Springdale’s Mascot Shows School Spirit

Springdale Elementary School’s new mascot, Eddie Dale Eagle, celebrated the start of the 2014-2015 school year with students and staff on Friday, August 1. Eddie greeted students and parents as they entered the building on the first day of school, and helped make sure they were excited for the year. See more pictures from the first day of school at www.facebook.com/bibbschools.

Mercer Accepting Applications for Upward Bound

Applications are currently being accepted for Mercer University’s Upward Bound program. The federally funded program provides fundamental support to participants in preparation for college entrance, as well as opportunities for them to succeed in pre-college performance and, ultimately, in higher-education pursuits. Rising ninth grade students who live in and attend high school in Bibb County are eligible for the program, which serves students from low-income families and families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree. An application for the 2014-2015 school year can be found on Upward Bound website at http://upward.mercer.edu. Applications must be submitted to the office by Friday, September 5, 2014. No faxed applications will be accepted. For more information, please call (478) 301-2099.

Beyond the Classroom

Hartley Elementary Faculty, Staff Visit Neighborhoods Before School

Before the first day of school, Hartley Elementary School’s faculty and staff took a field trip into the community, where they built partnerships with their neighboring families. The school’s staff spent a morning handing out invitations welcoming parents and students to the school’s open house. They also shared the news of Hartley being the first and only elementary school in the state to receive a School Improvement Grant (SIG).

“I think it is very important to understand our students and where they come from,” said Hartley Elementary School Principal Dr. Shelia Garcia.

Knowing where their students live also helps teachers

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Hutchings Becomes Charter School

The Bibb County School District received approval this summer from the Georgia Department of Education to convert the Hutchings Career Center to the William S. Hutchings College and Career Charter Academy beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. This opportunity to transform Hutchings is in partnership with Central Georgia Technical College; Mercer University; Helms College; the District’s Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Department; and business, industry and national organizational sponsors, which promises the successful implementation and expansion of additional career pathways to relevantly engage students.

Classes in the Academy will be organized as small learning communities, combining academic and technical curric-
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when planning lessons and finding unique ways to captivate students’ interest, she said.

“When teachers plan their lessons, they are based on real life experiences in order for students to make connections,” she said. “Also, when teachers plan the lessons it is relevant and it includes students’ interests that they can use in real life applications.”

Chonda Hill, who is new to Hartley, has helped the elementary school develop its community partnerships. She is responsible for Hartley receiving a donation from the Walmart Foundation to purchase a washer and dryer this year.

“Going out into the community, I think the teachers will gain a new awareness of where our students are and appreciate them for all the strengths that they have,” Ms. Hill said. “And, we want the community to know that Hartley is on the map, we are making a difference and we are going to be a high performance school.”

- Emily Brunner

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ula around specific career themes, and establishing partnerships with local employers to provide work-based learning opportunities. Students will have the option of receiving a high school diploma, technical certification, an associate degree and industry credentials.

“This initiative has energized the Macon-Bibb community. Not only are we receiving calls from well-wishers, we are receiving commitments from large and small businesses to provide ongoing sup-
port by lesson planning with our school-based teachers. The Academy’s Governance Board is second to none; bringing their expertise in numerous ways to ensure that the students leaving the Academy are college and career ready,” Deputy Superintendent of School Improvement and Redesign Sylvia Hooker said.

The following Career Pathways, as requested by the students through an interest survey, will make the Academy a most unique learning environment.

- Architectural Drawing and Design - New (to be offered in 2015-2016)
- Automotive Service Technology
- Aviation Flight Operations
- Culinary Arts
- Therapeutic Services-Allied Health and Medicine
- Business and Technology
- Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism
- Personal Service Care-Cosmetology and Barbering - New
- Teaching As A Profession - New
- Graphic Communications - New

Administration and Academy Governance Board members also are considering including a Dentistry Pathway in subsequent years.
Southwest Helps Prepare Freshmen for High School

Southwest High School’s rising ninth-graders got a preview of high school by attending the school’s Summer Bridge Program. The program was designed to ensure students transition successfully from middle school to high school, and offered students additional instruction in math, English/Language Arts, and organizational, career and life skills.

“We want them to feel confident when they come to high school and connected to the school community so that when they get here they hit the ground running and are ready to go,” said Dr. Regina English, Summer Bridge Coordinator and Graduation Specialist.

The students attended math, language arts and "Freshman 101" classes. The math classes focused on algebra readiness while the language arts courses concentrated on writing and preparing for the writing exam students must pass to graduate. Students also received instruction on setting college and career goals, social skills and Southwest’s P.R.I.D.E. matrix.

Former Ballard-Hudson Middle School student Joshua Scott said he learned more about what his strengths are with the help of the freshman introductory course.

Messiah Causey said attending the Summer Bridge Program prepared her by giving her a better understanding of what she learned last year.

At the end of the three-week program the students had the opportunity to visit a college campus when they toured Fort Valley State University.

“This is to encourage them to have a desire to want to go to college in the future,” Dr. English said. “It allows them to have the experience of being on a college campus and understanding that once you graduate college is available.”

- Emily Brunner

Westside STEM Camp Introduces Students to Engineering

Westside High School hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Summer Camp for upcoming high school students interested in the field of engineering.

“The word STEM is just a fancy term someone created,” said MaryBeth Barnes. “We all use science. We all use math, engineering, and technology every day. We all use computers or have to calculate our check books, which is math. We are all doing something with science when we use cleaning solutions of any kind. We are all a part of STEM.”

The first day of the weeklong camp, students learned engineering terms and concepts. Throughout the rest of STEM camp the students put their engineering skills to work. They built race cars with CO2 cartridges and raced them against each other. They also built rockets and launched them in the school’s parking lot.

“It was really fun to make,” said Rebekah Soren sen, a rising Westside ninth-grader who wants to go into engineering and agriculture. “I am surprised mine actually made it through. I was sure the parachute was not going to come out.”

The camp benefited students because it introduced them to the world of engineering and engineering concepts, Mrs. Barnes said.

“In our nation right now we are not producing enough engineers and there is an abundance of engineering jobs that will continue to grow throughout the next 10 to 15 years when these students are graduating from college. So, we are trying to introduce them to engineering,” said Mrs. Barnes. “Engineers typically make 25 percent to 30 percent more than any other career with the same amount of education.”

- Emily Brunner
Young Women Learn About Construction

The Mentoring a Girl in Construction (MAGIC) Summer Camp Program brought together female students with an interest in urban design. The camp was founded by Renee Conner in 2007 after she saw a need for a future female workforce. She created the camp to expose young women to the construction industry.

The weeklong camp featured hands-on learning in the areas of electricity, carpentry and welding. Students also learned the importance of job safety and had the opportunity to tour a job site at the end of the week.

The benefits of the camp we see are it teaches self-confidence,” said Ms. Conner, who is also National Executive Director of MAGIC Camp. “We are beginning to see female students change their majors from English to Engineering.”

MAGIC Camp brings in female guests who specialize in the different areas of construction to teach the students.

Beatrice Andrews, an Assistant Business Manager at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 613, taught the students how to make a circuit and a lamp.

“This is a good trade for women,” she said. “There are not many women in the field; however, women have smaller hands and better dexterity with their hands.”

Central High School senior Sarah Turner said the camp was a fun, eye-opening experience.

“It has taught me a lot about myself as a female,” Sarah said. “It has opened up opportunities that I never thought of before. It taught me that just because I am a female does not mean that is a disadvantage.”

- Emily Brunner

Westside High’s Taylor Babbs Honored by GaDOE

On July 14, Taylor Babbs was recognized as the Work Based Learning Student of the Year for the West Central Region for the state by the Georgia Department of Education. Taylor is a 2014 graduate of Westside High School.

Each candidate was judged based on his or her Work Based Learning (WBL) involvement, letters of recommendation, résumé and a written essay. Taylor, an employee at Chick-fil-A, served as a leader throughout her entire high school career. In addition to being President of her DECA chapter, Taylor was also Captain of the Westside High School Cheerleading Squad, an officer in the Westside High School Air Force JROTC Program, as well as being voted Best All-Around by her classmates.

Taylor as, “a tremendous worker, student and person.”

“Taylor is my most consistent student in the program,” he said. “She completes her work and assignments on time and always earns raves on her evaluations.”

In March 2014, Taylor was chosen as the District’s Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Student of the Year, which included delegates from all seven high schools. The winner of this annual award is chosen based on their high school résumé, community service involvement, grade point average (GPA), essay response and their dedication to CTAE.

Taylor has been awarded a full scholarship to Wesleyan College this fall.
CTAE Camps Break Gender Stereotypes

While female students were getting grease on their hands in the auto shop, male students were stapling sutures to a wounded dummy this summer. Bibb County’s high school students challenged society’s gender stereotypes by participating in camp activities that encouraged them to consider careers that might have originally been outside their realm of interest.

Girls Auto Know and Men in Medicine are two free weeklong camps hosted at Hutchings Career Center. The camps are offered every summer to upcoming ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade boys and girls attending Bibb County high schools.

The Girls Auto Know Camp was designed to teach female students the basics of automobile maintenance.

“Our main goal at this camp is to help female students gain more awareness of what is going on with their car so that they can become safer owners,” said camp automotive instructor Levon Tarver.

In the auto shop, the girls learned important maintenance skills in order to care for their automobiles properly. They were taught the characteristics of a tire, how to know if it needs air, how much air it needs, and the right way to inflate the tire. The student mechanics also learned to change a tire, change oil, and the importance of different fluids in the engine board. They learned how to identify the lights on the dashboard, what to do when they come on, where to find information, and to determine if they can fix the problem themselves or if they need to consult a professional.

“Women and young ladies as a demographic usually are not taught mechanic skills. It is assumed boys are more interested in cars than girls,” Mr. Tarver said. “Nowadays, since there are a ton of female drivers it is not a matter of being a male or a female. It is a matter of being a driver and knowing driver responsibility.”

Central High School junior Eden Andrea said the skills she learned at the Girls Auto Know camp helped her become more confident about owning a vehicle.

“If I’m stuck on the side of the road I can check on the lights in the dashboard to see what part of the car is actually not working and then I could probably be able to fix it if I need to,” she said.

“It will help them feel a lot more confident and a lot safer when just having general driving issues or general maintenance issues,” Mr. Tarver said. “They are no longer not in the know.”

Men in Medicine was designed to expose male students to the medical field, which offers over 250 different career opportunities.

The students received exposure to several different areas of the medical field. The male students received counseling from surgical technicians, EMTs and nurses. They learned the importance of safety, how to conduct assessments, and received an introduction to important medications. They also learned how to take vital signs, perform CPR, start an IV and staple sutures.

“Traditionally the health care field is dominated by females. We are trying to expose the male students to the opportunities out there in the health care field,” said Lisa Dixon, Heath Care Science Teacher at Northeast High School.

She also said the camp provides a great opportunity for students to experience a work field of their interest to decide early on if this is a career they would like to pursue after college.

David Jones, a ninth-grader at Northeast High School, aspires to become an emergency room physician. He attended the Men in Medicine camp to gain more knowledge about his career interest.

“I have learned that there are numerous things to do in the medical field. There are a lot more options than just being a male nurse,” he said. “I have learned that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish your goals.”

- Emily Brunner
Ingram-Pye Students Participate in FLP Focusing on Math

Ingram-Pye Elementary School students participated in Title I’s Flexible Learning Program throughout the month of June. The Bibb County School District’s Title I Office analyzed the 2013 CRCT results and formulated trends to determine an area of need for Ingram-Pye. Based on the results, it was determined students would benefit most from additional assistance in the area of mathematics.

All Ingram-Pye students were able to submit applications to receive free math tutoring services through the Flexible Learning Program.

“We wanted it to be available to all students to ensure that each student’s area of need would be addressed, as well as to promote the areas that they were already proficient in to accelerate them in those areas,” said Tracey Muff, Site Manager for the Ingram-Pye Flexible Learning Program.

The Flexible Learning Program included two types of computer-assisted math programs called Symphony Math and Ascend Math. The Symphony Math program is geared toward building students’ foundational skills and the Ascend Math program is geared toward students who have already mastered the foundational skills and helps accelerate them. Both programs identify the students’ areas of misconception and mastery. The programs work at the students’ own pace until a level of mastery is completed. If the students have already mastered certain areas they receive enrichment activities to support their level of understanding.

- Emily Brunner

CTI Students Witness Government in Action

Southwest High School Career and Technical Instruction (CTI) students were invited this summer to attend a Macon-Bibb County Commission meeting to witness Mayor Robert Reichert conducting city and county business. The students were excited to attend and had a wonderful time, CTI Coordinator Willie Batts said. Pictured from left are Aaron King, Tamara McClendon, Jacques Rouse and Mr. Batts.
**Tuskegee Airmen Bike Club Donates School Supplies to Bloomfield Middle**

The Tuskegee Airmen Bike Club, an organization that has adopted Bloomfield Middle School, donated hundreds of school supplies to students during Bloomfield’s Open House on Wednesday, July 30. The Tuskegee Airmen donated these school supplies as part of their numerous community service projects. Also during Open House, the school’s new principal, Brenda Edwards, welcomed students and parents and gave them an idea of what they can expect at Bloomfield Middle School this year.

**Educators Attend State STEM Academy**

Bibb County teachers Dr. Sidorva L. Johnson of Westside High School, Tameka Ray of Weaver Middle School and Jackie Bowman of Northeast High School attended the STEM Georgia Teachers Academy in Perry this summer. They are seen above with Georgia Department of Education STEM Program Specialist Dr. Gilda Lyon.

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**Administrators, Teachers Focus on Alternative Education Success**

Bibb County School District staff participated in a seminar prior to the school year geared toward improving alternative education programming in the District. The program focused on behavior, interest, and functional level. Graduation coaches and advisers, alternative education coordinators and teachers, School Improvement Grant (SIG) coordinators, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) coordinators, and Response to Intervention (RTI) coordinators attended the seminar featuring K.L. Herald and Dr. Wayne Frazier.

“We have the resources right here in our District to help them,” said Sylvia Hooker, Deputy Superintendent of School Improvement. “We are wrapping our arms around this new program to ensure that everybody – the teachers, the students, and the leaders – achieve at the highest level.”

K.L. Herald is the Assistant Principal of Curriculum at Hillsborough High School in Tampa. She recently authored the book, “The Lesson Plan: An Educator’s Inspiration.” As an educator, author and intrinsic motivation expert she works to boost high performance in education.

“You can’t teach alternative students the same way you teach traditional students,” said Vanessa Oatman, Marketing Director for K.L. Herald Inc. The seminar focused on molding lessons and interactions in the classroom toward students in an alternative education program. Staff learned the importance of connecting with students to motivate them to shift their lives back into the traditional environment. They also were trained on ensuring students are fully functional and carry great self-esteem when they transition.

“Our key thing is making sure everyone is motivated internally first because that is where the results come from later on,” Ms. Oatman said. “They are getting the teachers intrinsically motivated so that they can go in the classroom and then pass that on to the students.”

The District plans to incorporate strategies, including technology and pathways, in the alternative education program that match the pace and environment of students’ base schools.

“We want the students that are a part of the process to feel exposed to various experiences that make them feel a part of and connected so they are better able to cope in a school setting,” Ms. Hooker said. “We also want to help their parents understand that their child is valued and make sure we can maximize what we can in these young people while they are here in this transitional setting.”

- Emily Brunner
Recognitions from June 19 Board Meeting

Staff Recognized for Exemplary Custodial Work

Each year, schools are thoroughly inspected bi-annually for cleanliness. The top three schools at the elementary, middle, and high school level that maintained the highest percentages and standards in environmental protection during the period of August 2013 through June 2014 were recognized at the June 20 Board meeting.

For the elementary schools, Jones Elementary School and Porter Elementary School tied for first place by each earning a score of 100 percent under the direction of head custodians Connie Taylor and Vanessa Rawlings. Lane Elementary School came in second with a score of 99.8 percent under the direction of head custodian Leora Tyler. In third place, King-Danforth Elementary School earned a score of 99.5 percent under the direction of head custodian Lillie Moore.

For the middle schools, Ballard-Hudson Middle School once again earned first place with a score of 99.7 percent under the direction of head custodian Sam Blassingame. Bloomfield Middle School came in second with a score of 98.7 percent under the direction of head custodian Ifeani Amanugi. In third place, Weaver Middle School earned a score of 97.1 percent under the direction of head custodian Josephine Ford.

For the high schools, Rutland High School earned first place with a score of 99.4 percent under the direction of head custodian Beverly Harris. Northeast High School came in second with a score of 99.1 percent under the direction of head custodian Charles Lucas. In third place, Southwest High School earned a score of 98.1 percent under the direction of head custodian Richard Lockett.
Recognitions from July 17 Board Meeting

Director Named GACTE Administrator of the Year

Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington, Director of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, was named Administrator of the Year by the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) at the association’s conference this summer. Founded in 1926, GACTE is the largest education association in Georgia dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. Its purpose is to provide leadership in developing an educated, prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce. Dr. Miller-Washington will represent Georgia in the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Region II competition. ACTE’s Region II includes state associations in Alabama, the Bahamas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The ACTE Region II Conference will be held September 26-28 in Richmond, Va.

Dr. Miller-Washington first began her journey in education by way of a career in hospitality management. She moved to Macon after graduating from Tuskegee University in 1994 to work as the Manager of Campus Dining for Aramark at Mercer University. While working at Mercer, she joined the university’s first cohort of the Executive Master of Business Administration program and received her MBA in 1998. Afterward, she began working with two of the Edison Schools in Bibb County - King Edison and Riley Edison.

Dr. Miller-Washington happened to meet her mentor, Ella Carter, about the same time the Bibb County School District and Edison Schools decided not renew their partnership in 2002. At the time, Mrs. Carter was serving as principal of Northeast High School and she encouraged Dr. Miller-Washington to become a Marketing teacher at Northeast through Georgia’s Teacher Alternative Preparation Program (TAPP).

Dr. Miller-Washington worked at Northeast from 2002-2007, during which time she served in many capacities, including Marketing teacher, CTAE Department Chair, Instructional Lead Teacher, and Junior and Senior Class Adviser. She was also named Northeast’s Teacher of the Year for the 2004-2005 school year.

In 2007, Dr. Miller-Washington moved to Central High School, where she remained for two years, to revamp Central’s Marketing program. Later, when she became a CTAE Supervisor in 2009, she oversaw the opening of the Video Broadcasting Lab at Central as well.

In 2010, she received her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Capella University. She took over as Director of the CTAE Department in December 2012.

Administrator Receives Annual Hometown Hero Award from American Red Cross

David Gowan, Executive Director of Safety and Risk Management, was honored last month as a Hometown Hero by the American Red Cross of Central Georgia. The American Red Cross annually presents the Hometown Hero Awards to residents of the 22 counties served under the Central Georgia chapter. Hometown Heroes are those who have had an extraordinary impact on the community or have demonstrated the values of courage, character, humanity, or personal initiative. Mr. Gowan was nominated to receive this year’s Emergency Response award.

As the Executive Director of Safety and Risk Management, Mr. Gowan designed and manages the school emergency response and preparedness plans, directs the District’s business insurance programs including workers’ compensation, administers employee safety training, directs the District’s response to risk management exposures, and coordinates the District’s relationship with strategic public safety and public health community partners. He works closely with the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency, GEMA, FEMA, the Bibb County Sheriff’s Office, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, North Central Health District, Bibb County Health Department, Bibb County District Attorney’s Office, and more. He also serves as a FEMA trained member of the Logistics Section for the Bibb County Emergency Management Agency Committee, as well as serving as the District’s representative on various boards and committees.
Hartley Spends Summer Prepping for New Year

Throughout the month of June, Hartley Elementary School students began preparing for their upcoming academic curriculum through the school’s Summer School Program.

The Summer School Program focused on students’ math and English/Language Arts skills. Hartley was able to accommodate extra teachers to provide small classroom sizes and one-on-one instruction through the funding from the School Improvement Grant it received in 2013. Hartley was the only Georgia elementary school to receive the SIG in 2013.

The Summer School Program also included teachers from Ballard-Hudson Middle School, who provided instruction for rising sixth-graders.

“I think that the reading and math that I am learning at Hartley is going to help me when I go to the sixth grade,” said Tierra Baxter, a rising sixth-grader at Ballard-Hudson.

“The summer program benefits the students because they have the opportunity to be exposed to the curriculum that they will be taught in the upcoming year,” said School Improvement Specialist Dr. Arrika T unstell.

The students not only received early instruction. They also spent time in the gym and were treated to a cookout on the last day of the program.

Hartley also hosted a three-day Back-to-School Bash the last week of July to refresh the material students saw during the Summer School Program and to get them ready for the first day of school.

- Emily Brunner

Howard Principals Meet Employees, Community

The community was invited to meet the new principals of Howard High School and Howard Middle School during two meet-and-greet sessions in June.

Dr. Shannon Norfleet, the new Principal of Howard High School, has more than 20 years of experience in education, with 13 of those years spent in the classroom. He has served as Principal of Bloomfield Middle School for two years. Prior to that, he served as an Assistant Principal at Howard High School and Rutland High School. He also has worked in Houston, Bleckley and Putnam County.

Mr. Lindsey Allen, the new Principal of Howard Middle School, is a graduate of Central High School in Macon. He joins the Bibb County School District from Gwinnett County, where he has served as Assistant Principal of Glenn C. Jones Middle School for 5 years. Prior to that, he also served as an elementary school administrator and a middle school teacher in Gwinnett County. He has 16 years of experience in education.

FBLA Officers Attend Training

On July 22, student leaders from the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) FBLA chapters at Howard High School, Westside High School and Central High School attended the FBLA Summer Leadership Officer Training at Crisp County High School. The training gave the students skills to create a productive FBLA chapter at their respective high schools by learning team building exercises, successful recruitment practices and overall leadership skills.