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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Houston County Schools Announce Systemwide Teacher of the Year Honors Teachers of the Year and Employees of the Year**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – At the August 4, 2010, Opening Session, the Houston County School System honored each of its six Employees of the Year and 37 Teachers of the Year. The systemwide Teacher of the Year and system finalists were announced for the first time. **Beth Sciarro**, an Early Intervention Program reading teacher at Northside Elementary School, is the **2010-2011 Houston County Teacher of the Year**.

**Employees of the Year** are:

- ★ Maintenance Employee of the Year – Chuck Jones;
- ★ Custodian of the Year – Emma Jean Adkison, Perry High School;
- ★ Warehouse Employee of the Year – Irvin Pitts;
- ★ School Nutrition Manager of the Year – Wanda Keene, Northside High School;
- ★ Bus Driver of the Year – James Peaster; and
- ★ Bus Monitor of the Year – Barbara Solomon.

Four **finalists for the systemwide TOTY** were announced. The finalists (in no particular order) are:

- ★ Ms. Larissa Beecher, Bonaire Elementary School;
- ★ Ms. Laura Sanders, Hilltop Elementary School;
- ★ Ms. Demetria Thomas, Feagin Mill Middle School; and
- ★ Mr. Wally Shaw, Houston County High School.

The event was held at the Miller-Murphy-Howard building at the Agricenter in Perry. Many thanks are expressed to the companies that provided event sponsorship:

- Premier Sponsor (\$6,500): H.E.A. Federal Credit Union;
- Premier Sponsor (\$6,000): Parrish Construction;
- Premier Sponsor (\$5,000): Clear Concepts Consulting Group;

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- Gold Sponsor (\$1,500): Jostens;
- Silver Sponsor (\$1,000): Cox Communications;
- Silver Sponsor (\$1,000): VALIC;
- Bronze Sponsor (\$750): CB&T Bank of Middle Georgia;
- Friend of BOE: Audio Visual Services;
- Friend of BOE: Dr. Matt Dixon; and
- Friend of BOE: Davis Oil Company.

Approximately \$44,000 worth of gifts and cash awards was presented to 43 honorees, courtesy of generous sponsors. The school system greatly appreciates the companies that provided gifts to help honor employees!

**Each of the six Employees of the Year received about \$700 in gifts, including \$250 cash, as follows:**

- framed certificate;
- EDIMGIAFAD magnet from Museum of Aviation;
- Fatz Café coupon;
- Red Lobster gift card;
- Books Are Fun gift;
- Stevi' B's pizza buffet coupon;
- Chick-fil-A coupon;
- Outback Steakhouse appetizer gift card;
- engraved writing pen from National Bank Products;
- LongHorn Steakhouse gift card;
- Walmart gift card;
- portfolio and Grillmaster coupon from the Georgia Association of Educators;
- professional photograph with the Superintendent;
- Sideboard Southern Buffet gift card;
- Swanson House gift card;
- Seasons Spa and Salon gift certificate;
- Office Depot supplies;
- monogrammed bag from Galleria Mall;
- Dr. Matt Dixon gift certificate;
- "Pride of the Panthers" by Mr. Billy Powell;
- ticket to Stone Mountain Park;
- four tickets to the Georgia National Fair;
- gift from Priester's Pecans;
- ½ price ticket to Wild Adventures, good for up to four people;
- three free months at Edge Fitness;
- \$50 from Clear Concepts Consulting Group;
- \$100, a calendar and pen from H.E.A. Federal Credit Union;
- \$100 from all three Premier sponsors – Parrish Construction, H.E.A. Federal Credit Union and Clear Concepts;
- a commendation letter from Sen. Ross Tolleson; and
- a commendation from Governor Sonny Perdue.

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**Houston County Schools Announce Systemwide Teacher of the Year; Honors Teachers of the Year and Employees of the Year, page 3 of 5**

**Each of the 37 school-level Teachers of the Year was presented gifts valued at about \$450:**

- calendar and pen from HEA Federal Credit Union;
- Priester's Pecans small pie;
- EDIMGIAFAD magnet from Museum of Aviation;
- a framed certificate;
- Fatz Café coupon;
- Memo pad from Books Are Fun;
- Stevi' B's pizza buffet coupon;
- Chick-fil-A coupon;
- Outback Steakhouse appetizer card;
- an engraved writing pen from National Bank Products;
- \$10 gift card from Walmart of Warner Robins;
- LongHorn Steakhouse gift certificate;
- portfolio and Grillmaster coupon from the Georgia Association of Educators;
- professional photograph with the Superintendent;
- gift certificate from Seasons Spa and Salon;
- Office Depot supplies;
- monogrammed bag from the Galleria Mall;
- Sideboard Southern Buffet gift certificate;
- The Swanson gift certificate;
- gift certificate from Dr. Matt Dixon;
- "Pride of the Panthers" from author Billy Powell;
- ½ price ticket to Wild Adventures, good for up to four people;
- three free months at Edge Fitness;
- \$50 from Clear Concepts Consulting Group;
- \$50 from the Premier sponsors – Parrish Construction, H.E.A. Federal Credit Union and Clear Concepts;
- a commendation letter from Sen. Ross Tolleson; and
- and a commendation from Governor Sonny Perdue.

**Each of the four TOTY Finalists received additional gifts valued at about \$2,800:**

- Red Lobster gift card;
- Perry Bookstore gift certificate;
- ticket to Stone Mountain Park;
- \$25 gift card from the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, PAGE;
- school supplies caddy from Walmart of Warner Robins;
- gift from Priester's Pecans;
- an acrylic tray from the Museum of Aviation;
- six more months at Edge Fitness;
- Family Portrait Session with a 8x10 portrait from C&C Photography;
- perfume from Belk Matthews valued at \$315 value;
- an endorsement certificate from Middle Georgia RESA for three to four 50-hour courses, valued up to \$1,400;
- \$25 check from the Houston Association of Educators;
- a \$100 check from CB&T Bank;

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- a \$100 check from H.E.A. Federal Credit Union;
- an additional \$50 from the Premier sponsors - Parrish, H.E.A. and Clear Concepts;
- \$250 from Brad and Gina Fink, Sonny's Bar-B-Q; and
- a plaque from the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce.

**As the Houston County Teacher of the Year, Sciarro received approximately another \$12,200 total in cash and gifts to include:**

- gift cards from Red Lobster;
- gift certificate from the Perry Bookstore;
- beach towel & water bottle from Wild Adventures;
- additional LongHorn Steakhouse coupon;
- gift from Priester's Pecans;
- gift certificate from The Bike Store;
- file folder of school supplies from Walmart;
- a tray from the Museum of Aviation;
- gift certificate from Yelverton Jewelers;
- gift certificate from Timeless Treasures Antiques and Collectibles;
- gift certificate from Barnes Professional Carpet Care;
- round of golf for two at the Houston Lake Country Club;
- six more months at Edge Fitness;
- Veranda Spa and Salon t-shirt, products and gift certificate;
- a Flip video camera from Cox;
- 52 weeks of free buffet at Stevi' B's pizza;
- Family Session w/16x20 framed portrait from C&C Photography;
- Zoom whitening and Sonic toothbrush from Dr. Alex Bell, a \$750 value;
- \$780 gift from Belk Matthews - \$530 in perfume and a \$250 shopping spree;
- an endorsement certificate from Middle Georgia RESA for three to four 50-hour courses, valued up to \$1,400;
- \$100 cash card from the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, PAGE;
- \$100 from Robins Federal Credit Union;
- \$100 from the Houston Association of Educators;
- an additional \$150 from all three Premier sponsors - Parrish, H.E.A. and Clear Concepts;
- \$200 check from CB&T Bank;
- \$250 gift card from Publix;
- \$500 from HEA Federal Credit Union;
- \$1,000 and plaque from the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce;
- \$1,000 from Brad and Gina Fink, Sonny's Bar-B-Q; and a
- new Honda Civic for a year from Hughes Honda.

The system greatly appreciates all of the sponsors. The following is a list of the Teacher of the Year and Employee of the Year sponsors:

- Barnes Professional Carpet Care
- Belk Matthews
- The Bike Store
- Dr. and Mrs. Alex Bell
- Books Are Fun

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- CB&T Bank of Middle Georgia
- C&C Photography
- Chamber of Commerce, Perry
- Chamber of Commerce, Robins Regional
- Chick-fil-A of Perry
- Clear Concepts Consulting
- Cox Communications
- Dr. Matt Dixon
- Edge Fitness
- Fatz Café
- Galleria Mall
- Georgia Association of Educators
- Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter
- H.E.A. Federal Credit Union
- Houston Association of Educators
- Houston Lake Country Club
- Hughes Honda
- LongHorn Steakhouse
- Middle Georgia RESA
- Museum of Aviation
- National Bank Products
- Office Depot
- Outback Steakhouse
- Perry Bookstore
- Priester's Pecans
- Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Publix
- Red Lobster
- Robins Federal Credit Union
- Season Spa & Salon
- Sonny's Bar-B-Q
- Stevi B's Pizza
- Stone Mountain Park
- Swanson House
- Timeless Treasures Antiques & Collectibles
- Veranda Spa & Salon
- Walmart of Warner Robins
- Wild Adventures Theme Park
- Yelverton Jewelers.

A video was shown during Opening Session featuring the top 10 finalists for system Teacher of the Year. The video is titled, "Why I Teach." Visit [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net), the Board of Education Web site's home page to view the video.

END

NOTE: A photo of Beth Sciarro, 2010-2011 Houston County Teacher of the Year, is provided courtesy of C&C Photography.