



Here's the Bloomin' News

CARTOOGECHAYE

- SPECIAL GUESTS visit Cartoogechaye School. The 2nd grade class recently had two special guest speakers after reading the book *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. The book is about a police officer and his police dog. The two guests were Deputy Craig Stahl with his drug dog, "Conan," and USFS Officer Edwin Grant and work dog, "Lex." The officers demonstrated what kinds of things their dogs do on the job.

COWEE

- HISTORY IN THE MAKING: The 3rd grade has partnered with Tom Rickman General Store and Cowee Baptist Church to do in-depth studies of community artifacts and history, including interviews with local community elders. Students received interview tips from 13WLOS reporter, Courtney Brennan. A day at the store is planned for the first week of March, among many other activities.

CULLASAJA

- Cullasaja Elementary School donated 832 pounds to CareNet during the month of December.

EAST FRANKLIN

- Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Martin, and Mrs. Pam Owens will be presenting the East Franklin Walkthrough Model at the ASCD National Convention in Orlando, FL, March 14-16.
- Several EF teachers attended a WRESA workshop entitled, *Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites* and have been implementing several ideas from it. Teachers shared with the faculty ideas to use music, movement, and role play in daily activities to promote learning.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

- IMPORTANT DATES: Feb. 18: One-half day—staff development; Feb. 21: Mr./Mrs. FHS Charity Ball Snow Date; Mar 5: end of 4th 6-weeks; Mar 6: Workday; Mar 9: begin 5th 6-weeks; Mar 18: One-half day—staff development; Apr 6; begin spring break; Apr 13: return from spring break; Apr 24: workday; May 6: last PTO meeting for the year; May 25: Memorial Day Holiday
- SPRING 2009 OPEN HOUSE TOOK PLACE ON FEB. 9 at 7 pm, giving parents the opportunity to visit their child's classrooms. Teachers gave a brief outline of their class and expectations of their students, aca-

demically and behaviorally. It was a very successful event, helpful to many.

- GAP: The FHS Chapter of the Girls Awareness Program (GAP) is an organization designed to provide education and support to young women in grades 9-12 at FHS. This group addresses issues that are important to young women, including health/social/educational issues. Students are invited to attend monthly meetings which always involve a positive social atmosphere which is fun and stress-free and an educational program

GAP sponsors consist of female faculty members at FHS from a wide variety of backgrounds. Support personnel from the greater community are utilized to provide the most accurate information available. More than 50 FHS female students have attended a GAP meeting at some time during the past five school months. For more information, contact Joan Willis or any GAP sponsor at FHS.

- STUDENT BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM provides a supportive environment to any senior or older student interested in starting their own business. The program will be administered by SCC Small Business Center, the Macon County Economic Development Committee, and Career-Technical Education. Interested students must submit an application to undergo a selection process involving an interview and thorough business plan. Call Terry Stamey at FHS for more information.
- JOB FAIR, Wed., March 25, 11 am—6 pm at the Macon County Community Facilities Building (Snow date: April 8, same time). This is a great opportunity to support our community.

HIGHLANDS

- CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMIE BOLT, a junior at Highlands School, who entered a national culinary contest with Johnson & Wales University for a full scholarship. He was chosen from more than 300 entrees, as one of the 12 finalists. Jamie will be going to North Miami campus Aril 3-5 to participate in the cook-off. GOOD LUCK, JAMIE!
- CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Sizemore's 1st grade class, which sent more than 2,000 letters and cards to our soldiers during the Holidays!

IOTLA

- WINTER CARNIVAL: Iotla Elementary School hosted a Winter Carnival on Fri., Feb. 6, featuring lots of fun activities, including a silent auction, games, cake walks, raffles, and great food!

MACON EARLY COLLEGE

- MEC HOSTED A PARENT ORIENTATION-INFORMATION NIGHT for prospective students on Thurs., Feb. 5, which helped clarify the distinctions between MEC and FHS, and explained thoroughly the application process. A parent tour of the facility was also conducted.

MACON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- MMS TO CONDUCT EGO BOOSTER SESSIONS: When: Week of April 14, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-4:15 pm; Where: at MMS; Who: open to all students (must register); What: EOG practice sessions in math and reading; Why: to build confidence in students about upcoming EOG tests. Call Mrs. Appleby for more information.

- TALENT SHOW! Come to the Talent Show at Mathew Buchanan. MMS gymnasium on March 6 at 6:30 pm. Job well done, terrific students and teachers at Admission: \$2 adult; \$1 child. MMS!
- BENEFITS DANCE: Fri., Feb. 20: 6th grade: 3:15—5:30 pm; 7th & 8th grades: 6:30—9 pm. \$4 per person; \$3 + 1 can; \$2 + 2 cans. Donations benefit CareNet. Cans or nonperishable items. PARENTS, PLEASE SEND FOOD & DRINKS IN!
- MMS BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL teams played the members of the MMS Faculty on Jan. 23, after school. Admission was 3 canned goods to benefit CareNet. MMS collected more than 700 pounds of canned goods. GREAT JOB!
- GEAR UP TEAMS UP! Teachers Charles Yonce and Collette Lovell together presented a week-long study into the microscopic world—an indepth study of the CELL. They studied many microscopic forms of life, from fresh pond water to (prepared slides of) human organ tissues. Students were thrilled and amazed at the ‘animal’ life forms that, under the microscope, performed before their very eyes!
- MMS ARTWORK ON PUBLIC DISPLAY: MMS art students had their work on display at the Whistle Stop Mall the weekend of Jan. 24, for the Macon County Arts Council’s street dance. Artists were:
 - 6th grade: Jeremiah Young; Luis Mejia; Kaysiey Conrad; and Garrett Higdon;
 - 7th grade: Jimmy Briggs; Jeremy Brendle; Jose Ortiz; Hannah Hilton; Megan Crisp; and Kayla Stanley.
 - 8th grade: Sergio Reyes; Troy Roper; Tyler Charles; Creedence Julian; Aaron Spies; and
- SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Fuchs from Wilderness Taxidermy spoke to 7th grade students about endangered species, and a few photos were snapped of students holding an elephant tusk and an authentic battle shield. The information contributed to the essay students were assigned to write for their 7th grade state writing portfolios.

NANTAHALA SCHOOL

- SNOW MAKEUP DAY FOR Jan. 21 will be on June 10, ‘09.
- NEW CLUB: “A FRIEND OF A FRIEND” CLUB is taking care of the needs of our elderly. Last month, potatoes were dug for an elderly lady. Christmas baskets were assembled for 10 community members, filled with homemade jams/jellies, ornaments, and small gifts. The club members worked on Valentine’s Day plans as well. They raised money to purchase flowers for a funeral of an alumni and also sponsored a memorial in the Andrews Journal for him. WELL DONE, club members!

SOUTH MACON

- HUMANE SOCIETY FOOD DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS: This year’s Food Drive far surpassed its goal of collecting 700 items of food to donate to the Humane Society—*more than 1,000 items were collected!* Fantastic Job!
- S. Macon conducted a Hot Dog Supper Open House and sponsored a Donuts for Dads; Muffins for Moms; Gravy for Grandparents.

CENTRAL OFFICE

- On Thurs., 1/29, *Family Literacy Night* was held at Cartoogechaye School for parents with children grades K-5. Title of the night: “Words, Words, Wonderful Words” which dealt with reading and writing, main emphasis being on vocabulary skills. There were door prizes, storytelling, refreshments, and all children received a book.
- SURVEYS. The time is here to take the Macon County School system Stakholder Perception Surveys (Feb. 2-27). The survey, now activated and posted on the front page of our website, is for parents, staff, students, and community members.
- ANNUAL ACADEMIC AUCTION. The Academic Foundation’s 22nd annual Academic Auction is coming up on Saturday, March 7, at Cartoogechaye School. Preview & Meal: 5-6 pm; hog-wild BBQ: \$7 per plate; drawings 6-8:30 pm. Admission fee of \$5 buys 20 chances for valuable prizes. For more information, call 524-4414.
- JOB FAIR, Wed., March 25, 11 am—6 pm at the Macon County Community Facilities Building (Snow date: April 8, same time). This is a great opportunity to meet potential employers/employees and to support our community.
- YOUNG AUTHOR WINNERS: The state winners of the International Reading Association Young Author Project have been announced, and Macon County is once again well represented. There will be a Celebration Dinner on March 19 at Angel Hospital honoring these 11 authors for their achievement. For more information, call Diane Cotton, 369-1277.
- NAME THE NEW SCHOOL. The Macon County Board of Education is asking for your participation in choosing a NAME FOR OUR
- NEW 5th/6th SCHOOL. See Name Survey on our website (www.mcsk-12.org).
- REMINDER: Mar. 6th is a teacher workday.
- 2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR: Please go to our website: www.mcsk-12.org to view the new school calendar(s).

**THE SEEDS YOU PLANT TODAY
WILL
SURELY BLOOM TOMMORROW**



... A Message from the

Superintendent:

The current academic year is quickly coming to a close and spring is just around the corner. Hopefully, we will welcome the new season without any additional interruptions in the school calendar as a result of snow or other inclement weather conditions. Thank you to all students, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and local businesses for your patience and understanding as we utilize Saturdays to make up lost academic days due to weather.

In an attempt to assist school districts our region of the state with current school calendar restrictions, a unified approach has been made to pursue relief from the calendar legislation. Our representatives will soon present a bill to provide greater flexibility in our school calendar and allow alignment with community colleges and universities. In addition, our request will support an earlier start to the academic year, while allowing first semester to end prior to January of each year. We are grateful for the support of our elected representatives and hope our unified efforts will restore some local control when developing our school calendars.

DAN BRIGMAN

Superintendent

Macon County Schools