

February 2011 WALKERTALK

MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM WALKER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Issue 58A

Volunteer Spotlight



Walker Wonder Worker Margaret Killen, while retired from education, still continues to mentor and tutor students at Chattanooga Valley Middle.

Middle school, fabric artist construct community quilt



Local fabric artist Karen Sperry displays the completed quilt constructed by eighth grade art students at LaFayette Middle School.

Heather Hawkins' eighth grade students at LaFayette Middle have been working with well-known fabric artist Karen Sperry to construct a quilt to be donated to a local charity.

Sperry pieced the individual squares made by the students to finalize the project into a community quilt that is now on display in the media center at LaFayette Middle but will be donated to a local charity.

Rossville Middle honors business partners



The staff and administration of Rossville Middle School host a luncheon in honor of their WACOPEP (Walker County Partners for Educational Progress) partners and community volunteers to show their appreciation for the school-community connection. In front are Assistant Principal Wendy Ingram, Debbie Ridge from Creighton's Florist and Natalie Smart from Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church. In back are Ralph Brown, President of the School Council, Principal Wanda Janeway, Debbie Johnson, Vice President of the School Council, Bobby McNabb representing the Rossville High School Alumni Association, Emily McNabb, a volunteer, WACOPEP Coordinator Barbara Moore and Assistant Principal Aaron Collins.

Fairyland opens new, expanded computer lab



Amanda Hall, a fifth grade teacher at Fairyland Elementary, assists her class with online research in the school's new laptop computer lab.

Technology Specialist Carl Allen worked diligently with Fairyland staff members Michael Knight and Curt Hitchens to complete the project and open the doors for students.

"Our new computer lab has allowed our teachers to teach research skills and do more project-based learning with our students. The students are more engaged and having this technology puts a wealth of information just a 'few clicks' away," said Principal Jeremy Roerdink.

Dental hygiene topic of day



Dr. Dave Mason discusses dental hygiene and careers in the dental industry with first grade students in Lindsey Beck's and Lyndsey Hunt's classes at Naomi Elementary. Students eagerly ask and answer questions as Dr. Mason engages them in sharing what they know and need to know.

Stations allow independent learning



Fifth grade teacher Shannon Rogers explains the collaborative activities her students will conduct on their own at learning stations she designed with co-teacher Destiny Wallin. Rogers and Wallin conference with students as they work their way through the nine stations featuring writing resources and methods.



Brittany Lawton edits a passage on the interactive whiteboard at one of the learning stations developed to move students through the writing process from the introduction to peer editing at Gilbert Elementary.

First graders share story scoops



Edwin Cline, a first grader at Gilbert Elementary, shares his story scoops, the parts of a story labeled on an ice cream cone graphic organizer, using a document camera that projects the image onto the computer screen and whiteboard. Rhonda Epperson's class is accustomed to using educational technology for presentations. Daily use of modern technology helps students develop the technical expertise expected in college and careers.

iPads utilized for learning and grading



Jacob Thornton, Madison Johnson and Brian Wimbley use an iPad in Laura Smalley's class to read a book so that multiple hard copies of the text are not needed.



Naomi Elementary teacher Laura Smalley helps Travis Richardson track his learning in a math unit on fractions and set future goals for achievement in math.

Rossville Elementary staff come to the aid of CFA



Tabitha Norris and daughter, Kinsley, collect stuffed animals donated by Rossville Elementary staff for the Craniofacial Foundation of America. CFA provides stuffed animals to facial surgery patients during their hospital stays to make them more comfortable.

Mentor program matches student strengths to needs

For the past several years, Lugenia Suttles, an instructor in the Career/Technical Department at LaFayette High School, has sponsored a mentor program at Gilbert Elementary.

Both the high school and elementary students are carefully screened to positively meet the needs of some with the strengths of others better trained in those areas.

Gilbert's Parent Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Allmon facilitates the sessions and mentor schedules to allow maximum benefit from these collaborative learning opportunities.



Selected students from LaFayette High School mentor elementary students at Gilbert in small group settings and one-on-one sessions.

Art projects mesh critical, creative thinking skills



Fourth graders work to complete their GPS fine arts standards projects in Shanna Hartline's art class at Naomi Elementary.



Emily Redden, a fifth grader at Naomi Elementary, displays her completed art project in Shanna Hartline's class.

Mastering multiplication



Mary Lewis's third graders at Naomi Elementary have met their multiplication goals and passed their timed multiplication tests. They have been tracking their learning progress by adding stickers to a gumball machine in their classroom. (Back) Sidney Kinsey, Hannah Hill, Keelie Mauk and Charles Davis along with (front) Gracie Ratliff, Cheyenne Vine and Sarah Brown have won individual gumball machines for mastering their facts.

Careful measurement makes math accurate

Sheila Cepeda's second graders at North LaFayette utilize measuring devices such as rulers and cubes to make actual calculations and record accurate measurements that connect their math assignment on paper to real life uses for the math they are learning in class.

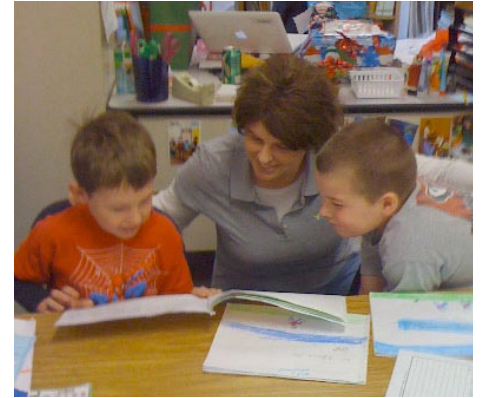


North LaFayette second grader Madison Ashley considers the size and shape of her cube when calculating solid measurements for her math assignment.



Evan Cliff and Jaxon Manning check and recheck their measurements before recording the findings that they will share with their class at the end of math workshop.

Authors' Tea features student writing



Rebecca Wallin follows along as Garrett Burton reads his illustrated story to her and her son Isaac, at the North LaFayette Authors' Tea to highlight the work of student writers.



Brailey Ash presents the materials she has published for the North LaFayette Authors' Tea. Students invited their parents and family members to see and hear their original, creative work.

LaFayette High hosts breakfast for special guests



Amanda & Craig Ownby and grandparents David and Melba Hendrix are among the special guests invited to a breakfast to celebrate student achievement at LaFayette High.

Home visits surprise students with awards

Schools in Walker County utilized Saturday, February 26th, for many worthwhile activities but none more rewarding than Chattanooga Valley Elementary's home visits. During the morning faculty meeting, administrators gave each teacher and staff member a large, chocolate bar with directions to deliver it to a student they teach and would like to praise for significant achievement this year. Envoys deployed in teams and were overwhelmed by the pride of the students and families they honored.



Suzie Smith, a first grade teacher at Chattanooga Valley Elementary, surprises her honored student, Courtney Asher, at home to reward her for great achievement this year.



Chattanooga Valley Elementary teachers (from left) Susan Wooten, Cheryl Barksdale, Jennifer Jackson and Tracy Llewellyn (seated) make a home visit to fourth grade student, Dallas McDaniel, to deliver his achievement award.

Saturday inservice productive for educators

On the recent Saturday workday for teachers, Gilbert Elementary educators created useful classroom strategies. Academic Coach Karen Neal directed a book study on *Literacy Work Stations: Making Centers Work* by Debbie Diller. Teachers designed work stations in the manner they would for their students. Subjects covered the RTI process, Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and co-teaching among other relevant topics.



Charity Burnette, LaTisha Morgan, Leigh Brooks and Tessa Pope spend part of their Saturday workday discussing how to mesh national Common Core Standards with current Georgia Performance Standards for student learning.



Gilbert Elementary teachers Angie Meeks, Sherry Vinyard and Academic Coach Karen Neal study the research materials provided at the learning station on Response to Intervention (RTI) student support strategies.



**Parents
inspiring
parents and
their children ...
Go to
bethere.org**