



# The Buzz

JANUARY  
2014



Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

## TCMS Techno Expo Benefits Teachers and Students



Laurie Dawson, technology coach, shows teachers the available resources for the new Teacher Keys Evaluation System (TKES).

On January 6, 2014, Thomas County Middle School held a "Techno Expo." During the morning, teachers attended sessions in order to learn how to embed the use of Web 2.0 tools into their daily instruction. The sessions were conducted by teachers and other staff members from the school system.

Some sessions included information on how to use Edmodo, post instructional videos to teacher webpages, design polls using Poll Everywhere, create QR codes, and how to find information using GALILEO, and how to "FLIP" classrooms in order to promote student engagement.

Mr. Melvin Hugans, assistant principal, organized this event. "We feel that the more teachers use technology in their classrooms, the more engaged the students will

become. This event allowed teachers in our school to share their knowledge of different technology tools so that other teachers will be able to use

them as well," stated Hugans.

"The Techno Expo was very informative," said Kendra Johnson, Ed.S., sixth grade social studies teacher. "I learned about a more creative way to present information to my students using the presentation program Prezi. I also learned different ways to incorporate technology within SMART notebook. These things will help me make learning fun for my students. They can understand and retain the information that I give them, and they can have a great time doing so."

Teachers chose three out of ten sessions to attend. Each session lasted 30 minutes. Many teachers expressed that they wished they could've attended them all.

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**PERFECT SCORES** - TCCHS students (left to right) Addison Frasch, Noah Harris, and Justin Knapp received perfect scores on the Georgia High School Writing Test, or the GHSWT. All received a score of 350. The test is administered as 100 minutes on a persuasive writing topic and is graded in four areas: style, conventions, ideas and organization. Justin Knapp also received a perfect score on the math portion of the SAT. Great job, guys!

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

Happy New Year!  
**2014**

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Jan. 11** - TCMS PAGE Academic Bowl
- Jan. 14** - Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 15** - TCMS Science Fair
- Jan. 17** - TCCHS Science Fair
- Jan. 20** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 22 & 23** - 8th Grade Writing Assessment
- Feb. 1** - Reading Bowl Regional Competition
- Feb. 3 & 5** - Pre-K Registration for Hand-in-Hand, PLC
- Feb. 13** - TCCHS Chorus One Sweet Night

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](http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us), News and Events tab.

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin



**DONUTS FOR DADS AND DUDES** - Students in Ms. Humphries’ class including Grace King, Skylar Lewis, Landon Taylor, and Zyron Jones listen as Skylar’s Dad, Richard Lewis, reads a book. More than 200 men participated in the annual Donuts for Dads and Dudes at Garrison-Pilcher on December 16. The men read books, visited classrooms, and toured the school.



**RINGING THE BELL FOR SERVICE LEARNING** - MERIT students rang the Salvation Army Bell over the course of five days at six locations. More than 50 students rang the bell for a total of 61 hours. Students were led by Mandy West and Deann Garcia. Pictured above from left to right are Gabby Melnick, Brianna Doughty, and Kristin Benton. Pictured below are Brittany Ferrel and Hailey Ferrel, left to right. MERIT students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of service learning credit.



**Expo Continued from Page 1**



Lindsay Thompson, seventh grade math teacher, instructs teachers on how to create video tutorials and utilize Class DoJo for classroom management.

Harold Singletary, fifth grade MERIT teacher, said, “The Techno Expo was an informative and enlightening educational experience. In this technology age many of us fear using something new or different and our students thrive in a culture of technology. The three classes that I attended gave me a glimpse of how I can utilize technology in my classroom in an almost painless way, and gave me the confidence to try that something new or different. I appreciated the fact that the delivery was from a fellow teacher that shared the same fear and yet found a way to successfully integrate 21st century learning into their daily routine.”

The idea for the Techno Expo came after a team of teachers from TCUE/TCMS visited Booth Middle School in Fayette County. The school has a Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) policy. Students in the school are encouraged to bring their own devices (phones, tablets, etc.) to use when the teacher designs instruction to

include technology.

Members of the team that traveled to Fayette County included Robin Cartright, Lindsay Thompson, Kevin Keve, Danna Golden, and Kathie Craven. Also in attendance were Media Specialist Erin Rehberg, Instructional Technologist Matt Casper, and administrators, Dr. Scott James and Melvin Hugans. The teachers and staff members that went on the trip shared ideas with other teachers at TCUE/TCMS at the Techno Expo.

“I found the technology training extremely helpful,” said William Lee, eighth grade Spanish teacher. “I attended the YouTube, Edmodo, and Dojo trainings. It is rare when one attends staff development on a given day and then can immediately implement the training in the classroom the next day. The very next day I was able to create a YouTube channel for my classroom. Because of that training, I was able to supplement my instruction with technology. The kids absolutely loved it. They even asked for more.”

## TCCHS Holds 6th Annual Shop With A Yellow Jacket (SWAYJ)



Shopping at Walmart with their buddy is Alex Dukes (L-R), Austin Bryant, Logan Potter, Katie Johnson, and Mikayla Fillyaw.

Thomas County Central High School held the 6th Annual Shop with a Yellow Jacket (SWAYJ) event on December 14. Students from TCCHS formed teams and raised money to take a student from one of our lower schools shopping at Walmart. Eighty-five teams participated this year involving approximately 350 high school students.

Students from Hand in Hand, Garrison Pilcher, Cross Creek and the lower elementary at Thomas County Middle School were selected by their guidance counselors to participate in SWAYJ. These students were introduced to their high school shopping teams. Teams then reported to the cafeteria to color and watch Christmas movies until time to depart for Walmart.

Teams rode on the buses to Walmart with a police escort which added excitement to the ride. The TCCHS Chorale greeted the teams as they were unloading at Walmart. Each team worked their way

through Walmart looking for gifts for the student and his or her family members.

Teams raised \$100 for their shopping buddy who was allowed to spend \$35 on their choice of presents and the remaining \$65 on gifts for their family. As teams finalized their purchases and checked out, a bus awaited to return them to the high school where each gift was wrapped.

After wrapping was completed, students and buddies were served pizza and given the opportunity to decorate sugar cookies. Afterwards, buddies were reunited with their parents and the gifts were loaded into cars.

"It's the best day of the year," said event coordinator and TCCHS teacher Regina Beasley. "TCCHS would like to thank Walmart, Papa John's Pizza and Blue Bell Ice Cream for their help with this event."

For more information about SWAYJ, please contact Ms. Beasley at [rbeasley@thomas.k12.ga.us](mailto:rbeasley@thomas.k12.ga.us).



**TCCHS QUIZ BOWL QUALIFIES FOR NATIONALS** – The Quiz Bowl Team recently qualified for the national tournament by winning fourth in the state competition. These five young men have worked hard by practicing two nights per week reviewing questions about math, science, literature, drama, art, music, history, geography, as well as other trivia which include subjects like popular music, sports, and movies. To qualify for the national competition, they competed against nearly 30 teams at the state level hosted by The Georgia Academic Team Association (GATA). The Quiz Bowl Team is working to raise money to attend Nationals, hosted by the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) in Chicago in May. Pictured from left to right are Noah Hobbs, Luke Jackson, Kutter Harrison, Hayes Nelson, and Richard Hightower.



**GEORGIA HISTORY CLASSES VISIT MUSEUM** – The Honors Georgia History students at TCMS are creating a project for the school wide National History Day competition. To assist students with completing this project, Mrs. Garcia's 8th grade Honors students visited the Thomas County Museum of History. At the museum, students worked on research and project development, as well as exhibit and primary source analysis. These activities and discussions will help as they continue in the National History Day project process. TCMS thanks Ms. Amelia Gallo and the staff at the Thomas County Museum of History for planning a fun and educational experience for the students. Pictured from left to right are Andrew Allensworth, Daniel Holland, and Sanny Patel.



### TCMS SELLING YELLOW JACKET FLIP FLOPS!

Thomas County Middle School has TC Jackets flip flops in stock and ready! They are \$15 per pair and range in sizes from extra small to large. Contact Carolee Guyton at 225-4394 or [cguyton@thomas.k12.ga.us](mailto:cguyton@thomas.k12.ga.us) to purchase a pair or for more information.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Hand-In-Hand  
Pre-K Registration  
for 2014-2015**

**Monday, February 3  
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Visit [thomas.k12.ga.us](http://thomas.k12.ga.us) for details!



**Donna Proctor's 3rd Grade Class**



**Susan Milam's 4th Grade Class**



**CROSS CREEK FOOD DRIVE SUCCESSFUL** - Cross Creek Elementary students are shown in front of one of the several truckloads of food and jackets that were collected during the recent canned food drive. More than 2,000 food items were collected and more than 100 jackets donated. All items go to the Thomas County Food Bank. Pictured is Donna Proctor's class who won for third grade bringing in 280 items. Also pictured is Susan Milam's class who led for 4th grade bringing in 293 food items and 34 jackets.



TCMS 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands performed in front of a "packed house" in December. Mr. Majors and Ms. Wise helped the students prepare for their remarkable performance. Ms. Wise is shown above directing the 7th and 8th grade band.