

in this issue >>>

- *School Spotlight on Norwood Middle*
- *Wall of Fame Inductee*
- *Students of the Month*
- *Teacher of the Year*



**Anderson County Schools**  
Every Student, Every Day

Volume 1 Issue 2

# Anderson County Community Connections

## School Spotlight

### Norwood Middle School



### Principal Dan Jenkins

Dan Jenkins was recently hired as the new principal of Norwood Middle School. He previously served his entire professional career at Clinton High School. He taught social studies and coached multiple sports during his seven year teaching stint at Clinton High School. He was also the school's athletic director and assistant principal for four years. He is extremely excited to be at Norwood and had the privilege

*Continued on page 2*

### Demographics

Norwood Middle School is located in the Norwood community, in Oliver Springs, Tennessee, along the extreme western edge of Anderson County. The school was built in 1968 on property adjoining Norwood Elementary, which had been built in 1954. Renovation of the building took place in 1996 and 1997.

### Design of School

In the early 1990's, the ideals of a junior high gave way to the middle school concept; the school was originally named Norwood Junior High, but the name later changed to Norwood Middle. The new design did away with the open classrooms and created classrooms that returned to a more traditional environment for teaching. The "pod" design was chosen to facilitate the ideals of open classroom teaching that were popular at that time. The building now consists of three pods, housing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The school also houses a full-sized gymnasium, library, band room, and music room.



Continued from page 1

of getting to know many of the wonderful people in this small community and great school. Dan is married to his wife Carrie who is also in education. She is a school counselor at Clinton

High School. They have a four year old daughter Anna Kate and a son, Graham Edward, on the way. "I'm thankful to live and work in such a beautiful place as Anderson County."



### School Counselor

#### Denira Williams

Denira Williams is the school counselor at Norwood Middle School. Denira has a Masters of Science in Education, Health and Human Services from the University of Tennessee and a Master's

of Education in School Counseling from LMU. Denira worked for Roane County Schools for nine years before moving to Norwood Middle.

### Assistant Principal Shawna Cox

Shawna Cox has spent the majority of her life in the Anderson County area. She was born in Johnson City, Tennessee and moved the Anderson County as a young child. She currently lives with her two daughters in Clin-



ton. Shawna attended college at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she earned a M.S. in Education. She then attended LMU where she earned her EDS in Leadership.

The 2016-2017 year will Shawna's 13th year as a public school educator. After teaching six years in Knox County Schools, she returned home to Anderson County as an elementary classroom teacher. The past four years she continued her experience in Anderson County as an Academic Coach for Lake City and Claxton Elementary Schools.

Shawna looks forward to bringing her experience to Norwood Middle School as assistant principal. "I'm so excited to work with the students, staff, and community at Norwood."

### CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF

### THE MONTH AND WALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



*Dewayne Emert*

### Golden Broom Award Winners

Norwood Elementary School received the Golden Broom Award for the month of October. Custodians from the school were present to receive the certificate at the October 6 Board of Education meeting.

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

**CHS** – Donovan Pinto, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Grand Oaks Elementary School** - Kaylee Davis, Tyra Martin and Tynleigh Ray are Grand Oaks Elementary School's students of the month. These three young ladies are 5th graders that start each day off right as our GOES morning DJ's: DJ Kaylee D, DJ Ty-Dye, and DJ Sweet T. All three girls also serve as members of our 5th grade safety patrol team, helping to ensure that all our little eagles are safe as they enter school each day.

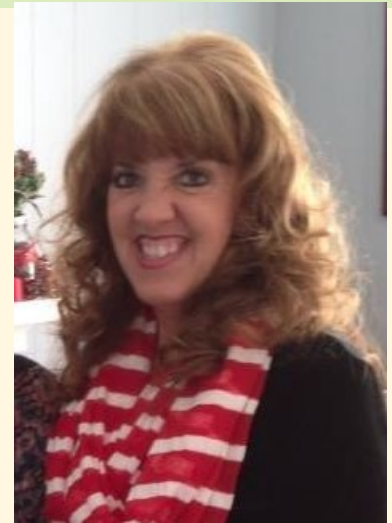
## Grand Oaks Elementary Teacher Named 2016 Teacher of the Year and Anderson County Schools 2016 Teacher of the Year

### Jo Ellen Frick

Jo Ellen Frick is Grand Oaks Elementary School's 2016 *Teacher of the Year* and is Anderson County Schools' 2016 *Elementary Teacher of the Year*. She was born in Aurora, Illinois, and moved to Nashville, Tennessee with her family at the age of nine. She graduated from Hillsboro High School in Nashville in 1975, the same year she married her husband, Paul. They moved to Louisville, Kentucky to pursue her college coursework, and for her husband to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After completing his PhD in 1983, they have served churches as pastor and wife in Kentucky, Georgia, and Tennessee. They are parents

of two adult sons: Nathan and wife, Amber, who are missionaries in Indonesia, and John, who lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She also has a beautiful one year old granddaughter, Reese.

Mrs. Frick received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky in December 1979. In December 1981, she completed her Master of Arts in Elementary Education at the University of Louisville. Since that time, she has completed a Reading Specialist endorsement in Georgia in May, 2000, and



has been trained in Reading Recovery and the Comprehensive Intervention Model through Georgia State University during the 2009-2010 school year. In June 2011 she was trained as a teacher observer in the Tennessee TEAM teacher evaluation model.

## NOTED FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST DR. WILLIAM BASS VISITS ANDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Anderson County High School had the honor of hosting Dr. Bill Bass for his one of a kind lecture on Monday September 26. Dr. Bass, a University of Tennessee professor, forensic anthropologist, and founder of the world famous Body Farm, instructed students in anatomy, forensic anthropology, and his methodology. To the delight of students and faculty in attendance, he presented several of the cases he had worked on through the years. He showed students what he looked for in each case and how to use logic, reasoning, and scientific knowledge to solve intricate problems. This highly anticipated event sold out in less than three hours. The unique wit and humor he uses during lectures allows students to develop high reasoning skills. He provides inspiration for utilizing scientific knowledge in post-secondary education and even careers. ACHS thanks Dr. Bass for the opportunity to laugh and learn.



Dr. Bass speaks to a packed house!





## CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH STUDENTS TEACH MINI-LESSONS TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



The Spanish Honors students from Clinton High School are visiting several elementary classes this semester to teach mini Spanish lessons. Their first trip was to Fairview Elementary School where they taught the Spanish words for colors, food and animals to kindergarten and first grade classes. The students prepared lesson plans, manipulatives and practiced teaching to each other before going to the schools. The teachers were very appreciative and all the students had a fantastic time.

Their next trip will be to Norwood Elementary School.



### BLOCK BY BLOCK

Director of Schools Dr. Tim Parrott is building the Anderson County School System “block by block.” Dr. Parrott kicked off the system’s inaugural assembly meeting in August by building a wall out of wooden blocks decorated by each school, department, administrator and stakeholder illustrating each department’s responsibility within the system. When the wall was complete, the display revealed how each department works together toward the success of *Every Student, Every Day*. Take a look and see if you can identify the schools and departments included in our “block wall.”

Follow Dr. Parrott on twitter @TimTparrott



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION MEETING – 9/20/16

One of four district goals in our strategic plan is to improve communication and increase awareness of what is going on in the school system.

Community Connection meetings are being held at all four middle schools throughout Anderson County this year to strengthen our partnerships with both parents and our stakeholders. Dr. Tim Parrott and his staff held the first Community Connection meeting at Clinton Middle School on Tuesday, September

20, 2016 and it was a great success. Clinton Middle School teachers held a Read-a-Thon right after the school day and the staff and community enjoyed a picnic on the grounds prior to the meeting. Participants were invited to the gym to learn about related arts classes and student clubs, and games were held on the front lawn. The Clinton Middle School choir kicked the meeting off with a rendition The Star Spangled Banner followed by a

presentation by Dr. Tim Parrott, Director of Schools, who shared the system's mission and vision as well as the great things going on our schools. Dr. Parrott said "the meeting tonight was the first step in making sure not only the district but the whole community is focused on our vision of Every Student, Every Day." The next Community Connection meeting will be held at Norris Middle School on Tuesday, November 1.

## CHS/ SOUP KITCHEN PARTNERSHIP

The Clinton High School Culinary Arts Program has been fortunate to partner with The Soup Kitchen to provide an in-school café to serve CHS staff and the local community. Each week, The Soup Kitchen provides the class with three selections of soups and breads. The Culinary Arts students make tea and desserts to add to the menu. On Wednesdays, The Soup Kitchen brings the selected soups and bread to the school where the

students receive the products and begin to set up the kitchen. The classroom is set up to run as café. Students are assigned different jobs each week: cashiers take orders and money, runners assemble the orders, and prep cooks are in charge of making the desserts, tea, and also managing the kitchen. The students really enjoy serving our staff and community members; it gives them a sense of pride in their work and also gives them a

realistic perspective of what a job in the food industry would be like. Customer service, work ethic, money management, time management, and food preparation are all skills that students learn through this program. These skills will be beneficial to the students no matter what career path they choose. Culinary Arts teacher Jessie Hall said "I am grateful to Kelly Myers and The Soup Kitchen

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

staff for making this café a possibility for our students and school. In the future, we hope to continue to expand our café menu options as the students learn more culinary skills and even someday hope to have the classroom look and run like a real café.” The café is open to community members, parents, and all staff on Wednesdays from 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM.

You can contact Jessie Hall at Clinton High School (865-457-2611) on Tuesdays to get the menu for the week.

***Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.***

***-Benjamin Franklin***

## **CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL “COLLEGE APP WEEK”**

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission created “Path for College” events to promote Governor Haslam’s “Drive to 55” college initiative. Haslam hopes to have 55 percent of Tennessee residents having a college degree or certificate program by the year 2025. Clinton High school participated in the first event called “College App Week” which was the week of September 26-30, 2016. With the assistance of their counselors, two Roane State admissions coordinators



- 10/18 – Grand Oaks Elementary - Family Engineering Night
- 10/20 – Grand Oaks Elementary Chili Supper and Auction
- 10/20 – Clinton High National Honor Society Ceremony – 6:30 PM in the Little Theater
- 10/20 – Claxton Elementary - Dinner and Halloween Costume Contest - 5:30 PM
- 10/25 – Clinton High Choir Concert – 7:00 PM in the Little Theater
- 10/27 – Clinton High Band Concert – 6:30 PM in the gym
- 10/31 – Grand Oaks Elementary - Halloween Bash

and Hoppy Merryman of GEAR Up, they were able to register over 190 students for college and the TN Promise scholarship! Events that were planned throughout the week included “Follow your dreams to college” (Pajama Day), “Double Your Knowledge-Go to College” (Twin Dress Up Day), and “Support Your College” (College T-shirt Day). There was also a door decorating contest and a college store set up in the counseling office giving away college items to those who applied. The Clinton High School College Fair on Thursday of this week included over 40 schools in attendance.



## **ACCTC STUDENT SHOWCASE**

ACCTC's Student Showcase on September 15, 2016 was a fantastic opportunity for students to show off the skills they are learning in the Career and Technical classes at ACCTC. Students in each program of study were given opportunities to compete and win prizes. Logan Young, a graphic design student, was the winner for Business Technology. He designed a flyer for the Spaghetti Dinner which was held that night as a fundraiser. The dinner raised \$390.00 to help with funding for an electronic sign.

It also was a historic night because ACCTC's new mascot, the ACCTC

NAVIGATORS, was announced! Students and staff voted on the mascot and Josie McGhee from the Health Science program won the Mascot Mania Competition. A student explained the choice: "We are finding our way and path in life at ACCTC." Students and staff designed and built the new mascot (photo right).

Another ongoing school project is personalized bricks to support career and technical education. For a \$100 donation, an individual or business can have a personalized brick placed in the patio by



the ACCTC office door. Call 457-4205 for more information. We invite community members and stakeholders to visit anytime to see all the great things going on at ACCTC.

## **Rotary Club Highlights Bridge Program**

The Rotary Club of Clinton was fortunate enough to have Dr. Trish Jones and Ms. Krista Whitaker from the Anderson County Career and Technical Center. They talked about many different programs that they offer at the ACCTC, but focused on their favorite program, which is the Bridge Program. It has been described as "Anderson County's best kept secret." They intervene for high school students at-risk of not graduating and dropping out of school when they turn 18. Under the Bridge program, they help the student catch up on their studies and get the credits they need at a quicker pace than they would in traditional classes. The program has been in action for eight years and has helped approximately 200 students, most whom likely would not have graduated with a high school diploma. They are able to tutor these students individually and not only meet the academic needs of the children, but also offer emotional assistance. Many of the students they see come from broken or poverty-stricken homes, foster care, homelessness, and many other situations that contribute to a lack of desire for school work and graduating. Because the program tailors to their individual needs as a whole, these students are able to graduate and go on to experience success in life and become a contributing member of society.

## SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

The data is in and the results show that Andersonville's Summer Bridge workbook program was a success! This summer several local businesses worked together with Andersonville Elementary school to help fight against summer learning loss. For each section of a grade level workbook that the students completed, there was "check-in" at a local business to help encourage them. Norris Community Library, Sharp's Hardware, Fox Toyota, Pizza Plus, Junior Achievement Biztown, Meadow View Senior Living Community, Andersonville Post Office, Museum of Appalachia, and the Valero Station all opened their doors to the students of Andersonville. Several businesses including Pizza Plus, Valero, Fox Toyota,



Pictured above is Ray Varner presenting three students with Kindle Fire E-Readers as prizes at the Summer Bridge Program celebration.



Pictured from left are community partners Ray Varner from Ray Varner Ford, Gregg Lonas from Andersonville Post Office, Pam Forgety from Meadow View Senior Living Community, Becky Grubb and Ronnie Fox from Fox Toyota with some of the 65 students that participated in the Summer Bridge Program from AES at a special celebration assembly.

Ray Varner Ford, McDonalds, Wendys, and The Chunky Monkey Ice Cream Shop also donated funds and prizes to the program and celebration. Andersonville Elementary is very thankful for so many community partners that are willing to help our students grow!



Pictured above is Becky Grubb and Ronnie Fox presenting t-shirts to over 40 students who checked in at Fox Toyota this summer.

## SCIENCE: UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

This nine weeks at Clinton Middle School, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science students have come "eye to cell" with the smallest part of themselves.

One of the most popular lab experiences our students have is when they stain their own cheek cells and, using student friendly microscopes purchased through grants from ORAU and UCOR, see themselves on a cellular level.

Students often use their phones to take photos of their cells through the eyepiece... that's concrete evidence of interest in this lesson.

As teachers, our favorite word to hear is the "wow" that students often utter as they see their tiny cells for the first time and realize that all the genetic material needed to make another one of them (a clone) is contained in the even smaller nucleus of their already tiny cell.



## ANDERSONVILLE ELEMENTARY THANKS SCHOOL PARTNERS

Andersonville Elementary would like to say a BIG thank you to First Baptist Church of Andersonville for the work that they did at our school over the summer. Volunteers from the church worked so hard spreading mulch, fixing our gazebo, pressure washing, and painting our school. These much needed repairs and improvements have helped in making the start of our new school year a success! Our staff and students greatly appreciate all of their hard work!



Pictured above are First Baptist of Andersonville members Richard Stretch, Tanya Elkins, and Chase Elkins painting the inside hallways of Andersonville Elementary School.

Andersonville Elementary would also like to say a BIG thank you to David Erb and the volunteers from Allstate Insurance Agency in



Pictured above are Natalie and David Erb and their helper painting the walls at Andersonville Elementary School.

Clinton for painting our school this summer. Allstate volunteers are eligible to nominate Milly's Wings for a \$1,000 Allstate Helping Hands in the Community Grant that can be used to purchase handicap playground equipment. Milly's Wings is a non-profit organization created in honor of Amelia Erb, who passed away last August from neurological complications. David and his wife, Natalie, dream of building a universal playground that would allow all children to play together, regardless of disability. Their dream began as a result of their daughter Amelia's love for swinging among the other children at her school.

## NISSAN PARTNERS WITH ANDERSON COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER ON INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION

### *NISSAN'S CARS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM*

Nissan Smyrna has donated vehicles to Anderson County Career and Technical Center allowing local students opportunities to link education to a career pathway. The opportunity to gain real-world experience in the automotive field will be combined with rigorous academics to help prepare students to succeed in college and career.

“Partnering with Nissan will give Anderson County Career and Technical Center a unique opportunity to make sure that our students have an experience that can help better prepare them for the future,” said Robbie Herrell, principal of Anderson County Career and Technical Center. “Our goal for the industry partnership program is to help students apply the academic skills they are learning in school to solve real-world issues and, ultimately, show them how their high school education directly relates to their career interests and aspirations. We want students to be able to answer the age-old question of ‘why do I need to learn this?’”

Nissan’s Cars for Education Program is part of an approach to education that is transforming schools in the state of Tennessee called Career and Technical Education (CTE). Career and Technical Education works by integrating rigorous academics with career-based learning and real-world workplace experiences to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and career. By making education a personally relevant, engaging experience, CTE shows students

exactly how their high school education leads to their next academic stage or career steps.

The involvement of the business community is critical to making CTE work. Employers provide essential work-based learning opportunities for students. Successful CTE pathways require the involvement and contributions of business leaders who can ensure the pathways offer students opportunities to interact with professionals in Anderson County. Top industries provide students real-world settings and opportunity to gain a clear understanding of what they need to do to be successful in any postsecondary education program or career.

“We’re excited to be giving Anderson County and Clinton High students more exposure to one of Tennessee’s major industries and giving them a better understanding of the types of career paths and jobs that are available to them,” said Mathew Parrott, Quality Engineer at Nissan. “We view the Cars for Education Program as an investment in potential future Nissan employees by helping students develop the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in college and career. This solution can help us ensure we have enough workers with the necessary training and credentials to fill the increasingly skilled jobs our company and economy demands.”