French Students and Teachers Welcomed

Twenty-five students and two instructors from Lycée Saint Ouen in Pont Audemer, Normandy, France are visiting Alexander County as a part of a student exchange program. Alexander Central High School French Teacher Nancy Greiner is coordinating the visit and introduced three students and the two instructors at the beginning of the Alexander County School Board meeting. Board members welcomed the guests.

Jenkins Served as Delegate to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders

Alexander Central High School senior Lilia Jenkins served as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Lowell, MA on June 29 – July 1, 2016.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and the resources to help them reach their goal.

During the three-day Congress, Lilia joined students from across the country to hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading scientific research; be given advice from deans of the world’s top tech universities; be inspired by fellow teen science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

“This is a crucial time in America when we need more nimble-minded and creative scientists and technologists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially,” said Richard Rossi, Executive Director, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. “Focused, bright
and determined students like Lilia Jenkins are our future and she deserves all the mentoring and guidance we can give her.”

Lilia is the daughter of Tracy and Sheila Jenkins.

**Brittain Recognized for Record Number of Perfect Sanitation Scores**

School Board Members recognized Hiddenite Elementary School Nutrition Manager Karen Brittain for attaining and maintaining exemplary scores for sanitation.

By state law, school cafeterias are required to be inspected four times per year by an environmental health specialist from the local health department. The inspections include evaluations of employee activities such as food preparations and hand washing, food storage and temperatures, cleanliness of equipment and building conditions. Although all of our schools do an excellent job, one school cafeteria has a history of high inspection scores and sanitation ratings. Hiddenite Elementary School’s Cafeteria under the supervision and management of Karen Brittain has excelled with three consecutive inspections during 2016 scoring 100%.

In 2013-2014, she was awarded the White Glove Award from the district for all four inspections at 100%. Since February 2013, she has received nine 100% and five 99.5% scores.

**K-12 Culinary Institute Chef Ambassadors Recognized**

School Board Members recognized three Alexander County School Nutrition Professionals who participated in the North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institute recently. Alexander Central High School Assistant Manager Natasha Snyder, Taylorsville Elementary School Manager Leslie George, and East Alexander Middle School Manager Tina Pope participated in the institute.
The NC K-12 Culinary Institute, designed to enhance nutrition offerings, is funded by a US Department of Agriculture Professional Standards Training Grant received by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction School Nutrition Section.

The K-12 Culinary Institute provided a unique opportunity for our school nutrition professionals to enhance culinary skills and glean tools and information critical to their important roles in providing quality, nutritious meals. Some of the area covered in the workshop include knife skills, weighing and measuring accurately, preparing foods for just-in-time service, work simplification and scheduling, effective use of equipment, quality food preparation and service for a variety of meats, grains, fruit, vegetables, and condiments.

Hart Receives Grant for After School STEAM Club

Hiddenite Elementary School Teacher Carolyn Hart received a $3,000 grant from Corning Incorporated Foundation for a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) focused club. Fifty students have applied to be in the club.

Alexander County Schools Receive AHA Silver Level District Circle of Excellence Award

Alexander County Schools received the American Heart Association’s Silver Level District Circle of Excellence Award. The award recognizes school systems that partner with the American Heart Association to help educate students about heart-healthy living while raising funds through Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart. Alexader County Schools is the only district in North Carolina to be recognized for this outstanding achievement.

Alexander County Schools students and staff raised $30,264 to support lifesaving research and educational programs with the American Heart Association.

“This is the first generation with whose life expectancy is predicted to be shorter than that of their parents simply due to poor lifestyles. Heart disease continues to be the nation’s number one
cause of death but is 80% preventable,” stated Ginger Edmiston, American Heart Association Youth Market Director. “Alexander County Schools are working to change these statistics.”

As a result of the partnership, all elementary and middle school students participated in either Jump Rope for Heart or Hoops for Heart. Students attended a Heart Healthy Educational assembly to learn about Five for Life. The five lessons to live longer and healthier are

- Eating a fruit or vegetable at each meal
- Exercising for 60 minutes per day
- Drinking water instead of sugary beverages
- Lowering sodium content
- Saying no to tobacco

Students also participated in technology lessons that helped them navigate through the American Heart Association’s website.

**Ellendale Elementary School Recognized as Fit-Friendly Worksite**

Ellendale Elementary Teacher Leah Robinson accepted the Fit-Friendly Worksite Award from the American Heart Association during the October Board of Education meeting.

**Stony Point Elementary School Update**

Stony Point Elementary School Principal Andy Palmer introduced the 4th and 5th grade teachers, Lindsay Watts, Lauren Deal, Jordan Hefner, Chelsea Harrington, and Chris Hefner.

Each teacher introduced an area of focus for this school year. The areas included attendance, family engagement, STEM day, celebrations and recognitions, and Title I Night.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Hefner announced an upcoming budget committee meeting is scheduled for October 25 at 5:00 p.m. to finalize the 2016-2017 budget. The committee plans to
present a budget for board approval in November which includes a plan for the merit pay for non-educators.

Dr. Hefner reminded board members of the thank you reception for community partners scheduled for Monday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Alexander Central High School cafeteria.

She also announced the board member annual training scheduled with Chis Campbell on October 20 from noon until 2:00 p.m.

The North Carolina School Board Association Annual Conference is scheduled for November 16-18 in Greensboro. Two board members, Vice Chairman Scott Bowman and Sallie Hartis are registered for the event.

Dr. Hefner announced National School Lunch Week 2016 began on Monday, October 10 and runs through Friday, October 14. The theme for this year is School Lunch: Show Your Spirit. On Friday, the school system will also participate in the School Crunch Day as a part of the National Farm to School Month. Alexander County participants will be crunching apples and celebrating locally grown fruit.

The Taylorsville Apple Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 15. The proceeds of the event are donated to Alexander County Schools’ benevolence funds. Dr. Hefner encouraged everyone to support this annual event.

The First Annual Family Halloween Party will be held at the Alexander Central Auditorium on October 29, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Crafts, Concessions, Trunk or Treat, and a Movie (Hotel Transylvania) will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Admission is $3.00 per person and children under 5 are free.

Alexander County Sports Hall of Fame tickets are being sold for $30 each. The event is scheduled for Monday, November 21, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at McLindon’s Restaurant. The
following will be inducted into the Hall of Fame: Jeremy Fortner, Van Tarlton, Karen (KC Canter) Setzer, Jerry Ray Fox, and Rick Sherrill. Tickets can be purchased at a variety of locations including the Board of Education.

On October 6, 2016, Alexander County Schools was awarded the Governor’s NCWorks Award of Distinction for its involvement with Apprenticeship Catawba. In its third year, Apprenticeship Catawba has 34 apprentices with more added each year. Two students from the Alexander School System are currently involved in the program. Dr. Hefner publicly thank Susan Gantt, CTE and High School Curriculum Director, school system partners at CVCC, and the industry partners that make these internships a reality for Alexander County students.

**School Board Policy Approved**

The following school board policies were approved for revision or addition by the board after a second reading during the monthly meeting.

- Policy No. 2610  Board Attorney
- Policy No. 2340  Parliamentary Procedures
- Policy No. 6420 Contract with the Board
- Policy No. 4333  Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety
- Policy No. 4152 Unsafe School Choice Transfer
- Policy No. 9130 Supervision of Construction Contracts
- Policy No. 9120 Bidding for Construction Work
- Policy No. 4303 – Fair and Consistent Discipline Administration

All Alexander County Board Policies are available for review by the public at www.alexander.k12.nc.us or the Alexander County Board of Education Office on Liledoun Road.
School Board Policy Revision Presented

Finance Director Sharon Mehaffey presented the following school board policies for revisions.

Policy No. 1010 Board Authority and Duties
Policy No. 1100 Governing Principles
Policy No. 1310/4002 Parental Involvement
Policy No. 1320/3560 Title I Parent and Family Engagement
Policy No. 1510/4200/7270 School Safety
Policy No. 1720/4015/7225 Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedures
Policy No. 1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation
Policy No. 5015 School Volunteers

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