



Thomas County Board of Education Newsletter



SEE YOU AT THE POLE - Thomas County Central High School joined in the national See You at the Pole event Wednesday, Sept. 25. This global day of student-led prayer began in 1990 and celebrated its 29th annual gathering this year. Always held the fourth Wednesday in September, this prayer rally meets at each joining school's flagpole before the start of the academic day. It is an opportunity for students to voice prayers and listen to prayers by fellow youth. Adults may observe, but the event is organized and led by students only. For more information, visit syatp.com.



A Call to Preserve the Environment



Students (left to right) Aubrey Miller, Stephen Sykes, Cameron Parker, Kaleb Ward, Matt Sherrod, Kendajah Cummings, Edjensee' Corbin, Joshua Stephens and Christin Connelly are members of Thomas County Central's Environmental Ambassadors. They are pictured in front of a donated tree they will soon plant.

Climate change and preserving the environment were the green button topics recently at Thomas County Central High School. Members of the school's Environmental Ambassadors' club promoted a Climate Action Week.

"The students wanted to be involved in the world-wide Climate Strike," sponsor Laura Kornegay said. "Instead of walking out of class and not really doing anything, they decided to make it a week-long event which they called Climate Action Week and ended the week with a rally before school on Friday. We are instructed to be good stewards of the environment, and our health depends on the health of the environment."

Held Sept. 16-20, the week encourages people of all ages to adopt sustainable behaviors to aid in preserving the planet.

The week's activities

included: Meatless Monday, to limit animal product consumption to reduce creation of greenhouse gases that impact the environment; Turn It Off Tuesday, an effort to turn off car engines, lights and other appliances when not using them; Carpool Wednesday, to ride together with others going to the same destination; Skip the Drive-Thru Thursday, to go inside to order and save gas and reduce emissions that negatively impact the environment; and, Jacket Rally for Action on Climate Change Friday, when the Environmental Ambassadors held a climate change rally on campus before school. Members also made posters and pins and distributed them throughout the school. They will soon plant a tree donated by Stoney Creek.

Kornegay hopes her students learned that what they say matters and they can make a difference.

Interactive Introduction

TCCHS ECE students gain training in Conscious Discipline



Hand-In-Hand Primary School counselor Whitney Robertson illustrates how to use positive interaction with students.

Thomas County Central High School youth interested in teaching future generations recently received an introduction to the social-emotional learning practice known as Conscious Discipline.

Early Childhood Education I students took part in an interactive lesson presented by Hand-In-Hand Primary School counselor Whitney Robertson.

"Students in the Early Childhood Education pathway will be interning in Thomas County's elementary schools during their junior or senior year," ECE I teacher Delisa Barrow said. "I hope to give them a tool to use that will encourage positive behavior and a way to correct

the not-so-great behaviors they may experience in the elementary classrooms."

Conscious Discipline creator Dr. Becky Bailey developed the research-based program to aid adults to recognize in moments of upset that all behavior, including misbehavior, is communication, Whitney Robertson explains. Conscious Discipline utilizes powers for adults to teach missing skills to children that develop empathy, resilience, emotional intelligence and life skills.

Robertson said Hand-In-Hand Primary School has been working to implement Conscious Discipline in all its classrooms.

"We have been



Elizabeth Miller and Ashlyn Morris practice a fun way to greet children.

fortunate enough to have [both] certified and master instructors come lead training for our staff, to visit other schools that implement Conscious Discipline with fidelity, and to send staff members to week-long summer institutes that provide deep and thorough instruction," she said.

Barrow was impressed with her students' immediate willingness to participate and open attitude toward the lesson.

"I couldn't believe how

some students jumped right in and participated in the different exercises," she said. "I thought they would be shy at first, but they exceeded my expectations. I believe they enjoyed the morning song and ice breaker the best because it gave them a chance to increase their energy level and focus."

Through this training, Barrow hopes her students learned a way to deal with frustration and anger and more about building positive relationships.



CLASSROOM COMETS EDUCATE TCMS STUDENTS - Students in Renee Marcinski's sixth-grade science class at Thomas County Middle School are gearing up to blast off by creating comets. Students were recently given the challenge of creating a comet, known as a "dirty snowball," and made observations about the comet. Students were able to manipulate the temperature to discuss the effects. Pictured from left to right are Chloe NeSmith, Malachi Gaskins and Ansley Helms using dry ice to construct a model of a comet.

CPR and First Aid will be offered from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Hand-In-Hand Primary School on the following dates:

October 22, 2019 CPR

November 19, 2019 First Aid

Please sign up on PExpress to attend one of these classes or to see others offered!





BRIDGING THE GAP - Garrison-Pilcher Elementary and Hand-In-Hand Primary Schools recently teamed up to bridge the gap between home and school. They have a Community Outreach team with the mission of ensuring all homes have the resources needed to help their children be successful. The committee hopes to help parents that may not be able to attend school events or workshops by visiting local community libraries. The Thomas County Library System has partnered with Thomas County Schools to make this happen. Thomas County Schools encourage the public to visit the next community outreach event in November. Contact Misty Taylor at Garrison-Pilcher or Mary Dennis at Hand-In-Hand for more information.

Crafty Curriculum



Jami Butler's PreK class was very invested in this hands-on, developmentally appropriate lesson on the letter C using the Handwriting Without Tears materials and curriculum.

State Superintendent Woods Selects Eighth-Grader Petrey for 19-20 Student Advisory Council

130 Georgia students will provide feedback on how state policies impact the classroom

State School Superintendent Richard Woods has selected 130 Georgia students to serve on his Student Advisory Council. Owen Petrey, an eighth-grader at Thomas County Middle School, was selected from a pool of more than 1,000 students who applied to serve on the council.

Petrey is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the 4H shotgun team, science academy and the middle school football team. He is an active participant in several community service activities throughout the year including Hands on Thomas County, Backpack Buddies, Second Harvest, Project Backyard, Salvation Army and the Humane Society. Petrey was also selected as a Duke TIP finalist last year.

"I am very excited to be selected for the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council," said Petrey. "It is an honor to represent Thomas County and Thomas County Middle School."

In his new role, Petrey said he wants to help make other decisions that will affect himself and his fellow classmates.

"I think it will be exciting and rewarding to be a part of a team that evaluates ideas, suggests changes, and impacts students across the state," Petrey said. "I hope to help make school a place where students can use 'real life' skills such as time



OWEN PETREY

management, budgeting or how to do taxes."

Petrey added, "As an eighth-grade student, I am already focused on higher education. However, I notice that some students, including myself, struggle with time management skills, social skills, and everyday knowledge. School is extremely concentrated on academic achievements, but I think adolescents need to find a better balance between academic success and developmental needs that helps prepare us for high school and being an adult."

Throughout the school year, these middle and high school students will meet with Superintendent Woods to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom.

The first meeting of the Student Advisory Council will be held Monday, October 21, at the Georgia Department of Education's offices in Atlanta.

GP'S BUGOUT IMMERSION



Leeann Jackson's 2nd grade class from Garrison-Pilcher Elementary ventured to Thomasville's local creative district for a "bugout immersion." The students experienced public art, identified insects, became young curators, toured an art exhibit, met an artist, and created their very own bug mural by using projection. Jackson's class is pictured in Downtown Thomasville's Ritz Amphitheater.



THINKING HEALTHY THOUGHTS - Members of the wellness committee met recently to discuss finalizing school district wellness regulations, how to assess our progress towards meeting district wellness goals (nutrition education & promotion, physical activity, other school based activity goals, standards for food provided and sold to students, policies for food and beverage marketing, and other school wellness goals), and how to deliver that information to district students, staff, and families. The final documents will be published on the school system website's wellness page. Dr. Lauren Duplantis, Health and Wellness Coordinator, is proud of all the work that Thomas County does to support and encourage health and wellness throughout the system.



TCCHS FOOTBALL SEPTEMBER 2019

Worth County	Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.	TCCHS
Warner Robins	Oct. 18	7:30 p.m.	Warner Robins
Harris County	Oct. 25	7:30 p.m.	TCCHS

VISIT TCJACKETS.NET FOR FULL SCHEDULE

TCCHS' Potter Selected for ICON Program

A Thomas County Central High School junior is expanding her leadership potential by participation in a unique initiative. Emily Potter, 16, is the school's nominated delegate for the Student Success Agency's ICON (Influence, Cultivate, Originate, Network) program.

"I was excited," Potter said of learning the news. "I definitely felt unique. It's not an opportunity a lot of students get."

Potter learned of the Student Success Agency, or SSA, during a GEARUP meeting held at Southern Regional Technical College last year. She signed up because it would be a different but beneficial opportunity.

ICON is a nationwide internship and student ambassador program for select SSA scholars who demonstrate characteristics that define influential and high-achieving individuals, explains Nisha Kurani, director of training and development for student success. Also, these students possess skill sets that are often overlooked, such

as graphic design, art, musical performance, public speaking and other creative skills.

"We believe these ICONs are some of our biggest leaders, change-makers [and] dream chasers, and we're committed to investing in them," she said.



EMILY POTTER

Only nominated students may apply. After filling out the application, Potter underwent an interview process before being determined as a delegate.

"I was excited about her being selected," Kurani said of Potter. "I see a lot of leadership potential in her and am excited to see where she takes things at her high school this year!"

Potter anticipates the year-long commitment and hopes to gain more confidence through her involvement in ICON, particularly via organizing school activities.

"I'm most looking forward to getting to know other students at different high schools across the nation, seeing how they get involved and gain ideas from them," she said.



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