



# The Buzz

MARCH  
2014



Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

## Message from the Superintendent

The new career-science wing at Thomas County Middle School is now fully operational, and I hope that you will plan to attend a special open house on Sunday afternoon, March 30, 2:30-4:30, to tour the new facility and to discover its possibilities. The new laboratory spaces provide learning opportunities that are unique for middle school students in our region.

Two fully equipped science labs include water and gas connections and a fume hood, allowing middle school students to complete sophisticated science experiments. A growing number of TCMS students are earning high school science credit in eighth grade, and these new labs ensure that students have the full high school lab experience. The beautiful new labs are being dedicated to the memory of long-time Thomas County science educator Mrs. Jackie Winchester.

The new wing also includes an expansive agricultural education suite that features a spacious classroom, a full lab, a shop area, a covered outdoor patio, and a fully operational greenhouse. The middle school agriculture lab has been described as one of the finest middle school agriculture labs in the state.

The new family and consumer science lab features three full kitchens, a classroom

area, and a computer center. The new business education lab is equipped with new computers and interactive presentation technology.

A multi-purpose room provides space for special school programs including Odyssey of the Mind and Science Olympiad which require space for building things and conducting experiments. This room shares the covered outdoor patio with the agriculture lab.

Newly renovated space in the main building provides state-of-the-art facilities for video broadcasting and robotics including a television studio area, a control room,

editing bays, and a robotics classroom.

Two existing classrooms near the gym will be fully renovated this summer to provide a dance studio for the middle school's dance program which was launched this year. With these additions and renovations, Thomas County Middle School will feature modern facilities for academics, the fine arts -- including band, chorus, the visual arts, and dance-- and Career, Technical and Agriculture Education.



**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNERS** - Thomas County Schools recently hosted the Regional National History Day competition for the Junior Division at Thomas County Middle School. Students competed in the categories of performances, exhibits, and websites – both individual and group. After researching the topics, students connected the historical event or figure to the theme, "Rights and Responsibilities." Winners advance to the state competition in April at Mercer University. Students were led by Amanda West, Heather Ward and Deann Garcia in the Thomas County MERIT program. Thomas County Central High School will host the Senior Division March 11th.

See list of middle school winners on Page 3

The Thomas County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, sex, or disability.

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**March 17** - Teacher/Student Holiday

**March 25 - April 3** - TCMS Book Fair

**March 22** - TCCHS Key Club Car Wash, Board Office, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**March 30** - TCMS Career Science Open House, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**March 31** - Kindergarten Registration, PLC, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**April 4** - Bishop Hall Prom, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m., BOE Gym

**April 7 - 11** - Spring Break



Please visit the school websites for a complete calendar of events.

*The Buzz* is a monthly publication of the Thomas County Schools. Send suggestions or comments to Melanie Hester, 200 North Pinetree Blvd., Thomasville, GA 31792; 229.225-4380, ext. 115; mhester@thomas.k12.ga.us. *The Buzz* is available online at [www.thomas.k12.ga.us](http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us), News and Events tab.

*"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." - Tom Brokaw*

**TCMS AND TCCHS GOING TO STATE FOR ODYSSEY OF THE MIND** - Both the middle school and high school recently participated in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) Competition in Cordele, Georgia. OM is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program. Two of TCMS's teams and three out of four teams from TCCHS will advance to the state competition in Columbus, Georgia on March 29, 2014. We wish them luck! See pictures below...



TCCHS 2nd place at Region Division: Terrance Smith (L-R), Alexis Bergozza, Mallorie Johnson, Chelcie Nix, Addison Frasch and Bobby Hancock (sitting). Not pictured is Beth Sharpe.



TCMS 1st place at Region Division 2, Prob. 3: Jax Hodge (L-R), Kira Benton, Stephen Sykes, Emily Johnson, Breanna Woods, Harrison Owens, and not pictured Josh Sharpe.



TCMS 2nd Place at Region Division1, Problem 3: Emily Potter (L-R), Megan Stewart, Aubrey Miller, Madison Dougherty, Morgan Ward, Ansley Stephens, and Jolie Napier.

## Cross Creek K-Kids Club Raises Money for Pennies for Patients



Pictured on the far right is Harvey's Store Manager Joey Futch with Lanie West and her third grade homeroom class.

The K-Kids Club of Cross Creek Elementary, with help from the student body, raised an incredible \$1,873.53 through Pennies for Patients. The donation will go to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) School & Youth Programs.

Students collected spare change to help fund research seeking cures for blood cancers, including leukemia. Leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults under the age of 20. The funds also support LLS's Patient

Services Programs.

Harvey's Supermarkets and Coolidge Food Champ, in conjunction with the Thomasville Kiwanis, sponsored a celebration for the top homeroom class with the most collections. The top homeroom award went to Lanie West's homeroom for collections totaling \$419.90. Mrs. West's room received a cake and ice-cream party courtesy of Harvey's Supermarket and Thomasville Kiwanis Club. Mrs. West received a \$50.00 gift card courtesy of Coolidge Food Champ.



**TCMS STUDENTS MAKE ALL STATE CHORUS** - Thomas County Middle School 8th graders Joseph Riglioni, Marion Rose Young, and Caleb Giddens (pictured left to right) are 2014 Georgia All-State Chorus finalists. The three were chosen out of approximately 4,500 seventh and eighth graders across the state of Georgia. Congratulations!



## TCCHS Science Olympiad Team Wins Region Championship



Members of the Thomas County Central High School Region Champion Science Olympiad Team are (front row) Lauren Rich, Justin Knapp, Kaylee Shaver, Elisha McDaniel, (back row) Noah Harris, Emily Kornegay, Savannah Matherly, Viraj Patel, Courtney Randall, and Brian Smith.

Thomas County Central's Science Olympiad Team captured the Region Championship by beating out 17 other teams at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton on March 1.

Placing in twenty of the twenty-three competitive events, TCCHS's Science Olympiad Team brought home medals in eleven events and ribbons in nine other events in the regional competition. The team will advance to state competition to be held March 22 at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta.

Columbus High School placed second, North Springs and Riverwood Charter School from Fulton County took third and fourth places, respectively.

To prepare for the competition, students built a glider, a levitating car using magnets, and a Rube-Goldberg device that would sort items, carry out a series of energy transfers and eventually turn on a light. Students also studied subjects such as anatomy, circuits, and earth science to prepare for the competition.

Medals are awarded to first through fourth place in each

event and ribbons are awarded to fifth through tenth place. Coach Laura Kornegay said, "The students worked hard, and I am very proud of them!"

First place medals were won by Kaylee Shaver and Lauren Rich in Astronomy; Kaylee Shaver and Viraj Patel in Bungee Drop; Noah Harris & Justin Knapp in Chemistry Lab; Kaylee Shaver and Viraj Patel in Elastic Launched Glider; Emily Kornegay and Noah Harris in Mission Possible; and Lauren Rich and Kaylee Shaver in Write It/Do It.

Second place medals were won by Emily Kornegay, Kaylee Shaver and Viraj Patel in Experimental Design; and Noah Harris and Justin Knapp in Forensics.

Third place medals were won by Savannah Matherly and Justin Knapp in Anatomy & Physiology; Brian West and Emily Kornegay in Compound Machines; and Savannah Matherly and Brian West in MagLev.

Ribbons were won by the following students in their respective events: Emily Kornegay in Boomilever; Lauren Rich and Kaylee Shaver in

Designer Genes; Lauren Rich in Water Quality; Viraj Patel and Brian West in Circuit Lab; Savannah Matherly and Lauren Rich in Entomology; Justin Knapp in Materials Science; Elisha McDaniel and Courtney Randall in Rocks & Minerals; Viraj Patel and Kaylee Shaver in Technical Problem Solving; and Noah Harris and Viraj Patel in Dynamic Planet.

Science Olympiad is a

national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. A competition consists of twenty-three events in the areas of life science, physical science, earth science, technology, and the nature of science.



**CROSS CREEK HALLS DISPLAY 750 ARTWORKS** - The hallways at Cross Creek Elementary have been transformed into a garden art gallery for all to enjoy! Art students have just completed an in-depth study of the life and paintings of Claude Monet (1840-1926). He is considered the "Father of Impressionism" and is remembered by his beautiful water lily paintings. Students experienced a virtual tour of Monet's actual garden near Paris, France and even learned a little French. They painted in the style of Monet to reproduce his beautiful Japanese bridge over the lily pond. Pictured with some of the artwork are students Chris Salveter, Claire Pope, Molly Grace White, and Cason Dennard. Art Teacher Annie Burke invites everyone to come stroll through the gallery and enjoy!

## NHD Winners

*Continued from Page 1*

### State Qualifiers – Individual Exhibit

Christina Smith (Annie Armstrong), Lexie Redfearn (Actors and Actresses), Kealie Bennett (Susan B. Anthony), Ethan Mims (Japanese-American Internment Camps), Caitlin West (Women's Suffrage Association) and Nick Herdon (Jackie Robinson)

### State Qualifiers – Group Exhibit

Faythe Choate, Drew Lloyd, and C'Lee Kornegay (IDEA), Reagan Gurl and Brooklyn Reese (Dorthea Dix), Huntley Rodgers and Daniel Holland (OSHA), Georgia Smith and Courtney Robinson (Women's Voting Rights), Austin Sellars and Brandon Hopper (Jackie Robinson), Courtney Harrison and Taylor Hester (Women of WWII).

### Performances

1st Place Individual – Marion Rose Young (Intolerable Acts)  
2nd Place Individual – Grethen Turnbull (Susan B. Anthony)  
1st Place Group – Jared Russell, Ryan Fitzgerald, Harrison Keyton (JFK)  
2nd Place Group – Sarah Kefalas, Lindsay Daniel, Hailey Silvia (Susan B. Anthony)

### Websites

1st Place Individual – Nathan Blanchard (Auschwitz)  
2nd Place Individual – Kaleb Ward (Wherner Van Braun)  
3rd Place Individual – Elizabeth Nix  
1st Place Group – Sierra Stephens and Kennedy Ward (Asiamericans)  
2nd Place Group – Emma Goff, Zach Goff, Clay Goff (Rwanda)  
3rd Place Group – Kayla Shoup and Kelsi Shoup (Women's Suffrage)



# DAR Winners "Honoring Our Heritage"



Carolyn Clifton's and Morgan Taylor's classes at Cross Creek won 1st place for their community service project.



**3RD GRADE INDIVIDUAL WINNERS FROM MOBLEY & DECHMAN AT CC:**  
Front row: Kaytlyn Prevatt (1st in banner); Morgan Loper (Honorable Mention in banner); Phoebe Esra (2nd in banner); Cole Fauchaux (2nd in banner); Riley Scoggins (1st in banner & 1st in stamp design); Reagen Anglin (3rd in banner); Emily Reynolds (Honorable Mention in banner); Trista Weeks (2nd in banner). Second row: Luke Pierce (1st in banner); Ayden Webb (1st in banner & Honorable Mention in stamp design); Cayla Martin (Honorable Mention in banner & Honorable Mention in stamp design); Angel Peo (Honorable Mention in banner); Jesse Benton (3rd in banner); Rachel English (2nd in banner); Hailey Atkinson (1st in stamp design & 3rd in banner); Janice Soares (2nd in banner). Third row: Klara Lane (1st in banner & 3rd in stamp design); Jada Hurst (2nd in banner); Aubrey Eaton (Honorable Mention in banner); Kiersten Jackson (Honorable Mention in Banner); Myrajo Williams (Honorable Mention in banner). Fourth row: Vivian Berthiaume (1st in banner); Charli Scudder (2nd in banner); Hailey Anderson (3rd in banner); Whitt Finch (1st in banner); Campbell Smith (3rd in banner); Tyler Brinson (3rd in banner).



**4TH GRADE DAR WINNERS FROM JAMES & WEST AT CROSS CREEK:** Front row: Georgia Rose Patton (1st in poster & 3rd in poem); Landrie Miller (3rd in short story); Christina Nix (3rd in poster); Cora Polous (2nd in poster & 2nd in poetry). Back row: Witt Wetherington (1st in short story); Col Rewis (Honorable Mention in stamp design). Not pictured: Emma Mitchell (2nd in short story).



**4TH GRADE DAR WINNERS FROM THOMPSON & STEWART AT CROSS CREEK:**  
Front row: Julia Horne (1st in short story); Claire Pope (1st in poetry); Jada Rhames (Honorable Mention in short story); Molly Grace White (1st in stamp design); Karsyn Bush (3rd in stamp design). Back row: Garret Mims (1st in stamp design); Zalan Key (2nd in poetry); Andy Barrentine (3rd in short story); Mike Jacob (2nd in short story). Not pictured: Jenaya Coleman (2nd in stamp design).



**3RD GRADE INDIVIDUAL WINNERS FROM CLIFTON & TAYLOR AT CROSS CREEK:** Front row: Mallory Bustle (Honorable Mention in poetry); Fisher Clements (Honorable Mention in poster); Jacey Keyton (1st in poster); Sarah Hardeman (Honorable Mention in short story). Second row: Tyler Floyd (3rd in poster); Kaleigh Fender (1st in poetry); Ben Beasley (2nd in poster); Joy Shaba (Honorable Mention in short story); Jazziana Hollis (2nd in poetry); Johnneisha Williams (2nd in short story). Third row: Maddie Anderson (3rd in poster); Sarah Edgerton (1st in poster); Kenneth Baggett (2nd in poster); Brice Hopper (Honorable Mention in poster). Not pictured: Kadasia Haliburton (1st in poetry).



**FIRST PLACE DAR WINNERS FROM THOMAS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL -** Front row: Caroline Daughtry, Sarah Carnes, Sophie Shelton (Group 1st place in banner). Back row: Jah Donaldson (1st place in stamp); Sean Jester (1st place in photo essay); Isaac Swope (1st place in poem); Cody Stehlar (1st place in stamp).



## TCUE Students Travel to Plains to Learn About Women in History



The program was written and performed by Cathy Kaemmerlen, a performer and “creator of shows,” pictured with MERIT students Tristin Lawler (L-R), Abby Allensworth, Case Carter, and Jackson O’Neal.

Students from the Thomas County Upper Elementary Fifth Grade MERIT team recently traveled to Plains, Georgia, to attend the performance of ***Eleanor Roosevelt: Godmother to the World***. As a part of the Women in History Project at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, the program was provided free of charge to area schools.

The program, a one-woman portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt’s life and evolution from ugly duckling and neglected child into one of the ten most influential people of the twentieth century, is designed to coordinate with the fifth grade social studies curriculum.

Known as the godmother to the world, Eleanor’s words of wisdom ring true as she says, “You have to accept whatever comes, and the only important thing is that you meet it with the best you have to give.” Students were given an authentic quote, words of wisdom from Eleanor, to take with them as they left.

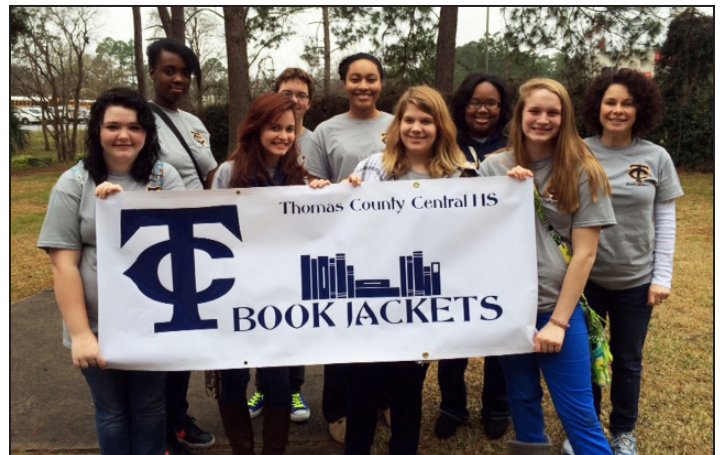
Prior to the performance, students completed a Scavenger Hunt of the city of

Plains with a concentration on how a small South Georgia town might have looked in the year 1937.

Following the performance, the students toured the Jimmy Carter boyhood farm to get a visual of South Georgia life on a small family farm in 1937. The tour included games and farm chores that children from that era would have experienced. The day ended with a tour of the 1937 General Store owned by the Carter family in Archer, Georgia.



Caleb McClellan enjoys rolling a hoop as fellow students from Mrs. Sharpe’s homeroom cheer him on to victory.



**TCCHS BOOK JACKETS COMPETE AT VSU** - The TCCHS Book Jackets recently competed at the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl hosted at Valdosta State University. The team placed sixth out of nine area high schools. The students read 20 titles from the Georgia Peach Book Award list and then answered quiz bowl style questions in six rounds paired against local participating high schools. Volunteer event proctors were Louise Phillips and Carmen DeVane. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Amber Shimkus, Luvy Miranda, Sadie Sauls, and Joanna Lea. Pictured on back row (left to right) are Mya Dailey, William Billingsley, Fatima Elliot, Jaden Austin and Club Sponsor Selina Bell.



**TCCHS WRESTLING TEAM WINS MEDALS** - TCCHS Wrestling Team recently qualified for the State Sectional Tournament by winning in the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament. Pictured kneeling from left are Garrick Johnson, third place, 106-pound class; Conley Wilhelm, second place, 113-pound class; Noah Hobbs, fourth place, 120-pound class; (standing from left) Noah Harnevios, second place, 195-pound class; Ray “Neil” Williams II, first place, 220-pound class (area champion); Weston Groover, third place, 285-pound class; and Garrett Whitfield, fourth place, 182-pound class.

### TCCHS Key Club Car Wash

Saturday, March 22

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

TCBOE Parking Lot

**\$5.00**







**TCMS ATTENDS REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR** - Thomas County Middle School students recently participated in the Regional Science Fair held at ABAC in Tifton. All 24 students that competed came home with a ribbon. Seventh grader Emily Mitchell came home with the first place award, and C'Lee Kornegay, eighth grader, brought home second place for a sweep of the Junior Division trophies. Emily Mitchell and C'lee Kornegay are the only two middle school students who will compete at the Georgia State Science & Engineering Fair at the University of Georgia on March 27-29 in Athens. Pictured on the front row from left are Yunuen Medina, Ann Guo, Katelyn Hancock, Emily Mitchell, C'lee Kornegay, Kennedy Ward and Erin Alford. Kaleb Ward and Dev Patel are pictured on the second row (L-R). Third row standing from left to right are Brooklyn Reese, Brianna Jamison, Aubrey Glenn, Kealie Bennett, Alan Brinn, Hailey Ferrell, Haley Newman, Gretchen Turnbull and Landon Trotter. Chris Wiggins (L-R), Chad Shelton and Brentley Odom are on the back row. Not pictured are Nick Herndon, RJ Delaney and Riley Jones.



**FIRST PLACE IN BUILDING BRIDGES** - TCMS students Chandler Fiveash, Ryland Ramhofer and Aiden Carruth competed in the annual Southwest Georgia Regional Bridge Contest hosted by Albany State University on February 22. Fiveash and Ramhofer won first place in the middle school division for their 27.9 gram bridge which held 14653.7 grams before breaking for an efficiency of 525.22%. Their bridge proved to be the most efficient of all the bridges at the competition including those in the high school division. Pictured is Ryland Ramhofer and Chandler Fiveash as their bridge is tested. Aiden Carruth's bridge is the next in line being tested to the right.

## GP Raises More Than \$9,400 for American Heart Association



Garrison Pilcher Elementary School held its annual Jump Rope for Heart (JRFH) last week to raise money for the American Heart Association. The students raised a total of \$9,430.82 while learning the value of community service and becoming empowered to contribute to their community's welfare.

Students raised money in person or online. All money stayed local and was donated to the American Heart Association. Online donations, totaling \$3775.00, are particularly helpful because students helped Garrison Pilcher earn gift certificates for free P.E. equipment.

Principal Sharonda O'Neal said, "Our students, parents, and community showed a great deal of support for the American Heart Association by raising over \$9,000.00. Coach Veletta Reed and Coach Kristy Peebles worked to encourage our students and our faculty and staff to live healthy lives through exercise and healthy eating. JRFH is an activity that we look forward to each year."

The coaches believe this year was successful because of the duck incentives the students received as they raised money. They received a "Quacky Duck" with a \$5

donation and a "Ninja Duck" with an online donation.

"The ducks played a huge role in helping to raise funds for us," said Garrison Pilcher Coach Reed. "This has really been an exceptional year for us. The students have really wanted to help other kids. The duck incentives and the way we promoted them here I think really helped us with fundraising. This is my 26th year with JRFH here at GP and this has been our best year ever. I am very grateful to our kids and their parents for all they have done over the years."

The top earner was Briley Chapman, second grader, who raised \$675.00. Second place earner was Caden Singletary, second grader, who raised \$510.00. A first grader, Brayden Payne, raised \$375.00.

"We sent information home with the children in January and began receiving donations right away," said Reed. "Donations continued until several days after the event. We couldn't be more pleased with the results."

JRFH is a national education and fundraising event sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).