The dream of a new facility to house Boyd County High School came one step closer to reality on October 1, 2009. On that day, the Board of Education completed the purchase of 132 acres of property belonging to The Foundation for the Tri-State Community. This property adjoins the 23 acres of land the Board already owns along State Route 180. This latest purchase was the culmination of a process that has been going on for almost 10 years.

Shortly after the Board purchased the 23 acre parcel across the valley from the current high school site, they were approached about the possibility of purchasing the additional acreage next to it. Although that Board and subsequent Boards believed this additional property would be needed to enable a complete campus to be constructed at this site, the lack of funding was always a barrier. Over the past couple of years, as the district’s construction debt payments have declined, this obstacle was finally overcome. Adding additional impetus to this purchase was the Board’s desire to begin construction on the site in 2010.

With a total of more than 150 acres at this location, the Board is trying to meet the land needs of the district’s students and stakeholders for the rest of the 21st Century. The Board’s architectural firm is currently drawing up a master site plan that will include the new high school building, a new career and technical education center, and the new high school’s athletic facilities. Future land needs will also be considered in this master plan. For instance, there will be space set aside for a possible future elementary school. In purchasing this property, the Board has tried to meet the needs of our community now and for many years to come.
CONGRATULATIONS!!! I would like to congratulate our entire school community on our recent testing results. Our overall district index has soared to 90, all NCLB goals were met, and we have moved past 30 other districts in testing over the past three years.

Our annual “March of the Lions Pride” celebration was held on October 30, 2009. Over 1,500 students were invited to march around the football field during this annual celebration which culminated with a wonderful fireworks display. What an evening!

The highlights and accomplishments of our system were recently presented during our “Public Education: What Really Works” luncheon. Our featured speaker was Dr. Terry Holliday, Kentucky Commissioner of Education. Other speakers included Marie Carbo, founder of the National Reading Styles Institute, Bart Teal, founder of the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Dennis Bega, senior policy advisor from the U.S. Department of Education, state representative Rocky Adkins, and state senator Walter Blevins. Many other local, state, and national dignitaries were in attendance. It was a wonderful celebration of the great things happening in the Boyd County Schools’ System.

We have completed the programming phase of our new BCHS. Our BCHS staff has worked diligently to design a high school that will meet the needs of our students for many years. Our architects are now working on the site master plan. The Board and architect have an aggressive construction schedule with substantial completion slated for May 2012. Our master site plan will be displayed in each school when approved.

We look forward to this exciting time for our school system.

It takes an entire district working together to enjoy the kinds of success we are enjoying. The Board and I would like to thank our entire staff for their continued dedication and support. Our students, parents, and community deserve our thanks for their contributions to our school family.

Thank you for your support. Please consider this as your invitation to visit our schools and see the great things that are happening.

GO LIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Howard K. Osborne, Superintendent
Boyd County Public Schools
2002 Milken Foundation National Educator Award
2004 Kentucky’s National Distinguished Principal
2009 KEDC Outstanding Superintendent Award

Summit 5th grade student tour guide, Abby Gaines, takes a question from KY Commissioner of Education Dr. Terry Holliday. In the background is Mr. Bart Teal.
Community leaders, Kentucky legislators, and top education officials gathered with Boyd County Public Schools’ staff and administrators at Summit Elementary on October 16, 2009. The event entitled, “Public Education: What Really Works” was spearheaded by Norma Meek, BCPS Parent Involvement Coordinator, as a celebration of the district’s educational achievements.

Superintendent, Howard K. Osborne, gave some stirring opening remarks on how he learned the value of education from his parents who also were educators. His father sent him to Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, knowing that he would receive a solid education there without the ‘distractions’ that would have surrounded him had he enrolled in nearby Ohio State University.

A special video message from Governor Steve Beshear was played in which he encouraged Boyd County Public Schools to continue their vision as “The Leader In Learning” and acknowledging the district’s enormous strides in student achievement success.

Dr. Terry Holliday, Kentucky Commissioner of Education, was the event’s keynote speaker. Holliday began with some grim statistics, stating that America now ranks 21st of the 28 industrialized nations in high school graduates and 11th in college graduates. “The challenge to be leaders in the world is going to be more difficult because of changes in demographics and increased poverty levels,” he said. To do that, schools must focus on hiring the best teachers and principals. “Teachers are on the top of the list in parent’s eyes. All parents want one thing – caring, effective teachers,” Holliday said.

Holliday also pointed out that a mere 20 percent of our state’s schools made adequate yearly progress according to recent accountability data. He added that Boyd County Schools were among those that did.

Next to the dais was Dr. Marie Carbo, founder of the National Reading Styles Institute. She told of the Institute’s birth by relating the story of a special needs student, “Georgette”, who, at first, knew only one word – her name. The now familiar techniques used in Carbo labs – that of reading along with a recording of a book or magazine – owe their origins to that first one-on-one session Dr. Carbo had with “Georgette”. Carbo knew she ‘had something’ when by the end of the first day “Georgette” not only read her first sentence, but wrote it on the blackboard.

National Reading Styles Institute Carbo Labs are in every Boyd County school and Summit Elementary boasts the only Level III Carbo Lab in Kentucky - the Institute’s highest distinction. Since implementing reading labs in 2004, student’s test scores in reading have improved significantly.

The founder of Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Bart Teal, spoke next saying a priority for any school is to have a positive culture. He enthusiastically added that Summit Elementary had it. “You have an entire school of leaders,” he said. Summit Elementary was honored in 2004 as a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School, the first school in northeastern Kentucky to receive the designation. Teal added, “We need to find ways to use this school as our model.” In a subsequent e-newsletter authored by Teal, he expounded further.

“This month I visited a school that is one of the finest that you will find anywhere: Summit Elementary School in Ashland, Kentucky. I have
Rotarians Give New Dictionaries to Every BCPS 3rd Grader

Rotary Club president, Bernard O’Nan, approached BCPS Public Relations Director, Ginger Clark, this past summer with the idea of awarding every Boyd County Public Schools third grader a new dictionary.

On September 18th, Rotary Club members visited each elementary school and handed out free dictionaries. The dictionaries, suitable for use now and throughout the student’s college years, were greatly appreciated and will continue to be a wonderful resource. Students and staff would like to extend their thanks to the Rotary Club for their generosity and foresight in providing our students with such an appropriate and useful learning tool.

KYSPRA Fall Conference Attendees Receive OASIS Awards

The Kentucky School Public Relations Association (KYSPRA) held their annual Fall Conference in Lexington, November 12 - 13, 2009. Outstanding Achievement in School Information Services (OASIS) awards were given during the luncheon on Friday.

In the category of District Calendars, a First Place award was won for the BCPS 2008-2009 District Calendar. A Second Place award was won for the BCPS District Newsletter “Creating Our Future” which was submitted in the category of Miscellaneous Publications. Ms. Ginger Clark, Director of Public Relations, was on hand to accept the awards.

OASIS awards are given to Public Relations materials from districts all across Kentucky. Materials are submitted by the schools for consideration and review. Submissions are critiqued by impartial judges and given a score. First, second and third place awards are determined by cumulative scores.
# 2009 Scholarships

The total amount awarded was $1,483,839.

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Lauren Phelps Takes Tennis Honors

After being named to the All-Area Girls Tennis Team for the past two years, BCHS sophomore, Lauren Phelps has not rested on her laurels. Throughout the summer she has worked on her game five days a week participating in various clinics and lessons. In June she attended the University of Kentucky Wildcat Tennis Camp where she was named the most valuable girl player.

Lauren had strong showings in both the Joe Creason Jr. State Qualifier Tournament in Louisville and the Ryan Holder State Closed Tournament in Lexington. She then went on to win both the Ashland Junior City Championships at the Ashland Tennis Center and the Lexington Junior City Open in Lexington, Kentucky. Her current state ranking is 16 in her age group (15-16 year old) and she has recently received endorsement to play in sectional-level tournaments.

Ramey-Estep High School Named “Best Practice Site” for Efficiency, Learning Environment and Academic Performance

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – In July 2009, six alternative education programs were selected as Best Practice Sites in a new effort designed to recognize the work of educators and programs that serve at-risk students.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) began the project this year to highlight exemplary practices in A5 and A6 programs in public school districts. A5 programs are school district-operated and housed instructional programs that provide services to at-risk students with unique needs, and A6 programs are district-operated instructional programs that are located in non-district facilities or schools that serve youth who are considered state agency children through the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Community Based Services and/or the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

The programs were self-nominated in the categories of Academic Performance; Learning Environment; and Efficiency. Ramey-Estep High School was named a “Best Practice Site” in all three categories.

Medical Nurse Aide/Emergency Procedure Class Travels to MU for Seminar

In October, Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center nursing students traveled to the Marshall University Gross Anatomy lab, located next to the VA hospital in Huntington, WV. During the seminar, students enjoyed a skeletal system lecture by an MU Medical Professor. Following the lecture, students re-demonstrated assembling skeletons from pieces in boxes. Many displays of skeletons were on hand for students to view, along with X-rays, CT scans, and MRI’s of normal and abnormal body systems.

The seminar allowed BCCTEC students, who are on a medical career pathway, to view body systems and gather information about basic human anatomy and establish an informational foundation that may later be used to aid medical diagnosis and/or discussions in medical classes. The term ‘gross anatomy’ means body structures that can be viewed with the naked eye. Most medical schools require that students complete a course in gross human anatomy. Ms. Debbie Salyers, BSN/RN/Nursing Instructor, says, “By taking our students to these types of field trips, I feel they will have a step up on knowing what this type of course will require of them during post secondary education.”

The ‘step up’ Ms. Salyers’ refers to is already evident.

“The professors at Marshall were amazed at the knowledge base that our students showed,” Salyers reports. “One professor stated, ‘Maybe we simplified our lecture too much for this group.’ Our students were able to answer questions...
and assemble the skeletons without help from the professor. When Marshall’s medical staff came around to each table checking the students work, they were amazed that the students needed no help in correctly assembling the parts into a whole.”

After the seminar, BCHS senior, Shawn Arrowood, asked several questions about becoming a medical doctor. He enthusiastically shared what he had learned with fellow seniors Kristen Bruner and Keisha Hall, all of whom have decided to follow the medical field career path.

“The buzz on the bus trip back was all about medical schools and the different medical fields,” Salyers said.

She added that each time these students are met with a challenge, they exceed her expectations. “I feel so proud of each and every one of them.”

Above: Shawn Arrowood and Brady Goodwin look over their skeleton to begin assembling it.

BCCTEC Receives National Certification

The automotive training program at Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center (BCCTEC) has received a re-certification until 2014 by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). BCCTEC’s automotive program has been certified since 2004 in the following areas: brakes, suspension and steering, engine performance, and electrical and electronics.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the school’s automotive training program underwent rigorous evaluation by the NATEF. Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment were used for the evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended that BCCTEC be certified by the National Institute for Automotive Excellence.

“This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents,” said Donald Seyfer, NATEF Chair. “Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that BCCTEC graduates will be employable, entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by BCCTEC, the motoring public will benefit, since better repair technicians will join the workforce.”

BCCTEC’s Automotive Technology Instructor, Jack Kinner, said, “During the last few months, we have worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program would meet the strict industry standards for re-certification, and now we are delighted to remain in the ranks of the ASE certified training programs. Students are assured of a quality education, and employers will be assured of getting quality job applicants.”

“... this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that BCCTEC graduates will be employable, entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by BCCTEC, the motoring public will benefit, since better repair technicians will join the workforce.”

- Donald Seyfer, National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation Chair
During half-time of the October 30th football game, over 750 students and staff marched around the track. This was the fifth consecutive year for the "March of the Lions' Pride" event, which celebrates students who achieve Proficient and/or Distinguished scores on statewide testing. Data from the KCT (Kentucky Core Content Test) taken in the Spring of 2009, showed that over 1,500 BCPS students scored Proficient and/or Distinguished. A PRIDE OF LIONS IS WHAT WE ARE AND A LION'S PRIDE IS WHAT WE FEEL!
March of the Lions’ Pride” event which celebrates students who achieve Proficient and/or Distinguished scores on statewide testing. Data from the KCCT LIONS IS WHAT WE ARE AND A LION’S PRIDE IS WHAT WE FEEL!
BCMS Language Arts Class Goes Paperless

Lora Parson’s BCMS Language Arts class turns in their assignments, she grades them and students quickly see their results – all without ever using a single piece of paper.

In an increasing effort for schools to ‘go green,’ a paperless classroom is one way to eliminate textbooks and paper assignments.

Students use a digital pad and stylus or a mouse to input data and teachers use the same to grade their answers. Students check their student e-mail accounts when the teacher has sent returned work containing grades and/or hand-written feedback. A classroom blog is also used and students check for updates on classroom discussions or assignments. Students may also post comments or questions on the blog.

Ms. Parsons sees a limitless future for the paperless classroom. A year from now she envisions using it to create and make use of Wikis (a collaborative online database), Google Documents (for online quizzes), Windows Movie Maker (to make podcasts for classroom instruction), utilize resources such as United Streaming videos (educational videos from discoveryeducation.com) as well as the Kentucky Virtual Library, Scholastic’s “The Stacks”, KET, and ultimately using voice streaming in conjunction with the blog page.

“The sky’s the limit,” Ms. Parsons says. “I add to this list almost daily as colleagues, friends, and students send ideas my way. And, these things are much less cumbersome to plan and implement because the technology is right at my fingertips.”

Within the walls of this room, the impact is felt even in small ways. The minor classroom disruptions that frequently occur when students are off-task have virtually been eliminated. They understand that they are in a unique setting and they respect the room, the equipment, and each new application. Any fears that Ms. Parson’s had about student’s responses were quieted early when she saw their reactions. She says students feel that it is a privilege to not only participate in a classroom where the world is at their fingertips, but also in a district that afforded them that opportunity. It has made them feel like someone cared enough about them to invest in them in such a huge manner.

“My students seem to be more engaged in their work,” Parsons adds. “They are in an environment that more closely mimics the "real world" that they live in at home where they submerge themselves in technological things... cell phones, iPods/MP3’s, computers... It gives them the sense that what they’re learning and doing in the classroom translates readily into the world they go home to. There is a relevance that speaks to who they are in our bigger society. There is a validity that they recognize. They might express it in 7th grade language by saying things like, “It’s fun and we don’t have to carry books to class,” but what I really think they understand, but can’t articulate, is that what they are learning is valid. They buy in to what we’re doing because they know they will use it again in the future.”

A few of Ms. Parson’s students gave their take on what they thought of going green. Sarah Shivel says, “It feels like we’re saving one tree after another.”

As for organizing and keeping track of work, Damen Moore comments, “I think it’s easier to keep up with our work because it’s stored on the computer instead of in my folder.”

And there you have it. Paperless classrooms are not only saving the environment but could be the ultimate demise of the age-old excuse of ‘my dog ate my homework’.

Saving Paper

Ideas from www.grinningplanet.com

If you’re wondering why you should save paper—after all, paper is pretty cheap—consider this: Paper accounts for more than half of all municipal solid waste (a.k.a. trash). Whether you have a home office or work in an office with others, you can save paper by implementing some minor changes in your work habits.

One can often get “screen blind” after looking at a document on the screen for a long time, and reviewing a printout allows one to catch errors that would have gone unnoticed. An on-screen trick that will allow you to review your document from a seemingly different perspective is to temporarily change the font size of the text (typically making it larger). This makes the words easier to read and shifts things around a bit, giving your eyes a new view of the document. If you have already implemented formatting that a change in font size would mess up, try increasing the apparent font size by setting the zoom to a higher percentage (or set it to “Page Width”).
BCMS Students Experience Kentucky in “My Kentucky” Unit

In an effort to develop within their students a real appreciation for their Kentucky heritage, the Related Arts Team at Boyd County Middle, consisting of teachers Kathy Berry, Debbie Caudill, Teresa Dempsey, Nina DeSantis, Vickie Elswick, Christel Fluty, Annie Johnson, Marilyn Serrano, and Michael Sexton, has developed a year-long interdisciplinary unit for eighth graders called “My Kentucky.” Within this unit, students will explore the people, places, and things that come together to form the extraordinary culture that is Kentucky. Students will be learning about: famous Kentuckians (Billy C. Clark, Billy Ray Cyrus, Ashley Judd, etc.), Kentucky foods (stack cakes, Benedictine, Derby Pie, etc.), Kentucky art forms (folk art, bluegrass music, quilts, etc.) and much, much more.

The culminating event of this unit will take place in May. A “My Kentucky” Culture Fair will be held at Boyd County Middle. Kentucky-themed projects and performances will be presented to the public.

On September 24th and 25th, as a part of this interdisciplinary unit, BCMS 8th grade students traveled to Central Kentucky to learn about the horse industry. The field trip kicked off with a guest speaker, Jessie Williams, from the Kentucky Equine Education Project. Ms. Williams prepared students for their field trip with information on the horse industry in Kentucky and why it is important to all Kentuckians.

Students visited Calumet Farm, Walmac Farm, Hallway Feeds, the Kentucky Horse Park, and Keeneland. Students got a first-hand look at the horse industry in Kentucky, and their awareness of this facet of their state grew. Perhaps the students said it best:

“I had no idea there were so many jobs and college opportunities in the horse industry.” -- Kayleigh Rice

“The male horses really try to show off!” -- Lara Barker

“I couldn’t believe that the tack (equipment used in riding horses) for some horses is solid gold!” -- Andrew Hall

Above: Adam Collins is pictured with a thoroughbred.

Credits Given to Cannonsburg Elementary Instructor

Heather Brown, Exceptional Child Instructor at Cannonsburg Elementary, has added to her list of life-accomplishments; she is now immortalized in print.

In early August, Ms. Brown gave a presentation to the Kentucky’s Alternate Assessment Advisory Board Committee. Afterward, she was contacted by Harold Kleinhert, the Executive Director of the University Center of Excellence at the University of Kentucky. He shared with Ms. Brown how he had enjoyed her presentation regarding alternative assessment practices and was interested in using part of it for an upcoming book. The book’s final chapter on research will be coauthored by Kleinhert and Liz Towles-Reeves.

Mr. Kleinhert will use excerpts of Ms. Brown’s presentation as what he calls, “a good example of how teachers are using alternate assessments at the district level to improve classroom instruction and access to the general curriculum for their students.”

Ms. Brown is honored to be included in the book. She expressed her gratitude to district administrators for allowing her the opportunity “to both work with and be a leader in alternate assessment in Boyd County.” She continues, saying, “It is great to be a part of a district that not only embraces these students, but supports the teachers’ efforts in providing best practices. Without a doubt, it is the support from Boyd County administrators that makes our district a leader in educating students with moderate to severe disabilities including Autism.”

Nancy Douglas - Gold Level Volunteer

Tattered and threadbare, the curtains donning the stage area at Cannonsburg Elementary badly needed replaced. The problem with replacing them was the cost. Curtains like the ones needed were exorbitantly priced. Enter, stage left, Nancy Douglas.

Ms. Douglas, an alumni of Cannonsburg Elementary, donated all the materials and hours upon hours of her valuable time to create new and beautiful drapes. Not surprisingly, Ms. Douglas also earned a Gold Level certificate for the number of volunteer hours she spent constructing the drapes.

Ms. Ruth Ellen Chaney, Family Resource Coordinator, and Ms. Debbie Gould, Cannonsburg Elementary Principal, presented her with flowers and a certificate. Later, during the October Board of Education meeting, Ms. Douglas was presented with a plaque. The plaque will hang beside the drapes Ms. Douglas donated.
Catlettsburg Elementary

On August 26, 2009, Kentucky’s Lt. Governor, Dr. Dan Mongiardo, wasn’t afraid to ‘get down and dirty’ on the playground of Catlettsburg Elementary. Bending down on one knee, preschool children flocked around him, freely giving hugs. They didn’t realize the kind man giving hugs in return was the second-from-the-top in the Commonwealth.

Taking an in-depth tour of Catlettsburg’s facility, the Lt. Governor stopped in numerous classrooms asking questions and chatting with teachers. One particular stop prompted him to relate an interesting story. While visiting in India, Mongiardo met with an ex-prince and the topic of conversation turned to India’s nuclear weapons capabilities. Mongiardo said the prince was asked, “How do you think we can achieve world peace?” The ex-prince’s reply, which touched Mongiardo deeply, was, “Only when mankind wants world peace in his own heart can we achieve it. And that can only be accomplished by three people; the mother, the father and a good teacher.” The Lt. Governor said he realized in that moment, more than ever, the impact of a ‘good teacher’.

The Lt. Governor addressed the student body of Catlettsburg Elementary encouraging them to embrace education as the pathway to success. Citing his own life as an example, he was the youngest member of the Cherokee embassy to England, he was the first to volunteer for this journey into the unknown. Such boldness was characteristic of his leadership in later years.

Once home, White Owl often reminded his people that the English were too powerful to be ignored as he sought support for his efforts to unify the Cherokees and ensure their collective survival.

Afterschool Alliance Names Teresa Spurlock as Afterschool Ambassador

The Afterschool Alliance announced the selection of Teresa Spurlock, Director of Catlettsburg Elementary 21st Century Community Learning Center WOW Program, to serve as a 2009-2010 Afterschool Ambassador. She is one of just 19 local leaders from 15 states selected for the honor this year.

“I’m delighted to have this wonderful opportunity to help secure the future of afterschool programs for kids and families in our community, and across the state and nation,” said Spurlock. “I’m proud of the contribution afterschool programs make to the community, and look forward to helping expand support for them.”

The Catlettsburg Afterschool 21st Century Community Learning Center WOW Program serves an average of 65 students. 21st Century Community Learning Centers across the state are promoting afterschool for all students. It is Ms. Spurlock’s belief that every student should have afterschool opportunities.

In 2004, Afterschool Alliance research revealed that 14.3 million children across the nation had no adult supervision in the afternoons.
Mutt-i-grees™ Curriculum at Ponderosa

Ponderosa Elementary primary staff is piloting a national Mutt-i-grees™ curriculum with their students for Yale University this fall. The curriculum is part of American Mutt-i-grees™ Club, a web-based initiative (www.muttigrees.org) that targets owners of America's 50+ million mixed breed dogs, offers a registry for mixed breeds, and aims to educate the public on the benefits of adopting a Mutt-i-grees™ from a shelter. Ponderosa is the only school in the nation participating. The project is spearheaded by Yale, the premier organization, CEDL, Cesar Milan, The Dog Whisperer, and Christopher Cerf, Director, Reading between the Lions and Sesame Street. The Yale 21C National Center is working in collaboration with The Pet Savers Foundation and the Cesar and Ilusion Millan Foundation (www.millanfoundation.org) to develop and disseminate a curriculum that features Mutt-i-grees™.

The staff at Ponderosa has committed to the project with rousing success, states Yale staff. Staff participating is Georgia Roberts, Shirleen Maynard, Paula Burdette, Karen Smallwood, Stephanie Mullins, Keri Crowe, Bethanie Hale, Jessica Hensley, Tiffany Kirk and Alicia Zornes, Melissa Conley, Donna Ford, and Megan Wallace.

The curriculum includes a series of lesson plans that feature Mutt-i-grees™ and stories about Mutt-i-grees™ for teachers to integrate into academic subjects. The lessons are developed within a framework of social and emotional learning, and provide opportunities for teachers to teach children about social and emotional skills that build children’s confidence and encourage empathy and caring.

A New Flag is Flying

State Representative, Rocky Adkins, presented an American flag which had once flown over the state's capital to Ponderosa Elementary. With the help of BCHS’s NJROTC, the flag was raised in a special ceremony on October 2, 2009.

Presentation to be made at the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference

Staff and Students will travel to Orlando, FL

Summit Elementary staff will be presenting at the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference this month in Orlando, Florida. The workshop is titled “Bridging the Gap for Boys”. Attending will be teachers Melanie Rockwell, Sheila Turner, Jamie Mulhearn, Julie Edwards, Janice Watson, and Lisa Taylor and Principal Tammy Martin. Accompanying them to Florida are students Heather Patton and Emma Cordle from Summit and William Martin, Brandon Hobbs, Bradley Huffman, Emily McWain and Rusty Thomas from BCMS.

At the opening ceremony of the Conference on December 9th, the moving performance of “Children Around the World” will be performed by Summit Elementary Honors Arts Drama Students under the direction of Sheila Turner. The select group’s presentation will focus on the many holiday customs from all over the world that America has embraced and many of which we have adopted as our own. The performance represents countries such as Japan, China, Africa, Russia, Mexico, Sweden, and Great Britain through song and dance movements. The final piece, “Light The Candles All Around The World” by Teresa Jennings (1), will be performed by the drama group in conjunction with the Summit Elementary Honors Arts Choir, directed by Cindy Sullivan. The choir will be video taped and a DVD will be made. The DVD will be projected on the wall at the conference as the drama students perform. The performance magically captures the mood of the holiday season.

The Summit Elementary faculty and staff along with several of the drama students’ parents have had several fund raisers to raise the monies to make this wonderful experience possible. Ms. Turner and the drama students would like to thank the Summit faculty and staff, Kathy Lother and the Catlettsburg Boyd County Optimist Club for their kind donations.

(1) Teresa Jennings (ASCAP) © 1996 Plank Road Publishing, Inc. • All Rights Reserved.
Boyd County’s Preschool Chosen to Participate in NIEER Study

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) is conducting a study in collaboration with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute (HDI) and the Kentucky Department of Education investigating the potential effects of professional development and teacher qualifications on classroom quality and children’s outcomes. Boyd County Preschool is one of many across the state that has been selected for participation in the study since there are two or more teachers in the program that meet the sampling criteria.

Data collection activities consist of:

- On-site observation of selected preschool classrooms;
- Survey distribution to teachers of classrooms observed; and
- Child assessments of 5 children in each of the selected classrooms.

Information collected will be used to look at the status of programs across the state, not to evaluate the classrooms or school specifically. The findings will be reported as group data.
In July, Boyd County Public Schools’ Superintendent, Howard K. Osborne, received the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation’s (KEDC) 2009 Outstanding Superintendent Award. Osborne has been the superintendent of Boyd County Public Schools since August 2005.

Under Howard K. Osborne’s leadership, Boyd County Public Schools’ student achievement has dramatically increased. The reading proficiency rate has increased from 55.4% to 76.06% and the mathematics proficiency rate has increased from 37.97% to 57.27% during the school years 2005 to 2008. This is a greater increase than the previous six years combined. The district met NCLB goals for the first time and the non-adjusted academic index is 88.2 which is only 11.8 points from proficiency. Additionally, all testing indicators are up for the 2008-2009 school year.

The district has expanded its instructional capacity with new personnel and new programs. The Response to Interventions and Professional Learning Community initiatives are paving the way to a bright and successful future. Boyd County Public Schools has earned SACS-CASI district-wide accreditation, the middle school was named Kentucky Schools to Watch, and several schools have earned the National Reading Styles Institute’s Model Carbo Reading Lab recognition.

Mr. Osborne has worked to improve the district’s communication capacity. The Honeywell Instant Alert System, fiber optic capability, electronic newsletters and newspaper inserts have improved communication throughout the district.

Mr. Osborne has spearheaded many infrastructure improvements in the district. Numerous projects have included the Boyd County Middle School gym air conditioning project, soccer field lights, football and baseball scoreboards, football field sound system, archery team storage and training area, and softball field bleachers, press box and storage area.

The recallable nickel levy was passed without opposition in October 2008. Boyd County was the only district in the state to pass the recallable nickel levy last year.

The first part of 2010 will see groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Boyd County High School.

The “March of the Lions’ Pride” is a yearly event which puts over 1,200 proficient and distinguished students on the football field to recognize achievement. Mr. Osborne helps organize the event and also participates in the Boyd County radio broadcasts. He can be seen at many events throughout the year and is highly visible in Boyd schools. Mr. Osborne has developed a strong vision and mission for Boyd County Public Schools. His positive impact will be felt for many years to come as Boyd County strives to be “The Leader In Learning.”

Mr. Osborne received a 2002 Milken Foundation Educator Award and was named the 2004 NAESP Kentucky’s Distinguished Principal. His leadership style of courage, support, dedication and empowerment will leave a lasting legacy of high achievement for Boyd County Public Schools.

“Mr. Osborne has an infectious vision for Boyd County Public Schools. Within his first few months as superintendent, his vision was to build a new Boyd County High School. Thanks to his leadership, that project is well on its way.”

- Mr. Bill Boblett, Principal, Boyd County Middle School

“In his four years as superintendent of Boyd County Public Schools, his commitment to the district and to the success of our students has been second to none.”

- Mr. Mickey Rice, Assistant Superintendent, Boyd County Public Schools

“He genuinely cares about ALL children. We understand he has an important, busy job, yet he finds time to come to our Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas Party each year.”

- Ms. Carla Malone, Autism Instructor, Catlettsburg Elementary

“I think Mr. Osborne’s greatest influence on our district has been his work ethic and accessibility. He always supports our kids and works hard to see they are recognized for their accomplishments.”

- Mr. Robert Green, Chair, Boyd County Public Schools Board of Education
The Boyd County Public Schools’ Foundation For Children (BCFFC) believes that children deserve the best and most innovative approaches to education and are working to provide enrichment opportunities beyond the basic classroom offerings.

Teachers are a wildly creative bunch. Many times, the only thing teachers lack is funds to take those creative ideas from conception to completeness. The Foundation was formed to help fill in the gaps where state and federal funding fall short.

The Foundation, a non-profit organization, provides annual teacher mini-grants for worthy, innovative projects. Any Boyd County teacher or administrator may apply and usually cap at $500 each. Occasionally, a community project spanning several districts is assisted when Boyd County students are involved in a large-scale project.

The board for the Foundation is committed to providing financial support for educational needs and is composed of very dedicated individuals whose backgrounds include business professionals, artists, retired teachers, counselors, alumni and other Boyd County residents who have a particular interest in Boyd County Schools. The board carefully and seriously reviews grant applications before deciding which should receive funds. After the projects are in full swing, board members visit classrooms and see for themselves how the grants have utilized funds.

Notably, the Foundation is able to give all funds raised directly to the program. The reason this is possible is because Boyd County Public Schools absorbs all overhead costs. Additionally, the Foundation board volunteers all their time. This makes it possible for all monies donated to be given directly to teacher projects.

Even though the primary source of funding is from the employees of Boyd County Public Schools, it is also possible for anyone from the community at large to donate. A donor card follows at the end of this article. Your donation, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and you can be certain it will be used wisely to impact the lives of Boyd County students.

Class reunions are notoriously a time to reminisce, remember and, for the Class of 1979, a time to give.

The idea sprang from BCHS alumni Kim McCann and David Meade, both board members of the Boyd County Foundation For Children. They wanted to give alumni the chance to give back.

In a letter addressed to the Foundation, Mr. Meade, the BCHS 1979 class president, requested that the amount collected be given in memory of those classmates who have passed. “This would be a spirited way to memorialize them and serve as a benchmark to other graduating classes.” The hope is to create a tradition of benevolence in honor of deceased classmates.

Meade continues, saying, “It has been a privilege to represent the Boyd County Class of 1979 in this endeavor and see how our class motto lives on - ‘We’re coming through, we’re really fine, we’re the class of ’79’.

Gifts were given in memory of: Caroline Crawford, Larry Daniels, William Geyer, Michael Hall, Roy Hall, Daniel Hepner, Dale Lively, Mark Marushi, James McCormack, Gayle McEndree, David Miller, Joseph Nelson, Charles Newkirk, John Pauley, Robert Thompson and Sherri Thompson. The total amount given to the Foundation was $1,586.33.