

HPS "GOOD NEWS"

Communications Department / HPS Board of Education

January 25, 2021

Oakwood Reading Challenge a Great Success!

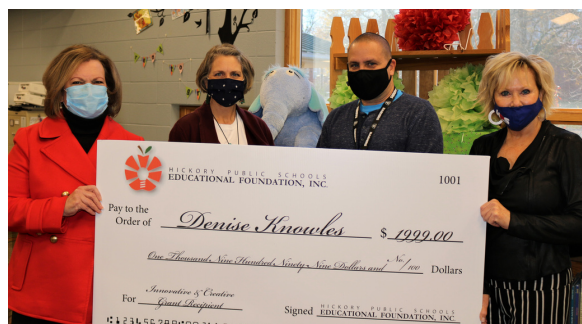
Students met the challenge & read at least 60 books over the December break!



Making a Difference!

Congrats to Elizabeth Rollins, Pre-K teacher at Southwest Primary, who recently received a "thank you" from a former student. The former student was just accepted to UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Pembroke--and he wanted to thank Mrs. Rollins for being his first teacher!

Thank you to the HPS Education Foundation, Inc., for the gift of these grants to our teachers!



Winning Recipients include:
(L-R, starting at top):
Stephanie Ashley
(Southwest)
Melissa Jaroszewski
(HHS)
Debra Kinal
(Jenkins)
Jason Hoyle
(HHS)
Danielle Moore
(Jenkins)
Nancy Osborne
(HHS)
Donna Danner
(Jenkins)
Denise Knowles
(Viewmont)

Awarded by Harriett Jeffords, President, Charles Young, Board Member, and Sandi Fotheringham, Executive Director.



MORE GOOD NEWS!



(L-R) Triston Fuller, Elizabeth Vicente (not pictured: Niquezion Shuford) photos by Robert C. Reed/HDR

SPOTLIGHTS



MORNING BRIEFING

NAACP MLK Program goes virtual this year

HICKORY — Due to COVID-19, the Hickory NAACP has made changes to the structure of its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance.

Instead of a march from the Lenoir-Rhyne University campus to the Ridgeview community for a forum and lunch, the tribute will be an entirely virtual video presentation at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18.

The event can be viewed at Morning Star First Baptist Church Facebook page, scroll to YouTube, find Link for NAACP MLK Program.

The presentation will consist of local school students giving their original speeches which will focus on hope, a main theme in many of King's speeches. Triston Fuller, a second-grader at Southwest Elementary, Elizabeth Vicente an eighth-grader at Grandview Middle School and Niquezion Shuford, a 10th-grader at Hickory High School, will all speak on "Finding Hope."



(R) Congrats to Jackie Finley, performing arts teacher at HCAM, on her recent retirement after 32 years in education!

(L) Hickory High School announces a Coca-Cola Scholars Semi-Finalist this year: Senior Abby Schueler is one of 1600 students selected nationwide out of 99,400 applicants!! Just 1.6% of applicants made this distinction!



HHS Staff receives Auto Repairs from Students!

The Automotive Dept at HHS, under the leadership of Mr. Terry Drum, has a new project to enhance their skills! Working on the autos owned by HHS staff--they have repaired rear breaks, fixed a complicated oil drip, changed a radio fuse, completed a 100K mile service job--and more!

They didn't win the car--but they did win some great prizes! Congrats to Marilyn Johnson (L) and Gena Barnhardt at Hickory High--and thanks for your contribution to United Way!



Community Partner

****HPS employees have donated 7 plus carloads of coats and blankets to the Hickory homeless.**

From HPS Teacher of the Year, Anyea Gibson, who took supplies to the homeless in Charlotte's "Tent City."



"Be grateful for the things that God has blessed you with, because there are so many people who have to live without. This is not happening in just places like Atlanta or Washington DC, this is happening right at our doorstep and it is time for all of us to put on a hat of selflessness and do our part to make a difference in this world. As long as I have breath I will always try to take the blessings that God has given me and be a light of hope to someone else."

-- Ms. Gibson

Good News from the Schools!

Longview: Virtual Awards Celebration - our Virtual Awards Celebration was a great success! Teachers, students, and parents came together on Zoom to celebrate the hard work of Longview students; Winter Sing Along - our Virtual Winter Sing Along was a huge hit! Students, families, and teachers loved coming together on Zoom to sing winter holiday tunes; Several staff members received additional monitors through the “Two Screens for Teachers” program.

Grandview: Elizabeth Vicinte was a featured artist for the Hickory Playground in December. Her art was featured across social media platforms as a selected artist for their Seasonal Art Gallery. She received payment for her commissioned work. The Hickory Playground supports the arts and arts education by providing grants to teachers and working artists in all areas: <https://hickoryplayground.org/seasonal-gallery>; Vanessa Lail and Jordan Caldwell were accepted to present at NCTIES; PTA provides a treat for staff each month. In December, they had a holiday cookie exchange. They also have monthly drawings for gift cards for staff members. First Presbyterian Church provides lunch to the staff once a month. Each month they have a different menu planned. In December, they provided sandwich and fruit trays along with chips and desserts. The 8th grade began the process of high school registration.

Hickory High: On TV! The HHS Band was featured on Channel 9 News covering the band's annual holiday concert. The drive-in concert's theme was “A Night at the Movies,” and included songs from “Star Wars,” “Jurassic Park,” “E.T.,” “The Hunger Games,” “Twilight,” and “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

Jenkins: The JNK PTA held a drive-thru toy drive in which Santa was present to receive letters. The proceeds were combined with the Annual Bobcat Angel Tree to provide several families with Christmas gifts; The JNK PTA provided staff with lunch from Chick-fil-A and a gift cards for each staff member for the holidays; The JNK Bobcat mascot uniform is officially complete with his new super JNK logo; The JNK PTA is supporting the MTSS-Behavior aligned house system by selling T-shirts and masks that are aligned to each superhero house. It's been a huge success! The MTSS-Behavior Superhero Matrix has been printed in 36” x 48” posters to be displayed around the school.

Northview: PTA blessed the staff with a boxed holiday feast in December and gift cards from local businesses. Mr. Brown gave each staff member a new long sleeved t-shirt and insulated cup with school logo for Christmas. 8th grade students began the process of registering for high school. They watched the video on options for classes and school choices. Students said they are looking forward to the next steps. Ms. Shears reports that Kynnidie Severt (6th grader) stated that he looks forward to the 6th period because he loves typing and playing the fun learning online tools such as Quizizz. The office staff surprised Officer Beatrice Behan on Monday with a Chick-fil-A lunch in recognition of School Resource Officer's Appreciation Week. Someone brought Girl Scout cookies to sell in the school office. Morale improved immediately.

Oakwood: Ms. Kubiniec and PTA were able to provide presents for 60 Oakwood students during the holiday season. PTA boosted spirits and staff morale by providing treats and gifts for staff every day during the two weeks before Winter Break. Staff members were much like children - so excited by the surprises in their mailboxes every morning. First Grade created a Google Slides presentation for their families to view at home, First Grade Christmas Around the World. Mrs. Kaylor created an online holiday celebration for students and parents to view at home. Happy Holidays from Oakwood. Oakwood participated in a December Reading Challenge. A kindergarten student read more than 68 books during the challenge.

Southwest: Mrs. Roberts completed her instructor training for Reading Research to Classroom Practice5; staff members have received a new Dell Monitor from the “2 Monitors for Teachers” project sponsored by Donors Choose; 85% of the students returned to 4 day a week in person learning with 15% learning remotely! Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Roberts led a professional development session focused on Phonological Awareness for teachers in Columbia (South America). Mrs. Munoz coordinated the professional development session to support teachers from her home country who are teaching English to primary age students.

Viewmont: Conducted multiple Holiday Sing-a-longs via Zoom; Erin Irvin received a Donor’s Choose Grant; Pretty smooth transition to Plan A for K-3 students; Schedules were updated and classes had to be changed due to parent requests (in person or remote); Hired a new Secretary/Treasurer; Around 74% of students are in person with 26% remote; Hired a new 3rd grade teacher (had a 4th grade teacher resign due to husband’s job, moved a 3rd grade teacher to teach 4th (great flexibility by this teacher); and then hired a 3rd grade teacher. Pretty smooth transition to Plan A for K-3 students. Schedules were updated.

	National Board Appreciation Month <i>Thank you for your dedication!</i>	
		
	HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (L-R, top left) Bryan Graham/Chair; Ittily Carson/Vice Chair, Amy Monroe, James Brinkley, Sarah Temple, Mike Heard, Beth Meadlock	



**Thank you to the HPS
Board of Education!**