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NEWS RELEASE

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Bonaire Middle Celebrates FFA Week



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Bonaire Middle School (BMS) celebrated National FFA week in February. The students held several events to highlight FFA, and chapter officers created posters to educate students, teachers, staff, and others about the local, state, and national levels of FFA. This year's theme is *Lead Out Loud*.

Agricultural teacher and FFA adviser Cheralyn Boettcher said, "The students had an awesome time celebrating National FFA Week this year! When you focus on leading by example, you can't help but focus on appreciating and helping others. It feels really good to help someone else or to thank someone who has helped our members, and we can't think of any other way that we could better celebrate our FFA organization and what it means than to *Lead Out Loud!*"

Events scheduled throughout the week included:

- Kickoff with a school-wide announcement about FFA and National FFA Week. Posters about FFA were displayed in the hallways.
- A celebration with cake and ice cream after a chapter meeting, followed by crafting Valentine's Day cards for the Summer's Landing Alzheimer's unit residents. Boettcher commented, "One of the best

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ways to help others is also the easiest; you simply have to let them know you care. A good leader should be centered on others, not self-centered, and a homemade card can brighten anyone's day."

- BMS faculty and staff members were invited to an appreciation breakfast prepared and served by the FFA members, who provided pancakes, homemade biscuits, doughnuts, fresh fruit, yogurt and orange juice. After the breakfast, leftover pancake mix and syrup were donated to a church for families in need. "The faculty and staff at our school work many long hours and attend numerous after-school activities to support our students," said Boettcher. "We wanted to thank them for all they do for all students, especially for their support of FFA activities. The breakfast was a huge hit, and we received wonderful feedback regarding how much the staff appreciated us hosting the breakfast. Serving others doesn't have to be hard; in fact we had a really great time! By taking the time to say "thank you," we showed our gratitude for the service that others have given to us. We brightened their day and were reminded of how many people help us out every day. A leader should always recognize that they did not get to a point of success on their own, but that many people invested in them along the way."

- Students visited the Alzheimer's unit at Summer's Landing, where they regularly visit. They donated items for a prize box, such as hand lotions, picture frames, socks, chap sticks and notepads. Before a Bingo game, each resident received a Valentine's Day cup filled with candy and one of the hand-crafted cards. Each FFA member paired up with a resident to help them play the game.

FFA members are pictured serving breakfast and at Summer's Landing. In the group photo are: (from left) Kristen Holder, Brandy Lloyd, Cassidy Thornton, Amber Tittle, Erica Annskinner, Cheralyn Boettcher, Darlyn Davis, Leann Harper, Aliyah Davis, Jacob Pilcher and Devan Griffin.

Bonaire Middle is located at 125 Highway 96 East in Bonaire. Cindy Randall serves as principal. For more information, please contact Boettcher at Cheralyn.Boettcher@hcbe.net or (478) 929-6235, extension 52559.

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