



VAN BUREN

SCHOOL DISTRICT



Winter 2017 Vol. 20 Issue 2

THE VIEW



The Van Buren School District began a new program with FoodCorps for the 2016-2017 school year. The program will be taking place at King and Tate Elementary campuses. FoodCorps mission is to connect kids to healthy food in schools through growing gardens, cooking, nutrition lessons, taste tests and easier access to healthy food choices. Mary Grace Stoneking, from North Carolina, is our FoodCorps service member. Pictured are the gardens planted this fall at King. The FoodCorp gardens at Tate are currently being planned for the Spring.



The VBSD staff wellness event for the fall of 2016 was volleyball. Pictured here are City Heights Elementary and Van Buren High School, district volleyball champions. The spring staff wellness event will be kickball.



The VBSD received \$120,500 for four joint use agreement grants in partnership with the City of Van Buren to provide opportunities for our schools and community to be more active. Renovation began this December at the Freshman Academy Track (pictured) with plans to also install a concrete trail and lighting. Central Elementary will receive a walking trail and more space on its playground and adjacent lot (pictured is the clearing out process that began over Christmas break). The other two joint use agreement projects will be a walking trail at King and resurfacing of the tennis courts on Pointer Trail.

Community Connection



This past holiday season, the Pointer Prancers and Freshman Steppers gave back to the community by ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. The dance program leaders are striving to instill a greater importance on giving back to the community and the importance of service. As of December 2016, the girls had completed over 100 hours of community service.



The Crawford County Adult Education Center (CCAEC) will be offering an Introduction to Craft Skills Class beginning on March 7, 2017, for adults interested in obtaining skilled trade education. The new course is a part of a pilot program that is grant funded through the Office of Skills Development. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have the opportunity to gain an OSHA 10 Certification and National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Certification. Job opportunities may be available upon completion from local construction employers. Students will also have an opportunity to enter an apprenticeship for further training and employment. CCAEC has already begun one cycle of the Introduction to Craft Skills class with a group of local area high school students. These students began the class on January 3, 2017 and attend daily at CCAEC. Throughout the program, students will participate in classroom instruction, hands-on instruction and field work. Current students recently attended a fieldtrip at a Crawford Construction job site in Van Buren. Crawford Construction Project Manager, Rich Rapin, met with the students for an on-site tour, job observation, and a question and answer session. Students learned about different job duties based upon each craft profession present at the site. The Adult courses are scheduled to begin on March 7, 2017 and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. Individuals that are interested in attending the program can complete the application process with Dr. Debbie Faubus-Kendrick or Marty Wilson at the Crawford County Adult Education Center. For more information about the program or to apply, please call 479-471-0019 or visit CCAEC, at 605 Alma Boulevard Circle, Van Buren, Arkansas.

Community Connection Cont.



Pictured from left to right: (back row) George Davis, Caleb Smith, Michael Sanchez, Jason Montlouis, James Reyes, Hayden Lively (front row) Lexie Rogers, Kendall Boyd, Zach Clayton, Aryel Kimbrell, Emilee Adams and Haley Snyder.

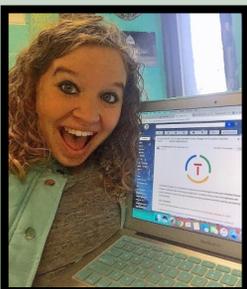
Special education students at Van Buren High School launched a new work program called "The Coffee Cart" on Wednesday, January 5th, 2017, aimed at replacing the previous program. The students deliver drinks such as coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and soft drinks to teachers during 2nd period. Teachers must first purchase a pre-paid punch card. Afterward, they place their orders through a Google form, which is emailed to them daily. The students are responsible for preparing and delivering the drinks on service carts, in addition to cleaning duties and restocking supplies. They are learning the importance of teamwork and communication, while developing social skills they will be able to utilize when they enter the workforce. Possibly the most exciting part of the program for the students are the financial lessons each week. They participate in calculating overhead costs and determining their profit, which then translates to their individual earnings. The class plans on using earned wages to participate in community based instructional activities such as shopping, banking, budgeting, and eating at a restaurant.



Ms. Key's and Ms. Childress' class, at City Heights Elementary, decided instead of bringing gifts for each other to their Christmas party, they would bring gifts for the children at the Fort Smith Children's Emergency Shelter. They each brought a \$5 gift and were encouraged to bring something they would want for Christmas. The students were very excited about sending these gifts to children in need.



Pointer Pride in Professionalism



Ashleigh Gillespie, teacher at Butterfield Trail Middle School, recently found out that she is now an official Google Certified Trainer. After completing Educator 1 and Educator 2 level training, Ashleigh successfully finished her Google Certification. As well as helping her fellow teachers, Ashleigh is now able to step up to the next level with Google Certification for Education. Pictured is Ashleigh Gillespie with her official Google Certified Trainer confirmation email.

Megan McGinnis, a junior at Van Buren High School, and Tracy Cline, Library Media Specialist at Butterfield Trail Middle School, were selected to participate in the *Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute*. Ms. Cline and Megan will participate in a year-long course of study that concludes with a journey to Washington DC and Normandy, France, this summer. They will research a WWII Silent Hero from the state of Arkansas who died during or after the D-Day Landings. After returning from Normandy, Megan, with the help of Ms. Cline, will create a website to honor this soldier from our state. They will also participate in presentations in our area and across the state about this WWII Silent Hero and their project. Ms. Cline and Megan were one of 15 student/teacher teams, out of 83 applicants from across the country, chosen to participate in this program. The program is in its 7th year and is sponsored by Mr. Albert H. Small and the National History Day Organization.

Pointers Giving Back



Holli Nauman, VBHS book club member, reading to a student at Iazard Campus.

Kayla Ho, VBHS book club member reading to students at King Elementary.

Tatelyn Freeman, VBHS book club member reading to a student at Iazard Campus.



The VBHS book club members on their December Reading Tour. Students from the VBHS book club visited elementary schools during December to share their love for reading with children district wide.



Van Buren School District and the University Arkansas Fort Smith have formed a unique partnership where Elementary Education Majors come into the school to receive first hand learning experiences. A lot can be learned in a college classroom, but real world experiences in real time classrooms are a valuable learning experience. The group of pre-service teachers meet at the Central Elementary school campus. This semester is being lead in instruction by Dr. Milford and Dr. Reid from the University of Arkansas campus. Pre-service teachers are pictured here interacting in Ms. Mendez's first grade classroom.



During the week of January 23rd-27th, the students and staff of Butterfield Trail Middle School participated in the Great Kindness Challenge. Students and staff used apps and old-fashioned paper and pencil to keep track of over 2,000 acts of kindness during the week. One very special part of the week was "Cuts for Kindness," where community volunteers from local salons donated their time and services on Monday, January 23rd for students to get free haircuts and a goody bag of hygiene items. Staff members also brought their dogs for "Kind Canines," and students and faculty enjoyed the benefits of visiting with the furry family members.



On December 16th, 2016, Mr. Casey, Mr. Whitman and Ms. Swaim took twelve students from the Iazard Center for Learning to help with the annual Christmas

Honors. The students were chosen by writing a paragraph about why they felt led to volunteer for this great cause and why they should be chosen to go. Students worked on fluffing the wreaths, replacing bows and stacking the wreaths in the truck to be taken to the national cemetery. The wreaths were placed on the graves of our Veterans at the Fort Smith National Cemetery. Students spent the day before their Christmas Break volunteering their time for this great cause.

Education That Engages



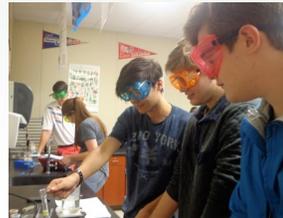
Students and teachers at City Heights Elementary participated in a 100th Day of school celebration. Students and teachers were invited to dress up like they were 100 years old or wear 100 things to school.



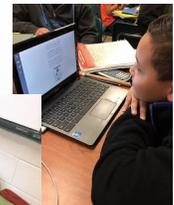
Central Elementary School has worked for the past two years to purchase enough Chromebooks for all third through fifth grade students. As of the end of second quarter of the 2016-2017 school year, this goal has been achieved. Students work on Chromebooks and in Google Classroom for math workshop, reading workshop, writing workshop, science and word study. The Chromebooks are also used for many daily routines such as checking in and out of the classrooms and documenting behavior. In the technological world in which we live, the Chromebooks are beneficial for students because they are receiving daily practice on a computer, which will help them during the state assessment and for college and career readiness.



Students at Central Elementary, in Ms. Smith's fourth grade class have been studying the American Revolution and the way colonists lived during that time period. As a celebration, students were able to decorate their own teacups and have a tea party, complete with British accents and crumpets.



AP Biology students (from back to front) Luke Whitlow, Marilyn Bruce, Cody Flores, Hayden Ellis, and David Schrouf were testing different foods they brought in for the presence of lipids, starches, and sugars.



BTMS started using LightSail, an adaptive reading program that uses ebooks and adaptive technology to help improve students' reading scores and help engage students in reading. In January 2017, LightSail announced LightSail 25, LightSail's Reaching Challenge for a month-long contest among all of the schools that use its program across the country. Butterfield has been consistently placing in the Top 10 Users of LightSail since the contest began on January 9th. On February 3rd, we found out that Vickie Nash's 6th grade morning class is ranked in the top 10 in the country. In addition, Trevon Hartgraves, one of Mrs. Nash's students, is ranked #9 of the 8,000+ students in the competition. BTMS is very proud of Mrs. Nash and her students, as well the rest of our students and teachers who are working hard to not just do well in the competition, but to improve their reading ability and learn to love reading.

Education That Engages



On Saturday, January 28th, Soaring Eagles Robotic Team was awarded the Judges Award for the best new team in the Elementary Division. Thirty-eight teams from Missouri and Arkansas competed in the Northwest Arkansas Crossover Competition at Fulbright Middle School in Bentonville, Ar. Team members are Central Elementary students Adam Pehringer, Keenan Weymouth, Ryan Straw, Lexi Henry, Kaeden Watson, Danel Garcia and Tara Blackshear.



Reese Scharbor, 4th grade student at Parkview Elementary, works to perfect her Tiger Rescue design.

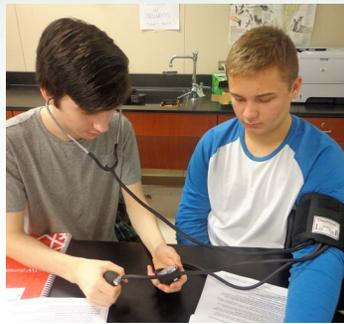


Ian Rowe, 4th grade student at Parkview Elementary, puts his final touches on his Tiger Rescue design.

Students in Ms. Rector's, PLTW class at Parkview experiment with a project titled, Tiger Rescue. Students' objective in this project was to build a compound machine of pulleys and levers.



Students from VBHS in Ms. Carlson's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Pre-AP Biology class attended a field trip to University of the Ozarks Science Day in November. In this picture, Seth Fulton and Jocelyn Henriquez are isolating bacterial DNA. Seth earned the second highest score of all students present on the biology portion of the test.



VBHS PLTW Pre-AP Biology students, Sam White and Hunter Johnston are seen here testing each other's blood pressure.



VBHS PLTW Pre-AP Biology students, Kenley Berry and Mariah Clark testing to see how petting a dog affects the heart rate.



GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION ART SHOW & AUCTION

Featuring art created by students in the Van Buren School District Elementary Gifted and Talented Program

March 9, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm, Drennen-Scott Historic Site, Free Admission and Refreshments

EXTRA PARKING AVAILABLE AT COURTHOUSE-FREE TROLLEY RIDE TO EVENT

Proceeds will benefit IMPACT and Heifer International; organizations dedicated to feeding children and families in need.

Celebrating Achievements



BTMS 8th grade Girls Basketball Team has been undefeated this season. The team has one more game to go, against Greenwood, to have a perfect record this season. We are very proud of our Butterfield Lady Pointers.



Central Spelling Bee Winners
 1st- Cassidy Cowin
 2nd- Tacoma Schweigert
 3rd- Ethan Adkerson
 4th- Ethan Downey



Kim Doss, teacher at King Elementary, received a \$600.00 grant entitled, "Growing Up, While Growing Nutrition". This grant will provide materials that are needed for the school to grow vegetables

and herbs in their garden greenhouse all year. A small heating unit for the greenhouse and growing mediums for greens and microgreens will be purchased. A drip irrigation system and row covers for the outside garden area to extend the seasons of growing in this area will also be purchased.

Christian Woodward, 5th grade student at Rena Elementary, won the Crawford County Spelling Bee on January 28th. He will compete in the State Spelling Bee on March 4th in Conway, AR.



To date, the VBSD Education Foundation has awarded 637 grants in twenty-nine rounds during their Pointer Patrol Festivities. These grants, which totaled \$867,779.42, provided teachers funding for innovative teaching programs.



Brad Ball, Gail Boyle, Beverly Fears, Randy Graham, Cindy Green, Brandy Mosby, Breanne Rogers, Sarah Sweatman, Jamie Whitman, teachers at BTMS, received a \$2,000.00 grant, entitled, Inviting Van Buren to, "Be Our Guest". This grant will allow for the purchase of costumes and sets for the annual school musical, which every student has the opportunity to audition. This year the musical committee has selected to perform, "Beauty and the Beast Jr". The expected outcome is two-fold. First, the student actors and stage crew will have the opportunity to participate in a quality production in our wonderful fine arts facility. Second is the opportunity for our student body to attend a live theater performance that is produced and performed by their peers.



Drummin' Fun! Central Elementary School received an Education Foundation grant for drums! These drums use aerobic dance and rhythm as a source of inspiration for this group fitness activity. Following along with the drum video fosters a healthy balance physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. The Central Elementary staff learned a few drum routines as a part of a wellness activity during January's professional development. The drums are also offered as an option for interest groups for students.