



What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 3/
October 2007

A Message from the Director of Schools



Welcome Back! I hope you enjoyed the fall break. I want to begin

with an update on the addition at Wilson Central High School. We gained access to the second floor of the new addition on Monday, October 1. We will get the first floor on October 15 and Mr. Mayfield has scheduled the move to the new wing the last full week of October. The main gym floor work started the week of October 1. If nothing changes, this project should be completed by the week of November 5, but no later than November 12. The basketball teams will be able to use the new auxiliary gym by October 29, which is the first date they can practice.

The Board voted on October 1, 2007 to name the new gym at Stoner Creek Elementary in honor of Mrs.

Phyllis Robinson. Mrs. Robinson has been an educator in Wilson County for over 31 years and has been the principal of Stoner Creek since the school's existence in 1986.

Also at our Board meeting on October 1, Dr. Paul Stumb from Cumberland University presented a partnership program to the Board which will allow for the construction of a Culinary Arts/Food Processing Center at Lebanon High School. This project will provide opportunities for local growers to prepare their produce for marketing throughout Tennessee. Representative Stratton Bone helped secure a grant for the funding of this partnership and there is no cost to the county to participate in this venture.

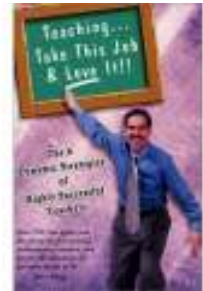
Wilson County Schools will resume control of the transportation assets effective close of business on November 2, 2007. At this time we will bring the drivers currently employed by First Student under the management of the school

system. One hundred thirty-five of the drivers will realize an increase in their daily rate and twenty-nine will break even. Drivers will now be able to participate in the TCRP and receive five sick/personal days per year and twelve paid holidays. Drivers will not be entitled to draw unemployment as long as they are assured of a position with the Wilson County School System.

The Board has scheduled a work session to discuss future compensation and benefits for the bus drivers. This work session will be held prior to our next Board meeting on November 5 beginning at 5:00 pm.

Report cards for the first nine weeks will be distributed to students today.—Mike Davis, Wilson County Director of Schools

Suggested Reading for Teachers



TEACHING...TAKE THIS JOB & LOVE IT by Jerry King

The Ultimate Step-by-Step Plan for Teachers' Professional and Personal Success! As a professional teacher in the 21st century, you experience an endless list of daily tasks. In addition to being responsible for teaching subject content, you must also: observe students for signs of abuse; fight the war on drugs and alcohol; check their backpacks for weapons; raise student's self-esteem; modify disruptive behavior; improve standardized test scores and attend more meetings than other professionals could ever imagine. The results? You are stressed-out, burned-out and sometimes passed-out! This teacher guidebook is your success blueprint for: recognizing your value as a person, achieving your long-forgotten dreams and motivating every student to become champions in the classroom...and in life!

2007 Retirees Honored by Board of Education

Twenty-three Wilson County retirees with a total of 688 years of experience were honored on October 1 by the Board of Education with a reception and awards before the regular monthly school board meeting.

The following employees were honored during the evening: Betty Anderson, 31 years; Diane Bennett, 30 years; Terry Binkley, 30 years; Mary Jo Clemmons, 22 years; Patricia Climer, 40 years; Angela Draper, 28 years; Joyce Everett, 31 years; James Farley, 39 years; Kaye Flatt, 30 years; Betty Fleming, 31 years; Donna Goodall, 30 years; Mary Harding, 27 years; Kathy Hensley, 32 years; Rick Martin, 31 years; Sherry Mercer, 24 years; Patricia Metee, 30 years; Carol Phillips, 44 years; William Repsher, 39 years; Susie Reed, 18 years; Shirley Robinson, 25 years; Linda Ryan, 34 years; Sandra Townsend, 30 years and Randy Vanatta with 30 years.



Wilson County Youth Links Participants Recognized



Amanda Riddle with Diane Huggins and James Neeley

The Middle Tennessee Workforce Investment Board, in cooperation with the Youth Council and the Nashville Career Advancement Center, recently recognized two outstanding youth participants in the YouthLinks Schools program of Wilson County Schools with the Rising Young Worker Awards. Lindsey Dye, a 2006 MJHS sophomore at Cumberland University, received a \$100 scholarship. Lindsey has been working with youth in summer church camp while studying to

earn her degree in Social Services. Amanda Riddle, a Wilson County GED graduate who earned her CNT certification, was awarded the \$500 scholarship and is continuing her education in the medical field while working and maintaining her home and family of three children.

Amanda is pictured with Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James G. Neeley and Youth Council Chairperson Diane Huggins of Seigenthaler Public Rela-

tions. Lindsey was unable to attend the ceremony but is shown with her award at MJHS. Youth Council members from Wilson County are Yancy Belcher, Larry Tomlinson, Tom Boyd, and Leanne



Lindsey Dye

In Praise of Good Teachers

“... become either a lawyer or an actor, because you lie so well.”—Mary Forchic, 6th grade teacher of entertainer, Bill Cosby.



Good teachers make all the difference. According to research by academic-testing expert William Sanders and others, the effectiveness of the individual classroom teacher is the single biggest factor affecting students' academic growth.

In one study, for example, Sanders found that students who had been taught by three ineffective teachers in a row scored below the 50th percentile in math by the end of the third year. By contrast, those with three highly effective teachers scored above the 80th percentile. Teachers' effect on academic growth dwarfed other factors, such as class size, that have been given so much attention.

Stanford University economist, Eric Hanushek, found that having good teachers five years

in a row could eliminate the average achievement gap between poor students and their higher-income peers. Clearly, if we want to give all children a chance to succeed, we need to invest in the quality of our teachers. We need to give teachers good preparation before they enter the classroom as well as continued support and opportunities to develop their skills after they begin teaching.

Comedian Bill Cosby knows the importance of teachers, and, in fact, attributes his own success to a teacher. As a 6th grade student in Philadelphia, he was inspired by his teacher, Mary Forchic, to follow his dreams of becoming an entertainer. Recognizing his natural storytelling abilities she suggested to him that he “become either a lawyer

or an actor, because you lie so well.” Forchic remained one of Cosby's lifelong friends.

Cosby has devoted a great deal of his time to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to benefit from teachers like Forchic. He hosts benefit performances on college campuses “celebrating teachers” to raise money for teacher fellowships.

We could all follow Cosby's lead and express our gratitude for the enormous contributions that dedicated teachers make to our children's lives and to our community. They don't do all this for the money, I assure you. They do it because they care about the education of our children.—Deborah Stepik, Dean of Stanford's University of Education.



Who has the time?

There are 168 hours in a week and if you must spend:

56 hrs for sleep (8 hrs a night is adequate; are you getting enough?)

21 hrs eating (prepare food, time to eat and relax, wash dishes).

38 hrs teaching class and labs.

This leaves you with 53 hrs/week for everything else. Needless to say, this is not an easy life-style.

A few tips:

- Make a schedule (far from making a robot of you, it can free you from constantly making decisions, allowing you to make best use of your time).

- Take the time to plan and organize (5 min before you go to bed to plan the next day or 5 min at the start of the day to plan your day ahead).

- Break large assignments and tasks into smaller parts and reward yourself

for reaching certain goals (move around, talk to a friend, grab a snack).

- Prioritize (identify non-essential tasks as well as essential ones).

- Be flexible and able to adjust.

- Make use of wasted time (time while standing in line, waiting for a meeting to begin, etc.).



The Ultimate Halloween and Fall Resource Guide for Teachers



Boo, welcome to Teaching is a Work of Heart's Halloween Unit. Halloween happens to rank second among students as a favorite holiday. Most teachers see this as a teaching opportunity. Find a theme that your students love and watch them soar. Here you will find many Halloween and fall activities, lessons, books, printables, and more to

make your October teaching the best it can be.



Included at this website are:

Pumpkin Unit Ideas

Falling into Fall—Autumn Unit

Apples—A Great Fall Unit

Spider Unit Ideas

Fire Safety

Fall Printables

Halloween Lesson Ideas

Ultimate Halloween Store

Halloween Poems, Songs, Finger plays

Decorations

Activities to Print

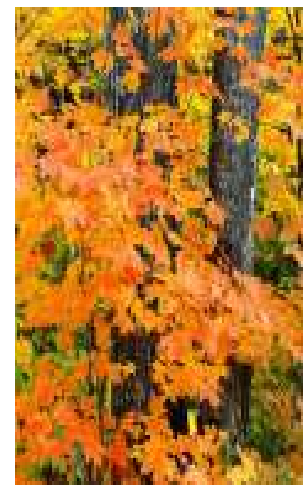
Halloween Books

Halloween Costumes

Ultimate October Teaching

Bulletin Boards

Crafts



Wilson County School System
351 Stumpy Lane
Lebanon, Tennessee

Phone: 615-444-3282
Fax: 615-449-3858, 615-453-3420
E-mail: edwardst@wcschools.com

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



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

Upcoming Wilson County Events

October 20	Oktoberfest
October 27	Lebanon Women's Show
October 27	Swing Dance at The Mill
October 31	Moonlight Madness

Send us your school news, classroom activities, awards, honors, and recognitions for the *What's Happening in Wilson County Schools* Newsletter.

Send to: Terry Edwards
(edwardst@wcschools.com
444-3282 Extension
7282



For a Laugh: Things You'll Never Hear a Teacher Say



"Our principal is soooooooooo smart. No wonder he's in administration."

"Thank goodness for these evaluations. They keep me focused."

"I'd like to see Red Lobster offer a meal like this!"

"Here class, just put all your gym shoes in this box next to my desk."

"I bet all the people in our administration really miss teaching!"

"Gosh, the bathroom smells so fresh and clean!"

"I'm so glad I gave my phone number to my students' parents. It makes keeping in touch so much easier."

"I can't believe I get paid for this!"

"I think the discipline around here is just a LITTLE too strict!"

"It's Friday already?????"

"Those student teachers this semester really made my job a real joy."

"I believe that athletics are not getting enough money."

"We'd be able to educate our children if they let us teach through summer too."

"Have you noticed that the teachers drive better cars than the students?"

"This in-service training has been fabulous."

"It must be true; the superintendent said so!"