



# The Buzz

SEPTEMBER  
2013



Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

## BEST OF THE NEST



**TCCHS BAND PERFORMS IN DOWNTOWN THOMASVILLE** - Michial Mayhall, Band Director, said, "Performing for the community is always a great experience. The support for our program is overwhelming. We had a great crowd at our camp presentation, and our students lived up to their name... they are truly are 'the Best of the Nest'!"



**THOMAS COUNTY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER CHOSEN AS A TRAINING SITE FOR TKES AND LKES** - During the week of August 19 - 23, the Thomas County School System served as a host site for a week-long training session for administrators in the Southwest Georgia RESA District on the new Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness System (TKES and LKES) in the professional learning center at the Thomas County Board of Education. Evaluation specialists Stacey Lutz and Mary Friesen with GaDOE trained and credentialed the administrators.

## Shhh... it's a secret!



The "One Book: Time to Read Together Campaign" launches September 6. One Book is a celebration of community and literacy featuring events for the whole family. What would it be like if all the teachers in Thomas County School System read one certain book during a specific time? Would we all begin talking about the book and its ideas at lunch and on duty?

The Thomas County School System knows how important literacy is to our students as well as the community. To show our support, for the "One Book Campaign," teachers will be awarded one professional learning unit (PLU) of credit for their participation in our community's celebration of literacy.

The book chosen for the community will be announced on Friday, September 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Grassroots Coffee Co. on Broad Street. Teachers can earn one PLU by reading the book and journaling about each of the chapters during September.

For more information or if you want to participate, please contact Melanie Hester at the board office or by calling 225-4380, extension 115.

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

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Sept. 4** - Cross Creek Card Sales End

**Sept. 6** - Varsity Football vs. Marist at the Jacket's Nest

**Sept. 9 - 13** - Book Fairs at Garrison Pilcher and Cross Creek

**Sept. 10** - Board of Education Meeting, PLC, 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 13** - Varsity Football vs. Cairo High School in Cairo

**Sept. 17** - Fall Parent Workshop at TCMS on Social Media, 5:30 p.m.

**Sept. 20** - Varsity Football vs. Tift County at the Jacket's Nest

**Sept. 26** - School Council Meeting at Cross Creek

**Sept. 27** - Character Kid Assembly at Garrison Pilcher

**Sept. 27** - Varsity Football OPEN

**Oct. 7 - Oct. 11** - Fall Break

**Oct. 14** - Teacher/Student Holiday

**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.



Angie Ellis, TCMS Georgia History teacher, is pictured at Mount Vernon where she attended the Summer Residential Teachers' Institute.

## TCMS Georgia History Teacher Selected to Attend Two Teacher Institutes

Angie Ellis, a Thomas County Middle School Georgia History Teacher, was selected to attend two teacher institutes during the recent summer months. Teachers throughout the United States applied for this learning opportunity, and Ellis was chosen from that group of applicants. She has taught 8th grade Georgia History for 12 years and loves her subject and her students. Ellis also enjoys field trips that help inspire her students to love history, too.

The first program she was selected to attend was the "Summer Residential Teachers' Institute" at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Ellis had to write an essay, send in a resume, and commit to writing and teaching an in-service lesson from the information she obtained at Mount Vernon.

The teachers selected for the Institute lived in the Mount Vernon quarters, or the residential areas, for guests. Top historians, interpreters of Martha Washington, a surveyor, Billy (George Washington's assistant), and

a role interpreter came in for lectures.

The second program Ellis was selected to attend was the Master Teacher Program for the Society of the Cincinnati. The Society of the Cincinnati is an all-male organization that originated with George Washington. She attended the program in Washington D.C.

The selected teachers resided in the Anderson House where each state, with members in the Society, decorated a suite representing that state.

Ellis said when she found out that she was selected she was thrilled to be chosen for both of the summer programs. She said the information she obtained will definitely be an asset in the Georgia History classes she teaches. A sponsor is helping her obtain the materials needed to portray the character of Martha Washington and to be able to teach her students about George Washington and the American Revolution through the eyes of Martha Washington.

**CROSS CREEK K-KIDS PREPARE FOR FAMILY NIGHT** - The K-Kids Club volunteers, under the supervision of Marie Johnson, Cross Creek cafeteria manager, prepared 650 hot dog meals. The meal included a hot dog, chips, cookie, and drink. The back to school event, hosted at Cross Creek Elementary School, was held on August 13 at 5:30 p.m. Each classroom prepared a Teacher Orientation for visitors. The parents also viewed a streaming video presentation which highlighted the purposes of Bee Boosters, PTO, and Title I. Pictured from left to right are Claire Pope, Tisha Stevens, and Fabian Hernandez.



**INSERVICE FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION STAFF** - Thomas County School Nutrition staff participated in a two day in-service training where they increased their skills in food management and preparation. Each school took part in Recipe Wars to strengthen their skills in food prep and team work. The staff also tasted each food to enhance their recipes for the upcoming school year. It was an exciting and rigorous task for everyone, but the best part was having the opportunity to work together as a staff. Several other objectives achieved during this training were understanding the new meal pattern, improving their overall nutrition program, and helping employees improve their self esteem.

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# MATH

**“Arithmetic is being able to count up to twenty without taking off your shoes.”**

Visit the K-5 wiki <http://ccgpsmathematicsK-5.wikispaces.com/>

Visit the 6-8 wiki <http://ccgpsmathematics6-8.wikispaces.com/>

Visit the 9-10 wiki <http://ccgpsmathematics9-10.wikispaces.com/>

Follow on Twitter: @GaDOEMath, @gadoenews and @drjohnbarge

## NETS-S Performance Tasks



Erin Rehberg, TCMS Media Specialist, provides training to the students on improving their study skills.

The GaDOE Division of Technology Services has released over 400 new GPS aligned performance tasks showcasing the integration of the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S) for K-8 mathematics, social studies, science, and English language arts that will assist teachers in providing students with performance based tasks designed to improve their college and career readiness and 21st century skills.

Mrs. Erin Rehberg, media specialist at TCMS, collaborates with classroom teachers using CCGPS and GPS to plan and teach units of study.

The library media program fosters critical thinking skills and independent inquiry as

students learn to choose reliable information and to become proactive and thoughtful users of information and resources.

## Literacy in the Academic Discipline

Dianne Stephens, a literacy consultant for Thomas County Schools, works with high school social studies teachers on integrating effective literacy practice into classroom instruction.



## Logins for OAS are Now Available!

### Online Assessment System



Making Education Work for All Georgians  
Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

The Georgia Online Assessment System (OAS) represents a dedicated resource for schools, districts, classroom teachers, students and parents that allows for ongoing classroom instruction and student learning. This site allows educators to have access to test items aligned to the state mandated curriculum to develop assessments that inform teaching and learning. It allows students and parents transparency on the expectations placed on students relative to improving student achievement. This system is another resource available and designed to help all Georgia educators, students and parents as part of our common goal in Making Education Work for All Georgians.

## National History Day Workshop Held at Thomas County Middle School



Pictured from left are Amelia Gallo, Thomas County Historical Society; Laura McCarty, Georgia Humanities Council; Deann Garcia, Mandy West, TCMS, Heather Ward, TCMS; Selina Bell, Amy Ponder, Christine Patton, Sam Pickett, Teresa Carver, Al Hicks, Chris Wilson, TCCHS; and Dr. Kevin Shirley, LaGrange College.

A workshop about National History Day (NHD) was recently held at TCMS including faculty from the middle school and the high school. Dr. Kevin Shirley, Professor of History at LaGrange College and Georgia NHD Outreach Coordinator, Laura McCarty, Georgia Humanities Council, and Amelia Gallo, Thomas County Historical Museum, were on hand to provide the training.

Dr. Shirley and Ms. McCarty came to TCMS to discuss the expansion of the NHD competition in Southwest Georgia. This year, TCCHS will host a senior level competition in all five project categories. TCMS/TCUE MERIT programs will be adding Webpage Design

to their project categories.

This year's NHD theme is Rights and Responsibilities. Last year, 27 students at TCMS/TCUE qualified for the state competition at Mercer University and one group qualified for the national competition at the University of Maryland.

National History Day helps America's youth discover the historic, cultural and social experiences of the past. Through hands-on experiences and presentations, students are engaged and have the ability to enlighten the present and shape the future. The exciting competitions benefits teaching through project based curriculum and instruction.

## Garrison Pilcher Elementary School *WEE BEES Self Portraits*



Shardes Gilliam  
Age 7

Cristian Rivas-  
Fuentes  
Age 6

Aiyana Yerkes  
Age 8

Riley Fisher  
Age 7

*More on display now at the central board office.*



**TCMS STUDENTS CREATE COLLAGES FOR SOCIAL STUDIES** - Maggie Simmons and Hanna Moser (L-R) are pictured with collages created by the sixth grade MERIT team. The first unit students study is to understand the themes that will be covered in the sixth and seventh grade social studies curriculum. Their collages represented how their personal culture shows the following themes: conflict and change, culture, governance, human environmental interactions, location, production, distribution and consumption, time, change and continuity.



**TCCHS STUDENTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS** - TCCHS Principal Ken Harper recently treated a large group of current students to lunch at Ruby Tuesdays. The students were recognized for earning a 3, 4, 5 on an AP exam last spring. Forty-seven students at the high school earned a score of 3 or more on their AP exam. Pictured from left to right are Charles Maggitas, Kaylee Shaver, Sierra Lloyd, Abby Smith, Davis Bell, Viraj Patel, Sam Long, Sydney Roberson, Savannah Matherly, Trey Owens, Ra'kel Brown, Principal Ken Harper, Gerald Hallowell, and Dr. Jim Rehberg.

## SAVE THE DATE!

1st Annual Jacket Jog  
5K and Fun Run  
Saturday, October 19