

The Lamplighter

Vance County Schools/Employee Newsletter/June 2014

High schools graduate 415 in Class of 2014

The Class of 2014 at Early College High School, Western Vance High School, Southern Vance High School and Northern Vance High School included a total of 415 graduates who were eligible to receive almost \$2.5 million in scholarship funds.

More than 70 percent of the graduating seniors will be attending a community college, technical training institution or a two-year or four-year college or university. In addition, approximately 10 percent of the

graduates will be entering a branch of the U.S. military service.

The graduates will be furthering their education at institutions of higher learning as far away as Australia and in other states including Texas, Oklahoma and Massachusetts. The vast majority of students will be attending colleges and universities in North Carolina. East Carolina University, UNC Greensboro and N.C. Central University have admitted the most local graduates for the fall.

Webb honored among top eight N.C. principals

Dr. Larry Webb, principal of Eaton-Johnson Middle School, was honored as one of the top eight principals in North Carolina at an event hosted by Wells Fargo and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction in May.

After being selected as the Vance County Schools' Principal of the Year for 2013-2014, Webb won competition for the North Central Region Principal of the Year. He was honored along with the other seven regional winners at a luncheon that was attended by state education leaders, including Dr. June Atkinson, state superintendent of Public Instruction.

Webb, third from right, is shown in the above photo along with fellow regional Principals of the Year, from left, Billie Berry of Camden County Schools; Frances Herring of Lenoir County Schools; Brad Breedlove of Union County Schools; Dr. Carrie Tulbert of Mooresville Graded Schools; Amy Rickard of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools; Robin Calcutt of Moore County Schools; and Brad Richardson of Rutherford County Schools.

Competitions for regional Principals of the Year and the North Carolina Principal of the Year are sponsored each year by Wells Fargo. Each regional finalist receives \$1,000 for their school and an additional \$1,000 for personal use.



N.C. DPI Photo

KerrBots grant

The KerrBots robotics club at Southern Vance High School has received a grant from CenturyLink totaling \$4,884 to use for club projects during the 2014-2015 school year.

Elaine Webb, a Career and Technical Education Program teacher at Southern Vance and the advisor for KerrBots, shown



SVHS Photo

in the photo second from right, accepted the grant from Larry Liles, district public relations manager for CenturyLink, center. They were joined for the check presentation on May 21 by, from left, Richie Smith of CenturyLink; Rey Horner, an assistant principal at Southern Vance; Stephanie Ayscue, principal of Southern Vance; and Dacia LaBounty of CenturyLink.

The KerrBots club meets monthly throughout the school year and is open to all Vance County high school students. The students work on projects involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) strategies and each year construct a robot that they enter in state competitions.

Hughes receives grant funds from Farm Bureau

Susan Hughes, a fifth-grade teacher at Dabney Elementary School, has received a \$750 grant from the N.C. Farm Bureau and the Vance County Farm Bureau.

A total of \$500 of the grant funding is from the state agency, with the remainder allocated by the county agency.

Hughes will use the grant funds to purchase a HydroStacker Vertical Hydroponic Growing System for the use of her students and other students at Dabney.

The HydroStacker stands approximately six feet tall and includes shelves or slots for pots or paper planters that soil and seed can be placed inside. It can be programmed to automatically water plants, vegetables, fruits and flowers. Hughes plans to use the system to teach her students about agriculture and the growing process.



VCS Photo

Susan Hughes, center, accepts her grant from Vance County Farm Bureau President Thomas Shaw, right, as Dr. Michael Putney, principal of Dabney Elementary School, joins them.

Hopper, Waite part of Governor's Teacher Network

Jenny Waite and Sharon Hopper, both teachers at Zeb Vance Elementary School, have been selected to participate in the Governor's Teacher Network for the next year.

N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory, in partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, established the Governor's Teacher Network to recognize and reward teachers who can help advance Race to the Top funded educational remodeling efforts across the state.

Approximately 450 outstanding teachers were



Jenny Waite, left, and Sharon Hopper

selected through an application process to serve for one year as content experts and professional development creators and facilitators. Network teachers will develop projects designed to spread understanding and use of new resources and practices in their schools and districts. Each teacher receives \$10,000 for the Home

Base instructional resources and online learning module components produced during the new school year.

Bullock, Terry honored

Vivian Bullock, left, and Arnetra Terry, right, are presented certificates by Superintendent Ronald E. Gregory in recognition of their outstanding efforts in assisting local educators over the years in earning certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Bullock is the staff development coordinator in the Human Resources Department and Terry is the K-2 literacy specialist in the Curriculum and Instruction Department.



VCS Photo



VCS Photo

Educators enjoy annual event

The Seventh Annual Honor An Educator Breakfast was held on Thursday, June 12, at the Administrative Services Center, with approximately 120 retired and current educators attending. Some of those who attended are shown at left as they enjoy good food and fellowship. The event was presented by the Vance County Public School Foundation and sponsored by Duke Energy Progress.

Players visit SVHS

Four members of the Carolina Phoenix women's semi-pro football team visited with students at Southern Vance High School in late April.

The Phoenix is a tackle football team that competes against other women's teams from across the nation in the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL). They play their home games in Durham County Stadium in Durham and were the 2013 IWFL World Champions.

Mana Alison, Alecia Cooke, Kimberly Hargrove and Rhonda Rich talked with the high school students about motivation to achieve, staying physically active and their experiences as professional athletes.



Mana Alison



Alecia Cooke



Kimberly Hargrove



Rhonda Rich

Photos Courtesy of Carolina Phoenix

'Market Day'

Second graders at Aycock Elementary School are shown at right as they participate in a special project called "Market Day" in late April.

Students in the classes of Amber Hines, Sarah Jeffries and Jan Vaughan took part in the project for one week. The week ended with products the students made being sold on "Market Day." Students were asked to develop business plans based on the needs of the school and had to consider the viewpoints of the producers and the consumers. Students produced all the items sold at the market and they earned tickets by completing tasks throughout the week. Their tickets were used as currency to purchase products on "Market Day." At the conclusion of the project, students shared ideas and offered suggestions to improve their group sales and better meet demands for products.



Aycock Photo

Teachers get special attention during Appreciation Week

Educators across the district were recognized during Teacher and School Staff Appreciation Week, May 5-9, with special events, breakfasts, lunches, after



New Hope Photo

school activities and as the recipients of a multitude of gifts.

Barbara Hudgins, left, and Marsha Collins enjoyed beautiful flower arrangements at New Hope Elementary School.

Such appreciation was shown for educators at Carver and New

Hope elementary schools. At Carver Elementary School, students delivered gifts to teachers and staff members which included items contained in packages shaped like large pencils. At New Hope, Barbara Hudgins, a first-year teacher, who was mentored all year by her colleague Marsha Collins, had an arrangement of fresh flowers given to her by her mother, who also gave a second, larger arrangement to Collins. The PTAs and PTOs at local schools also hosted special events and activities throughout the week.



Carver Photo

Students delivered gifts contained in packages shaped like giant pencils to teachers, including Juanita Wilkerson, right, at Carver Elementary School.

Clarke recognizes its top teacher and teacher assistant

Sheila Wormley, standing at right in the photo at the far right, accepts a plaque from Principal Crystal Richardson of Clarke Elementary School as the school's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year as they are joined by students.

Constance Seward, shown with some of her students in the photo at near right, holds the plaque she was given as Clarke's Teacher Assistant of the Year for 2014-2015.



Clarke Photos

EJMS Ambassadors partner with Perry Memorial Library

Eaton-Johnson Middle School student ambassadors are partnering with the Youth Department at H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library in Henderson, to prepare the public library's summer reading program for local youths.

Two of the student ambassadors, Jose Malinab, left in the photo at right, and Billy Cates Vicente, right foreground, assisted Angie Bates, the facility's youth librarian, during the afternoon on May 21, in stuffing bags for children who will participate in the reading program. They were being assisted by Mary Vicente, a teacher at Eaton-Johnson, right background. Approximately 500 bags will be available for children in the summer program. Dr. Priscilla Chavis-Lockley, a counselor at Eaton-Johnson and the advisor for the ambassadors, accompanied the students. She said student ambassadors will assist the library throughout the summer.



VCS Photo



E.O. Young Photo

Fifth grader is top reader

Stephanie Pegram, above center, holds a bird house she was given after earning honors as the top reader through the Read & Win program, sponsored by the Henderson Optimist Club, for the school year at E.O. Young Jr. Elementary School. She is joined by John Pecora, president of the Henderson Optimist Club, right, and Marylaura McKoon, principal of E.O. Young.

'Jeans for Troops Day'

Local educators joined adults from across the nation in participating in the "Jeans for Troops Day" fund-raising effort on May 22.

Thousands of dollars in donations were raised to support U.S. military veterans with issues including seeking a job, going to college, getting health care and finding housing.

"Jeans for Troops Day" involved school staff members each pledging a \$5 donation to wear jeans to work for the day with all proceeds going to The GI Go Fund to support U.S. troops. The donations also were given in honor of the national observance of Memorial Day on May 26.

School staff members at Aycock, Pinkston Street, E.M. Rollins and Southern Vance participated in the fundraiser and donated proceeds to the cause.

NVHS student attends U.S. Naval Academy program

Justin Care, a rising senior at Northern Vance High School, attended the 2014 U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Summer Seminar program in Annapolis, Md., June 1-6.

The U.S. Naval Academy invited a select group of approximately 2,550 young men and women from around the nation and abroad to attend the summer seminar. The seminar is a fast paced leadership experience for rising seniors in high school. It helps educate, motivate and prepare students who are considering applying for admission to the U.S. Naval Academy.



Justin Care

The summer seminar teaches prospective applicants about life at the Naval Academy, where academics, athletics and professional training are key elements in developing our nation's leaders. Each student attended the six-day session and experienced a glimpse of USNA life. Students had the opportunity to live in Bancroft Hall and eat in King Hall, along with participating in academic and leadership workshops. They also participated in daily physical training involving group runs and conditioning exercises.

Students attended workshops on information technology, naval architecture, mechanical engineering, oceanography, mathematics, history and meteorology. They also participated in seamanship and navigation classes and took a cruise on a Navy Yard Patrol Craft.

Girls on the Run programs end

Girls in local elementary schools who are part of the Girls on the Run after school programs completed their involvement in the programs for the school year on Saturday, May 10, with a 5K Race in Henderson.

Students, parents, program officials and advisors took part in the race.

The Girls on the Run program is held at the schools twice a week throughout the school year. The program promotes good, physical health and citizenship.



Clarke Photo

Students and staff members who are a part of the Girls on the Run after school program at Clarke Elementary School celebrate the end of the program for the 2013-2014 school year as students hold their completion certificates.

Dabney awarded ExxonMobil grant for a third year

A \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Corporation to Dabney Elementary School will be used to support the school's math and science programs.

Dr. Michael Putney, principal of Dabney Elementary, announced in April that the school had received the grant for the third consecutive year.

The grant was awarded through the Holmes Oil Company and Cruizers Convenience Stores in Henderson.



VCS Photo

Miss N.C. visits

Johna Edmonds, Miss North Carolina 2013, visited third graders at E.M. Rollins Elementary School on May 28, as part of her efforts to promote reading to youths across the state. She is shown at left as she reads a favorite book to students in Kathryn Wilson's classroom. Edmonds attended the United Way of Vance County Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon earlier in the day.

Fermon Bostick is top local bus driver

Fermon Bostick won top honors in the Vance County Schools' Bus ROADeo and went on to represent the school system in the district competition in May.

Bostick, right, has been driving a school bus for the school system since 1995.

He has won the local ROADeo several times over the years. He also has competed in the district competition a number of times and has advanced to the state competition three different times.

He currently drives a school bus that is based at Aycock Elementary School and serves students in the Department for Exceptional Children who attend Northern Vance High School, Southern Vance High School and Eaton-Johnson Middle School, as well as Aycock.



VCS Photo

The Lamplighter is published monthly by the Public Information Office of Vance County Schools.

School news and story ideas are welcome and may be sent to:

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