



# The Buzz

FEBRUARY  
2015



## Thomas County Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

### TCCHS Students Win Awards at Academic Competition



Medal winners are (first row) Logan Potter, Maggie Martin, Sierra Stephens, C'lee Kornegay, Hannah Dixon, (middle row) Noah Harris, Chandler Watson, Austin Yeomans, Cole Donovan, (back) Jason Weeks. Not pictured is Noah Voyles.

Thomas County Central High School students brought home nine first place medals, two second place medals, and a quiz bowl award from the 11th Annual Academic

### Trammell Named GADC Softball 4-A Coach of the Year

Robyn Trammell, Thomas County Central's head softball coach, was voted the 4A Coach of the Year by the Georgia Dugout Club (GADC). She recently received the award in Atlanta, Georgia at the 2015 coach's clinic and awards ceremony.

"Winning the GADC 4A coach of the year means so much to me," Trammell said. "I solely attribute this award to my team. Our girls worked so hard all season and never gave up. We had incredible senior leadership and an overall team contribution to help achieve this season's success. Each player contributed somehow. Coaching is so rewarding when you are blessed with great



Coach Robyn Trammell displays plaque.

kids with a strong work ethic and determination. This award means so much to me because it's a true reflection of our team's hard work and success."

Competition held at Andrew College in Cuthbert.

Students in grades nine through twelve brought home six medals in science. In ninth grade, Sierra Stephens placed first and Noah Voyles placed second. Tenth grader Chandler Watson placed first. Cole Donovan placed first and Austin Yeomans placed second among eleventh graders in the competition. Senior Noah Harris earned a first placed medal. Students were tested on their knowledge of biology, physics, and chemistry.

"I am honored to have placed first in science this year," said Noah Harris, 12th grade first place winner for Science and member of the quiz bowl team. "The competitors at the competition this year were especially strong. My teammates did very well, also. As a team, we were able to receive six of eight science awards in our division."

Freshman Jason Weeks placed first in Social Science along with sophomore Maggie Martin and senior Logan Potter. These students were tested on world history, U.S. history, government, and economics.

Logan Potter, 12th grade first place winner for Social Studies said, "It was great. It feels well-deserved to go out with a bang my senior year and leave with the memory of victory. Quiz Bowl has always been a tough competition, especially

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

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Feb. 9** - 9th Grade Open House, TCCHS, 6:00 p.m.

**Feb.10** - Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Feb.12** - Chorale Spring Showcase, 7:00 p.m.

**Feb.13** - Valentine's Dance (7th/8th Grade), TCMS

**Feb.17** - Bishop Hall Charter School Blood Drive, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Feb.19** - Opening Reception for "Yishu - Art of the Far East" at Thomasville Center of the Arts, 5:30 p.m.

**March 2** - March Moms' Day and Dr. Seuss Day at Hand-in-Hand

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, News and Events tab.

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between distinguished schools such as Lee and Harris County, but Thomas County found a way to place this year, and I am honored to be a part of that team."

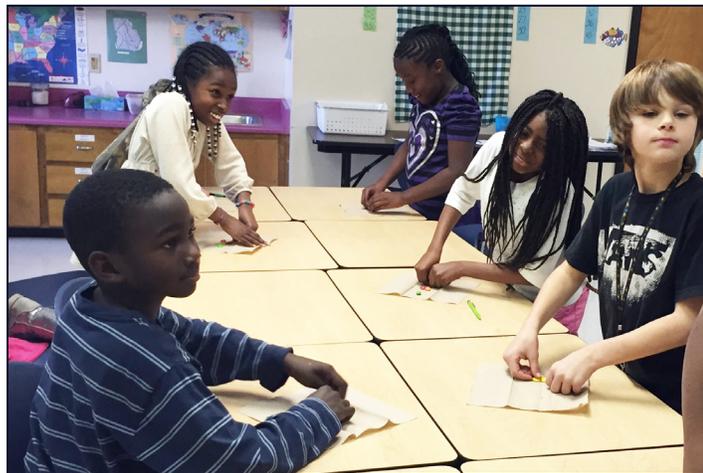
In math, freshman C'lee Kornegay and sophomore Hannah Dixon each earned a first place medal. The math test was made up of questions related to algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and calculus.

The quiz bowl team placed second in the competition. The quiz bowl team was made up of Noah Harris, Justin Knapp, Logan Potter, Cole Donovan, Maggie Martin, and Jason Weeks. The competition consisted of four rounds of questions related

to art, history, literature, mathematics, science and social science.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage academic excellence and to prepare students for other academic competitions. Students take tests in their subject areas in the morning and either participate in or watch the quiz bowl competition in the afternoon. This is the fourth year in which TCCHS has participated in the competition.

Sponsor Laura Kornegay said, "This competition gives students a chance to be recognized for their academic achievement. The students also enjoy spending the day on a college campus."



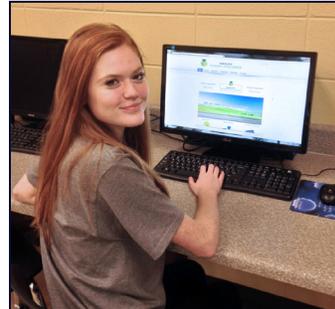
**MAKING ROCKS AT CROSS CREEK** - Third-grade students in Sandy Fitzgerald's and Mandy Rice's classes learned first-hand how sedimentary rocks are formed. Using Skittles candy, they squeezed and applied pressure to each piece. The Skittles, which represented sediments, were formed into sedimentary rocks. Pictured above are Brian Smith (L-R), Totianna McNair, Kania McIntyre, Kennedy Jester, and Nevan Wickham.

## NEED CPR? FIRST AID?

CPR will be offered on Tuesday, February 17, at Cross Creek from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Please sign up on PDEExpress to attend the training session.



## Bishop Hall Junior Awarded \$20,000 Scholarship



Haylie Brown, junior at Bishop Hall, won a \$20,000 scholarship toward a college of her choice.

Maintaining a balanced budget, paying bills on time and making good decisions are not only good life skills to learn, they also mean big bucks for high school students across the country thanks to the H&R Block Budget Challenge. Brandi Miranda's Introduction to Business and Technology class at Bishop Hall Charter School decided to take the challenge.

While students actively learned valuable skills, they also had the opportunity to earn scholarships for college. The top 22 individuals in each of the simulation periods received a \$20,000 check to go toward a college of their choice. Haylie Brown, junior at Bishop Hall, was one of the 22 students to be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship. Brown ranked 10th nationally, after competing against 11,000 other students.

"During the challenge, students endured eight weeks of personal financial decision-making in a virtual environment," said Miranda. "They were presented with multiple options and made choices based on lifestyle, educational plans and employment."

H&R Block emphasized three skill areas that they

considered most important for the students to understand and practice: balancing current and future cash needs; paying bills on time and on budget; and resourcefulness, understanding and practical application of financial concepts.

"When I started, I didn't think I would get this far at all," Brown said. "We had a fake job. We got a pay check every two weeks. Then we had to make sure we had our bills paid. After paying our bills we had to make sure our bank accounts were balanced," said Brown.

The competition was on a point-based system. For good financial moves, the student would gain points, and for bad ones, they would lose points. To acquire points, the students dealt with regular bills, budgets, 401K accounts, checking accounts, credit-card payments, vendors, and car options in order to demonstrate smart consumerism, savvy investments and on-time repayment.

Haylie said the experience is something she can carry with her. "Right after the simulation, I went and opened my own checking account," Brown said.

"I believe the simulation is a great way to expose students to budgeting and important money management techniques that most adults do not even understand," said Miranda. "The Budget Challenge scholarship provides student winners with a huge boost toward a college degree."

One overall winner, encompassing all six periods, will win a \$100,000 scholarship. Brown is currently working toward completion of all periods in the challenge.



**GARRISON-PILCHER CELEBRATES 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL** - Students from Kathy Swearingen's second-grade class participated in the celebration of the 100th Day of School by dressing up as 100 year-old seniors.

## Lawing Selected to Serve on State Student Advisory Council

Sixty-four Georgia students were selected by State School Superintendent Richard Woods to serve on his 2015 Student Advisory Council. Mason Lawing, junior at Thomas County Central High School, was selected from a pool of more than 1,000 students who applied to serve on the council. Students were chosen based on the strength of their essay answers, which focused on their ideas for public education and ways their own educational experience could be improved.

Lawing is a member of the National Honor Society, the TCCHS Math Team, and has served as class president during both his sophomore and junior years. He currently serves as vice president of the Future Business Leaders of America and participates in the Chamber's Youth Leadership Program. As a member of the varsity football team, he plays both the positions of guard and long snapper.

"I am very excited to be selected for the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council," said Lawing.



TCCHS Junior Mason Lawing

"It is an honor to represent Thomas County and TCCHS."

Throughout the school year, these students will meet with Superintendent Woods to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom. Members of the Student Advisory Council will also discuss other issues related to education and will serve as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools.

The first meeting of the Student Advisory Council will be held February 27 at the Georgia Department of Education's offices in Atlanta.

## Thomas County Schools Win Awards at Technology Fair



Region Technology Fair winners pictured from left to right are: Front Row - Amber Allen, Abby Allensworth, Morgan Ward, Dillon Reneau; 2nd Row - Amber Forrester, Logan Sanders, Tessa McCorkle; 3rd Row - Ryan Hollingsworth, Caleb Jenkins, Douglas Hopkins; Back Row - Devon Bryan, Austin Luna, Vance Stephens.

Fourteen students from Thomas County Middle School and Thomas County Central High School traveled to Moultrie to participate in Colquitt County's 9th Annual Regional Technology Fair on Saturday, January 24. There were over 340 participants in the fair competing in various technology categories and age divisions.

Students from Thomas County Schools did an outstanding job bringing home 11 first place medals, three second place medals, and one third place medal. Every student from Thomas County placed in the Top Three of their category and division. All first place medalists will advance to the state competition held in Macon on March 7, 2015.

Students had the responsibility of not only creating a technology project, but also presenting the project to the judges including explaining the process and

steps taken to reach the end result. Categories included Robotics, Web 2.0 Applications, Video Production, Digital Photography, Game Design, Animated Graphics, 3D Modeling, and many more.

Danna Cooper, Coordinator of Instructional Technology for Thomas County Schools and teacher at Thomas County Middle School, attended the fair with the students. Selina Bell, Media Specialist at Thomas County Central High School, also attended and served as one of the judges.

Cooper said, "Technology is present in every aspect of life. Students use it to express themselves daily, and this competition allowed them to showcase their skills while presenting something they are passionate about. I am so proud of the work these students exhibited, and I look forward to taking them to state competition."

**For a list of Technology Fair winners' names and awards received, please visit our website at [www.thomas.k12.ga.us](http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us).**



## Thomas County Central's Robotics Teams Win Trophies and Awards at Recent Competition



CyberStingers Green team members Nick Toulouse, Hailey Ferrel, Caitlin Simmons, Wei Dong and Ankit Patel show off their trophy for winning the Think Award.

TCCHS's robotics teams, the CyberStingers, brought home two trophies and several other awards from the FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC) CircuitRunners qualifier held at Wheeler High School in Marietta.

"While there are three different robotics teams, we all worked together to ensure success during the competition," freshman and Green team member Hailey Ferrel said.

FIRST® Tech Challenge is a robotics competition for high school students based on a sports model. Teams of up to 10 students are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete as alliances against other teams.

"The competition this past weekend was a fun learning experience for every team," junior and Gold team member Austin Ridley said. "Each of us learned a lot about the challenge and also got new ideas for the challenge."

The CyberStingers Gold team brought home the Motivate Award. This award is given to a team that exemplifies the essence of the FTC competition through

"team building, team spirit and exhibited enthusiasm."

The Gold team was also recognized for its inventiveness and ingenuity by being named a finalist for the Innovate Award. For serving as an "inspiration to what this program, and the young minds involved, can accomplish," the Gold team finished third for the Inspiration Award.

"You never know how well you can do at competition," sophomore and Gold team member Steven Tran said, "It's best to know that practice and experience are not equal to how fancy or pretty the robot is. Overall, it was a fun experience."

In addition to these awards, the Gold team finished fourth out of 19 teams during the qualifying matches. This ranking allowed the team to participate in the final rounds. In semi-finals, the CyberStingers lost to the team that eventually won the robotics competition.

"The robotics competition in Marietta was an exciting day for team 6988, CyberStingers Gold," senior team member Chris Geer said. "Our robot worked nearly flawlessly. We had fun and learned

a lot about 'gracious professionalism.'"

The CyberStingers Green team brought home the Think Award. This award recognizes the team that best understands the role of the engineering notebook in the design process. The notebook focuses on the design and build stages of the robot.

"This competition opened my eyes to the different ways to do things and different ways to look at things," sophomore Green team member Caitlin Simmons said.

The teams are coached by Laura Kornegay and Brian Bellamy. Locally, Evoqua and HD Supply Waterworks have supported the teams by helping with outreach. Patrick Harden of Evoqua serves as a mentor for all three teams.

"I truly appreciate the support we have received from the school and the community," Coach Laura Kornegay said. "Outreach with the community and with other engineers is an important part of what the students do. They learn a lot by sharing their work with others."

FTC is one of the FIRST® family programs. FIRST® is a non-profit organization devoted to helping young

people discover and develop a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Founded more than 20 years ago by inventor Dean Kamen, the FIRST programs involves youth, mentors, coaches, and volunteers from more than 60 countries.

Through FTC, students have the opportunity to design, build, and program robots, get hands-on programming and rapid-prototyping experience, apply real-world math and science concepts, document the engineering process, develop problem-solving, organizational, and team-building skills, learn about Gracious Professionalism®, compete and cooperate in alliances at tournaments.

For more information on the FTC and other FIRST robotics programs, go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

"Robotics is the type of program that focuses all on the mind and how you act upon what you think up," junior Kacy Jones said. "So competitions such as the one we have recently been to require a lot of thinking skills. The most important skill you need to know more than anything else, though, is communication and team work."



Gold team members Jameson Smith, Chris Geer, Austin Ridley, Steven Tran, and A.J. Rowell hold their trophy for the Motivate Award.