

Points of Pride

“Keeping You In Touch”

A Dab of News from Superintendent Bill Delbrugge



May 2008 Issue

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to thank each of you for the many successes you have helped our students achieve. Through the efforts of students, teachers, administrators, support staff members, volunteers, mentors, and parents, our students continue to improve academically and become the best that they can be. You are the heart of the Flagler County Public Schools and are very much appreciated.

As we look ahead to next year with excitement, anticipation, a little anxiety and much hope, we will get through the many challenges that lie ahead for Flagler County Schools and continue to build upon our successes. This year's accomplishments are a reflection of what we can do by working together.

For those of you who will be enjoying several weeks of a much-needed break, I wish you a wonderful summer, and we'll see you back at school in August. To those who will be working through the summer to prepare for the next school year, many thanks to you for your efforts. Everyone, please remember to be safe in your summer travels. Most of all, enjoy your summer and be proud of the many accomplishments and lives you have touched.

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child. Carl Jung

My teacher, how can I ever thank you enough. What you have given me will stay with me a lifetime. Catherine Pulsifer

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Snapshots of Success



Students work in their excavation unit to uncover artifacts from a specific culture that live in a particular area of the world. Students documented their findings through measuring, mapping, drawing, photographing, and journaling to create their final report—a video documentary.

SERVICE LEARNING “ROCKS” IN FLAGLER COUNTY

Service Learning is becoming the fabric of the curriculum for many teachers and students in Flagler County schools. This past year, 11 Service Learning Projects, funded through a Learn and Serve grant, have taken place in the schools and community. The following is a brief summary of two awesome service learning projects that students and teachers have engaged in this year. (More to come in the next issue.)

Coordinated and directed by Service Learning/Archaeology Teacher, Mat Saunders and Teacher of the Gifted, Diane Tomko, Dig It! - A quest in Archaeological Findings, engaged gifted students at Bunnell Elementary and Belle Terre Elementary in a hands-on, multi-cultural archeological dig—complete with an artifact laden dig box! This multidisciplinary, cross-curricular project included authentic literature, creation of text sets focused on the theme of archeology which included books, PBS Program CD's, CD Lab Sets for The Voyage of the Mimi II, and numerous other resources and activities. Throughout the school year, Teachers of the Gifted Karen Driscoll, Sandy Glasner, and Svetlana Panameno utilized the text sets to implement pre-dig, during the dig, and post-dig experiences through cooperative learning activities, research activities, and lessons on the scientific method.



Mat Saunders stands with Mayan storyteller, at the dig site.

The culminating activity was the multi-cultural archaeological dig. Students worked in teams as archaeologists, using tools of the archaeologist to uncover artifacts and record their findings to determine who, what, when, and where. To sum up the thoughts expressed by the teachers, administrators, parents, community liaisons, and mentors that supported this project. The Dig It! Project provided students with an incredible learning experience, opening their eyes to world cultures, timeless places and artifacts portraying the real life history of ancient civilizations....almost beyond imagination!



Diane Tomko works with students to excavate the 3 levels of strata using the law of superposition.



An excited group of 2nd grade students from Wadsworth Elementary School with teachers Tammi Gray, Valerie Sanson, and Janet Stanley, ventured to Gamble Rogers State Park every other Thursday to explore and learn environmental science concepts.

With the assistance of Gamble Rogers Park Rangers Mike Simmons and Barbara Roberts, Florida Game and Wildlife Conservation Commission Officer Scott Dack, biologist and retired teacher Bob Mish, and many members of the Flagler Beach Environmental Preservation Council, students studied local ecosystems including coastal, salt-water marsh, scrub and maritime hammock ecosystems, as well as plants, animals and their habitats. Throughout the year, students engaged in a variety of activities at the park and in the classroom: using the scientific methods, researching, maintaining journals of their findings, producing Pod Casts, creating artistic displays of information about endangered plants and animals within the environment, and publishing an informational book on the species and ecosystems

in the park. The culmination of their learning was shared at the Gamble Rogers State Park on May 15th when the students became the “teachers” presenting their projects while parents, administrators, and community members rotated through 7 stations: Dune Plant Art & Habitats, Turtles & Right Whales, Shells/Ghost Crabs/Sand Fleas, Marsh & Hammock Animals, Nature Trail, Predators, and Environmental Projects. With much excitement, enthusiasm, and expertise, the students provided each group with all the eco-facts and information! A closing celebration and appreciation ceremony was held at the end of the day and students were awarded Jr. Park Ranger badges.

This year’s academic accomplishments were further highlighted when the three classes were named “Environmentalist of the Year” by the Flagler Beach Environmental Preservation Council in May. Service learning has given these 2nd grade students lifelong lessons about preserving and protecting their environment while mastering Sunshine State Standards! Does it get any better than that?



Community Problem Solvers of FPCHS and MHS were valuable partners in the Dig-It! project throughout the year.



Pictured above, students receive “Environmentalist of the Year” award. Pictured right are students teaching guests about the Right Whale and the many species of plant life in the park.



ANCIENT CHINA EXPLORED THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES & THE ARTS



When Third Grade Teacher Stacey Mundo, and Art Teacher Rebecca Naughton, from Rymfire Elementary put their heads together to create a cross curricular collaborative unit on Ancient China for their third grade students, creative sparks were ignited! Students experienced the study of Ancient China with a focus on the distinctive elements of the Ancient Chinese Civilization, including their inventions. Students demonstrated their understanding and mastery through writing, technology, and art processes. Each student created a clay model of a Qin Dynasty (221 – 207 BC) Terra Cotta Soldier discovered in 1974 in Xi'an, China. Students researched clothing and armor of the time period, then sketched their designs on paper before carving their armor design on their clay soldier. Students also focused on facial expressions and hairstyles that directly reflected the time period and individualized each soldier. This co-teaching collaborative effort provided students valuable understanding of an ancient culture through a hands on learning experience they will never forget!

PODCASTING FROM STUDENT TO STUDENT & SCHOOL TO SCHOOL

Distance Learning took on a new meaning as Kerri Sands and her fifth grade class from Old Kings Elementary set out to teach Podcasting to fifth students and teacher, Jamie Lambert at Bunnell Elementary. Experienced students from Ms. Sands class were paired with inexperienced students from Ms. Lambert's class. Ms. Sands was provided with a teacher and student created lesson plan which included a powerpoint with directions on how to podcast, prepared images, and script notes about Famous Black Americans.

This allowed the students and teacher to jump right into the podcast piece using Garage Band. Each student, with their partner student, and MacBook on their desks', be-



gan their long distance teaching and learning adventure. Onsite "techs", Stanley Wright, Bunnell Elementary and Stefanie Butarelli, Wadsworth Elementary, were on hand to provide technical support. By the end of the morning, students had completed an enhanced podcast with images, narration, and music. Armed with a wealth of information and training, they were given two weeks to complete the project. At the end of the two weeks, students interacted through iChat to share their experience and ask questions. All the students were able to hear the questions and see the answers by typing on the MacBook

projected on the screen. This is just the beginning of learning content through podcasting for these students!



SNAPSHOT CORRECTION

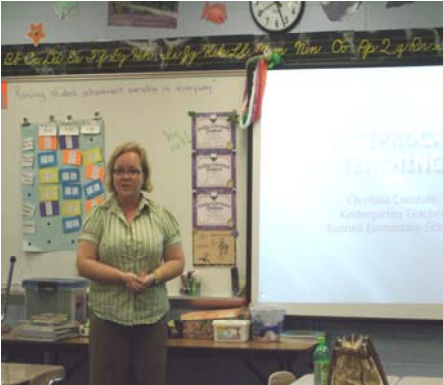
The April Issue featured an article entitled, "The Y.E.S. Custodial Program". It should be pointed out that these are two very different Community Based Programs. The Y.E.S. Program, Youth Employment Services, is available each semester and provides students with learning disabilities the opportunity to receive on the job training and experience. The Custodial Program was new this year and provided students with more significant disabilities, the skills and training in custodial procedures, products, and equipment. Congratulations to both Trish Reonas, Teacher/Career Specialist, and the students of FPCHS for their hard work and success!

School Scene

School Scene



FLAGLER'S FIRST TEACHER INQUIRY SHOWCASE



Carol Jean West, Kindergarten Teacher at Bunnell Elementary presents "What Effect Does Reciprocal Teaching Have On Comprehension in Kindergarten Students?"

Over 40 Teachers and Reading Coaches representing all schools in Flagler County gathered together on Saturday, May 17th to share what they have learned about school improvement through the process of teacher research. Teacher Inquiry, also referred to as action research, is the systematic, intentional study by teachers of their own classroom practice. Teacher inquirers seek out change and reflect on their practice by posing questions, collecting data to gain insights into their questions, analyzing the data along with reading relevant literature, making changes in practice based on new understandings, and sharing findings with others.

Trained as District Facilitators through a joint project with NEFEC and UF, Joan Thate, Reading Coach at BTMS, and Anna Faulconer, Reading Coach at ITMS, trained school level facilitators that then worked with a small group of teachers throughout the year to learn the process of teacher inquiry. The showcase, which served as the culminating activity, provided a venue for the collective sharing of twenty-seven inquiry projects that will contribute to the possibilities for real change to take place in the classroom—for improving schools from

within! The ultimate goal of engagement in teacher research is to create an inquiry stance toward teaching. An inquiry stance actually becomes a "professional positioning," that is owned by the teacher, where, because of the inherent complexity of teaching, questioning one's own practice becomes part of the teacher's work and eventually a part of the teaching culture. By cultivating this inquiry stance toward teaching, teachers can play a critical role in school improvement efforts, and continually enhance their own professional growth and ultimately the experience of schooling for children (Dana & Yendol-Silva, 2003). Teacher Inquiry has been added to the Flagler County Professional Development guide and will be offered again in the coming school year. Don't miss out on this powerful professional development !



Pictured right: Belle Terre Elementary Fourth Grade Teachers, Chris Tincher and Michael Minnich present "Are Basal Reading Series the Cornerstone to Fluency and Comprehension?"

EARTH DAY EVENTS AT FLAGLER PALM COAST HIGH



Students in Ms. Reonas' career classes celebrated Earth Day by sharing podcasts that were created through a study of environmental careers. Working in teams to research and prepare their information for the upcoming earth day, students made several discoveries about environmental careers. Environmental Engineer, Health and Safety Inspector, and Forest Conservation Technician were just a few of the careers they researched. In addition, the City of Palm Coast Green team made a visit to share informal research. After gathering all the research and exploring the various careers, scripts were created and recordings produced with Garageband. Working with the TV Production classes to put the finishing touches on their podcasts and burn them on DVDs, students were ready to share their environmental expertise.

Pictured left, students Ryan Chewing and Amy Kemper, dressed as Captain Planet and villain, Looten Plunder, visit elementary schools and talk to students about Earth Day. Over 1500 activity books and posters provided by the St. John's River Water Management District to students.

FLAGLER COUNTY STUDENTS ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS



On June 1st, at Michigan State University, Flagler County students were named world champions! Over 3,500 students from 48 states and 8 other countries gathered for the 34th Future Problem Solving, International Conference. Flagler County students were amazing! Sixty-four Community Problem Solving Teams participated in this year's event. Ranked second in the world for Community Problem Solving, just behind Singapore, was the Flagler County team, Project ART - Artisans Respected through Trade. This team was a collaborative effort of Flagler Palm Coast High School, Matanzas High School and the home school program. Coached by Diane Tomko, Gifted Teacher at FPCHS, the Project ART team worked with the Fair Trade Federation to empower artists in developing

nations while honoring their cultural identities. They assisted 8 families of 4 to remain solvent for one year. Team members from Flagler Palm Coast High School include: Brooke Kindcaid, Parin Majewski, Jeff Allar, Clay Hausen, Kyle Russell, John Allar, Vincent Scerbo, Adrian Lujo, Tyler Jacobs (Matanzas High), Michael Scerbo, Ellen Scherr (Home School Program) and Megan Goodrich.

Additionally, the 4 man writing teams ranked 12th, 18th and 24th out of 186 national and international teams. The topic of the conference was Child Labor. Ranked 12th was the freshmen team of Brad Sprivey, Lorenzo Butler, Brandon Smith and Caitlin Hannan; ranked 18th was the freshmen team of Kaitlin Gore, Brittany Eggum, Ryan McDermott and Riley Shugg; ranked 24th was the senior team of Ashley Blackburn, Brendan O'Rourke, Devin Manrique and Kyle Shugg.

Project DIG IT - a partnership between Flagler Palm Coast High and Matanzas High ranked 3rd in the world with their creation of the largest archaeological dig box simulation on the North American continent. The site of this box is right on the campus of

Matanzas High School. Mat Saunders was their mentor and Jeanne Nix and Diane Tomko were their coaches. Pictured right are two team members, Freshman Megan Lowe of Matanzas, and Amber Tetley of Flagler Palm Coast.

We are most proud of these fine students!



BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW ADDITIONS

The block of North Palmetto Street in Bunnell looks very different than it did a year ago. It's now the home of the new Bunnell Elementary School. Teachers and students can't wait to begin their move into this beautiful building which includes an administration area, media center, cafeteria, stage, art room, music room, enclosed play area, 17 classrooms, 4 resource rooms, and 2 computer labs! The original school building is undergoing renovations to become a preschool center of excellence and child care center. Mark your calendars for September 6th to join in celebrating the opening of the new school and honoring the 85 years of service Bunnell Elementary School has provided to the community.



July 10, 2007



April 11, 2008

Fourteen Years

Arlene Davey, Bus Driver

Joan Firmes, Bus Driver

Eleven Years

Joan Firmes, Bus Driver

Ten Years

Michael DiGeorgio, Bus Driver

Claretha Spates, Custodian

Ted Turner, Maintenance, Flagler-Palm Coast

Eight Years

Ethel Boatwright, Custodian

Robert Rinker, Teacher, Flagler-Palm Coast

Seven Years

Chun Lau, Custodian

Six Years

Esley Parchment

Five Years

Charles Ball, Teacher, Flagler-Palm Coast

Leslie Cassels, Teacher, Flagler-Palm Coast

Two Years

Mary Jo Adair, Registrar, Buddy Taylor

One Year

Frances Kelly, Nurse Assistant, Rymfire



Flagler County School Board Bits



School board meetings twice a month, workshop meetings, community group meetings, going to school and community events, talking to teachers, students, parents, and administrators, listening, objective, reliable, optimistic..... this is a very short list that describes the commitment and conviction of the Flagler County School Board. As the school year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the school board members for their time, energy, and investment that has been so evident in their work on the board, in the schools, and with the community.

The Flagler County School Board has been instrumental in supporting and sustaining exemplary education programs that provide a learning environment for outstanding student achievement. Our entire community benefits from their steadfast support of public education. Members of the Board from right to left are: Evelyn Shellenberger, vice chair; Charles Gambaro, Colleen Conklin, chair; Peter Palmer; Sue Dickinson; Vincent Sullivan, student member.

Community Connections



The Flagler County Education Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of four 7th grade students for the "Take Stock in Children" Scholarship program. Take Stock in Children offers a comprehensive plan of success for underprivileged youth and has a proven record of helping children stay out of trouble, graduate from high school, attend college, and become productive citizens. The excited students and their family met with Education Foundation Director, Jean Hunter to receive information and sign a performance contract agreeing to stay in school, maintain a 2.5 grade point average, exhibit good behavior, be crime and drug-free, and meet with their mentor once a week. Upon their success and graduation, students receive a scholarship valued at over \$10,000 which provides two years tuition at a community college and two years tuition at a Florida senior university.



Pictured on the left side are Nicholas Chenowith and Eljonai Jean-Baptiste who attend Indian Trails Middle. Pictured on the right are Shella Loudie Oleus and Julious Jackson who attend Buddy Taylor Middle School. Congratulations students and we look forward to following your accomplishments!

Mentors Making a Difference

Most of us can recall someone who motivated us as children and helped us to imagine who we could become. Many of the students in our schools benefit enormously from the support and encouragement of a caring adult. Mentors change lives by serving as positive role models and helping young people reach their full potential.

***Thank you to our mentors who help Flagler County students realize that they can succeed.
You transform the lives of the future.***



The African American Mentor Program (mentors pictured above) was recognized and honored as mentors, students, families, and guest attended a special dinner and program hosted by Indian Trails Middle School and the Flagler County School District.



Adult and Community Education teacher helps parents to learn English! Adult and Community Education's ESOL teacher, Vicki Stanton, teaches a unique daytime adult ESOL class at Rymfire Elementary School. Vicki is helping parents to learn English right in their child's school. Having the classes based at the school, parents are able to be very involved with their children with field trips, lunch, class parties, plays, etc., and at the same time learn English. After parents have shared these experiences with their children, they are asked to write a paper and share with the class. The parents also take a few field trips of their own as Vicki believes strongly that when learning the English language, it's much more effective to touch, feel and see what you're learning and talking about. Recently Vicki and her adult students took a field trip to the Farmer's Market, purchasing different items and then sharing an international Lunch at Wickline Park before taking a stroll on the boardwalk out to the Intracoastal. As all good teachers do, Vicki extended their classroom learning by creating a word list of things of seek and find items and objects. The class has also been to the Flagler Museum, the library, the Flagler Beach Pier, Matanzas Fort, Washington Oaks Gardens, Flagship Park and Princess Place Tour. Other class activities have included reading and watching, The Old Man and the Sea, and reading Island of the Blue Dolphins with the listening CD. Incorporating all the modalities, both Vicki and her ESOL class are having a great time learning the English language. Vicki reports that her students work very hard and are enjoying success in learning English which has helped several to obtain jobs.



Bulletin Board

Flagler County Public Library summer Reading Kick-Off Free Events

On Saturday, June 7th, students in grades K-12 can be entertained with a puppetry and live theater program, "Elliot's Space Adventure" presented by Storybook Theater beginning at 10:30a.m. Following the theater program, stay for the movie adventure, "The Water Horse" beginning at 1:30p.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult and seating is limited. Check out the many free events being offered this summer at the Public Library

July 9th S.O.S. (Supply Our Students) Outback Steakhouse Luncheon

Plan to attend this fundraising event on which benefits the children of Flagler County. This year, all S.O.S. contributions will be directed to the many needs of our elementary students. Come enjoy great food and good conversation. Presented by Flagler Volunteer Services, the lunch tickets are \$20.00 each or two for \$35.00. Lunch will be served from 12:00-2:30p.m. and includes top cap sirloin, 5 oz piece of chicken, bread, Aussie fries, and beverage.

Contact Wendi Lachapelle at 437-9997 or 793-4673 for tickets. Seats are limited!

"How To Drug Proof Your Kids"

Learn to talk to kids about drugs by attending this FREE workshop on Saturday, June 28th from 8:30a.m.-3:00p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Belle Terre Parkway in Palm Coast. Free lunch will be provided. Presented by the Stewart-Marchman Keep Kids Drug Free Prevention Center And Focus on the Family Facilitators. CEU's and Community Service hours available. Please R.S.V.P. the Prevention Center at 386.947.4308 or 386.947.2460. HEALTHY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN IS THE KEY TO REDUCING THE RISK OF DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE!

Thumb Tacks



Quick Links & Speedy Sources

RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE

This coming school year, Flagler County School District is committed to recycling in major areas where we consume our resources: paper, plastic, and cans. Custodial Services has been delivering two recycling bins to every classroom. One will be for paper and one will be for cans and bottles. Involve your students in being a good steward of the earth by assigning them to empty the bins. The classroom trash can will remain for soiled materials and will continued to be emptied by Custodial Services. In addition, every school received special dumpsters for all paper products and a separate dumpster for cans and plastic bottles. This will be a cost savings to the district and our planet. Thanks to our ECO Committee for helping make this program a reality.



Teacher Inquiry Database

Each year, The Center for School Improvement (CSI) in the College of Education at the University of Florida supports hundreds of teachers and administrators as they study their own schools and classroom practices, and develop action plans for change based on outcomes from their studies. The CSI Teacher Inquiry Database is available for easy retrieval by others interested in researching a similar topic in their own school and/or district. In this way, the CSI Teacher Inquiry Database serves as a storehouse for knowledge about teaching and learning generated by practitioners themselves, and networks teacher researchers interested in similar topics so that they can build upon each others' work.

<http://education.ufl.edu/web/?pid=903>



EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser Pays \$300

Looking for a great way to raise money for your school? Simply ask parents, neighbors, co-workers, and businesses to donate and recycle their used consumer electronics. Register on line at <http://www.green-recycling-fundraiser.org> and receive a free Welcome Kit packet to get started.

Exercise/Physical Activity & Academic Achievement

Dr. Ratey is known for his groundbreaking research in this area. With the recent legislation to provide physical education in elementary grades, it's important to read and understand the research that is beginning to surface in this field.

<http://www.johnratey.com/site/default.aspx>