He stated several factors such as consolidating bus stops and/or transporting specific grade levels together among other ideas will be explored to implement a plan in the near future. Energy Specialist Pamela Jordan discussed the system's conservation strategies in efforts to preserve funds and a quality learning environment for the District's children.

Named as this month K-8 student of the month is third grade student William Scott. William is described by his teacher, Teresa Solomon-Green as an exceptional young man. He doesn't make excuses and tries very hard to complete each activity or assignment despite his challenges. All of the students admire him and want to be his friend. Sasha says, "he is a good student. He doesn't argue with people and he is very smart." His friend Mark says, "We have a lot of fun together. We laugh with friends and tell jokes during our free time. I like talking to him. We are good friends."

According to Mrs. Green, William is a joy to have in her classroom. She said his smiling face and pleasant demeanor brightens her classroom daily. She added that she feels blessed to have this talented young man in her classroom this school year.

NCAEOP Honors District 10

Warren County Schools very own Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Dr. Frank Polakiewicz and Administrative Assistant for Human Resources, Kizzy Stith received prestigious recognitions at the Annual North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals (NCAEOP) during the fall. As recipient of the Education Office Professional Scholarship Stith said she was honored to receive the scholarship in the amount of \$500.

"I would like to thank my fellow EOP members for nominating me," said District 10 President Stith. "I hope that I have represented the District well in my two years as President. I look forward to working with the organization in other capacities."

Named as Administrator of the Year, Polakiewicz said he was pleasantly surprised to receive the award and was grateful for the recognition.

"I sincerely would like to thank the NCAEOP organization who nominated me for the award," Polakiewicz

expressed. "I consider this to be a great honor and it's a pleasure to work with and serve the EOP and all of its members of the education community as well as the District."

In addition to state scholarships, the 14 districts and 105 locals have established student and EOP



scholarships beginning with Districts 6 and 13 in March 1972. Currently, over \$50,000 have been awarded annually to deserving students and members. Warren County High School student Shannon Wilson received the District 10 Student Scholarship in the amount of \$500.

In the last 30 years NCAEOP has awarded over \$100,000 to some 193 students and 32 members. This continuous effort has been made possible through the organizations members who have made contributions in their bake sales, raffles, silent auctions, and many other creative endeavors.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Named as this month's high school Student Spotlight is Darius Witherspoon, Junior at Warren County High School. According to Warren Bell, principal at the school, Darius has demonstrated a self-motivated surge in leadership, maturity, and academic excellence. Darius is an SGA Junior Class President, DECA Marketing Club Special Projects Coordinator, and WCHS Honor Roll student. Darius unexpectedly lost his mother during the Christmas holidays, but he astonishingly found the strength to carry on and continued to make his mother proud. He also scored level 3 and proficiency on his first semester exams. He has gained the respect and admiration of his peers and school staff. Darius' confidence has soared like an eagle.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



Education means inspiring someone's mind, not just filling their head.
- Katie Lusk

February Calendar of Events

- 10 Mariam Boyd-Valentine's Dance 3 -5 p.m.
- 11 Northside-Red & White Dance 4-6 p.m.
South Warren-Valentine's Day Social 3-5 p.m.
Vaughan-Pre-K Valentine Ice Cream Social 1-2:30 p.m.
- 14 South Warren-Career Day
- 16-17 Northside-Science Fair
- 16 South Warren-Science Fair
Mariam Boyd-Black History Program
- 18 Vaughan-Science Fair 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 22 Vaughan-Black History Program 7 p.m.
- 25 Vaughan - Career Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mariam Boyd - Career Day
South Warren-Black History Program 6-7:30 p.m.

**Tell me and I
forget; show me
and I remember;
involve me and I
understand.**

-Anonymous



✘ "The Discourse" is published monthly during the school year by the Community School's office of Warren County Schools. News items for each issue should be submitted to the Community Schools Director by the Tuesday prior to the regularly monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Education. ✘

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