



What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools
Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 9

April 2008



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

An Update on Mr. Davis

I know it has been a couple of weeks since you received an update on Mr. Davis and you are anxiously waiting to hear about how he is doing. Mr. Davis is doing GREAT!!! He is gaining new strength each day. He is looking forward to returning to work. Many have asked me when he is scheduled to return to work, I have not received any information on his return date. Saturday, April 19th marked one (1) month since his heart attack. One week later, on March 26 he had open heart surgery and the recovery process began. Thank you for respecting this time of recuperation for Mr. Davis and his family. While, Mr. Davis is feeling better and stronger and really wants to be back at work, he needs to pace himself. Many of you know how it is to be at home and really want or feel the need to be at work, he feels the same way. Mickey and I have been and will continue to take information to him. So, to encourage Mr. Davis to continue to rest and not feel the urgency to return to work too soon, if you need anything signed or just have something that needs his attention, please send it to Mickey or I and we will be happy to take it to Mr. Davis.

Again, thank you so much for your continued concern for Mr. Davis. He has received so many nice get well wishes from you. I told him he had become a Celebrity!

—Pam Peery

A Message from the Director of Schools

The Board of Education took the following actions at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on April 7, 2008:

- Approved on 2nd reading changes to Section 5 of Board Policy
- Approved on 2nd reading changes to Section 6 of Board Policy
- Approved Teachers going on Tenure
- Approved Budget Amendment #2008-05
- Approved Actuarial Contract for Insurance Fund
- Approved Bid #2008-14 for two greenhouses at the new Mt. Juliet High School
- Approved adoption of Social Studies textbooks for the 2008-09 school year

- Approved the adoption of the school calendar for 2009-2010
- Approved Bid #2008-16 for vocational surplus items

Each year the Tennessee Department of Safety conducts an inspection of all buses in our fleet. This annual inspection is the best measure of the safety and condition of the buses. After completion of the three (3) week inspection process of the one hundred and sixty-seven (167) units inspected, we received 100% perfect inspection. This is the fifth (5th) consecutive year the transportation department has received the rating of 100% inspection, with zero defects or failures on the first inspection. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Wilson County Schools Transportation-

Department. This success is a direct result of hard work and dedication from the technicians, Charles Pelfrey, Fleet Service Manager, and Steve Spencer, Director of Transportation. We truly appreciate their commitment to maintain a high standard of excellence.

Budget information was presented to you during last year's budget process for the opening of two (2) new schools during the summer of 2008. This information is to update you and to remind you of the opening of two (2) new schools in the 2008-09 school year. There are new operating costs that will be incurred by the school system in 2008-09 in order to open the new Mt. Juliet High School and the Elzie D. Patton Elementary.

On behalf of James M. (Mike) Davis

SHANNON CARNEY NAMED WILSON COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

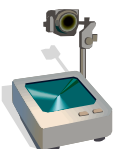


Congratulations to Shannon Carney of Wilson Central High School for being selected the Wilson County Teacher of the Year. The award is presented each year to a deserving candidate from one of Wilson County's many public and private schools. Shannon teaches English 4 and Advanced Placement English. She also sponsors the Student Government.



Take Advantage of your Overhead Projector

Here are some suggestions to reacquaint you with the forgotten overhead projector:



- **Make it big!** Enlarge a picture to decorate bulletin boards or hallways. Place the picture under a sheet of acetate. Trace to create a stencil. Project the stencil onto large paper taped to a wall or floor. Decorate after tracing.
- **Use with music.** As you sing each verse of a song, draw or place images depicted in the song on the screen. Write bars of music with washable markers. Each time the class learns a line, erase it.
- **Time-telling.** Teach children to tell time by making a transparency of the face of a clock without hands, minutes or hours. Children can use the markers to draw in times.
- **Teach the basics of color theory.** Use three sheets of colored acetate (primary colors—red, yellow, blue). Experiment with the sheets of acetate to discover secondary colors (green, orange, violet). By stacking all three, they will see the tertiary color—brown.
- **Work with math.** Graphing is great for the overhead.

Wilson Central High School Student Elected FFA State President



Peyton Harper
FFA State President

The Wilson Central FFA traveled to Gatlinburg Tennessee March 28th –April 2nd to attend the State FFA convention. The Wilson Central program had a very successful convention. Four of their FFA members won first place in the state for their proficiency areas and each of them won \$450 dollars. Those members included: Becky Morgan, Callie Smith, Alex Kaiser, and Peyton Harper. James Flatt was the state runner-up in prepared speaking, and Peyton Harper was 3rd in the state for Extemporaneous speaking as well. Other teams that competed included: Agriculture Issues/3rd in the state, Agriculture Communications/4th in the state, and Farm Business Management 10th in the state. Ten students received their state FFA degrees, which is the



highest degree that can be bestowed on an FFA member at the state level and one of the high lights of the convention was the election of Peyton Harper as the 2008-2009 Tennessee FFA State President from the Wilson Central FFA Chapter.

Jeffrey Turner from Lebanon was also elected to a state office. Jeffrey graduated last year, but in the FFA you can run for State office after

can run for state office after graduation, in fact, many of our awards and degrees are open to graduate members. He is the Middle Region Vice President.

There were 19 very talented young people that ran. They went through a long process that included a knowledge test of the FFA, agriculture and parliamentary procedure. They went through 3 interviews before a 12 person committee. The committee consists of 6 FFA students (2 from East TN, 2 from West and 2 from Middle) and 6 adults, including college agriculture staff, Alumni, former state officers, etc. It is a grueling process and only the best are elected. Additionally, it is odd to have two elected from the same county.

Both Turner and Harper are to be commended for their achievements in the FFA and the success that it has taken them through their years in the organization that has brought them to this special place in their lives.



The Wilson Central FFA Chapter attended the Middle Tennessee Awards Banquet Thursday night April the 10th at MTSU. They took home several awards. 10 students won first in middle Tennessee for their proficiency areas and took home plaques and checks for \$200 dollars a piece. James Flatt and Peyton Harper received plaques and checks for \$150 dollars for winning first place in Middle Tennessee for prepared speaking and Extemporaneous speaking as well. Caleb Dun-savage and Nelson Brothers

received plaques for winning small gas engine and plumbing in the agriculture mechanics competition. The Wilson Central Chapter won three grand award cups at the banquet as well. They won the most outstanding Supervised Agriculture Experience Cup, The cup for the best volunteer program, and the biggest award of the evening also went to the Wilson Central Chapter, The Grand Award. This award is presented to the FFA program in middle Tennessee (out of 84 programs) that earns the most points throughout the year. This is the second year in a row that the Wilson Central Chapter has won this prestigious award. Wilson Central FFA members won over \$6000 dollars this year in prize money for their efforts in competitions and some of the graduating students will receive scholarship money as well.



The Wilson Central FFA Greenhouse has been open for business since April 16. If you have any questions, please call Benny McDonald or Pam Walker at 453-4651.



Peyton Harper and Jeffrey Turner
State FFA Officers



Spotlight This Month: Rutland Elementary



RUTLAND ELEMENTARY

Address: 1995 South Rutland Road

Principal: Yvonne Kittrell

Assistant Principal: Cathy York

Number of teachers: 42

Number of students: 657

Grade levels: Pre-K thru 5th

Mascot: Rocket

School colors: Royal Blue and Kelly Green

Date when school was built on site: 1999

MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission Statement of Rutland Elementary School is to provide an encouraging climate that allows all students to reach their highest level of academic achievement and character development.

SCHOOL HISTORY: Rutland Elementary School was named in the honor of Mr. Balke Rutland, one of the earliest settlers in Wilson County. The property on which the school was built was once part of a 640 acre tract owned by Mr. Rutland.

Because of the Providence Place Community, which is within walking distance of our school, we are continuously growing. This year we were proud to open 12 new classrooms that were adjoined to the school, allowing us to add an additional computer lab, two pre-K classrooms, a behavior classroom and teacher expansion. Our monitoring system, as well as our phone system, was upgraded, and a secured entrance was added. We have formed a partnership with the Del Webb community across the street to form a volunteer program—The Rocketeers. These groups of senior citizens team with our school to help students with projects, paint classrooms, serve as guest speakers in classrooms, and do whatever they can to accommodate our school. They also host activities for our students such as Trick-or-Treating Night through the new Del Webb community and Toys for Angels at Christmas.

One of our goals at Rutland is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome. On a daily basis you'll see parents and grandparents volunteering their time by tutoring and reading to students. We pride ourselves at Rutland on the efforts we make to cater to families as a whole by providing parent workshops and student activities at night. Rutland parents, teachers, volunteers, and students work collaboratively to make sure that students reach their potential, while succeeding academically, socially, and emotionally in a nurturing and caring environment.



Yvonne Kittrell
Principal



Assistant Principal
Cathy York

County Tidbits

- The Outstanding Criminal Justice Award winners at LHS for 2007-08 were CJ WILSON and PHILIP PRICE.
- The LHS Academic Decathlon won 1st place in the Middle Tennessee Regional Academic Decathlon tournament and placed 8th at the State Tournament.
- Watertown Elementary student, TANNER WOOD, from the 5th grade, came in 3rd out of 100 in the state Geography Bee.
- Watertown Elementary Guidance counselor, MARIE PAPINI, was recently awarded the Cal Ripken Softball Equipment Grant and received over \$4500 in equipment.
- Wilson Central High School Freshmen Cheerleaders were recognized by TSSAA for academic achievement. The following girls maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher during the fall semester: KENZIE WINEFCOFF, BETHANY VANDERPOOL, MEGAN LASATER, LEIGH COOK, ALEX EVA, KATIE DICKENS, JORDAN BRIAN. DICKENS AND BRIAN are tied for ranking 1st in their class.
- On April 17, Southside conducted a College Fair to help the 8th graders with their research project over colleges. Over 39 schools were represented.
- Watertown High School student, ROB ENOCH, has been accepted to the summer Bridge Program in Math & Science at the University of the South. Only 20 students were chosen from around the state and beyond. His teacher is Tammy Jones.



Watertown High School FBLA Excels at State Leadership Conference

24 members of the Watertown High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) along with their advisers, Ella Parkerson Williams and Jon Palmer, attended the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Chattanooga, TN from April 9-12, 2008. All 24 members had earned the privilege of attending by placing in the top five in their competitive event at the Regional Leadership Conference. Over 1,800 students from across the state competed at the state level which means these students were competing against the best of the best of business students that Tennessee has produced. 13 students from WHS placed in the top 10—a great accomplishment for the chapter which has only been in existence for two years. Students placing in the top 10 are as follows:

- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure:
 - 2nd Place: Carrie Major; 3rd Place: Matthew Reed; 6th Place: Craig Ellison
- Future Business Leader of the Year: 2nd Place: John L. Kneisel; 6th Place: Bethany Barrett
- Business Law: 6th Place: Jeff Hamilton; 10th Place: Michael Smith
- Computer Operating Systems: 6th Place: Larry Bailey
- Sports Marketing and Management: 6th Place: J. D. Clayton
- Business Math: 7th Place: Carley Smith
- Local Chapter Annual Business Report: 8th Place: Jessi Horner
- Public Speaking: 9th Place: Jonathon Harrison
- Impromptu Speaking: 10th Place: Parker Teague

The chapter also received the Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit which is given to only the top 15% of the chapters in the state based upon their chapter activities throughout the year.



While at the conference, the students not only participated in their competitive events but they also attended General Sessions where guest speakers such as Byron V. Garret, Chief of Staff, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. gave motivational presentations and state officers were elected. The students also attended various workshops such as, Business Etiquette, Building the Pieces to College, How to Land Your Dream Job, and Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Carrie Major and Matthew Reed qualified to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA on June 25-29, 2008.

WHS FBLA would like to thank all of the local businesses and individuals who generously donated to make this trip possible. They would also like to thank Mrs. Mitzie Smith and Mrs. Cheryl Ellison who attended the conference as chaperones.



FBLA Award Winners

School Notes



Three Mt. Juliet High School students swept the annual Cumberland University Student Art Exhibition. DAVID ALTIZER won 1st place for 2-D; MEGAN TAMAS won Best in Show, and RACHEL BAKER won Honorable Mention. Their proud teacher is SUSAN GILL.

appearance. One student baked a square cherry pie with the formula for area of a circle on it. Pi Jeopardy used Pi in most of the answers unless it dealt with mathematicians, Einstein, or other people associated with Pi.



JAMIE FULLER'S Pre-Algebra class used pentagons, hexagons, and rubber bands to create a buckminsterfullerene model, which results in creating the structure that is called a truncated icosahedron. The 7th graders used poster board and rubber bands for their models.



The Art students and Art Club members of Watertown High School visited the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in February for the Monet and Dali art exhibit. Their sponsor is Kathleen Johnson.



On March 14, Pi Day was held at West Wilson Middle School in the 7th grade math class of JAMIE FULLER. Activities included Pi Jeopardy, Pi Puzzles and a Pi Bakeoff. Student submitted pi(e)s were judged by the teachers on taste and



The students traced, cut out, and put together the pieces to result in what looks like a very large soccer ball. This project has led to a tessellation quilt project for her math classes.



Wilson County Schools Making News



Students enrolled in the spring semester Nutrition and Foods classes at Mt. Juliet High School have collected over 400 recipes to be compiled into a cookbook. The cookbook is currently at the publishers and will be in a three-ring binder format with artwork on the cover. All the artwork in the cookbook is by senior, KATIE KELLY, planning to attend O'Moore College of Art. The proceeds will go towards purchasing new equipment for the classes next year. The cost of the cookbook is \$11 and pre-orders are taking place now. Anticipated delivery date is May 10-12. For more information contact GEORGETTE BARNES at ba-rnesg@wcschools.com.



AMANDA STEPHENS and AMALIA WILLIS were honored by the Young Author's Conference for excellence in creative writing. The girls are students of CONNIE HORTON'S 4th grade class at Mt. Juliet Elementary School.



The Criminal Justice II class of Wilson Central High School recently worked with Walter J. Baird students to process a crime scene staged at WCHS. The Criminal justice class is under the direction of DON MAHANEY.



Investigating crime scene



Evidence?



The Lebanon High School Humane Society Club has been busy recently with several projects. On April 24th, the LHHS met at the Livestock Building at the James Ward Agriculture Center with the Disaster Animal Relief Team. The club members presented two sets of resuscitation masks for animals to be used by the Lebanon City Fire Dept. and DART when animals are in a fire and overcome by smoke. Money for the masks was raised by a bake sale.

The Club also visited the zoo and discussed careers in animal care and wildlife management. On May 3rd, students will volunteer various services at the Bark in the Park sponsored by Wilson Bank and Trust.



Lebanon High School senior, SARAH GALLAGHER, won first place in the National History Day competition for her performance on the Underground Railroad—"Footsteps of Compromise in a Conflicted Land".

LHS has been a participant in the National History Day competition for three years. Sponsors, TERESA BATES and NINA VASTOLA have been pivotal in the success and progress of the competition.

Gallagher, a graduating senior at LHS, will travel to Maryland this June to represent the school and the state of Tennessee at the national competition.

County Tidbits

- MARILYN WILLOUGHBY'S 3rd grade class at Watertown Elementary performed an environmental musical, "Update Earth", recently in honor of Earth Day. It was a program designed to help children understand why we must take care of the Earth.



- For Dr. Seuss Week, MARY SINGLETON'S Kindergarten class made a book for their principal, Carol Ferrell, titled "The Principal in the Hat". Each student used a life-sized face for the project—18 Mrs. Ferrells!!

- On April 17, Lt. Colonel Bobby Hibbett (husband of art teacher, Kelly Hibbett), spoke to Bobbi Greene's first grade class at W.A. Wright Elementary. Several classes corresponded with Hibbett and sent gifts to his unit while in Iraq. It was a very meaningful project for the class.

- Over the last month many schools have sent Mr. Davis get well messages and letters wishing him a speedy recovery. Thanks to all the students and teachers who have made his recovery period a little more cheerful.



The Wildcats AAU age 11 and under team composed of players from Mt. Juliet Middle School and Southside Elementary School recently finished in 2nd place out of 12 teams in the Greenwave Shootout Tournament in Gallatin. The team is coached by Wilson County teachers, FRED WHEELER from Southside; JOHN SEIBER, Air Force Junior ROTC Instructor and managed by GINA SEIBER from the Wilson County Vocational Center.



UPCOMING EVENTS



- May 2-3—Performances of *Ten Little Chipmunks* at Southside Elementary. The May 3rd performance will be a dinner theatre with food by Demo's and Clayborne's Bakery.
- May 3—10AM-10PM Benefit Concert for Cody Choate at the Ward Agricultural Center.
- May 8-12—*Social Studies Fair* at W. A. Wright Elementary. The theme is the Great United States and each grade level has chosen a region in the U.S. Doors are being decorated along with other activities such as a scavenger hunt, Today in History and a trivia contest.
- May 27 7PM—Mt. Juliet High Graduation at Sommet Center, Nashville.
- May 29 7PM—Wilson Central High School Graduation, Belmont.
- May 30 5:30PM—Watertown High School Graduation, school campus.
- May 30 7PM—Lebanon High School Graduation, school campus.
- May 30 1PM-7PM—Wilson County Schools Pre-Kindergarten Roundup, Wilson County Fairgrounds
- June 8 2PM—Adult High School Graduation, First United Methodist Church.

Local Schools Making News



On April 8, over 450 students and chaperones from Lebanon High School rode the Music City Star Train to Nashville on its second Education Train ride. The following teachers and their classes visited the following Nashville sites: Mr. Herring at TPAC; Ms. Coss at the Nashville Public Library; Mrs. Durham and Ms. McGuire at the Nashville Children's Theater; Mrs. Hallums and Mrs. Cothorn at the State Capitol Building; Dr. Griggs and Mrs. Grammer at the Museum of Natural History; Mr. Smith at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Mrs. Fakes to the Schermerhorn Symphony House. The students had lunch on 2nd Avenue and then returned to Lebanon.



Rebecca McDonald & Ashley Cole, third grade students, enjoy reading together.

Watertown Elementary School recently hosted a Milk & Cookies Afternoon. Families were invited into the school to visit the Book Fair, check out library books, read together, take AR tests and enjoy milk and cookies. The PALS organization furnished refreshments for the event.



Second grade student, Aaron Cherry, with her hands full of items she purchased at the Book Fair, takes a break from reading to enjoy some milk and cookies.



Landry Williams, student at Watertown Elementary School was a winner of Nickelodeon's Let's Just Play Giveaway. The school was awarded \$5000 to improve its physical education program. Landry is the son of Jay and Ella Williams.



Anita Christian, Principal of Watertown Elementary, presents a check from Rep. Stratton Bone, as a donation to the construction of the football stadium in memory of former student, Cody Choate. Pictured are Coach Chavez Jobe; Cheryl Ellison, Assistant Principal along with football players, Ben Bain, Robert Davenport, Michael Mobley, Jo Smith, Macieo Gaines and Cooper Jacobson.

Wilson County's New Principals:

- Susie Breedwell**, Principal of Tuckers Crossroads Elementary
- Lori Hassell**, Principal of Elzie Patton Elementary School
- Darian Brown**, Assistant Principal, Wilson Central High School
- Bertie Alligood**, Assistant Principal, Lakeview Elementary





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



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

... someone not doing his job is said to be "not worth his salt"?

At one time soldiers in ancient Rome were paid, in part, with a ration of salt called a salarium, from the Latin word *sal* meaning salt. If a soldier's performance was not up to standard, that soldier was said to be "not worth his salt."

Later, when the salt was replaced with a money allowance to buy the salt, the allowance itself was called a salarium. Eventually, salarium came to mean the wages themselves, and this led to our

For a Laugh: "Teacher Stress is..."

- Losing your grade book two days before report cards are due.
- Remembering you left the class pet at school over spring break.
- Setting your alarm clock on p.m. instead of a.m. on the first day of school.
- Your worst student returning to your classroom as a student teacher.
- Having the superintendent's child in class.
- When a student wants to know if his parent's lawsuit against the school district will affect his grade.
- Having to borrow lunch money from your students.
- Grading a complete set of tests—using the wrong answer key.
- When the school nurse shows up at your classroom to perform a head lice check.
- After counting students on a school field trip, coming up one short.
- Finding out your students' TCAP scores are the lowest in the school.
- Teaching a computer class to students who know more than you do about computers.
- Hearing one of your discipline challenging students say, "My dad wants a conference with you tomorrow morning and he is really mad!"

