



# VAN BUREN

SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## THE VIEW



Students at the Iazard Learning Center planted a tomato garden. Students are pictured here planting, gathering and enjoying their harvest.



The Tate Elementary Learning Garden was opened on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Congressman Womack, Mayor Bob Freeman and Superintendent Harold Jeffcoat joined Tate in the opening ceremonies, speaking about the importance of nutrition and healthy living. A special thank goes out to the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce for attending the ceremony and providing the ribbon and scissors for the opening of the garden. The Learning Garden is a piece of the Food-corp project in the District. This year the Food-corp program was implemented at the King and Tate campuses. Next year two more elementary schools will be added to the program.



King Elementary had a celebration on May 8<sup>th</sup>, of their Food-corp Gardens started back in the fall semester. The event was hosted by the Captain Planet Foundation, Harps and Dole Packaged Foods was attended by Representative Terry Rice, Mayor Bob Freeman and Superintendent Harold Jeffcoat. The project learning garden program teaches students about nutrition integrated with science, social studies, math and language arts. The vision of the program is to get students to eat healthy and make healthy lifestyle choices.



Parkview Elementary Nature Club has worked hard this spring taking care of all the flower beds on campus and planting two vegetable gardens. The club is pictured here planting, gathering and sharing their harvest with kindergarten students in the school. The club buys ranch dressing and then shares the vegetables with students in the school to encourage them to try a vegetable that maybe they have never tried.

# Celebrating Achievements



The 1st Annual Van Buren High School Penmanship Competition was held for VBHS students in April. Students submitted a handwritten copy of the creed for the competition. Entries were separated into three categories, and two top winners were chosen from each category.



First place in the Print Category was junior, Amelia Joy Case-Moore; second place was sophomore, Aradia Zamagne.



First place in the Cursive Category was junior, Sabriah Wynne; second place was junior, Ashley Lee (not pictured).



First place in the Artistic Category was junior, Sabrina Lynn Lockey; second place was senior, Cindy Sackpraseuth.



Ten Van Buren High School Band students signed National Letters of Intent to further their education and music careers, totaling nearly \$225k. Callie Ables: Trumpet; University of Arkansas; Katie Chenoweth: Bassoon; University of Central Arkansas; Allison Lemley: French Horn; University of Arkansas; Ashley Lewis: Oboe; University of Central Arkansas; Macy McGill: Color Guard; University of Arkansas; Stephanie McFadden: Contra Clarinet; University of Arkansas; Angie Mejia: Flute; University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; Jet Turner: Oboe; Oklahoma State University; Brick Wasson: Euphonium; Arkansas Tech University; Taylor Williams: Flute; University of Arkansas



Butterfield Trail Middle School had 14 students participate in the State National History Day Competition on April 15th at the University of Central Arkansas. One of those student groups placed first in their category and will be competing at the Nationals NHD Competition at the University of Maryland on June 11-15, 2017. Hunter Boyle, Caleb Jenkins, and Harrison Lehn, 8th grade students at BTMS, placed first with their junior group documentary, *Striking Out Segregation: The Story of Rickey & Robinson*. We are very proud of all of our students that competed at State who worked very hard on National History Day, which is an extracurricular activity done totally outside of school for them. We are especially proud of these three boys and wish them luck competing at Nationals in June. State NHD projects will be on display at the state capitol on Monday, May 22nd. These three young men will represent BTMS at the state capitol and at the University of Maryland in June. They have been invited to submit for a documentary showcase at the National Museum of African American History and Culture during National Contest Week, but will not know if their documentary has been chosen until closer to June. They are currently working to improve their documentary before these deadlines.



Kylie Bell and Riley Lowrey, students at Northridge Middle School, competed in Regional National History Day Competition in Alma, on Monday, March 13th. Kylie received first place in Exhibit and Riley received first place in Web Design. They each competed at the state level on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, in Conway.

# Celebrating Achievements



Parkview Elementary students in Ms. Rhodes' and Ms. Blackwood's class, participated in the Area 4 Special Olympics, at Southside High School. The students were presented with awards for their awesome sportsmanship and achievements in skill categories.



BTMS State National History Day 2017 Competitors (left to right): Caleb Jenkins, Harrison Lehnen, Hunter Boyle, Elizabeth Rainwater, Olivia Steele, Nicole Cope, Jesse Dollard, Natalie Williams, Payton Mobley, Tennison Reichard, Carter Myers, Chelsea Mendez, Skyla Sayarath.



Student, Jaedan Sanders learns what it takes to be brave, on a field trip to the circus. Yes, that is a real snake. This is a big deal because it was a BIG snake. The students learned all about the animals and how to overcome fears and how to use caution when around certain animals.



The Rena Elementary Quiz Bowl Team came in first place in the 2017 Van Buren School District League and second in the GFESC Regional Tournament. The team is coached by Jeff Dean. Pictured above is Top row (left to right): Glavine McDonald, Gage Ragsdale, Gabby Russell, Drew Brasuell. Front Row (left to right): Haileigh Kelly, Blake Richesin, Christian Woodward



Northridge Middle School Dancers for the 2017-2018 school year pictured: (front row) Eliza Moore, Piper Allen, Kate Rogers, Belle Brown; (second row) Kinley Brown, Lilly Deffenbaugh, Katherine Alonzo, Emily Rickner, Kayla Ork; (third row) Erin Bowman, Hadlee Hurst, Hannah Lockhart, Kinlee Myers, Analyn Moore, Caitlyn Diaz, Laila Tichenor, and Lauren Humble. The team is coached by Julie Bynum.



Van Buren Freshman Academy's CBI class has really taken advantage of the gift given to them by Tate Elementary. Students who are usually wheelchair bound or lack gross motor skills have now started to flourish and progress on the hand-me-down tricycles. Not only does it bring joy to the students, but every person that comes in contact with this activity has an automatic reaction to smile. Thank you Tate for sharing this gift with us! Pictured are students, Ronnie Vail and Jacob Lenington and teacher's aide, Brandi Houck.

# Community Connection



Hope Academy has a mission of service. Students at the Hope Academy learn the importance of giving back. One way Hope students give back is by volunteering on Thursdays at *A New Start For Children and Families*. The students help in any way needed. They help organize their clothes closet, rake leaves or whatever needs to be done, they jump in and get it done.

Story Changer Mentors from Ms. Beckner's class at the Izard Center for Learning serve as mentors at the elementary schools. Students are paired up and serve as a mentor for a younger student throughout the semester. The group meets twice a month and work to help support their mentee to be a better student. Pictured are mentors supporting students in the classroom and on a Story Changer field trip. This mentoring program is possible through a grant from the Education Foundation.

# Pointer Pride in Professionalism



Mandy Ming, Counselor at Central Elementary, received the Post and District 7 Award VFW National Citizenship Award. She will be awarded the state award on June 9th. Tia Smith, teacher at Central Elementary, nominated Mandy. She was nominated because of her work with students all across the Van Buren community. She goes above and beyond for students, staff, and morale; she is what makes Central Elementary a home for many. Mandy single-handedly organizes Christmas for over 100 students and their families at our school. Mandy also sponsors our school's K-Kids, which is overseen by the Kiwanis in Van Buren. In K-Kids, she teaches students about becoming a leader in our school and ultimately a leader in our city. She helps organize activities, for the students to find ways to become involved in making our community a great place. The activities they organize teach students to be respectful of our veterans and soldiers, help learn about our town's rich history by cleaning the local cemetery and helps them learn how to respect our nation's flag. She also teaches students about flag etiquette.



Summer Cox, Assistant Principal at Central Elementary, received the Outstanding Ed.S. Student in Educational Leadership from the University of Arkansas. She is pictured here with one of her professors, Dr. Carlton Holt. Summer will graduate with her Educational Specialist Degree in the Fall Semester of 2017.



Director of Van Buren Adult Education Center, was elected as the COABE secretary. As secretary, Dr. Faubus-Kendrick will be responsible for representing COABE and Arkansas Adult Education nationally. She will be involved in important national adult education decisions as the field continues to move forward with the implementation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

# Education That Engages



In January 2017, the Crawford County Adult Education Center was awarded a grant through the Office of Skills Development to begin an Introduction to Craft Skills course. Daytime and evening classes are open to the public as a part of the program. During the semester, students are taught the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) core curriculum. The material includes an OSHA 10 safety certification, construction math, hand tools, power tools, construction drawing, rigging, communication, employability skills, and material handling. In addition to classroom instruction, students are exposed to hands on learning with tools. Students have also been exposed to industry-leading speakers from across the community. CCAEC has partnered with Lumber One, Crawford Construction, Yeagers Hardware, McCormick Works, Harold Hamm Construction, Elite Roofing and a variety of other local businesses to support this program. The course results in an NCCER Certification that is valid nationally.



Nathan Martinez and Johan Martinez students at Parkview Elementary assist student council members with flag duties. These students learn to demonstrate respect and honor, while putting the flag up and taking it down each day.



Kalob Tolbert and Grayson Schoolcraft (PTW Mentor), enjoy a night of bowling with the Point the Way Mentoring Group. Point the Way is a mentoring program funded by the Education Foundation. The goal of the program is to pair business leaders of the community with students to help encourage students to do well in school.



Students in Rebecca Carlson's class study ecology. In the background students are using nets to collect large organisms. In the foreground, they are using Vernier equipment, purchased by the Van Buren Education Foundation, to determine the flow rate of Lee Creek. Pictured are Christen Tabor and Gabby Vatthanatham.



Trevor Johnson and Ashton Hurst are drawing maps of the sampling area and recording what type of samples are being collected by those in the background.



Sherly Mendez and Levi Smith are searching for micro-invertebrates and protozoans along the shoreline of Lee Creek.



Tanin Shipman and Amiee Mason are getting soil core samples to determine the composition of the soil and constructing a soil horizon.

# Education That Engages



Fifth grade students in Mr. Dean's science class at Rena Elementary have been studying living systems. In this unit, students built a model of a pumping heart and measured their lung capacity. Pictured are Baylee Campbell, Courtney Blackwood, Laci Loftis, Bella Potts, Glavien McDonald, Makayla Coombes and Drew Brasuell.



Art by Kids Show Benefits Local and International Charities; Students to Present Checks at Six Van Buren Elementary Schools April 27, 2017: 118 children in Van Buren School District are very proud of their efforts to create beautiful art in order to benefit those less fortunate. On March 9, 2017, students in the Gifted and Talented Program held an art show at the Drennen-Scott Historic Site. Over 400 people attended and \$1,800.00 was raised for charity. An organizing committee of community leaders helped the students with resources for the event, so that all proceeds could go directly to the programs. Also, the Education Foundation awarded a \$750.00 grant to support the program's community service project. The students learned about two charities that inspired them to get involved. The IMPACT program provides food to Van Buren families at critical times, and Heifer, International is an Arkansas based program that works with communities Internationally to end world hunger. The students presented "large" checks to representatives of the programs at various times and locations. The students are giving \$1,000.00 to IMPACT and \$800.00 to Heifer, International. In addition, students are visiting the Heifer, Int. Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas.



Central Elementary's 5th Annual Car and Glamour Night was a huge success. Over twenty vehicles, including a Hummer Stretch Limo from Cloud Limo, Holmes Erection brought a crane, our local fire, ambulance and medic helicopter and many vintage, classic, antique cars were on display. Parents and children voted on their favorite and PTA awarded three trophies for the communities' favorite. Arvest provided grilled hot dogs for dinner. Fingernail painting and make-up stations were set up in the cafeteria. It was Central's largest turnout thus far, with families enjoying all the events of the evening. Central thanks all volunteers that came out for the event and are looking forward to next years' experience.



Fourth grade students at City Heights Elementary are studying maps, charts, tables and graphs to learn which countries' immigrants left in order to come to the United States. They also learned about and researched historical statistics about Immigration into the United States. Students went to map centers allowing them to deepen their understanding of Immigration and the reasons people immigrated to the United States.