



# What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools  
Monthly Newsletter

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James M. (Mike) Davis

Wilson County Director of Schools

## A Message from the Director of Schools

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first semester of the 2007-08 school year and our staff, faculty and students are eagerly looking forward to the holiday break. The tests have been given, and the football games are in the record book for the 2007 season. However, we must now prepare to begin anew as we take up new studies and participate in winter and spring sports.

Our school system continues to strive for excellence in teaching and learning as we reflect on our past accomplishments and begin to focus on the goals and objectives for the second semester. As we continue to grow and expand our building program and the curriculum in the months ahead, we are mindful of the challenges that await our school system in the coming new year. We are committed to turning those challenges into opportunities, and with the help of our community partners achieve even greater success in the new year.

As we celebrate the holiday season with our family and friends, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Wilson County Board of Education to wish everyone a **HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.**

## Holiday Spirit alive at Wilson Central High School

The holiday spirit is alive at Wilson Central High School. The WCHS Student Council has decked the halls with several Christmas trees and endless strands of glittering lights. There are many opportunities available at Wilson Central this holiday season to not only celebrate but to reach those less fortunate in our community.

In addition to a canned food drive and Big Brother toy drive that have been ongoing since early November, Wilson Central's Student Council, FCA, FBLA & HOSA have implemented community outreach programs of their own. FBLA is sponsoring a school wide collection of cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, and pop-tarts to benefit the Mt. Juliet Help Center,

Central's HOSA organization has decided that instead of giving gifts to each other at their annual Christmas party that they will donate gifts to Toys for Tots. The Wilson Central Student Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes have teamed up for Hispanic Christmas. For the last four years, they have adopted a local tutoring program for Hispanic children. These children are tutored in English as well as other subjects throughout the year. When asked about the program, Shannon Carney, Wilson Central teacher and student council sponsor said, "Since we began this program, there have been so many touching moments. The look on the children's faces is worth all the effort. To see our kids interact with these children is amazing;

they definitely get more out of this project than any other project we do." This year and last, sleeping bags have been purchased for each child as well as other gifts. Many of these children don't have beds to sleep in each night. In many cases, this is the only Christmas these children will have.

If you haven't had the privilege of experiencing the Wilson Central High School Choir under the direction of Mr. Joe Bullock, mark your calendar for December 15<sup>th</sup>. The WCHS Choir will present the "Tastes and Sounds of Christmas – Old and New". The performance will take



Wilson Central students wrapping Christmas gifts for local charities.

in the main office of Wilson Central. Central's Choirs will be joined by the Stoner Creek Elementary School Choir under the direction of Mrs. Lena Boyd and Wilson County's 2007 Honor 58 Choir. This evening is certain to be a melodic treat.



## Future Business Leaders of Watertown High School Meet the Challenges of Teamwork



With over 50 members, WHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), is one of the largest clubs at Watertown High School. WHS FBLA has used the membership increase to participate in many activities during the first semester of school with many more planned for the second semester.



The 2007-08 Watertown High School Future Business Leaders of America members



CTSO Fall Leadership Conference participants from Watertown High School.

On September 28, 2007 WHS FBLA local and regional officer team along with Ella Williams and Jon Palmer, local advisers, attended the CTSO Fall Leadership Conference at the Nashville Convention Center. The focus of this conference was building leadership skills using synergy. The students participated in activities including "Climbing the Teamwork Mountain", "Challenge Management", and "Professionalism and Etiquette".



Deloris Johnson leads in the Middle Tennessee March of Dimes Pumpkin Sale.

On October 25, 2007 the Officer and Member Induction Ceremony was held at Watertown High School. The officer team presented the Emblem Ceremony and gave presentations on FBLA's goals, mission statement, creed, history, and other information to all the guests in attendance. 56 members were inducted into the chapter and 8 officers were inducted into their officer positions during a candle lighting ceremony. Over 70 parents, friends, and guests were in attendance including Mr. Mike Davis, Wilson County Director of Schools, Mr. Lewis Fletcher, Wilson County CTSO Director, and Mr. Jeff Luttrell, WHS Principal.



Participants in the Wilson County Extension's "On Your Own" project.



Ella Williams and Jon Palmer, sponsors of WHS Future Business Leaders of America.



One of FBLA's goals is to promote community ser-

vice by its members. WHS FBLA has chosen the March of Dimes as its community service project. Members sold "paper pumpkins" for \$1 during 1<sup>st</sup> block from October 23 to October 31 to raise money for the March of Dimes. The homeroom that raised the most money received a free breakfast. The chapter raised and presented \$1,132 to Ms. Cheryl Bockstruck with the Middle Tennessee March of Dimes with Mrs. Deloris Johnson's 1<sup>st</sup> block class receiving the free breakfast with over \$200 in donations.

On November 16, 2007, FBLA sponsored a special program for all business/technology students at WHS called "On Your Own" presented by the Wilson County Extension with Ms. Shelly N. Phillips, Extension Agent, facilitating the program. Students were randomly given lifestyle scenarios which included, job, salary, family size, etc. They then had to take their monthly income and check register and visit 11 booths to "pay bills" such as purchase housing, insurance, utilities, groceries, etc. The students learned valuable lessons

about career choices and the affect these choices have on future lifestyles.

The chapter has also completed two fundraising projects earning over \$3,500 to be used for Regional and State Leadership and Competitive Events Conference's expenses. Regional competitions will be held on March 6, 2008 at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. Students will be given the opportunity to compete in over 40 different skills based events such as job interview, public speaking, database management, economics, business law, etc. Students will also be given the opportunity to run for Regional Officer positions. WHS FBLA currently has three regional officers. Students placing in the top five at the Regional Competitive Events will then be eligible to compete at the State Competitive Events conference to be held from April 10-12, 2008 in Chattanooga, TN.

As you can see, FBLA is an organization that teaches students job skills, but also prepares them to be good citizens in a global community.—Ella Williams



# Spotlight This Month: Tuckers Crossroads Elementary



Lori Hassell  
Principal

## TUCKERS CROSSROADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Address: 5905 Trousdale Ferry Pike, Lebanon, TN

Principal: Lori Hassell

Assistant Principal: Linda Bruce

Number of teachers: 42

Number of students: 467

Grade levels: Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade

Mascot: Hornets

School colors: Hunter green and white



Tuckers Crossroads School has a long and proud heritage within the community as well as throughout Wilson County. Historically, the school and community have honored and upheld deep-rooted traditional family values while continuing to experience vast development and growth. Pride in our school continues to be passed down through generations. Alumni often choose TXR as the source of education for their own children.

Earliest documentation states that Tuckers Crossroads was established in 1894. chartered as a community school, the facility carries the name of the community that it has proudly served for over a century. Records indicate that TXR became part of the Wilson County School System in 1921, endowed with a new building that was financed through private and state funding. At that time, the school serviced grades one through twelve.

### SCHOOL AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITIONS:

Recently Tuckers Crossroads School was nationally recognized by the Southern Regional Educational Board as a high implementation school. Our administrators and middle school teachers recently presented at a national conference regarding the best practices that we have implemented toward the Making Middle Grades Work initiative.

Tuckers Crossroads has been the recipient of a variety of grants for athletic facilities, academic equipment, technology, and the arts. We are proud of the academic curriculum, especially in the area of reading, and have been asked to share our practices with many schools around Tennessee.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Tuckers Crossroads School is a community of learners whose mission is to provide child centered, challenging educational programs in an environment of honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility.

## Ornament Day Celebrated at Mt. Juliet Elementary



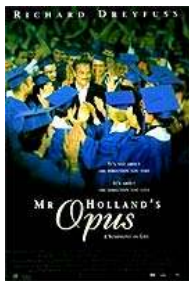


# Top Ten Picks for Great Teacher Flicks

Good "teacher movies" draw future teachers into the profession and reinvigorate seasoned veterans. Often based on real-life events, the films show teachers reaching deep inside themselves in order to touch the lives and hearts of their students. "True 'teacher movies' show the nobility of the teaching profession and honor educators," stated Philip Bigler, 1998 Teacher of the Year. "They show how important teachers really are to society."

Three potent messages from good teacher movies speak directly to the heart of teaching:

- Teachers have tremendous positive impact on students.
- Everyone can learn.
- If the system doesn't work for students, change it.



## TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bigler's favorite movie, *Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995), celebrates the vital and often unseen impact teachers have on the lives of their students. Bigler's own recent experience affirms this validating message to teachers. "I just ran into a student of mine from 21 years ago. She told me how important I was to her life -- and I never knew!" stated Bigler. "*Mr. Holland's Opus* shows what we are really here for -- to

## TEACHERS PICK TEN FAVORITE TEACHER PIX!

*Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995)

*Goodbye Mr. Chips* (1939, 1969)

*October Sky* (1999)

*Stand and Deliver* (1987)

*Dangerous Minds* (1995)

*To Sir With Love* (1967)

*The Blackboard Jungle* (1955)

*Up the Down Staircase* (1967)

*Teachers* (1984)

*Dead Poets Society* (1989)

make a difference in kids' lives."

Making a difference, as all teachers learn, is as basic as making a real connection with the students they teach. Oldie but goodie *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* (1939, 1969) has inspired teachers for decades with Mr. Chipping's transformation from a detached, ineffective prep school teacher into a hero who touches the lives of his large family of students. "I've had thousands of children, all boys," the elderly Chips says as he is dying.

The Talmud teaches that "one who saves a single life has saved the entire world." The film *October Sky* (1999) spotlights the tremendous impact a teacher can

have on the life of an individual student. Without the support of his teacher, Miss Riley, Homer Hickam would not have continued his literal and figurative reach for the sky. *October Sky* shows that the power of teaching can do amazing things.

After hearing the film's real-life NASA scientist speak, his admiration for his teacher is still very strong and moving.

## LEARNING KNOWS NO BARRIERS

In *Stand and Deliver* (1987), Jaime Escalante teaches calculus to urban remedial math students. The message from this movie is that all children can learn. The film also showcases good leadership."

In another teacher favorite, *Dangerous Minds*, (1995) English teacher LouAnne Johnson hooks challenging students into learning but has to manage without the benefit of supportive leadership. Her perseverance is something all teachers try to achieve during their careers.



Many teachers, both newbies and vets, credit the films *To Sir With Love* (1967), *The Blackboard Jungle* (1955), and *Up The Down Staircase* (1967) with inspiring their career choices. In each film,

teachers innovate ways to reach students who have significant personal and educational obstacles.



Students in *The Blackboard Jungle* challenged their teacher to find a way to get through to them. They really needed him.

*Up the Down Staircase* and *To Sir With Love* were two of the earliest teacher movies that were responsible for so many young people entering the teaching profession.

## YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY

Two of the most popular teacher films depict good teachers as mavericks challenging an unresponsive system. The movie *Teachers* [1984] shows that teachers are human. The students in *Teachers*, which is less idealistic than some teacher movies, remind their teacher to stand up for what he thinks is right -- something they learned in his classroom and by his example.

In *Dead Poets Society* (1989), Mr. Keating's unconventional teaching methods get him fired, but you witness students falling in love with learning, and that encourages them to live life with their hearts.

In *Teachers*, where one of the most creative teachers wandered into the school straight out of the local psychiatric hospital, the message is that you have to be a little crazy to teach kids. And according to our survey responses, that teacher movie take-home message is one of the most appreciated and validating of all! — *Education World*



## Have You Ever Wondered Why...?

**...someone who does a complete job goes "the whole nine yards"?**

The term "the whole nine yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, they got "the whole nine yards".



Gladeville Elementary has partnered with Gladeville Community Center to help local families in need. Each classroom will decorate two boxes, to be filled with canned goods, and a wreath to give to the area families in need. Gladeville Elementary's school counselor also finds Christmas sponsors for local families to help them during the holiday season. This school year the sponsors are helping 23 families (62 children total).

## For a Laugh: The ways to grade the final exams

### Dept of Statistics:

All grades are plotted along the normal bell curve.

### Dept of Psychology:

Students are asked to blot ink in their exam books, close them and turn them in. The professor opens the books and assigns the first grade that comes to mind.

### Dept of History:

All students get the same grade they got last year.

### Dept of Religion:

Grade is determined by God.

### Dept of Philosophy:

What is a grade?

### Law School:

Students are asked to defend their position of why they should receive an A.

### Dept of Logic:

If and only if the student is present for the final and the student has accumulated a passing grade then the student will receive an A else the student will not receive an A.

### Dept of Computer Science:

Random number generator determines grade.

### Music Department:

Each student must figure out his grade by listening to the instructor play the corresponding note (+ and - would be sharp and flat respectively).

### Dept of Physical Education:

Everybody gets an A.

