GO PINK!

The Central Office staff went pink on October 21, 2011. Two manly men, Mr. Osborne and Mr. Walter, weren’t too shy to wear the rosy color for a good cause.

The day was set aside to raise awareness and donate funds to the Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure® dedicated to curing breast cancer. Carole Chaney, a director in the Finance department for Central Office, organized the one-day event. She set a goal of raising $100 in donations. The goal was met and surpassed. A total of $358 was contributed.

Superintendent Howard K. Osborne presented a proposal to the Board of Education to make “Wear Pink Day” an annual occurrence. On November 28, 2011, the board voted unanimously to set aside the third Friday in October for employees to dress in pink and raise money to fight breast cancer. The event will be open for all BCPS employees to participate next year.

Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure® supports life-saving research, education, screenings and treatment programs in the fight to end breast cancer forever.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure® and have it counted toward the Boyd County Board of Education total, you may go to the Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink website and click “Give to a Team.” You may then search for the team’s fundraising page, or to make a general Passionately Pink donation. Online credit/debit card transactions are secure, and online donors receive immediate electronic acknowledgements.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide. It is estimated that more than 1.6 million new cases of breast cancer occurred among women worldwide in 2010.

In 2011, it is estimated that among U.S. women there will be 230,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer (includes new cases of primary breast cancer among survivors, but not recurrence of original breast cancer among survivors) and there will be 39,520 breast cancer deaths.

Getting regular screening tests is the best way for women to lower their risk of dying from breast cancer. Screening tests can find breast cancer early, when it’s most treatable.

Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center hosted a luncheon and special speaker from King’s Daughters Medical Center to learn about the importance of a Breast Self Exam (BSE) and how to perform one. Please read more about this story on Page 8.
**Superintendent’s Words...**

We hosted our 6th annual, “MARCH OF THE LION’S PRIDE.” The March was once again a great success as we honored the academic achievements of our students. It takes many hours of planning and the results are always wonderful for showcasing our students and their families.

Our new BCHS is proceeding along nicely. The monthly management meeting with our contractors detailed the next steps for our building. It will be a beautiful facility that will serve our community for at least the next fifty years. It seems like just yesterday we were planning, selecting architects and a project manager, and dreaming of what our new facility would mean to the community. It will soon be time to plan our dedication activities as we celebrate the cooperation, commitment, and preparation that led to a new BCHS. We are now discussing what will be inside our building as we strive to make our new school a true community school.

Many of our teachers have been attending professional development meetings as we work diligently to implement the new “Kentucky Unbridled” accountability system which is based on national standards.

I am very proud to report that our Board has met all Kentucky School Board Association ASAP (Advancing Student Achievement to Proficiency) standards and will be honored at the 2012 KSBA Convention in January.

We once again received four awards at the Kentucky School Board Association’s OASIS (Outstanding Achievement in School Information Services) awards’ event in Lexington. Ms. Ginger Clark and Ms. Karen Curnutte continue to reap awards in this competition for their public relations efforts.

Our Boyd County High School Band has made it to the “Sweet Sixteen” for the second straight year. Mr. John Johnson and our high school band continue to receive accolades throughout the state for their efforts.

Our athletic, academic, and cheerleading squads continue to enjoy great success. We support their efforts. Our wonderful players, coaches, and fans continue to support our academic and athletic teams throughout the year. WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your superintendent. The Board and I greatly appreciate your continuing support. GO LIONS!!!
The Sixth Annual March of the Lions' Pride

The pride we feel in the academic successes of our students spilled over onto the athletic field during the March of the Lions’ Pride event. Boyd County students who earned proficient or distinguished on state testing in the spring of 2011 took the field at half-time during the game against Magoffin County on October 14, 2011. This year, 1,460 students earned proficient or distinguished from grades three through eight and grades 10 through 12. First, second and ninth grade students were not tested.

Of those tested, 76% earned proficient or distinguished in Reading. Over the six years that we have held the March of the Lions’ Pride, Boyd County students have shown a 19% gain in numbers scoring proficient or distinguished in Reading. Of those tested, 64% earned proficient or distinguished in Math. Over the six years that we have held the March of the Lions’ Pride, Boyd County students have shown a 24% gain in those scoring proficient or distinguished in Math.

Also notable to report is that all Boyd County elementary schools, on the 2011 testing, scored above the state average in every content area and scored at the top in the sixth region area in On Demand Writing scores.

Boyd County Middle School tested second in the sixth region area in Reading and Boyd County High School scored above the state average in Reading.

Spotlighting Our Families Night Opens with Eight Inducted into the Hall of Fame

During the November 10, 2011 Spotlighting Our Families Night at Boyd County Middle, eight new inductees into the Boyd County Public Schools’ Hall of Fame were announced. Honorees this year included: Brenda Campbell, Ruby Hensley, Edgar “Pete” Miller, Daryl Short, Ronda Tamme, Peggy Thornbury, Sheila Turner, and Suzi West.

Hall of Fame nominees must have worked for Boyd County Public Schools at least five years. Nominees are not dependant on the number of times names are submitted. All nominations are submitted by BCPS employees to a nomination committee. The committee reviews all names and, through discussion and evaluation, honorees are chosen. Names can be resubmitted to the committee year after year for consideration.

Creative Thinking and Artistic Expression Camp

On Thursday, October 13, Boyd County fifth graders traveled to the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) in Ashland, KY, to join other gifted and talented fifth grade students representing school districts throughout the region. The educational purpose of the camp was to further develop the student’s creative and artistic potential.

Districts that participated this year were: Ashland, Boyd, Greenup, Lawrence, Raceland-Worthington and Russell.

Students worked in creative problem-solving groups to create and share products under the direction of several regional artistic leaders and specialists from the UK Extension Office and the Paramount Arts Center. There were six different sessions for students to experience. All activities complemented the arts and humanities curriculum.

The project was a collaborative effort of the Regional Gifted and Talented Cadre that meets at KEDC. Members responsible for this project were: Gwen Bussey, Dina Chaffin, Dixie Johnson, Teresa Montague, Deidra H. Patton, Latishia Sparks, and Susan Williams.
BCPS Communication Tools - New Ways to Keep In Touch

The IC Mobile App!

With the introduction of the new Infinite Campus mobile app for Apple products, another tool has been added to keep you in touch. There are a few things you should know about the new Infinite Campus Mobile Portal.

• Currently, the app is only available for Apple products such as the iPod Touch®, iPhone®, and the iPad®. Plans are in work for adapting the app for other smart phones such as the Android.

• If you are a part of the staff or administration team of BCPS, the IC Mobile Portal doesn’t give you access. Again, this feature is something Infinite Campus plans to add later.

Haven’t downloaded the IC Mobile App yet? It’s easy and it’s free! You can search for Infinite Campus at the iTunes® store. Once you have downloaded it, you will be prompted for a District Access code. The District Access code for Boyd County is: FJTSDN.

Be aware that not all portions of the Infinite Campus Mobile Portal are being utilized by Boyd County. Also, if you have never signed in to Infinite Campus before, you will have to set up an account. If you are unsure of how to do this, or you have trouble signing in, please call the school where your child(ren) attend(s) and ask for the person who handles the Infinite Campus Portal. Schools in Boyd County handle sign-in procedures differently and a password that works for your elementary student, may not work for your high school student.

The Boyd County App!

In August of 2011, Boyd County Schools introduced its very own smartphone app.

The BC Mobile App is free and can keep you current on calendar dates, special events, sports schedules, pictures of progress on our new Boyd County High, bell schedules for each school, and helpful contact information. Soon, a Push Notification feature will be added.

Unlike the Infinite Campus Mobile App, the Boyd County App will work on devices other than Apple, such as Android phones.

If you have an Android, you will notice a download link to the IC Portal on your BC Mobile App. However, if you tap the link, it will not load the IC Mobile App. Android users will have to wait until Infinite Campus designs the app to be used with their smart phones.

If you haven’t downloaded the BC app yet, it’s easy! There are several ways to find it. Search for it at the iTunes® store by typing in Boyd County Schools. You may also click on the iTunes® icon at the bottom of the BCPS website to be taken directly to the developer’s site.

The BC Mobile App was created by Russ Cole, through Charles Cole Enterprises, LLC. He has developed apps for area businesses and non-profit organizations as well as other school districts. To date, the BC Mobile App has had over 1,700 downloads.

NEW Boyd County Webpage - Great features added to keep you informed at www.boyd.kyschools.us

Have you noticed the new look of the Boyd County webpage? Launched over the Labor Day weekend, the new hosting service, SchoolPointe, gives web users a lot more information than was available in the past.

TEACHER WEB PAGES / ONLINE CLASSROOMS

The new features, especially the teacher webpages, have given parents and guardians a terrific additional resource. Teachers have gotten creative as well as informative with their web page designs. Parents and guardians can find things like their child’s class assignments, syllabi, important forms, classroom rules and announcements, and links to outside resources.
ALUMNI

Did you graduate from Boyd County High School? If so, please take a moment to register in the alumni section of the District home page.

Are you planning a Class Reunion? Don’t go to Classmates.com to announce it, use the Reunion Information section.

There’s also a section for Alumni News and even a place to upload pictures of your reunion.

Having a reunion soon? Why not take a laptop to the event and have your classmates register right then and there! Alumni maintain their own information which helps keep contact information current and correct.

Want to find a lost high school friend? Check out the Directory tab. As the word spreads about this feature, more users will be able to locate more grads.

JOB OPENINGS

The latest classified job openings are easy to view online. Go to the main drop down menu, click on “Administration” and then “Personnel.” The link to view all classified job openings can be found in the middle of the page on the left hand side.

Certified jobs may also be searched by clicking on the word “Certified.” It will take you directly to the Kentucky Department of Education site where all job listings may be found in any county in Kentucky.

HONEYWELL INSTANT ALERT - You Can Filter Your Calls on Boyd County’s Call-Out System

Many reminders and notifications of Boyd County Public School events use our call-out alert system. Usually, someone at your child’s school will sign you up for this service. But, did you know that you may filter your calls so that only those of high importance call your phone? Did you know you can choose for some alert messages to be sent only to text or only to email? To make changes to your account, click on the Honeywell Instant Alert & School Closings link under the “Quick Links” section of the District website. This will take you to several links including a tutorial on how to sign up for this service.

PARENTS, STUDENTS, STAFF - Menu Items at the very Top of the Page

Parents can find links to helpful websites, the District Code of Conduct, the Infinite Campus (IC) Portal, cafeteria menus and much more at the very top link located on the top right of the webpage. These links are accessible on all pages no matter where you may roam on our website.

Staff who are looking for a quick way to get to Webmail, the AESOP login or teacher websites should find what they need here at the top right of the page.

Also, on this top menu, students can find the compliance coordinator for their school and a list of helpful websites.

CALENDARS / EVENTS - Directly Under the Photo Gallery on the Far Right

Keeping up-to-date has never been more convenient. A quick check of your school’s website should show you a list of all upcoming events. Click on them and you will be given detailed information about what, where, when, and who to contact for even more details. The District Calendar (current year), Working Calendar (next year) and Projected Calendar (the year after that) can all be found in a printable PDF file. You will have to check each individual school for that school’s events and sometimes need to access the District webpage for district-wide events. Do you use iCal? You can download our calendars by clicking the icon at the top right of the page when viewing a full month’s calendar.
Hear Our Roar!

With hands smeared in ink and faces covered with smiles, Julie Baker’s Boyd County High School journalism students left The Independent’s printing press on September 26th carrying newspapers under their arms and excitement in their hearts. Many had never seen a newspaper roll off the presses, but they had especially never seen a newspaper of their own appear in print. The newspaper they took back to school with them wasn’t just any newspaper to these students-- it was the first issue of The County Roar, Boyd County High School’s new school newspaper.

Students in the journalism class began brainstorming in August what kind of newspaper they wanted. Racheal Leibee, a junior in the journalism class, said, “I wanted an entertaining paper and something that grabbed the students’ attention and made them interested.” And that’s exactly what the journalism students consider when working on articles for upcoming issues, which appear monthly. They have to continually ask themselves what it is that students want to know and how to best convey that information to them.

Many names were suggested for the newspaper, but when Jennifer Blankenship, one of the senior editors, suggested naming it The County Roar, all debate ceased. “Everyone was pitching names that involved lions and some of them were roars, and it clicked in my brain, and I said it out loud first. It reminded me a lot of the bugle and how the bugle shouts things out. It’s supposed to be ‘the tell-er’ and we are roaring. It’s our roar; our noise to be made,” Blankenship said.

Students outside of the journalism class also resonate with the name. Kelsea Akers, a senior, said “I love the name! It sounds like you’re getting the word out to everyone.”

Students have also discovered the value of collaboration in the process. Journalists from The Independent have worked alongside students to help guide them through the process, giving guidance ranging from how to write an article to general layout guidelines. “It’s a really cool chance for us to get to see what a journalist does and is all about,” Steven Rigsby, a sophomore class member, stated. “Mark Maynard and all the speakers have given us a lot of advice and ways to make the articles and the newspaper more interesting,” added Rigsby.

While some claim that newspapers are disappearing, The County Roar is going strong. Not only are the journalism students excited to work on it, but the student body as a whole looks forward to the next issue. “It’s interesting. There are facts that you wouldn’t know without reading it. It keeps you updated on what’s going on,” commented senior Josh Donaway.

Be sure to watch for the next issue and hear our Boyd County High School students’ roar!

NEWS BRIEFS

Archery Team
Congratulations to the BCHS Archery Team. At the May 2011 tournament, they placed 26th in the nation out of 111 high school teams. They scored a total of 3,301 points.

SCORES Weekend

All-State Choir Participants
Congratulations to five BCHS students who successfully auditioned for the Kentucky All-State Choir. Approximately 1,800 students auditioned from across the Commonwealth and only 600 were chosen for three choirs. BCHS students participating this year are: Spencer Sullivan (returning to All-State Choir for the third year), Jesse Cline (returning to All-State for the second time), and going to All-State for the first time are Austin Wells, M.J. Horton and Andrew Hall. The performance will be at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference in February, 2012.

Congratulations All-District Band Performers
Several Boyd County students auditioned for the Kentucky Music Educators Association, District 8, All-District Band. After a very competitive audition, the following students have been selected and will be representing Boyd County Public Schools:

High School All-District Band Students
Bradley Groves - Euphonium - 1st Chair, Tanner Pittman - French Horn - 3rd Chair, Hunter Reece - Trombone - 6th Chair, Morgan Rice - Trumpet - 6th Chair, Steffanie Skiles - Trumpet - 2nd Chair, Spencer Sullivan - French Horn 5th - Chair, Christine Vazquez - Flute - 10th Chair, and Clayton Ward - Tuba - 1st Chair.
BCHS NJROTC Cadets “Meet the Author”

It is rare to have an opportunity to meet the author of a book we have read. Recently however, the Boyd County High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets did just that.

As part of the NJROTC unit’s reading initiative, every member of the unit read a book titled *Come Home, Joe* written by Tim Callahan. Mr. Callahan was kind enough to spend time with the cadets in the high school library to discuss his book. The cadets were transfixed as Callahan read a moving passage from another book of his, *Above Devil’s Creek*, which highlights racial discrimination in the 1960’s.

*Come Home, Joe* is about a Vietnam vet that had been a Prisoner of War (POW) for four years. After his release, he lives in the woods of Washington State for 35 years, still suffering from the emotional and mental scars of his captivity. He then decides to return to his family home place in Lexington, Kentucky where he befriends some of his neighbors who eventually have a big impact on his life.

All of the cadets thoroughly enjoyed the book. Cadet/Petty Officer 2nd Class, Tyler Giles, remarked to Tim Callahan, “I never cared for reading very much, but after reading your book it makes me want to read more.” Commander Russ Roe, USN (Retired), added, “That is exactly what the unit’s reading initiative is all about.”

Tim Callahan was born in Morgan County, Kentucky but his parents moved the family to Middletown, Ohio in the early 1960’s to find work while Tim was in fourth grade. Most of his books are inspired by fond memories of his early years in Kentucky and the summer visits to his grandparents’ home in Morgan County.

Anyone interested in his books can visit his website at [www.timcallahan.net](http://www.timcallahan.net).

Elks Lodge #942 Gives to NJROTC

The Elks Lodge #942 of Catlettsburg presented the Boyd County High School Navy JROTC Rifle Team a donation of $500.00 on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. The funds will be used to purchase Rifle Team supplies for the cadets’ 30-person team. Pictured below, left to right: Cadet LCDR Nick Picard (Commanding Officer), Cadet LT Blake Porter (Executive Officer), MCPO Jim Sandlin USN (Ret) Naval Science Instructor, Commander Elks Lodge Trustee Jim Preston, and Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Dave Johnson.

BCHS Students take on Bullying

*by Latishia Sparks*

October was bullying prevention month and schools across the country were gearing up with activities about the dangers of bullying and ways to prevent it. At Boyd County High School this work was done not by teachers, but by the students.

Boyd County High School’s SAVE-US group developed a month-long curriculum that was carried out during the school’s weekly advisory period. SAVE-US stands for Students Against Violence Everywhere United Society. The BCHS SAVE-US club formed last year after attending a SAVE-US conference. Last year the group created a few videos that were aired during school which focused on preventing child abuse, bullying prevention and suicide prevention. SAVE-US has chosen four areas of focus for their work this year; 1) bullying prevention, 2) tobacco use and abuse, 3) tolerance, and 4) driving dangers.

For the October project, SAVE-US students spent a month researching bullying and from that research developed activities. They tailored their work to address the issues they see among their peers. Not only did they write the lessons, but the students also led sessions in many of the classrooms each week.

The bullying prevention sessions took place every Wednesday from October 19 through November 9, 2011. Teacher Latishia Sparks and Counselor Steve Grannis advised the group throughout the project.

**FAST FACT**

Boyd County High School’s 2011 Graduating Seniors earned over $1,441,488 in reported scholarships!
MNA and HOSA Students Observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The month of October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Medicaid Nurse Aide (MNA) program at Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center (BCCTEC) participated in several activities geared around prevention and early detection of the disease.

On October 1st, MNA and Health Occupations of America (HOSA) students participated in the Susan G. Komen walk around Central Park in Ashland. During the event, students also volunteered their time running games for children and assisting at the Kings Daughters’ Medical Center’s (KDMC) tent passing out brochures and water to walkers. They also helped set up equipment and joined in on the Zumba warm-up before the walk.

Parents of the students also participated in the walk. The t-shirt slogan for the BCCTEC team was “Don’t Let Cancer Steal Second Base.”

On October 25th, Dorethra Pridemore RN, BSN of the KDMC Breast Center, came to the MNA class and demonstrated how to perform a breast self exam (BSE). MNA students practiced what they learned on one of the several models that Dorethra brought. Students were to find at least five nodules in the model. A tumor chart was provided to show students at what size tumors are found by palpating as opposed to patients who never check their own breasts.

Decorations for the KDMC visit on October 25th were prepared through a collaboration of the MNA and floral design students. The floral class joined in by creating arrangements for the MNA food table/student tables for the KDMC staff. The class decided on a pink carnation and lily theme. Julie Criss is the teacher of floral design class.

Two BCPS Teachers Attend MWP

The Morehead Writing Project (MWP) held its third Writing Eastern Kentucky Conference devoted to writing and the teaching of writing Nov. 5th on the campus of Morehead State University.

The 2011 Morehead Writing Project Summer Institute Fellows also participated in the conference and a roundtable discussion following the conference, including Jessica Craft of Boyd County High School and Tiffany Kirk of Ponderosa Elementary.

The National Writing Project (NWP) was founded in 1974 to improve the teaching of writing. Today there are 200 NWP sites located on university campuses around the United States. Morehead is one of eight sites in the Kentucky Writing Project Network. More than 70,000 teachers are a part of the national network which provides more than 7,000 professional development activities annually, reaching 130,000 educators, and through them, 1.4 million students.

NWP site work begins with the Summer Institute held at all local NWP sites. A select group of applicants are invited to attend the Summer Institute after undergoing an intensive application and interview process. This is a Fellowship program which offers participants stipends and graduate course credit in return for a year-long commitment to pursuing growth as writers, teachers, researchers, and leaders. Learn more about MWP, including the 2012 Summer Institute, at moreheadwritingproject.org.

BCHS junior Trevor Stroud has been accepted to an elite, one-of-a-kind, high-performance racing school. The School of Automotive Machinists (SAM), located in Houston, Texas, notified Trevor of his achievement.

In order to be eligible, Trevor was required to take and pass the “Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test.”

“It is rare to have any student achieve this much-desired and sought after opportunity,” said Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center Automotive Instructor, Jack Kinner. “SAM is the only school in America that tied directly to the racing and high performance industries and is considered to be the pinnacle for engine racing education. The list of employers who hire and collaborate with SAM, is like a who’s - who in the world of racing,” Kinser explained.

SAM began with about 30 students in 1985. The founder of the school, Judson Massingill, gained approval from the Texas Education Agency in 1989 to become an official school. Later, the school received accreditation status from the Department of Education.

Not only do students attending the School of Automotive Machinists learn the basics of operating milling equipment, they also learn to become proficient with the science behind the internal combustion process.

Congratulations, Trevor!
Activities Abound at BCMS to Prevent Bullying

BCMS students led the way during National Bully Prevention month in October. During the week of Oct. 17 - 21, BCMS Counselor, LeAnna Hensley, organized several projects to promote awareness and provide students with ways to stop bullying.

Their theme for the week was: “Be A Hero: Help, Encourage and Respect Others.” Some of the activities included:

1) Students were encouraged to sign the “Be A Hero” banner that was displayed in the Little Theater during the week. For signing the banner, students received either a bag of pretzels or a Twizzler that read “Bullying is a TWISTED idea.”

2) Names of students who signed the pledge were drawn daily for additional prizes, each with an anti-bullying message.

3) Each day during the week, anti-bullying videos were shown. All classes were asked to view these videos. Teachers received a discussion guide to use after each video.

4) Poster Contest – Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners.

5) Students were encouraged to wear camouflage clothing on Camouflage Day coordinating with the “Be A Hero” theme. Prizes were given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

6) Students were asked to complete the Kentucky Safe Schools Cyber-Survivor On-line Pledge.

Boyd County led the state with over 1,000 cyber-survivor pledges taken in the month of October. Boyd County was one of only 4 counties to have over 1,000 pledges and a grand total of 1,165.

Pictured above with Kentucky Governor, Steve Beshear, is BCMS student James Hearn (middle). James attended the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Middle School Science Camp this past summer. Also attending the science camp (but not pictured above) was BCMS student Jenna Fannin.

Sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission, participants in the camp are given the opportunity to explore the sciences and mathematics involved in careers they may be interested in pursuing. Research topics and activities may include areas such as: Biofuels and Alternative Energy, Climate Change and Global Warming, and Robotics.

James and Jenna were chosen along with 26 other middle school students throughout Appalachia to attend the camp.

Above:  Abby Caines is pictured with her winning poster. Posters reflected the “Be a Hero” anti-bullying theme week at BCMS.

Above:  7th grader Elijah McDaniels won first place in the dress in camouflage contest as part of the “Be a Hero” anti-bullying theme.

Congratulations All-District Band Performers

Several Boyd County students auditioned for the Kentucky Music Educators Association, District 8, All-District Band. After a very competitive audition, the following BCMS students have been selected and will be representing Boyd County Public Schools:

Middle School All-District Band Students
Sabrina Baldridge - Flute - 8th Chair, Chloe Hart - Mallets - 1st Chair, Chelsea Hayden - French Horn - 2nd Chair, Amie Prayter - Bass Clarinet - 2nd Chair, Megg Robertson - Clarinet - 11th Chair, Briar Smith - Tuba - 3rd Chair, and Rusti Thomas - Alto Saxophone 2nd Chair.

Boyd County Little Friends Day Care
Openings for baby and toddler childcare services
Located at Boyd County Career and Technical Education Center (BCCTEC) across from Boyd County High School

Hours of operation: 7:00 AM until 4:30 PM when school is in session.

If interested, please stop by the office at BCCTEC or telephone 928-7120 for more information.
Contest Winner, Avery Webb, will see her Art on Local Billboard

Bill Harris is on a mission to save as many people as he can from the abuse of prescription drugs. Sadly, that mission is born of personal tragedy. His 22 year-old son, Kyle, died of an accidental prescription drug overdose. Since that time, Harris has been more than passionate about telling as many people as he can about the dangers of drugs.

Kyle Harris, a 2005 BCHS graduate, was full of life and planning for a future. There weren’t many signs pointing to his recreational use of drugs. He had his own business. He raced motocross and four-wheelers. He had plans to start a new job. Yet, after a night of taking a toxic combination of prescription medicines, Kyle didn’t wake up.

Spurred on by the loss of his son, Bill Harris has organized several events aimed at Boyd County students to increase awareness about the dangers of drug use. In March of 2011, Harris invited State Attorney Jack Conway and Michael Donta, Sr. to speak to Boyd County Middle School students. Donta’s son, Michael Donta, who was the grandson of late Boyd County Schools Superintendent Delmis Donta, died in 2010 of an overdose at the age of 24.

During Red Ribbon Week in October of this year, Harris organized a drug awareness poster contest for Boyd County Middle School. BCMS art teacher, Michael Sexton, and Family Youth Services Coordinator, Vickie Caniff, partnered with Harris on the contest. The first place winner was eighth grader Avery Webb. Her design will appear on a billboard located on U.S. Route 60 across from the Academy Animal Hospital. Avery will also receive a $50 gift card from Wal-Mart. “Early intervention is the key to solving drug abuse,” said Harris. “I believe that this billboard will help bring attention to the problem of drug abuse in our area – to both the students and the community.”

Receiving second place in the poster contest was eighth grader, Emily McWain, and the third place winner was eighth grader, Destiny Myers. Both second and third place winners will receive a $20 Wal-Mart gift card courtesy of Rick Skeens from Journey to Calvary Ministries. The top 10 runner-up posters are on display at the McDonald’s restaurant in Summit.

If this billboard influences just one person to end the cycle of self-destructive behavior, Bill Harris will be pleased. “We need to change how we look at pain management. I tell the students that they are one day going to grow up and live in this community. Now is the time to think about how they will treat this epidemic,” said Harris.

The billboard is scheduled to be up from November 28 through the month of December. Avery’s winning design will be dedicated to the memory of Kyle Harris and the 88 others who have lost their lives to drug overdoses in the last three years in Boyd County.

If you are a concerned parent or student who is interested in volunteering or have ideas on how to prevent drug abuse, please contact Bill Harris at billharris131@yahoo.com.

FOOD FEUD 2011

The board of directors of River Cities Harvest sent a well-deserved “Thank you” to the students, staff and parents of Boyd County Public Schools. The annual feud between Ashland Independent and Boyd County brings in food supplies for needy families in both districts. Together, the two school districts gathered over 30,000 pounds of food. Totals for this year’s Feud were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boyd County District - Winner</th>
<th>24,398 pounds</th>
<th>Ashland Independent District</th>
<th>5,921 pounds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boyd County High School - Winner</td>
<td>6,558 pounds</td>
<td>Paul G. Blazer High School</td>
<td>485 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd County Middle School Winner</td>
<td>12,500 pounds</td>
<td>Verity Middle School</td>
<td>400 pounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannonsburg Elementary</td>
<td>976 pounds</td>
<td>Hager Elementary WINNER</td>
<td>4,113 pounds</td>
</tr>
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<td>Summit Elementary</td>
<td>3,609 pounds</td>
<td>Oakview Elementary</td>
<td>373 pounds</td>
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<td>Catlettsburg Elementary</td>
<td>382 pounds</td>
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<td>373 pounds</td>
<td>Charles Russell Elementary</td>
<td>309 pounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October brought a new chapter into the life story of Waldo. Summit Elementary observed a budding romance between Waldo and their resident female gnome named Wilma. Wilma's job at Summit is to visit each classroom with perfect attendance each month. Having so much in common with Waldo, it seemed a natural progression for her to meet him. Summit staff encouraged the couple, helping them to get to know one another and chaperoning them on dates. No one was surprised when Waldo popped the question and Wilma accepted.

On November 4, 2011, several students at Summit were more than willing to assist as bridesgnomes and gnomesmen during the wedding ceremony. The Reverend “Pete” Miller officiated the nuptials. The tux and bridal gown were crafted by Ms. Dinah Houston. Ms. Cynthia Sullivan provided beautiful music for the occasion and Mr. Cliff Salyers, Director of Pupil Personnel, was honored to give away the bride.

A brief moment of angst occurred during the ceremony when Cannonsburg Principal, Jon Stevens, tried to stop the wedding by reminding Waldo he didn't need to rush into marriage. However, he was peaceably escorted off Summit's premises by the safety patrol.

Ms. Houston helped throughout the ceremony by placing (painting) rings on the gnomes’ fingers. She even assisted in their first kiss as gnome and wife.

Wedding cake was enjoyed by both students and staff at a lunch reception. The couple planned on taking a honeymoon trip to Paris following the district’s Spotlighting Our Families event.

The students tried hard to get Waldo back to Summit, and it took a long, LONG time! Of course, when Waldo finally did arrive, the couple didn't want to waste any time. A whirlwind of dates around town, escorted by Ms. Julie Smith, found the two in places like Chick-Fil-A, where they found they were short enough to play in the play area. On another trip, Waldo and Wilma traveled to Wal-Mart where Waldo bought Wilma her favorite movie, “Gnomeo and Juliet.” Later, they shopped for rings.

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Legend has it that gnomes marry for life. The two have talked about Waldo’s very important job with Boyd County Public Schools. They both accept that, each and every month, Waldo will be traveling to the Boyd County School with the highest attendance ... and that could mean time away from each other. However, like any good marriage, they know they will have to work to make it work.

Congratulations, Waldo and Wilma!
Cannonsburg Hosts Australian Family Night

Second and third grade students of Mrs. Katie Phillips, Mrs. Linda Yoakem and Mrs. Mary Beth Patton’s classes, along with their families, were treated to pizza and a virtual trip ‘down under.’ The trip to Australia’s Great Barrier Reef occurred on September 27, 2011.

Mrs. Phillips received an Area Education Grant to provide for dinner and a teleconference with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. During the one hour video teleconference, workers from the Reef HQ Aquarium presented an “Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef” with real time observations, question and answer sessions and underwater tours. They talked about adaptations of the different marine animals, protected species, and the impact of humans on marine life.

Historical Learning at Cannonsburg - Super Citizen Program & Annual Constitution Day

With the assistance of teacher Cathy Jackson, Cannonsburg Elementary was chosen to be a part of Liberty Legacy’s Super Citizen Program. The Super Citizen Program arms educators with authentic and engaging tools for teaching required subjects - right alongside character-building and financial literacy components that create a foundation for proud, responsible citizens.

With the Statue of Liberty as its focal point, the Program uses video, music, maps, workbooks and expertly-developed lesson plans to create an exciting framework for students. The annual program is proving to be an exciting way for students to learn about their country, their heritage, and our veterans.

Cannonsburg’s Annual Fifth Grade Constitution Day Program took place on September 22, 2011. The fifth grade teachers, Ms. Teresa Cassity and Ms. Deidra Patton, and the students have re-enacted the ratification of the Constitution since 2000. Each year, the program gets bigger and better, thanks to our Cannonsburg staff. School-wide, students create banners to represent colonies for the signing of the Constitution ceremony. Senior Judge Marc Rosen has been the special guest each year to talk about the importance of the Constitution and how it still stands strong today.

At top and bottom right: The Statue of Liberty talks with Cannonsburg Elementary students as part of the Liberty Legacy’s Super Citizen Program. At bottom left: Students perform during the annual Constitution Day.

Career Cruising Day

Catlettsburg Elementary School held a Career Cruising day where several local business people visited and talked to students about careers in their fields of expertise. All students, kindergarten through fifth grade, went to the event on September 30, 2011. Displays were set up both inside and outside the school and students were shown how much their present schoolwork is used in daily tasks of every career. Reading, writing, math, science and social studies are all vital in preparing them for their future.

Some area businesses that participated were: Margaret Reid (beekeeping), National Guard, Air Products, KFC, Kentucky Farmers Bank, CSX, Gussler Law, Texas Roadhouse, Boyd County Health Department, Catlettsburg Police Department, and several emergency service organizations.

Margaret Reid demonstrates beekeeping to Catlettsburg’s students during Career Cruising day.

Two students enjoy looking around the cab of a heavy tow truck from McGuire’s Towing and Recovery Service.
Principal Marci Prater Chosen for Pilot Leadership Program

This past summer, 48 Kentucky school leaders were chosen to receive executive-level leadership training at the Leadership Institute for School Principals pilot program. One of those chosen for the program was Catlettsburg Principal Marci Prater.

Prater attended classes at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C., a global provider of executive education. The program is funded by the state’s business community through the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and a grant from the AT&T Foundation.

The AT&T Foundation’s focus is to keep kids in school. “We felt that the Leadership Institute was a perfect pilot program to see if leadership training for principals can make a difference in school systems,” said Mary Pat Regan, AT&T Kentucky President.

Prater’s participation in the Leadership Institute for School Principals pilot program is sponsored by a contribution from Marathon Petroleum Co.

“This has been the best experience of my professional career,” said Prater about the program. “Throughout the three day training in Greensboro this summer, we analyzed data on ourselves to determine areas in which we need to focus for this school year. With the help of my coach, my accountability partners, and my staff, I am working vigorously to meet the goals I set for myself and my school.”

Prater acknowledges that the experience would not be possible without the support of our region’s local Marathon Refinery. She also is excited to know that the training she’s getting is similar to that of corporate leaders and five-star generals. “I am truly blessed to be a part of such a great group of principals from across the state of Kentucky,” Prater said, “and I truly believe that this intense training will enable me to become a stronger leader and person.”

Anonymous Donor Gives 30 iPads to Ponderosa

The following story aired on WSAZ TV on November 21, 2011

BOYD COUNTY, Ky. (WSAZ) There’s an iSecret floating around the hallways of Ponderosa Elementary School in Boyd County. It all centers around more than two dozen iPads.

Tami Maddox is a fourth-grade teacher who uses the iPads for her science class. “It’s so interactive; it’s terrific,” Maddox says. “We have no idea who donated them, but we like it, so we’re happy.”

The anonymous $15,000 donation paid for 30 iPads the school is using to help teach a variety of subjects.

“I’ve heard it said that we as adults are technology immigrants” Principal Matt Spade said. “Today’s students are technology natives. They have always known a world with these digital devices, while we (adults) are trying to learn them.”

Mr. Spade also commented on the technological advantage these iPads give students. “Novelty really creates a stimulation in the brain, but once you have that attention, as a teacher, you’re able to lock in on the lesson.”

Ponderosa fourth grade student, Bryan Phelps was grateful for the donation. “Fifteen of them (for his classroom). You can add that up. They’re very expensive. I would love to meet them (the donor) and say thank you so much,” Phelps said.

Fourth grade student Hannah Taylor spoke about the boost the donation gave to their self-esteem. “I think it makes us feel proud that somebody would care about us this much.”

Boyd County Animal Shelter Visits Ponderosa as Part of Mutt-i-gree*

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is an innovative program that builds on children’s natural interest in animals and highlights the unique characteristics and desirability of Mutt-i-gree*, or shelter dogs. Through a series of lessons, children learn critical skills that help them in school, at home, and later on in the workplace. Integrated throughout the Curriculum are feature lessons on dog behavior developed with Cesar Millan, the “Dog Whisperer.”

In October, the Boyd County Animal Shelter visited Ponderosa Elementary with several dogs and cats that were available for adoption. Shelter employee, Steve Minton, talked with each class about care, adoption and gave information on the Shelter. He also answered some questions from the students.

As part of their Mutt-i-gree Curriculum, students were made aware of the needs most shelters incur. That knowledge prompted them to donate a cart-load of food and pet care items to the Boyd County Animal Shelter.
NEWS BRIEFS

Marcum and Rockwell will Participate in Think Tank

Janice Marcum and Melanie Rockwell have just received an invitation from Bart Teal, director and founder of the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, to an “invitation only” teacher Think Tank. The Think Tank will include representatives from Disney World and will work to develop a project for students. The project will be designed to infuse leadership, innovation, and technology. The hope is to emulate the Disney “Yes” program and be able to take it to students rather than having students come to Disney World to get it.

Robinson NBC Teacher

Regina Robinson, Instructor at Summit Elementary, has achieved National Board Certification. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential which complements, but does not replace, a state’s teacher license.

National Board Certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do. National Board Certification is available nationwide for most pre-K–12 teachers.

Choir Students Inspired to Improve Summit Cafeteria

“Listen, Mrs. Sullivan … it’s so quiet.” That was the comment from a choir student of Summit Elementary music teacher, Mrs. Cynthia Sullivan, which began a school improvement project.

Last March, the choir students traveled to Mason County Intermediate School (MCIS) to participate in the Kentucky Music Educators’ District 8 Honors Choir. There were over 160 students in Mason County’s cafeteria that day. Some were chatting with friends and some were watching the mounted televisions in the MCIS cafeteria, but the quietness was very apparent.

The noise level in the Summit cafeteria is often overwhelming. The choir students thought that the addition of televisions might help make a difference.

When the choir returned they decided to host a benefit concert to raise money to purchase TVs for the cafeteria. They invited the Mason County choir as well as the other performing groups in Summit’s Honors Arts program to attend the benefit. Parents, teachers, and community members all donated to the project and over $800 was raised. Summit’s Parent Teacher Organization donated the remainder of the balance to purchase two TVs and wall mounts for the cafeteria. “This project has been a wonderful life lesson for the kids,” said Mrs. Sullivan. “The kids got the experience of having an idea, finding a way to make it happen and seeing it through to the end.”

Below: Students gather around one of the TV’s purchased through a student-led fund-raising project for Summit’s cafeteria.

Cubbies arrive at Boyd County Preschool

The Boyd County Preschool program needed cubbies. The only hindrance was the cost. Furniture such as cubbies can be extremely expensive. That’s where the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) stepped in to help. The facility in Summit houses a prisoner work program that produces furniture. Scott Butcher, FCI Re-entry Affairs Coordinator, organized the service project between the FCI and Boyd County Preschool. FCI foreman Shad Ford oversaw the construction and preschool teacher Katie Snyder’s father, Matt Haymond, along with staff member’s input, designed the cubbies.

The cubbies were delivered in early November to all three preschool locations which included every classroom in Catlettsburg Preschool as well as the Early Childhood Learning Centers North and South, 26 cubbies in all.

Above: FCI employees Shad Ford, left, and Dwayne Evans, right, are pictured above in front of a trailer full of new cubbies. The Federal Correctional Institution in Summit constructed the storage units for each classroom in the Preschool program.

cub·by [kuhb-ee] noun, plural -bies.
1. a cubbyhole.
2. any of a group of small boxlike enclosures or compartments, open at the front, in which children can keep their belongings, as at a preschool school.
BCHS Students Travel to Mexico at Georgetown College

On November 1st, students from Boyd County High School and Mrs. Sheila Duncan toured Georgetown College and got a taste of the Immersion Espagnol Georgetown College (IEGC) program. Little did they know that they would be immersed in Hispanic culture, too!

El día de los muertos is a holiday celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November. It is an opportunity to gather with friends and family to pray, make altars and adorn them with sugar skulls, flowers, and other objects.

After learning about the customs of the holiday and seeing a typical altar, they enjoyed a variety of Latin snacks and created their very own altars in memory of those loved and lost. They also talked with staff members who have been to Mexico. When the time finally came for the students to head home, they took a little bit of Mexico with them along with a new appreciation for international traditions.

Power Reading On-line Arrives at Boyd County Public Schools

The web-based version of the Carbo Reading Program began being used by BCPS students in September 2011. Our district is one of few in the nation that can boast implementation of the Carbo Reading Method as an intervention for students who qualify in grades K-12. Also, unique to BCPS, is the establishment of Carbo Reading Labs at BCMS and BCHS. Teachers and instructors report increased student engagement with the computer-based instruction.

The change from paper-based instructional materials to web-based resulted in the need to provide a ‘make-over’ to the middle and high school lab classrooms. Two full time labs, one at each school, have twelve new Internet connected computers allowing access for larger groups of students who receive instruction in the Carbo method of reading. The program also assesses student progress. This adds to teachers’ ability to track student progress and to encourage those who are not meeting their goals.

Reading scores continue to rise in our schools. This is just one of the many strategies being implemented by our district.

Mini Photo Gallery of the 2011 Homecoming Parade

Ponderosa Elementary won the 2011 Homecoming float award!

Beverly Carr Publishes New Book

PublishAmerica is proud to announce the recent release of Beverly Oliver Carr’s new book: Little Debbie’s Special Gift! The book was inspired by a story from Preschool teacher, Debbie Cole’s childhood. Mike Spears, art instructor at Boyd County High School, illustrated Beverly’s book.

According to the author, the book is about a little girl who wants to give a special gift to her parents for Christmas. Debbie’s grandparents teach her that there are all kinds of different gifts to give, and that they don’t have to be in a box tied up with a pretty ribbon and bow. It is a book that puts an emphasis on giving, rather than getting. It’s a lesson for all of us. Children often have that list for Santa, or a special catalog from which they make their Christmas list. This book asks the question, “What are you going to give for Christmas.”

You may secure your personal copy of Beverly Oliver Carr’s exceptional book today. Please go to www.publishamerica.net/product44655.html to order your copy, then click Add to Cart. For an introductory discount of 20%, use this coupon code: Discount20.
University of the Cumberlands Science Olympiad and Chemistry Symposium Grand Champion Team

The Grand Champion Winning Team for Boyd County High School


AWARDS: