

Teaching Our Tomorrow



Patrick County
Public Schools

Calendar Updates

- > Spring Break:
April 10th–15th
- > May: SOL testing
for grades 3–12
- > Last Day of School:
June 4th
- > PCHS Graduation:
Saturday, June 6th
- > Summer School:
June 10th–30th

Superintendent's Message

As I write this update, we are working very hard to begin construction on the new additions to our schools. Construction for Patrick Springs, Blue Ridge, and Meadows of Dan should begin in the spring with the other schools to follow in the summer or fall. The new

water saving toilets and sinks. It is paying off already. At the schools which are on a water system, the water usage has been reduced by up to 25%. This project is paid for by the energy and cost avoidance savings that are realized.

track, but after consulting with another school division, we discovered that to rebuild the track would cost over twice as much as building a new track. In addition, with the new construction, we will meet state and national standards.

As with many of our projects, we continue to work towards having quality, yet affordable facilities. As we move into the 21st Century, it becomes more apparent that we must provide our students with adequate up-to-date facilities that promote and support learning and physical development. I ask that you continue to visit our website for updates, pictures, and more information including a podcast, our new way of communicating with the public.

Dr. Roger Morris
Division Superintendent



structures are being paid for by bonds that were sold last summer.

The capital program also includes upgrades to the energy systems providing for the conservation of electricity and water at the schools and offices. Lights and HVAC systems have been replaced, as well as

The special construction projects are paid for with federal and state funds and have been needed for many years. The new greenhouse is one such project and it is over 50% complete. The new track construction will begin this spring and will be located behind the high school. The track will now comply with state and national standards for track and field. A citizen asked me the other day, "Why build a new track? Isn't the current one ok?" We did consider rebuilding the current crumbling



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY Poster Contest held

in April 2009.

Winners will be announced
by May 8th.

Congratulations 2009

PCHS Lady Cougar
Basketball Team

Piedmont District and Region IV Champions!



**Congratulations to
Coach Glen Burnett,
District & Region
Coach of the Year
for Girls Basketball,
and to Coach
Steven Bierdrycki,
District Wrestling
Coach of the Year!**

Drama Program Presented



Parents and citizens throughout the region were privileged to experience the talents of The Patrick County High School Drama Department as they presented the "Disney's High School Musical!" on Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th to a packed high school auditorium.

The show was based on the original Disney channel movie, it featured songs by Matthew Gerrard, Robbie Nevil, Ray Cham, Kevin Quinn, Andy Dodd, and Adam Watts. The performance included hits such as "We're All In This Together", "When There Was Me and You", "Get'cha Head in the Game", "Bop to the Top", and many more. The script was written and adapted by David Simpatico.

The production was directed, produced and cleverly choreographed by Anne Norman, with Adrienna Joyce serving as choreography assistant. Musical directors were Anne Norman, Michele Dyer, and Megan Sheppard with Zach Ferguson as the technical director.

The cast and crew included over 50 students acting, singing and dancing to this upbeat, modern musical. Those in attendance commented that it was a pleasure to see such talent, determination, and excitement from youth and they look forward to next year's performance.



Schools Care

Even in today's difficult economic climate students, faculty, staff, and parents at Stuart Elementary School continue to show support for many charitable causes. In December, SES partnered with Lowes Food in a food drive to provide non-perishable food items for the Patrick County Food Bank. Each classroom became a donation center with students collecting a total of 835 pounds of food to help those in need.

In February students in grades Pre-K through 4th participated in the American Heart Association's Jump for Heart. The goal of the program is to raise awareness of heart attack, stroke, and heart disease. Parents and staff hosted the event, which included

jumping rope, hula hooping, long jumping, and healthy refreshments. A total of \$2,595 was collected.



Each month faculty and staff members continue the spirit of giving through the Dress Down Friday program. Adults donate \$5 per month to a local or national cause and show their support by wearing casual clothing. Organizations that are supported by Dress Down include local fire departments, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and United Way.



Students Experience Leadership Service



The National Junior Beta Club is a non-profit, leadership-service club for grades 5-9 whose purpose is to encourage effort and reward merit, and to promote those qualities of character that make for good citizenship.



This year 24 students from Hardin Reynolds and 8 from Blue Ridge Elementary School attended the state convention, held in Richmond, Virginia. Awards for competitions were given to Hannah Nelson, Madison Heath, Lindsey Fisher, Brittany Joyce, Logan Fain, Vanessa Sanchez and Rylee Moore from Hardin Reynolds as well as Lavender Hughes, Hannah Freeman, Austin Kinard, Will Clement, Mandy Snider, Caleb Bealsey, Eli Ethier, Brandy Horton, and Branden Nester from Blue Ridge Elementary School.

SOL Parent University



Patrick County Public Schools offer many opportunities for parents to assist their children with mastering the Standards of Learning. One such program was offered by Meadows of Dan Elementary School during February, "How to Get Ready for the SOL TESTS". Parents joined students for a light dinner of pizza, fruit, vegetables and dessert at the conclusion of the after-school tutoring program.

Mrs. Sharon Perry, Mrs. June Kelly, Mrs. Betsy George, Mrs. Grace Helms, Mr. James Stana, and Mrs. Jeannie King were on hand to answer questions and to give important informational handouts in order to assist parents in understanding the SOL processes, as well as, testing formats.

Parents stated that having attended this "University" enabled them to gain a greater understanding of what to expect on the upcoming tests.

Patrick County Schools Say NO to Drugs

The DARE America curriculum, developed two decades ago by members of the Los Angeles Police Department, has been adopted by 80 percent of all schools nationwide. It puts uniformed officers in elementary and middle-school classrooms to teach about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, controlled or illegal drugs and violence. The officers also propose ways to help students resist the temptation to experiment or to act out aggressions, and they provide warnings about the consequences if they don't.



Graduation ceremonies are held throughout the school division's elementary schools, one of which was held at Woolwine Elementary on February 27, 2009.

Kelsie Belcher a seventh grader was chosen as the role model that students would like to emulate as they get older.



A Pie in the Face

Remember the old pie-in-the-face act? Well, it now has a new purpose, motivating students to read. At the beginning of the year, third grade students at Patrick Springs Primary School were given a reading challenge. The first homeroom to read 100 chapter books would get the opportunity to throw a pie in Mrs. Christa Burnette's face and Mrs. Amy Burnette's face.

The competition between Mrs. Taylor's homeroom and Mrs. Burnette's homeroom was stiff, but Mrs. Burnette's homeroom narrowly reached the goal first. The class celebrated by having pizza and some excitement. Andrea Rucker and Glenn Wagner were the lucky students picked to throw the pies. The third graders enjoyed counting down until the pies were thrown. It was a fun experience for the students and a sticky experience for the teachers!!

Now they are busy working towards their next goal for which Mrs. Cassell has agreed to let the first homeroom to read 200 chapter books roll her with toilet paper. We can't wait to see that!

Reunion of Board Members, Superintendents, and Board Clerks

Patrick County Public
Schools

On February 19, 2009 the current school board and Dr. Morris provided a reception to honor former Patrick County school board members, superintendents, and board clerks at Patrick County High School. The high school culinary arts department provided refreshments for the occasion.

A look back brought positive memories as stories were shared of the successes that the school division had made under the leadership of past school board members, superintendents, and clerks. Present members, along with Dr. Morris, commented that they wished to continue to build on those successes and move the current schools into the 21st Century.



Patrick County Public School Division does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programming and activities against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, pregnancy, age, veteran status or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Assistant Superintendent Patrick County Public Schools

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Homeless Students and Their Rights

Soaring unemployment rates, housing foreclosures, and natural disasters such as hurricanes have all contributed to a growing number of families experiencing homelessness. When these homeless families include school-age children, there is a great potential for negative impact on the education of these students.

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth are defined as children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, cars, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- Awaiting foster care placement.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth, meaning youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, such as runaways and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as "throwaway" children and youth).

In order to best serve students experiencing homelessness, and in an attempt to ease these students' transition, the McKinney-Vento Act further stipulates that:

- Schools must enroll homeless children and youth immediately, regardless of whether or not birth certificates, health records, and/or proof of residency are available.
- Students may stay in their school of origin when it is in their best interest and it is feasible.
- Transportation to the school of origin, when feasible, must be provided.
- Homeless students must receive services comparable to those of housed students.
- Separate schools/programs for homeless children and youth are prohibited in Virginia.

For further information, please contact Patrick County Public Schools' Homeless Education Liaison, Mr. John A. Westphalen, Director of Special Education and Support Services,

