



What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools
Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 8
March 2008



James M. (Mike) Davis
Wilson County Director of
Schools

*The Latest Update on Mr. Davis

As of noon today (Thursday, March 27), Mr. Davis is continuing to recover from his surgery which took place yesterday. He is alert and talking with family members. If recovery continues at this pace, he will be moved from Critical Care to Special Care with the possibility of going home this weekend or on Monday. Due to the overwhelming number of well wishes and gifts, please continue to send them to the Central Office for Pam Peery to coordinate delivery in order to give the family as much private time as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

All members of the Wilson County School System wish him well and a speedy recovery!

A Message from the Director of Schools

(As of March 17, 2008)

The Board of Education took the following actions at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on March 3, 2008:

- Approved on 1st reading changes to Section 5 of Board Policy
- Approved on 1st reading changes to Section 6 of Board Policy
- Approved the addition of the Geology Science fee of \$10 to the fee schedule for 2008-09
- Approved the modification to the zoning boundary for Lakeview Elementary and W.A. Wright Elementary Schools
- Approved Budget Amendment #2008-04 for the Extended School Program
- Approved Budget Amendment #2008-05 for the Mowing Bid
- Approved Bid Numbers 2008-07, 2008-08, 2008-09 and 2008-13 for the renovations and equipment for the new Elzie D. Patton Elementary
- Approved Bid Numbers 2008-06, 2008-10, 2008-11 for the renovations and equipment needed to move Mt. Juliet Middle School from their location to the old Mt. Juliet High School building
- Approved changes to the Code of Conduct for the 2008-09 School Year
- The Board accepted and approved the preliminary plans for the new Lebanon High School.
- The plans for the new Lebanon High School will be submitted to the Lebanon City Planning Commission for approval.
- The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be April 7, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Central Office building.

Hopeful another Wilson County Schools' senior will be so lucky this year too.

I recently met with a representative from TDOT and the City of Mt. Juliet in regards to traffic concerns for Benders Ferry Road, Highway 70, Curd Road and the Woodridge Subdivision upon the opening of the new Mt. Juliet High School in August 2008. A traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Highway 70 and Benders Ferry Road prior to August 1, 2008. The start time for the new Mt. Juliet High will be 7:50 am and students will be dismissed at 2:50 pm to accommodate the transportation plan for students attending MJHS and Mt. Juliet Middle School.—

Mike Davis



Tune in to Students



Climate is a term used to describe how people feel about

their school.

One characteristic of a school with a winning climate is an effort to be close to the students. Each decision made and activity conducted emanates from the essential question: "What's best for the kids?"

To tune into students, spend a private moment or two and ask them what is happening in their lives and how things are going. Regularly, perhaps monthly, conduct a survey in your classroom and in the school. Among the important questions to ask: are classes interesting? Are you getting the help you need? Are you being challenged? Are you treated with respect and dignity?

Do you feel safe and secure in this school? Do you enjoy coming to school? What do you really like about the school?

Another idea is to include students in decisionmaking. Let students take the lead in exploring new ways to improve the school. Give them leadership training opportunities and activities that allow them to assume leadership roles.

Consider using the "quality circles" approach the classrooms. Seek student suggestions informally. And, hold students accountable for their decisions.

Watertown High School Inducts Students in Quill and Scroll



Recently for the first time, nineteen Watertown High School junior and senior journalism students

were inducted into the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society after meeting academic requirements and completing superior work on school publications.


The keynote address was given by H. L. Hall, executive director of the Tennessee High School Press Association. Hall is the former president of the Journalism Education Association and a former National Yearbook Advisor of the Year. He has authored two textbooks on journalism. Hall encouraged students to achieve the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and accuracy.

A special recognition award was presented to former WHS principal Rick Martin for being instrumental in the creation of the high school paper three year ago. Senior Ashley Hensley, who presented the award said, "We would like to thank Mr. Martin for his support and patience during our first two difficult years."

Students inducted were seniors, Jeffrey Hamilton, Ashley Hensley, Jessie Horner, Kellie Johnson, Jackie Maravia, Kaitlyn Phillips, Megan Rivera, Britnee Sells, Brittney Trusty, Ethan Williams, John Brodie. Juniors inducted were Brenda Burns, J.D. Clayton, Robert Morrison, Caitlin Pollard, Heather Rasmussen, Carmen Seeley, and Jamie Walker.



H. L. Hall, Tennessee High School Press Association Executive Director, gives journalism advice to Watertown High School students at induction ceremonies for the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Students. Students inducted are seniors, Jeffrey Hamilton, Ashley Hensley, Jessie Horner, Kellie Johnson, Jackie Maravia, Kaitlyn Phillips, Megan Rivera, Britnee Sells, Brittney Trusty, Ethan Williams, John Brodie. Juniors inducted are Brenda Burns, J.D. Clayton, Robert Morrison, Caitlin Pollard, Heather Rasmussen, Carmen Seeley, and Jamie Walker



Linda Putney, Executive Director of Journalism Education Association, presents awards to Watertown High School students at the recent Tennessee High School Press Association annual awards at Vanderbilt University on March 3. Those receiving awards are Heather Rasmussen—Honorary Mention for Best Poem, James Shrum—Honorary Mention for Best Sports Story, Amy Cook and Josh Koby—Honorary Mention for Best Column. Not pictured Josh Medlin and Scott Phillips—Honorary Mention for Best Illustration/Art.

FACTS ABOUT TEACHERS

Just 25% of the nation's 3 million teachers are men. Male numbers are gradually dwindling. States that have high salaries have more male teachers.



Spotlight This Month: Carroll Oakland Elementary



CARROLL OAKLAND ELEMENTARY

Address:

Principal: Carol Ferrell

Assistant Principal: Richard Smallwood

Number of teachers: 29 classroom teachers; 21 related arts

Number of students: 602

Grade levels: Pre-K thru 8th

Mascot: Eagles

School colors: Royal Blue and White

Date when school was built on site: 1978

MISSION STATEMENT: Our vision at Carroll-Oakland Elementary School is to have a safe, nurturing, orderly environment where students, teachers, parents, and the community work respectfully together to reach school goals.

SCHOOL HISTORY: Carroll-Oakland Elementary School is located two miles north of Lebanon on U.S. Highway 231. Carroll-Oakland got its name from combining the two community schools, Carroll Elementary and Oakland Elementary. The faculty, staff, and students moved into the new facility. In the winter semester of 1978. In 1987, an additional wing was added which included three standard classrooms and two special service classrooms. Due to continuous growth, a third building, with an additional fourteen classrooms was added in 1995. In the fall of 2006, two portable buildings were added to the property adding an additional four classrooms.

SCHOOL AWARD, HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS: At Carroll-Oakland, we have students very involved in award winning choir programs, math, geography and science competitions, active participants in writing competitions, as well as award winning basketball, cross-county, volleyball, softball, and baseball teams. We truly strive hard to develop well-rounded students.

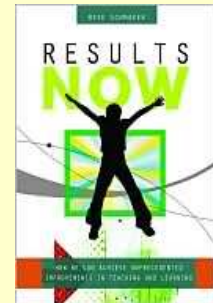


Carol Ferrell
Principal



Assistant Principal
Richard Smallwood

From the bookshelf



[Results Now : How We Can Achieve Unprecedented Improvements in Teaching and Learning](#)
by [Michael J. Schmoker](#)

According to author Mike Schmoker, there is a yawning gap between the most well-known essential practices and the reality of most classrooms. This gap persists despite the hard, often heroic work done by many teachers and administrators.

Schmoker believes that teachers and administrators may know what the best practices are, but they aren't using them or reinforcing them consistently. He asserts that our schools are protected by a buffer a protective barrier that prevents scrutiny of instruction by outsiders. The buffer exists within the school as well. Teachers often know only what is going on in their classrooms and they may be completely in the dark about what other teachers in the school are doing. Even principals, says Schmoker, don't have a clear view of the daily practices of teaching and learning in their schools.



Watertown High Students attend FBLA Leadership Conference



Thirty-four students from the Watertown High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America attended the FBLA Regional Leadership Conference on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN.

Students competed in various business-skill related events. WHS walked away with 8 1st place, 10 2nd places, 7 3rd place, 9 4th place, 5 5th place, 2 6th place and 2 10th places awards. The conference included 9 different schools from this area with over 175 students in competition. As this is only the second year for WHS to have a FBLA chapter, these accomplishments are incredible.

Ella Williams, FBLA Adviser stated, "The students represented their school and their community well. They were all professionally dressed, and more importantly, professional in their behavior. Each student who attended the conference did well enough in their events to be eligible to compete at the State FBLA Leadership

Conference in Chattanooga, TN on April 9-12, 2008. Not only did our students do well in the competitive events, two were elected to Regional Officer positions."

Carley Smith was elected Regional Secretary and Craig Ellison was elected Regional Treasurer.

Those winning awards are as follows:

1st Place:

- J. D. Clayton, Business Calculations
- Jeff Hamilton, Business Law
- Chris Pominski, Economics
- John L. Kneisel, Mr. Future Business Leader
- Bethany Barret, Ms. Future Business Leader
- Parker Teague, Impromptu Speaking
- Carrie Majors, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures
- Sarah Reeder, Human Resource Management

2nd Place:

- Michael Smith, Business Law
- Carley Smith, Business Math
- Larry Baily, Business Procedures and Computer Operating Procedures
- Erica Puckett, Business Ethics
- Andy Ligon, Impromptu Speaking
- Matthew Reed, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures
- Jonathon Harrison, Public Speaking
- Megan Vantrease, Spreadsheet Applications
- Tim Rich, Word Processing II

3rd Place:

- J. D. Clayton, Sports Marketing
- Megan Rivera, Business Communication
- Nick Lennox, Business Math
- Craig Ellison, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures
- Megan Bain, Word Processing I
- Taylor Rowland, Word Processing II
- Chris Pominski, Computer Operating Systems

4th Place:

- Christian Lancy, Business Calculations
- Brittnee Sells, Parliamentary Procedures

Brittney Trusty, Business Communication

- A. J. Hamlet, Business Law
- Erica Puckett, Business Procedures
- Parker Teague, Computer Operating Systems
- Morgan Collins, Introduction to Business Communication
- Kelly Johnson, Personal Finance
- Randy Moss, Public Speaking
- Brianne Mayle, Word Processing I

5th Place:

- Jennifer Pedigo, Business Calculations
- Megan Rivera, Business Ethics
- Jessi Horner, Economics
- Sarah Reeder, Business Procedures
- Justin Lackey, Personal Finance

6th Place:

- Brittnee Sells, Business Communication
- Ashley Clark, Economics

10th Place:

- Brittney Trusty, Business Ethics
- Randy Moss, Sports Marketing





Wilson County School System
351 Stumpy Lane
Lebanon, Tennessee

Phone: 615-444-3282
Fax: 615-449-3858, 615-453-3420
E-mail: edwardst@wcschools.com

Newsletter in conjunction with
The New Teacher Support Program
Terry Edwards, Program Coordinator



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.WCSCHOOLS.COM

...13 is an unlucky number?

Some attribute this superstition to the Last Supper at which there were thirteen: Christ and the twelve disciples. Though this perception may have strengthened the superstition, the fear of thirteen actually predates the Last Supper. Its origin is found in a part of the Norse mythology having to do with a banquet at Valhalla at which Balder, the favorite of the gods, was killed by Loki, the spirit of discord, intruding, bringing the number to thirteen.

For a Laugh: Too Many Idiots

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up" said the sarcastic teacher. After a long silence, one freshman rose to his feet.

"Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?" enquired the teacher with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."



A little kid's in school, taking a true-false test and he's flipping a coin. At the end of the test he's flipping the coin again. The teacher says, "What are you doing?" He says, "Checking my answers."