



# What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

September 2007

Volume 1, Number 2

## In This Issue



### Imagination Library Week September 16-22

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is FREE!

It sounds almost too simple to be true, but by reading regularly with your children during their preschool years, you are giving them the biggest boost toward a successful education they will ever get.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will you read with your child. There are many reasons parents do not read to their child, but we can eliminate one of them. Every child will have books of their very own, at no cost to you, thanks to Governor Bredesen and the State of Tennessee, Wilson Books from Birth, other generous sponsors and Dolly Parton.

Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. He/she can look forward to new and exciting reading adventures from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library until he/she turns five years old as long as you remain a

## A Message from the Director of Schools



Congratulations to Teddy Cook for being elected to serve as Board Chairman. Mrs. Cook represents Zone 4 and is currently serving her second year on our Board. Don Weathers was elected to serve as Vice Chairman. Mr. Weathers represents Zone 3. Wayne McNeese was reappointed as the Tennessee Legislature Network (TLN) representative for our Board.

During the September 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the Board voted to terminate the contract with First Student effective October 1, 2007 and will be bringing the bus drivers back under our school district's supervision. We feel this will provide for a more professional and efficient operation of our transportation department.

During the September 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting we prioritized a list of properties under consideration for a new Lebanon High School. The Board selected the property location on Hartmann Drive between Leeville Pike and Hickory Ridge Road as the 1<sup>st</sup> choice with property location on 231N being the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, property located on Peyton Road as 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, and the property located on the corner of Hartman Drive at Coles Ferry Pike being the least desirable. The Board also authorized the Director of Schools to negotiate with property owners for better prices on these properties.

Our schools will be closed for students on October 1 for fall break and will resume classes on October 15. Intersession classes will be offered for students needing credit recovery or who have fallen behind during the 1<sup>st</sup> grading period. Report cards for the first grading period will be distributed to students on October 19, 2007.

We will be occupying the new addition at Wilson Central High School upon returning from fall break. This expansion will provide for a 2<sup>nd</sup> cafeteria and much needed classroom space to alleviate overcrowding. The gym at Stoner Creek Elementary should be ready to occupy following fall break.

I would like to encourage members of the County Commission to get out and support athletic teams in fall sports. Each of our schools appear to have fielded excellent rosters for all fall sports. We are extremely proud of our band students, cheerleaders, and student bodies for demonstrating school spirit.

We would like to welcome our four student board members representing our high schools. They are Thomas Ford, Lebanon High School, Austin Agee, Mt. Juliet High School, Seth Grandstaff, Watertown High School, and Alexandria Kaiser, Wilson Central High School.

Have a great week, Mike Davis, Director of Schools

resident of Wilson County.

#### WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Be a resident of Wilson County.

Submit an official registration form, completely filled out by a parent or guardian (form must be approved and on file with the Wilson Books from Birth).

Read with your child.

#### WILSON BOOKS FROM BIRTH

149 Public Square, Lebanon, TN  
615-444-5586



“This program is one of the most important ways I know to improve the educational opportunities for children in your community.”—Dolly Parton



### GREAT EXPECTATIONS

On the first day of school, a teacher was glancing over the roll when she noticed a number after each student's name, such as 154, 136, 142.

“Wow! Look at these IQ's,” she said to herself. “What a terrific class.” The

## Eight Common Practices of Successful Teachers



Andrea Peterson  
2007 National Teacher of the Year

Some teachers seem to be able to relate to and find success with just about any student, whether the student is motivated or reluctant, focused or distracted, accomplished or struggling. These teachers are not necessarily born with this special talent. They often work for years to develop the attitudes and skills necessary for this level of success. Others accrue these characteristics through personal life experiences and then work to apply them in their professional lives. Regardless, teachers who find success with wide ranges of students share eight common characteristics:

- Teachers who succeed with all students do not place conditions on the students they teach. Past behavior and performance, family background, and social status are not conditions these teachers allow to predict or limit expectations for student success.
- These teachers are genuinely interested in all students. This requires valuing students as individuals and really caring about them and their success.
- These teachers have a passion for their own learning.
- Teachers who succeed with all students allocate as much time and effort as possible to counseling, inspiring, and engaging students.
- These teachers constantly look for the gifts and talents their students possess or hold as potential.
- Teachers who succeed with all students show compassion without compromising expectations. They do not allow excuses to hold students back.
- These teachers balance commitment to student success with growing opportunities for independence and ownership for learning.
- Teachers who succeed with all students closely monitor, mark, and recognize progress and achievement.
- Our work as teachers is not done, nor are we completely successful, until we find a way to reach and succeed with all types of students.—The Master Teacher

## Spotlight: Wilson Central High School

teacher promptly determined to work harder with this class than with any other she ever had.

Throughout the year, she came up with innovation lesson that she thought would challenge the students, because she did not want them to get bored with work that was too easy.

Her plan worked! The class outperformed all the other classes that she taught in the usual way.

Then, during the last quarter of the year, she discovered what those numbers after the students' name really were: their locker numbers.—*The Good Stuff*



*What's Happening in Wilson County Schools* will be published each month of the 2007-2008 school year for Wilson County employees.

Please send me any school news you might have that can become a part of each month's newsletter—awards, recognitions, special events, etc. We want to make our county schools aware of each other's accomplishments. Please send to:

[edwardst@wcschools.com](mailto:edwardst@wcschools.com)

Terry Edwards

**ADVICE  
FROM  
THE WONGS**



**PRINCIPAL:** Travis Mayfield

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:**  
Susie Breedwell, Jason Franklin, Dr. Cathy Toombs

**NUMBER OF TEACHERS:** 99

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:**  
1604

**GRADE LEVELS:** 9-12

**MASCOT:** Wildcats

**COLORS:** Blue & Gold

**CAMPUS ORIGINALLY  
BUILT IN 2001**

The mission of Wilson Central High School is to prepare students to become successful and productive citizens by providing educational opportunities and experiences in a venue Where Challenge Heightens Success.

Wilson Central High School opened for the first time in the fall of 2001. The mascot chosen was the "Wildcats," and the school colors, blue and gold, were chosen from a combination of Lebanon and Mt. Juliet, as this is where students were drawn from. Seniors from across the county were allowed to attend Wilson Central if they wished in the first year. The first senior class had approximately 115 members. The school quickly grew from a first year enrollment of about 1100 to its current 1600+. We have already outgrown the original facility, and an additional 20 classrooms, a gym and a cafeteria addition are nearing completion at this time.

Students at Wilson Central have reached many milestones in the first six years. Some of these include the 2005-06 Lady Wildcat Basketball team winning the TSSAA State Championship. Several of our boys and girls teams have reached the state level in playoff action including boys' basketball, football, golf, cross country, and track. Students at Wilson Central are also active in the arts, including drama, band and vocal music groups which have received many awards.

Academically the school has produced several National Merit Scholars. The Guidance department estimates that in its first six years Wilson Central students have been awarded between \$20 to \$25 million dollars in scholarships.

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## Wilson Central's Award Winning Publication

Wilson Central High School's yearbook (*Blue Prints*) has won 5 national awards of excellence from Walsworth Publishing in the school's six year history.

Copies are sent all over the United States and overseas for yearbook representatives to showcase their schools examples of outstanding publications. Wilson Central's senior editor, Emily Gillis, has also had a layout honored, recognized, and published in the national publication *Idea File*.





**About Harry and Rosemary Wong...**  
Harry and Rosemary Wong are teachers. Harry is a native of San Francisco and taught middle school and high school science. Rosemary is a native of New Orleans and taught K-8, including working as the school media coordinator and student activity director.

Whether a teacher is in a public or private school, charter school, adult education classroom, teacher in-service workshop, or private industry seminar, the techniques remain the same. It makes no difference what the grade level is: kindergarten, fourth grade, high school, or a subject matter: music, foreign language, or physical education.

1. Effective classrooms start on time.
2. Students know the classroom procedures.
3. Teachers understand how to teach for mastery.

Teachers have high expectations for student success.

## Students Experiment with Play Dough Economics

Ms. Ella Williams' 2<sup>nd</sup> block ABLS/Business Economics class at Watertown High School used play dough to reinforce the lessons of supply/demand, surplus/shortage, productive/allocative efficiency and how each affect prices in the market place.

The class was divided into five (5) companies each competing for profits while having to make production decisions of what to produce and how much to produce using play dough to create their products for sale in the open market.



It is the policy of the Wilson County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.