



The Buzz

MAY/JUNE
2014



Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

Thomasville JSL Recognized as BEE Partner of the Year



Superintendent Dr. Dusty Kornegay presented the BEE Partner of the Year Award to Junior Service League President Mandy West and Vice President Jamie Allgood.

The Thomasville Junior Service League (JSL) has been named Thomas County Schools BEE Partner of the Year for 2013- 2014. The Business and Education Exchange (BEE) Partner of the Year is chosen from the outstanding BEE

Partners who work with Thomas County Schools to strengthen the link among schools, businesses/industries, and the community.

The announcement was made at the annual Superintendent's Breakfast

where the BEE Partner of the Year nominees were honored. The Superintendent's Breakfast is sponsored by the Thomasville Chamber of Commerce, one of the active connections between Thomas County Schools and the business community of Thomasville and Thomas County.

Prior to the announcement, Dr. Bob Dechman, Director of Federal Programs, Accountability, and Assessment, commented, "Each BEE Partner makes a lasting impact on the lives of Thomas County students and staff, and we are all better as a result of these relationships."

Thomasville Junior Service League, a non-profit women's organization dedicated to serving and meeting the needs of children and youth in our community, directly impacts the lives of hundreds of students across grade levels at Thomas County Middle School, as well as other schools in the Thomas County School System and in the community.

Thomas County Middle School nominated Junior Service League for the distinguished BEE Partner of the Year Award.

"Our partnership with JSL helped us to meet an important objective which is to provide positive role models for our students," said Dr. Kathy Keown, Thomas County Middle School Principal. "Our partnership with this organization is unique in that it has a long-standing relationship with our school

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

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 24 - Graduation

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 27 & 28 - Post-planning

July 3 & 4 - Independence Day Holidays

July 29 - Aug. 1 - Pre-planning

Aug. 4 - First Day for Students



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



Pictured are finalists and overall winners at the National History Day State Competition. Several students are not pictured because they were attending the National Junior Honor Society Washington, D.C., annual trip. For a complete list of winners, see NHD story on page 3.

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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.

DAR State Winners "Honoring Our Heritage"



Third place DAR winners include front row: Kaytlyn Prevatt—1st in banner; Ayden Webb—1st in banner; Kaleigh Fender—1st in poetry; Jacey Keyton—1st in poster design; Luke Pierce—1st in banner; and Riley Scoggins—1st in stamp design & 1st in banner. Second row: Kadasia Haliburton—1st in poetry; Whitt Finch—1st in banner; Sarah Edgerton—1st in poster design; Klara Lane—1st in banner design; and Hailey Atkinson—1st in stamp design



Jennie Rich's classroom at Garrison-Pilcher won first place in the local and state DAR competition. The children drew pictures and made a banner of significant landmarks and historical figures of the U.S.A.



Fourth grade state DAR winners include Witt Wetherington (pictured left to right) - 1st place in short story; Claire Pope - 1st place in poetry; Molly Grace White - 1st place in stamp design; Georgia Rose Patton - 1st place in poster design; Julia Horne - 1st place in short story



Vicki Warren's class at Garrison-Pilcher was awarded recognition by DAR for various projects promoting the theme, "Honoring Our Heritage." Recognized were Braxton White (from left), Alex Ward, Sara Connell, and Brady Whatley.



Vicki Warren's students Aiyana Yerkes (from left), Hannabelle Fulgencio, Libby Stewart, Ransom Young, and Harrison Johnson were recognized by DAR by participating in various projects promoting history of our nation.



Carolyn Clifton's and Morgan Taylor's classes won 1st place in the DAR state competition for their community service project.



Daphne King's class was recently honored by DAR for various projects. Honored were Paige Parkerson, (from left front row) Chloe O'Neal, Triston Mitchell; LePrincia Cannady (left, back row) and Dalton Bradford.

Students to Attend National NHD Contest in June

Students from TCCHS, TCMS, and TCUE attended the National History Day (NHD) State Competition April 26 at Mercer University.

This is the second year Thomas County students have entered the state contest at the Junior Division

and the first year students have entered the Senior Division. Students were led by Deann Garcia, Christine Patton, Heather Ward and Amanda West. Students that qualified for the NHD National Contest will attend the competition in June at the University of Maryland.

- ◆ **Lauren Rich and Camille Sowell** - “Howling for Peace” (Senior Division Group Documentary- 1st place overall/National Qualifiers)
- ◆ **Tessa McCorkle** - “Truth is a Defense” (Senior Division Individual Website- 2nd Place Overall/National Qualifier)
- ◆ **Asia Gurule and Tristan Spires** - “Manhattan Project” (1st Place Overall/National Qualifiers)
- ◆ **Anne-Marie Holland and Cole Donovan** - “The Red Scare & Fahrenheit 451: Censorship of Information” (Senior Division Group Exhibit - 3rd Place Overall)
- ◆ **Palmer NeSmith & Dakota Beever** - “The Aboriginals and How They Gained Their Freedom” (Senior Division Group Performance- 3rd Place Overall)
- ◆ **Christina Smith** - “Annie Armstrong” and **Nick Herndon** - “Dare to be First: Civil Rights, Baseball, A New America” (Junior Division Individual Exhibit- Finalist)
- ◆ **Reagan Gurule and Brooklyn Reese** - “Dorthea Dix” Junior Division Group Exhibit- 1st Place Overall/National Qualifiers)
- ◆ **Marion Rose Young** - “The Intolerable Acts” Junior Division Individual Performance - 2nd Place Overall/National Qualifier)
- ◆ **Sierra Stephens and Kennedy Ward** - “Children of the Dust” (Junior Division Group Website- Finalists)
- ◆ **Clay Goff, Emma Goff and Zach Goff** - “Reconciliation Villages: Healing After the Rwandan Genocide” (2nd Place Overall/National Qualifiers)

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and system. JSL goes above and beyond in order that the children in our community have the resources they need. They provide opportunities for students to experience things they would otherwise not be able to experience such as sponsoring children on field trips and providing personal technology for ESOL students. Our faculty and staff, since they are aware of the great resource JSL is for children in our community, work to support their JSL fundraisers.”

In addition to providing funds to students in need, JSL provides a unique opportunity for a group of eighth grade girls by treating them to a special day that includes a makeover, shopping spree, lunch and a motivational speech. Junior Service League also has a rich history of providing healthcare for the students at Thomas County Middle School and

all schools in the community. They support the eye glass program that allows students to receive a free eye exam and glasses, providing more than \$7,000 on this program so far this year.

When announcing the Partner of the Year, Thomas County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dusty Kornegay highlighted the JSL Organization’s benefits to the schools.

“There are so many ways that the Junior Service League impacts our school system,” Dr. Kornegay said. “From the beginning of the school year, JSL has already donated services in excess of \$13,000. The organization will spend a total of approximately \$25,000 by the end of the fiscal year. They have been doing this for many years, and they will continue to make this kind of generous contribution to our students year after year.”

Recently, Ms. Danna Cooper provided technology professional learning for each grade level at TCUE/TCMS. The presentation focused on posting a live feed of Remind 101 updates on teacher webpages using source code from widgets in Remind 101. Ms. Cooper also presented instructional ideas on how to use QR Codes with mobile devices during classroom activities such as activating strategies. This professional learning provided another opportunity for teachers to expand their technology expertise. TCUE/TCMS is aggressive in making sure teachers have the tools needed to provide more



instructional resources for students. Ms. Cooper created support handouts and a video as resources for teachers to use in the future. These resources and others may be found on the Instructional Technology webpage of the district website.



TCCHS GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN SONIA KOVALEVSKY DAY - The 19th Annual Sonia Kovalevsky (SK) Day was held at Valdosta State University on April 23. SK Day is a project that seeks to encourage high school women to pursue the study of mathematics and prepare for possible careers in mathematics related fields. The event is named in honor of Sonia Kovalevsky, a Russian mathematician and the first woman to earn a doctorate in mathematics. The day included three workshops given by Dr. Peggy Moch, Janice Lowe, and Wing Lee. The workshop topics were Cryptography, Answering Life’s Questions with Algebra and Origami. Alyssa Pate, a pharmacist at Chancy Drugs, was the career speaker for the event. The day also included a math contest and lunch at Palms Dining Center. Eighty-three high school students from 12 area high schools attended the event. Attending from TCCHS were Kaitlyn Douglas (pictured from left), Katie Simmons, Madison Smith, Jane Guo, and Mary Warthen, TCCHS math teacher.

It's Poppin' Student Art Exhibition a Success



Kristen Connelly (from left), Sydnie Shelton, Caroline Daughtry, and Abby Allensworth were walking pieces of art at the opening reception of the It's Poppin' Student Art Exhibition.

Monday, April 14, was the opening reception for the Thomas County School System student art exhibition at the Thomasville Center for the Arts lower level gallery. The student artwork exhibited was a collection of over 100 works from Garrison-Pilcher Elementary, Cross Creek Elementary, Thomas County Upper Elementary and Middle Schools.

Organized by the schools' art teachers, Christy Parker-Priest, Annie Burke and Emily Holton, the show theme was "It's Poppin'," a collection of student artwork grades first through eighth that focuses on the influences of Pop Artist and the Pop Art Movement. Pop artists such as Jim Dine, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Claus Oldenburg, Keith Haring, and Wayne Thiebaud were used to influence the student work for this art show.

The Thomas County Middle School's Art Club painted pop art shirts and wore bright colored pants and crazy hats to serve as walking art for the show. Art Club members Katie and Chelsea Weaver dressed and looked like real

life comic book characters. Ms. Holton's student teacher, Maria Vasquez painted the student's faces as comic book characters. Ms. Holton's students also made oversized everyday objects in the style of artist Claus Oldenburg. Refreshments of lemonade and popcorn were served. There were over 75 people in attendance.

The TCSS art teachers would like to especially thank the parent volunteers who helped make the show a huge success by popping popcorn and serving the refreshments. The art teachers also appreciate the administrators' support of their art teachers and their students.



Annie Burke, Laura Daughtry, and Amy Connelly serve refreshments.



TCCHS FORENSICS TEAM WINS IN STATE COMPETITION - The TCCHS Forensics team places sixth out of 21 teams that competed in the crime scene investigation Skills USA state competition. Pictured from left to right are TCCHS Resource Officer Deputy John Sellers, Angie Gutierrez, Justin Myrick, Emily Corbitt, and Dr. Scott Sweeting. Congratulations!



GARRISON-PILCHER RECEIVES DONATION - The Monsanto Agricultural Company recently made a \$2,500 donation to Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School. The school was nominated and chosen for the "America's Farmers Grow Communities" grant that gives money to schools in farming communities to promote the awareness of agriculture. Pictured from left to right are Charlie Griffin, Pat Griffin, Brent Griffin, Trey Griffin, GP Teacher Elexis Griffin, GP Principal Sharonda O'Neal, and Monsanto representative, Jason Pittman.

Stanaland Kisses Crisp E. Bacon!

The Kiwanis Kids at Cross Creek had a fundraiser called Pennies for Patients. The goal for the school was \$4,200 and if the goal was met, Mr. Stanaland agreed to kiss a pig. The students actually fell below the goal, but he kept his promise to kiss the pig (named Crisp E. Bacon by some of the students). The event was displayed live on the closed-circuit TV for all to see.





TCMS STUDENTS ATTENDED DISTRICT HONOR BAND - TCMS Band had 14 students attend District Honor Band in Norman Park, GA. These students passed an audition that consisted of playing four majors scales from memory, playing chromatic scale from memory, performing an etude, and sight-reading a piece of music for a panel of judges. The students that passed the audition were invited to attend District Honor Band clinic and perform a concert with the best students from their district. As a part of this audition, Marion Rose Young was accepted in the All-South Region Honor Band. She performed with the best students from the southern half of the state of Georgia. Following are the students and their instruments: C'lee Kornegay, Mary Beth Wise, Haylee Norton, Alysa Yates and Zipporah Khay'yam (flute); Kennedy Ward and Ann Guo (clarinet); Amber Allen and Will Baillargion (saxophone); Sierra Stephens and Kasey Bradley (trumpet); Marion Rose Young and Emily Owens (French horn); and Olivia Osgatharp and Caleb Moore (trombone).

TCCHS Names Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, Salutatorian

Thomas County Central High School recently announced its honor graduates, valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2014.

Honor graduates, according to the student handbook, are the students who have maintained a cumulative Numeric Grade Average (NGA) of 93 or higher by the end of the first semester of their senior year.

"It's been tough, but it feels good, and I'm proud of it and couldn't have done it without parental support," said honor graduate Viraj Patel.

Honor Graduates are Stephanie Aracri, Ashlyne Bailey, Katie Beckham, Ra'Kel Brown, Dalton Bynum, Adam Choice, Ashley Elliott, Ashley Hornsby, Andrew Hoyt, Austin Jones, Hannah Jones, Sierra Lloyd, Sam Long, Nicholas

Ludecke, Lyndsaie Madden, Savannah Matherly, Elisha McDaniel, Savannah Morris, Justin Myrick, Azarel Nieves, Katie Owens, Aaisha Parson, Aaliyah Parson, Viraj Patel, Matthew Priest, Hannah Reed, Lauren Rich, Sydney Roberson, Taylor Savage, Kaylee Shaver, Abigail Smith, Austin Sykes, Khadeja Travis, Brian West, Lakedra White, Karlie Whitted, Alley Wilson, Ryan Wilson, and Holly Zolt.



**Kaylee Shaver
Salutatorian**

Lauren Rich is the class valedictorian, and Kaylee Shaver is the salutatorian. These are the students with the two highest NGAs.

"I'm honored to have been able to represent my school so well over the last four years," Shaver said.

Rich is happy with the announcement.

"My hard work has paid off, and I made my parents proud," she said.



**Lauren Rich
Valedictorian**



WINNERS OF TCMS GEOMETRY TOWN PROJECT - The sixth-grade math teachers at Thomas County Upper Elementary School recently held a grade-level competition named the "Geometry Town Project." Each student who participated in the competition was required to follow a specific layout and build three-dimensional buildings. Seth Snipes, a sixth grader from Leslie Elkins' class was the first place winner. The top four winners are pictured from left to right including (top row) Seth Snipes, 1st place; Aiden Ward, 2nd place; (bottom row) Shayla Stephens, 3rd place; and Samantha Mixon, 4th place.



ZULU COMPANY VISITS NATIONAL MUSEUM - The eighth grade MERIT team, Zulu Company, visited the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning recently. The group took guided tours through the museum and through the WWII Company Street. The trip to the National Infantry Museum was a fantastic experience reinforcing the WWII standards addressed in eighth grade Georgia History.

Rose City Symphonic Band to Perform June 7th Group Includes Music Educators & Retirees



The Rose City Symphonic Band will present "A Royal Affair" which will include works by Walton, Vaughan Williams, Meyerbeer, Glinka, Svendsen, and Tchaikovsky, on Saturday, June 7, 2014, 4 pm, at the Municipal Auditorium in Thomasville.

The Rose City Symphonic Band (RCSB) is a community wind and percussion ensemble consisting of volunteer instrumentalists from Thomasville, Georgia and the surrounding area. Founded in 2011 by Thomas

E. Wagner, Executive Director, and led by Lisa M. Foltz, Music Director and Conductor, RCSB is comprised of students and adults, including music educators and retirees.

Members enjoy performing quality wind band music and providing audiences with memorable experiences of listening to music in a diverse range of styles.

For regular updates, follow the group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/rosecitysymphonicband>.



TEACHERS RECEIVE STEM CERTIFICATION - Mrs. Lindsay Thompson and Mr. Clayton Woodfin, TCMS teachers, recently completed STEM certification. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) has been a recent focus in many states, and training has been offered by the Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers in cooperation with the University System of Georgia. The STEM Academy included learning the methodology of STEM classes and using that knowledge to teach lessons in the classroom. Lessons were observed and critiqued by STEM Academy faculty.



ODYSSEY OF THE MIND GOING TO WORLD FINALS - One of the Odyssey of the Mind teams from TCCHS will be going to World Finals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, May 28- May 31. The team, entitled *Driver's Test*, designed, built, and drove a vehicle that traveled a course where the student driver completed tasks in order to pass a "driver's test." Pictured from left to right (front) are Alexis Bergozza, Mallorie Johnson, Beth Sharpe; Chelcie Nix (back row), Bobby Hancock, Terrance Smith, Addison Frasch, and Odyssey of the Mind Coach Kimsey Hodge.



ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL TEAM UNDEFEATED - The members of the academic quiz bowl team recently participated in the Okefenokee Academic Bowl in Ware County. The team competed against multiple south Georgia schools, both public and private, placing first in the regional competition as the only undefeated team of the day. Pictured left to right are Morgan Ward, Kyle Clark, Kennedy Ward, Sierra Stephens, Joshua Stephens, and Kaleb Ward.



Hand-in-Hand Students at 2014 Rose Bud Parade