



# The Buzz

DECEMBER  
2014



## Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

### Message from the Superintendent

*"Not as the world gives..."*



Dear friends:

Even though it is not traditionally associated with the Christmas story, John 14:27 is one of my favorite expressions of peace and gift giving that brings us joy at this special time of the year.

The Baby whose birth is celebrated at Christmas taught us about the gift that is given with no expectation of anything in return, not "as the world gives," but is given to bring Peace, not in the sense of the absence of war, but that internal peace that frees the troubled heart.

I am so proud to be associated with such a generous school system family that gives "not as the world gives." I was moved to tears several times during our school system's recent remembrance of Veterans Day. As I visited most of the schools that day, I saw our children being led as they gave homage to the Veterans who serve and have served our nation. Thank you for being such fine examples for our children.

Throughout the Christmas season, our schools are engaged in numerous expressions of love and service. From the "March of the Cans" food drive at Hand-in-Hand to the Shop with a Yellow Jacket (SWAYJ) program at Thomas County Central, every student in the system has an opportunity to learn the value and joy of giving. Even though it is not part of the Common Core and will never show up on a Milestone assessment, you take the time to model it, teach it, and live it. I am proud to be associated with such a loving and committed faculty and staff. Thank you for all that you do to help our children learn to give "not as the world gives."

Our special thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill or who are providing care to ill family members this holiday season.

I hope that the Christmas vacation gives each of you the opportunity to spend time with your family and to refresh yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually. If you need my assistance over the holidays, please e-mail me at dkorn@rose.net.

Best wishes to each of you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Stevens Wins Best in Show for PWAFArtwork



Hakeem Stevens stands with his winning artwork and TCCHS Art Teacher Jocelyn Rivard.

Thomas County Central High School's Junior Hakeem Stevens won "Best of Show" for his artwork in the Junior Wildlife Arts Exhibit (JWAE) contest for 6th-12th graders. His graphite pencil work "Fisherman with Fish Clouds," was chosen as "Best of Show" among 50 entries from all of the local schools. Of the 50 entries accepted for exhibition, TCCHS entered six works, all of which were selected for display.

Hakeem received a \$1,100 scholarship toward a one-week summer intensive art camp at the Savannah College of Art and Design. In addition, TCCHS's art program received \$500 for having the "Best in Show" winner.

Story continued on page 2

The Thomas County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, sex, or disability.

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Dec. 11** - TCCHS Chorus Concert, Hand-In-Hand Gym, 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 14** - TCMS Band Concerts, TCMS Gym, 2:30 p.m. (6th) & 3:30 p.m. (7th & 8th)

**Dec. 18** - TCCHS Band Concert, TCCHS Gym, 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 20** - SWAYJ (TCCHS & Walmart)

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 2** - Winter Break

**Jan. 5** - Teacher Workday/ Student Holiday

**Jan. 5** - CPR, Cross Creek, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; First Aid, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Jan. 5** - Techno Expo, TCMS

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Please visit the school websites for a complete calendar of events.

The Buzz is a monthly publication of the Thomas County Schools. Send suggestions or comments to Melanie Hester, 200 North Pinetree Blvd., Thomasville, GA 31792; 229.225-4380, ext. 115; mhester@thomas.k12.ga.us. The Buzz is available online at www.thomas.k12.ga.us, News and Events tab.

Story continued from page 1

Artwork had to be based on the “Celebrating the Sporting Life” theme. Students were encouraged to depict a scene that captures a sportsman or woman in the moment. Options included hunting (such as big game, small game, waterfowl, or fox hunting) or fishing (hand-fishing, spear fishing, flying fishing, or angling).

“The project made me think of a few shows I saw on Discovery,” stated Stevens. “The host always catches these amazing and bizarre looking fish; I wanted to draw that moment when he lets us get a good look at that fish in his hands alive and thriving.”

To other aspiring young artists, Stevens advises, “Practicing is an important part in training your hand and eyes for art. Never give up and keep in mind that if you keep at it, you will get better.”

First Place for the 11th to 12th grade division went to TCCHS Junior Sophie Anderson, for her mixed media work, “Hunter and His Dog.” Anderson won “Best of Show” last year at JWAE.

Her piece features a cut-out of a hunter and his dog, placed on a painted field, with a sky made from a map painted with a target and clouds. “I was inspired by a picture of Jasper John’s target paintings,” states Anderson about the work.

“This was a mixed media piece that I did a lot of collage with textured papers, pen,

and tempera, and a map of the coastline of Georgia,” Anderson continued. “It’s good practice to go outside of your comfort zone.”

Art teacher Mrs. Jocelyn Rivard, said, “The Center for the Arts comes up with creative JWAE themes every year. Students were challenged to include figure and portrait drawing this time around, and the results by our TCCHS artists are so different in their use of media and subject matter.”

The judge for the show was a 2014 PWA featured artist Eldridge Hardie, a top sporting artist. A bird hunter and fly fisherman, his signature style is to make sporting moments live in his paintings.

“I appreciate the Center for the Arts’ annual sponsorship of the Junior Wildlife Arts exhibit which provides area students the opportunity to display their work for the public,” Dr. Dusty Kornegay said. “Under the direction of Mrs. Jocelyn Rivard, Thomas County Central High School students compete state-wide in numerous events each year and bring home many top prizes. We are fortunate to have such talented students and are honored to have one of the state’s best art educators to mentor them as they hone their talents.”

The annual art contest is sponsored by the Thomasville Center for the Arts and Flowers Foods.

## TCMS and TCUE Will Hold Techno Expo on January 5



Sixth grade students work on technology in the classroom.

On January 5, 2015, Thomas County Upper Elementary and Thomas County Middle School will hold its second annual “Techno Expo.” On this professional learning day, teachers will attend sessions in order to learn how to integrate technology into their classrooms.

The sessions will be conducted by teachers and other staff members from the school. Some sessions will include information on how to use Quizlet, posting instructional videos to teacher webpages, Turn It In, creating and using QR codes, and how to find information using GALILEO. Presentations will also include instructional strategies such as Close Reading and Formative Assessment.

Melvin Hugans, TCUE

assistant principal, is organizing the event for the second year.

“It is important to remember that technology and integrating technology into instruction is only one aspect of the learning process,” Hugans said. “Neither can be a substitute for well-trained teachers. This event will allow teachers in our school to share their knowledge of different technology tools so that other teachers will be able to use them as well.”

The event will be open to all teachers in the system this year. Syllabi from each presentation will be posted on the system technology page after the Techno Expo has ended.

Please e-mail Melvin Hugans at [mhugans@rose.net](mailto:mhugans@rose.net) if you have any questions.

### NEED CPR? FIRST AID?

CPR & First Aid will be offered on Monday, January 5, at Cross Creek. The morning CPR session is from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon. The First Aid session will begin at 12:30 p.m. Please sign up on PDEpress to attend the training sessions.





## TCCHS Teachers Sing to Fundraise for “Shop with a Yellow Jacket”

By Mikayla Fillyaw, TCCHS student reporter

This Christmas season at TCCHS, teachers are lending a helping hand in a unique way: by sharing their voices.

A group of teachers came together to record a CD in order to raise funds for the annual Shop with a Yellow Jacket (SWAYJ) project. The CD is titled “It’s a Yellow Jacket Christmas 2014” and CDs are \$10 apiece.

All profits made are being donated to fund groups participating in SWAYJ. For SWAYJ, groups of at least four students sign up to “adopt” a child for the day after raising \$100 for the child to spend on gifts for his or her family and a small gift for themselves.

Though nervous for the reaction of the kids and the community as a whole, teachers were excited to be a part of such a fun fundraiser for a good cause.

“It’s a little scary to put yourself out there and record a song, but when you know it’s for a good cause you just can’t say no,” teacher Leigh Barwick said. “My hope is that hundreds of CDs will sell so that we can positively impact the lives of children and their families during this holiday season. It’s projects like this that make me proud to be part of TCCHS!”

Some teachers were inspired to sing songs that put them in the Christmas spirit and ones they thought would be perfect for the CD.

“I really enjoyed recording the song, ‘Merry Christmas, Baby,’” teacher Kimsey Hodge

said. “It was a song that I originally heard Otis Redding sing and loved it. I thought it was a song that was as unusual as the CD project itself.”

Some students also have been involved with the project. Broadcasting student Hayes Nelson helped record the tracks, which allowed him to assist with the actual production of the CD and, in the process, taught him more about sound recording and editing.

“It was a wonderful learning experience and gave me more experience in the field,” Nelson said. “I think it is a wonderful idea since we get to show off our school’s talent and raise money for a good cause.”

The teachers that recorded the songs are all big advocates of SWAYJ and participate yearly to help provide a good Christmas for in need community children.

“Every year, my sons and I participate in SWAYJ because, to me, it is what the true spirit of Christmas is all about,” Hodge said. “It has become one of our favorite traditions in the Hodge household, to watch a child’s face light up as they buy presents for their family and him/herself. It’s a feeling like no other!”

CDs are still available and will be sold through Dec. 19 at TCCHS. This is the last day of school before Winter Break and the day before SWAYJ. Anyone wishing to purchase a CD should see Nancy Pickett in the Admin II office.



**HARVESTING LITERACY IN A PUMPKIN PATCH** - The 4th Annual Literacy Pumpkin Patch at Cross Creek cropped up in Michele Dechman’s and Jen Mobley’s classes. Students selected their favorite book to read, summarized the book, then used their imaginations to create a “pumpkin character” from the story. Students did an outstanding job, and the pumpkins were amazing. The pumpkin patch was visited by parents, community members, and other classes throughout the day. Sarah Stewart, pictured above with Mrs. Mobley, sent a picture of her pumpkin to the Duck Dynasty crew. A few weeks later, Sarah received a postcard (pictured left) from the group of celebrities saying that they loved her pumpkin. Mrs. Mobley said Sarah was thrilled with their response.

## VETERANS DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





## Cross Creek K-Kids Club Raises Money for UNICEF



Pictured from left to right are Griffin Prince, Hunter Brogren, and Rachel English.

This year, the Cross Creek K-Kids once again partnered with UNICEF to raise money for maternal and neonatal tetanus, or MNT. Each K-Kid classroom representative made a money collection container for their classroom's donations. In only one month, they were able to raise a grand total of \$1,064.77.

Griffin Prince found a creative way to raise donations. He made bracelets to sell at a local sporting event earning \$40.00 and donating it all to UNICEF. Griffin's class, represented by K-Kid member Hunter Brinson, ultimately won a contest for bringing in the most donations.

Leslie Aracri, the K-Kids faculty advisor, was grateful to local businesses for partnering with K-Kids to make this UNICEF fundraiser a success. Wal-Mart of Thomasville donated a \$10 gift card to the K-Kid representative whose container best demonstrated the purpose of the fundraiser. The winner of this contest was Rachel English, a fourth-grade student.

Much of the donations came in the form of change. The Farmers and Merchants Bank Assistant Manager David Driggers was kind enough to assist with the huge task of getting all of the change counted.



**MARCH OF THE CANS**- Hand-In-Hand Primary School held their annual "March of the Cans" where all of the classes took their donations from the food drive to the front office. Angie Manning's class was the top collection winner. Elizabeth Johnson's class collected the second highest amount of cans. The school collected a total of 1,941 cans. Attached is a photo of (L to R) Drake McLeod, Tucker Hester, and Armonei Turner who are students in Laura Ann Davis's kindergarten class.



**OPPORTUNITY HATCHES FOR GARRISON-PILCHER STUDENTS** - A student's family from Kasey McKenzie's class supplied Garrison-Pilcher with 30 chicken eggs. The eggs were placed in the school's incubator on November 10. Each of the eggs was placed in a little cup in an egg turner for 18 days. Very slowly, the turner rotated the eggs from left to right like a hen would do if she were sitting on them. On the 21st day of incubation, the chicks began hatching. Monday, before the kids left school, three chicks had been born. When the students returned to school after the break, there were eight more. Teacher Amanda Genter said, "This has been an experience that the kids will not soon forget. We have learned lots of new vocabulary which was written in our "chick journals" almost daily. The kids have predicted how many chicks would hatch and have read numerous books about the chicken life cycle. The kids have loved every minute of it. Our entire pod, and much of the school, has experienced our little miracles." Pictured above from left to right are Garrison-Pilcher students Anna Kate Smith, Elijah Williams, Brandon Daniels, and Sophia Stewart holding the newborn chicks.



**FBLA WALKS TO SUPPORT MARCH OF DIMES** - A group of local students chose to walk for a cause instead of sleeping in the first weekend of Thanksgiving break. Thomas County Central High School Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) club members traveled to Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain Nov. 23. Each year, Callaway puts on "Fantasy in Lights," a display of Christmas lights that cars can drive through. FBLA members walked the eight-mile path in support of the March of Dimes, a non-profit organization which raises money for premature births. Pictured are Emily Dukas ((L-R), Shelby Mitchell, Erin Pearson, Jane Guo, and Mason Lawing.