



**SEPTEMBER
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HCBOE HEADLINES

An award-winning monthly communiqué of the Houston County School System

BONAIRE ELEMENTARY WINS STATE AWARD



Bonaire Elementary School won a state award for academic achievement. The *Superintendent's Distinguished Achievement Award* honors schools with the highest achievement on state curriculum tests. The 10 schools with the highest percentage of students scoring in the "exceeds" category won an achievement award. Out of more than 1,200 Georgia schools, Bonaire Elementary ranked the third-highest for 3rd grade math. On the CRCT, 98 percent of Bonaire's third-graders met or exceeded math standards, with 79 percent exceeding expectations. Overall, 97 percent of Bonaire's students met or exceeded reading/language arts standards and 96 percent met or exceeded math standards.

RUSSELL TEACHER RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP



Dora Waite, Russell Elementary teacher, received a full scholarship to Walden University for its doctoral program. The scholarship was awarded through "Project Working Mom." Ms. Waite was one of 40 selected nationwide from more than 50,000 applicants.

BRIGHT FROM THE START



Bright from the Start Commissioner Holly Robinson visited Pre-K classes at David Perdue Primary School in August. She read "The Little Red Hen" to the children.



SAT SCORES

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Many of you have heard about the crisis that took place last week. In my 33 years as an educator, I have never known lightning to strike in any way similar to what happened at our Bonaire Middle field. I commend our employees, officials, parents, and students on their reaction to this tragic incident. Those who rendered immediate aid to the injured that evening were life-savers. We are thankful that they were present at the football game and had the courage to help however they could. Emergency responders

and law enforcement did an outstanding job.

Houston Medical and the Perry Hospital went above and beyond normal care, aiding patients as best they could and allowing family and friends who gathered at the hospital to congregate in the cafeteria for updates and comfort from one another. Our crisis teams were onsite at Warner Robins Middle and Feagin Mill Middle on Friday to help students, faculty and staff as they dealt with the accident.

As I write this message, one of our own, Warner Robins Middle School coach Mike Martin,

continues to improve. He's not out of the woods yet, but we are encouraged by his progress. Of the other five who were admitted to hospitals, we are glad that they are home and recovering.

I want to reassure our parents that *safety is our number one priority*. If anyone has any questions about our procedures or safety plans, please call me or your principal.

We are like a family, and we are always there for each other. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

David Carpenter

PARKWOOD CELEBRITY READ



In August, Parkwood Elementary welcomed members of the Warner Robins Chapter of the American Association



of University Women and many members of the community for a Reading Is Fundamental Celebrity Read. Each classroom welcomed their own Celebrity Reader, to include Mother Goose. RIF is the nation's oldest and largest non-profit children's literacy organization. It's purpose is to help young people discover the joy and acquire the habit of reading. The Warner Robins chapter has been putting books into the hands of children since 1973.

GRADUATION 2009



Planning ahead for graduation for the Classes of 2009? Graduation ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, 2009. All ceremonies will be held in Perry at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in the Miller-Murphy Howard building.

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS



Additional meetings will be held about the school system's new Adapted Sports Program. Meetings are scheduled for Sept. 18, at Lindsey Elementary at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and on Oct. 2, at Perry Middle at 6:00 p.m. in the media

center. All interested parents and students are invited. This program offers students with physical disabilities the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball, football and handball.



HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The **Heritage Foundation** exists solely to support our public schools, providing grants and scholarships to further the success of our students.

2009 TEACHER HALL OF FAME



The Board of Education is seeking nominees for the 2009 Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame. This program honors extraordinary teachers who made a significant difference in the lives of their students. Ten teachers were inducted in 2008. Nomination forms are posted online and available at schools or the central office.

MENTORING PROGRAM

The Area Coalition for Excellence in Education Mentoring Program kicked off this month. ACE-E is a collaboration between Robins Air Force Base, Cox Communications, Big Brothers Big Sisters and our school system. The program matches students who have a high aptitude for math and science with RAFB employees who have advanced training and credentials in math and science. The goal of this project is to encourage the students to seek careers in engineering or sciences fields.

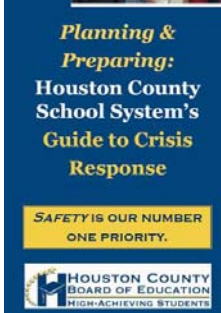


PLANNING & PREPARING



Each student took home a brochure titled "Planning and Preparing: Houston County School System's Guide to Crisis Response." This brochure describes the steps taken to help ensure the safety of our students and staff. It also provides details on how parents can obtain information in the event of a crisis.

Parents are urged to keep up-to-date phone numbers on file at school so that they may be quickly contacted if the need arises. Our automated phone calling system is often used as a communication tool for not only routine announcements, but also as a way to communicate critical information. For more information, visit our Web site and click on the "Safety and Emergency Preparedness" link posted to our home page at www.hcbe.net.



BOE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



The Houston County Board of Education's United Way campaign is underway. Our goal is to have 100 percent participation. We hope to accomplish this goal

by giving everyone the opportunity to give via donations, payroll deductions, or fundraisers.