



# What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools  
Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 10  
May 2008



James M. (Mike) Davis  
Wilson County Director of  
Schools

## A Note of Thanks...

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your support, cards, gifts, flowers, magazines, calls, but most importantly your prayers during my time of illness and recovery. The expressions of love and concern for me and my family were overwhelming and I will forever be grateful to all who said a kind word, performed a kind deed and comforted my family during this unexpected event.

I have now returned to work. If you should need my assistance, please contact Pam Peery at the Central Office, as she will be monitoring my schedule over the next few weeks.

Words cannot describe how thankful I am for your thoughts and prayers. May God Bless each of you with good health and great happiness.

—Mike Davis, Director of Schools

## A Message from the Director of Schools

The Board of Education took the following actions at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 5, 2008:

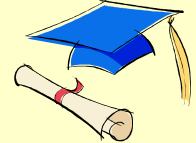
- Approved on 1st Reading changes to Section 4 of Board Policy
- Approved on 1st Reading changes to Board Policy #6.405
- Approved No Child Left Behind Grant for the 2008-09 School Year
- Approved Amendment to the Coca-Cola Agreement
- Approved Amendment to the Tenure Teacher list to add one teacher
- Approved Certification of Personnel Issue
- Approved Special Course Astronomy
- Approved Special Course The Bible as Literature and History
- Approved Bid #2008-19 for Secured Entrances for Mt. Juliet Middle and Elzie D. Patton Elementary School
- Approved Budget Amendment #2008-06 Extended School Program
- Approved Budget Amendment #2008-07 General Purpose Fund
- Set Budget Work Sessions dates of May 21, 2008 and May 28, 2008 at 5:30 pm

A work session was called before the May 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for special recognitions. Plaques and/or certificates were presented to the Neill Sandler Scholarship recipient, the four (4) recipients

of the Coca-Cola Scholarship, Teacher of the Year nominees, Student Board Members and the Transportation Department Mechanics for achieving five (5) consecutive years of perfect state inspections.

Budget information was presented to you during last year's budget process for the opening of two (2) new schools during the summer of 2008. This information is to update you and to remind you of the opening of two (2) new schools in the 2008-09 school year. Please be aware of the additional operating costs that will be incurred by the school system in 2008-09 in order to open the new Mt. Juliet High School and the Elzie D. Patton Elementary.

## WILSON COUNTY GRADUATION DATES



### MT. JULIET HIGH SCHOOL

May 27 7:00 pm at the  
Sommet Center in Nashville

### WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

May 29 7:30 pm at the Curb  
Center Belmont University

### WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

May 30 5:30 pm at Water-  
town High School

### LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL

May 30 7:00 pm at Lebanon  
High School



## The more things change...

*"Students today can't prepare bark to calculate their problems. They depend upon their slates which are more expensive. What will they do when their slate is dropped and it breaks? They will be unable to write!"—Teachers Conference, 1703*



*"Students today depend upon paper too much. They don't know how to write on slate without chalk dust all over themselves. They can't clean a slate properly. What will they do when they run out of paper?"—Principals Association, 1815*

*"Students today depend too much upon ink. They don't know how to use a pen knife to sharpen a pencil. Ink will never replace the pencil."—National Assn. of Teachers, 1907*

*"Students today depend upon these expensive fountain pens. They can no longer write with a straight pen and nib (not to mention sharpening their own quills). We must not allow them to wallow in such luxury to the detriment of learning how to cope in the real business world, which is not so extravagant."—PTA Gazette, 1941*

*"Ball point pens will be the ruin of education. Students use these devices and then throw them away. The American virtues of thrift and frugality are being discarded. Business and banks will never allow such expensive luxuries."—Federal Teacher, 1950*

*"Students today depend too much on hand held calculators."—Anonymous, 1985*

## Aspiring Administrators Program graduates first class of potential principals

Under the direction of Program Coordinator Pat Climer, Wilson County Schools just finished the first year of a unique program designed to provide support for both first-year and aspiring administrators.

With the state and national concern over a potential shortage of administrators, the Aspiring Administrators' Program offered 21 participants the opportunity for practical, hands-on administrative professional development and preparation for transition into leadership positions.

For those 11 administrators who were new to a position, the mentoring program provided support, an opportunity to share ideas, and assistance with adjusting to a change in roles. There were a total of 32 participants in both programs.

Included this year in the mentoring program were: Adam Bannach, WWMS; Matt Deckard, WE; Carol Ferrell, CO; Sandra Grisham, MJE; Jonathan Hall, LHS; Jeff Luttrell, WHS; Beverly Sharpe, MJHS; Richard Smallwood, CO; and Clint Wilson, LHS. Joining the class during the course of the year were Bertie Alligood, LE and Darian Brown, WCHS.

Among the program goals for the mentoring class were sources of support, opportunity to share ideas, assistance with adjusting to a change in roles and how to build a network and support system. Topics of discussion included leadership, communication, time

Topics explored in class included leadership, communication, time management, interviewing, the annual calendar, and informal roundtable discussions.

Twenty-one participated in the Aspiring Administrators program including David Akins, Bertie Alligood, Charles Bozman, Scott Brewer, Bobby Brown, Darian Brown, Tiffany Brown, Wendi Cathey, Shannon Coble, Julie Cunningham, Patricia Graham, Barbara Griffith, Barbara Hallums, Julie Harrison, Judy Hahn, Christine Miller, Nick Nance, Mary Singleton, Randi Staggs, Michelle Watson and Jeremy Willis.



Topics addressed by these students included, leadership and style, developing vision, servant leadership, delegating, teamwork, decision-making, a day in the life of a building administrator, job shadowing, school climate, school culture, interviewing a prospective teacher, interviewing for an administrative position and working with the media.



The final class was held on May 8. Class members presented their final projects which was followed with a banquet at which certificates of achievement were presented to the participants.



Applications are now available for anyone interested in applying for the Aspiring Administrators' Program. Anyone who has administrative endorsement or who is enrolled in a program leading to endorsement may apply. There will be 10 after-school sessions, each two hours in length. Participants will earn one-day professional development credit. For more information, contact Pat Climer at [climerp@wcschools.com](mailto:climerp@wcschools.com). Applications are due to Pat Climer no later than Thursday, May 29.



Applications are now available for anyone interested in applying for the Aspiring Administrators' Program. Anyone who has administrative endorsement or who is enrolled in a program leading to endorsement may apply. There will be 10 after school sessions, each two hours in length. Participants will earn one day of professional development credit. For more information, contact Pat Climer at [climerp@wcschools.com](mailto:climerp@wcschools.com). Applications are due to Climer no later than Thursday, May 29.



## Spotlight This Month: MAP Academy



Rick Miller  
Principal

### MAP ACADEMY

Address: 205 Stumpy Lane

Principal: Rick Miller

Number of teachers: 8 classroom teachers, 1 guidance counselor and 1 special education liaison

Number of students: 154 students served this year


Grade levels: 5-12 grades

Date when school was built on site: August 1997

**MISSION STATEMENT:** MAP Academy will specifically serve Wilson County students who are unable to achieve in a traditional classroom setting by teaching the normal curriculum. There will be an emphasis placed on behavioral issues that prevent success in the regular classroom. Our goal will be eventually placing these students back into a traditional classroom with the academic and social skills required to succeed within that classroom setting.

**SCHOOL HISTORY:** The Wilson County Alternative Program began many years ago in the old Lebanon Post Office on the Square. It was directed by Mr. Jack Ladd who formerly was a teacher at Lebanon High School. It stayed there for several years until "portables" were used at Lebanon High School and West Wilson Middle School to house students on both ends of the county. During that time Rob Bates directed the Portable at West Wilson while Jackie Clark directed the Portable at Lebanon High. Both teachers were under the direction of, now retired Secondary Supervisor, David Harrison. In the summer of 1997 Rick Miller was hired as Principal to begin a new program called MAP Academy. It was to be housed in one building on Stumpy Lane. MAP began with 4 Teachers and 4 Educational Assistants. The teachers were Rob Bates, Zina Johnson, Jackie Clark, and Ken Whittle. The Educational Assistants were Shelia Greer, Peggy Trusty, Barbara Davis, and Barbara Corbitt. After 2 years with the addition of 2 more rooms we added two more teachers and aides. We were also working in conjunction with the Wilson County Youth Ranch who provided 4 behavioral counselors for groups sessions and various activities to improve behavioral issues. We have added two more classroom teachers, a full-time guidance counselor, and special education liaison in the last 4 years. MAP in my opinion, has helped many students make it through high school and go on to be successes. We are proud of the efforts we make and if we only made a difference in the life of one student, then we have been a success.

## County Tidbits

- Congratulations to Lakeview Elementary for completing their SACS accreditation. They have been working diligently on getting this and their SIP completed this school year.
- Congratulations to Watertown High students, Katelyn Bunch and Kaysie Jennings for being accepted to the Governor's Academy at UTK. They are two of 30 students from across Tennessee accepted this year. It is a two-year program that upon successful completion will allow these students a smooth transition into the University. Both girls plan to become veterinarians.
- LHS faculty member, Bonnie Fakes, has been awarded the Horace Mann Lincoln Fellowship for 2008. Only 50 teachers are selected nationwide to visit Springfield, Illinois during the summer to study the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.
 
- Congratulations to the Culinary Arts Program at the Wilson County Vocational Center for holding its annual pep rally.



## W.A. Wright Holds "Walk Across America" Art Exhibit



The Kentucky entry with the proud artist

Recently W. A. Wright Elementary held its first school-wide Social Studies Fair with the theme—*The 50 States and Their Regions*. As the art component to the fair, 51 young artists were selected from 2nd-5th grade to create a collection of shoes representing the 50 states and Washington, D. C. The students researched and designed their shoes to commemorate their state with different themes—history, sports, famous people, state facts, tourist information, etc. Shoes were plastered, painted and mod-podged.



The artist and the Utah "Walk Across America" entry

A reception hosted by Art teacher, Kelly Hibbett, was held in the school library to kick off the Social Studies Fair Week. Approximately 150 artists and their families attended to view the students' art work. The exhibit is on display in the school library until the end of the school year and then will be showcased in the Mt. Juliet Library and the 2008 Wilson County Fair.



Tennessee



Virginia



Hawaii



Illinois

## School Notes



It's a toy, it's an electronic gadget, it's a FlashMaster! Check out how fourth grade math students at Lakeview Elementary School are practicing daily the basic math facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The fourth graders practice the basic facts with a hand-held computing device called a FlashMaster. It is a digital alternative to flash-cards.

Each student uses the hand-held electronic math drill product, the FlashMaster, at the start of each math class. The student can select from all four operations and can zero-in on specific fact families he or she needs to practice. Not only is the LCD screen is easy to read; the sound effects can be turned on or off. At the end of the practice session or even a test, the student's total score is displayed. The student then can even rerun the missed problems separately in "missed problems." A student can also change the format of the problems, putting the "variable" in any position.

Lakeview's Fourth Grade students are mastering in a flash the basic facts. Math students are skyrocketing in confidence in math with the help of the FlashMaster. Thank you to Mr. Moss and the PTO for

purchasing the FlashMaster for our students. It definitely is not a toy, it is not just an electronic tool, it is a FlashMaster, an awesome way to practice the basic math facts.



Congratulations to Cindy Reavis from West Elementary and Key McKinney of Lebanon High School for bringing a little "Broadway" to their schools drama departments with their recent productions of "Annie" and "Beauty and the Beast". Theatre is alive and well and flourishing in Wilson County.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO WILSON COUNTY'S TWO NEW PRINCIPALS**

**ROBIN MORTHEL  
WEST ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**KATHY STIVENDER  
STONER CREEK  
ELEMENTARY**



## Wilson County Schools Making News



Cheryl Ellison, Watertown Elementary assistant principal and Lindsay Wagner of "Bionic Woman" fame

On Tuesday, May 6, Watertown Elementary had a special guest speaker. Actress Lindsey Waggoner, most well known for her roll in the hit television series "The Bionic Woman", spoke to members of the school newspaper, yearbook staff, and many other students. Ms. Waggoner spoke about her battle with dyslexia lead her into acting. She described how acting helped her learn to memorize lines and required her to reread material. Through this process she became aware that she was actually very smart, she just learned differently from other people. The students really enjoyed hearing about her experiences on movies sets, doing different stunts and many of the places she has traveled as a result of her work. Ms. Waggoner encouraged the students to follow their dreams and to always remember that everything they do will always have an effect on others.

Southside has some FUN, FIT, and FABULOUS FOURTH GRADERS. As of May 6, the students completed their 17th mile in a marathon walk. A marathon is 26.2 miles, and the fourth graders are walking a mile a day to complete 27 miles.

The students are walking outside on a path that they hope will soon become a walking track for Southside Elementary. At the completion of their 27 mile walk, the students will have a Marathon Party to celebrate their accomplishment. University Medical Center is helping to sponsor the event by donating Marathon T-shirts to the students and also by offering time and expertise by physicians and nurses. Southside wishes to thank Kirsten Harris, UMC Tennessee Healthcare Clinic, Dr. Crystal Vernon, Dr. Kristen Whelihan and Linda Dufour.



Watertown Elementary has instituted a new



"Ambassador Program", designed for students in grades 1-4. A boy and girl from each class is chosen by the school counselor and teachers to serve as "Ambassadors" for the school year. Their responsibility is to welcome new students who come into their classrooms during the year, show them around school and eat with them in the cafeteria. A contest was held with these ambassadors on who had the best attendance for the school year and the boy and girl winner each received a new bicycle. A second prize of a basket of goodies was also awarded. Bicycles were donated by Robert Boatman and the PALS organization from Watertown Elementary.

## Books to Celebrate the Joys of Teaching Over the Summer Months



### [Why We Teach: Learning Laughter, Love and the Power to Transform Lives](#) by Linda Alston

This book is a timely book for anyone who is teaching in 2008. It reminds us why we teach--through hard times, after hard days, and during these days of mandated curriculum and testing. Linda Alston shares stories of her own teaching career--short pieces that can remind us all the joys of teaching and of being in the company of children every day.

### [Tastes Like Chocolate](#) by Randi Allison

This is a collection of poems written by the children the author has worked with over the years. It is a collection that is a fantastic read. As a teacher, it is a great reminder of how lucky we are to work alongside children every day. It helps us remember how brilliant and insightful they are, and it can also serve as a wonderful resource for teachers of writing looking for student models.

## County Tidbits

- The Lebanon High School FFA is currently working with the Wilson County Humane Association in the fostering of a cat and her six kittens. The school organization is fostering the kittens for two weeks because they are too young to stay in the shelter or be adopted.
- Periann Cantrell, Special Education Assistant at Mt. Juliet Elementary, just graduated from Cumberland University with her Special Education Degree. She has worked at MJE for the past 7 years.
- Vicki Graham, speech pathologist at Southside Elementary, has been observing May as Better Speech and Hearing Month. She has planned various activities to increase awareness of speech and hearing disorders. Over 14 million Americans have a speech or language problem.
- The Matrix Percussion Trio from Nashville presented a concert to Lakeview Elementary students, entitled *We Are the World: Percussion Around the Globe*. The presentation demonstrated a variety of ethnic percussion instruments and gave students some ideas of the historical and sociological significance of the instruments and the various musical styles associated with them. Some of the instruments demonstrated were steel drums from Trinidad, and middle-Eastern hand drums.





### YOU'RE THE TOPS!

Congratulations to the four students who have received the Valedictorian honors at Wilson County's high schools:



Andy Ligon  
Watertown High School



Karen Leu  
Lebanon High School



Morgan Baltz  
Mt. Juliet High School



Heather Simonis  
Wilson Central high School

### Lebanon High School Tackles Engagement Theory project

Lebanon High School math, foreign language and science departments have developed a co-curricular activity titled, *Monarch Mariposa Garden—An Engagement Theory Project*.

The butterfly garden was initially designed in 2006 with the help of the The Tennessee Garden Guild and their donation of perennial plants.

This spring the math and Spanish language students worked to create a timeline for completion; measured, planned and mapped out the garden; researched and planted the habitat; researched the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and the winter grounds in Mexico; logged in all activity and photographed and documented the progress.

The project involves all three of the components or principles of the Engagement Theory. The first principle requires that all be involved in the planning and communicating the ideas of the project. The second principle is the valuable contribution they are making to a small section of the school and making students aware of being "green". The third principle is the outside focus and the development of a "service" philosophy for students.

Future plans for the project include: a dedication of the garden; designing and creating a pamphlet of information for the public on how to save the habitat of the butterfly; creating a WebQuest of the project and maintaining a calendar for work this summer in the garden.



LHS faculty members working with the students on this project are Mary Brewer, Tania Durham and Sara Grammer.



For more information regarding projects such as this, log on to [www.journeynorth.org](http://www.journeynorth.org)

### New Teachers Survive First Year

Thirty-three percent of qualified new teachers leave within the first three years. Eighty percent that are supported during that first year remain in teaching after five years.

The New Teacher Support Program for the Wilson County School System oversees teachers with less than one year experience. There were 62 teachers enrolled in the program for the 2007-08 school year.

Participants in the 2007-2008 New Teacher Support Program are: April Walz, Amanda Stephenson, Jennifer Thompson, Danielle Peterson, Kristle Chalos, Kim Gaines, Sarah Jordan, Andrea Kumpf, Adrienne Issi, Lena Bryant, Curtis Grah, Joe Paluzzi, Diane Vaniman, Autumn Maynard, Jessica Davis, Amanda Smartt, Randy Payne, Jennifer Pryor, Michael Smotherman, Stephanie Denney, Lori Riggins, Josh Bayless, LaConda McKinney, Rebecca Gresham, Cara Harris, Stefanie Manhart, Marie Papini, Martha Waggoner, Elliot Wood, Jessica Ransom, Megan Dillon, Julie Henderson, Carice Ambruster, Tracy Lowery, Jamie Fuller, Joanna Hook, Kennetra Price, Regina Frans, Georgette Barnes, Rebecca Bauernfeind, Kim Buckner, Cher Carlisle, Michael Coley, Lauren Collier, Natalie Cooper, Amber Gailbreath, Josh Harris, Will Kriesky, John McGee, Jackie Vester, Jennifer Wilson, Francis King, Veronica Minsky, Jason Cole, Anthony Seay, Pam Walker, Abby Powell, Clifford McDaniel, Jason Dunn, April Baird, Justin Rutherford, Abigail Kirsch.

The New Teacher Support Program for Wilson County Schools is under the direction of Terry Edwards.



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Newsletter in conjunction with  
The New Teacher Support Program  
Terry Edwards, Program Coordinator



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.WCSCHOOLS.COM

... the mortarboard graduation cap  
is built the way it is?



The mortarboard is a modification of the four-cornered, ecclesiastic biretta worn by cardinals and bishops. The biretta is an acknowledged symbol of mastership and an appropriate cap for graduates. For academic purposes, the crown of the cap was enlarged to such an extent that it required some form of support to keep it from falling down on the face. This support took the form of a square piece of cardboard. With subsequent modifications the crown became flat and square, like the cardboard, and a skull cap was fitted underneath.

## Teachers and Summer Vacations

Whether you have two weeks or two months away from the classroom, I recommend that you consider the following factors when it comes time to make your plans.

Take a break if...

- you've thought seriously about quitting the teaching profession this year
- an unfair administrator has been on your back for six months or more, making your days a living hell
- one particular nightmare student made you question your sanity on a daily basis
- you've never taken a summer off before
- you've ignored a portion of your personal life (marriage, friendships, hobbies, mental sanity, or all of the above) over the school year and you need to give it more attention and care
- you're a busybody who can't relax for two seconds (c'mon! try a summer vacation, you might like it!)
- you just want to take the summer off, simple as that!

On the other hand, keep on working if...

- you're working towards a specific goal, such as finishing your graduate degree or earning a special certification
- you can't pay your bills without the income from teaching summer school
- you truly have nothing to better to do (is this even possible?)
- you need brownie points with your principal
- you've recently suffered a personal loss and you need to work to remain sane and distracted
- you're new and young and nowhere near burned out yet

