

Auxiliary Adviser

"Providing Services That Power Education"

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WCPSS Bus Driver Named Best in the State

WCPSS bus driver Billy McKemey was named the best school bus driver in the state at the annual North Carolina School Bus Driving Competition at the State Fairgrounds on Wednesday, May 10. He will represent the state at nationals in Lake Tahoe this summer. Fellow WCPSS bus driver Jeff Mellen won third place at the State ROADeo, in which bus drivers demonstrated their driving skills and maneuvers under challenging conditions, as well as their knowledge of laws and regulations. McKemey and Mellen, both based in the Fuquay area, were among 50 finalists across the state that had advanced from the local and regional levels.

McKemey was also named the state's top bus driver in 1997, and WCPSS bus driver Pam Tingen won the title in 1999.

Capital Improvement Program – Next Steps

On May 16, the Board of Education approved a capital improvement program that seeks to ease crowding in schools and provide classrooms for thousands of additional children moving into Wake County by 2010. WCPSS is expected to gain 7,000 new students next year, with estimates showing WCPSS gaining 40,000 students in the next five years.

The \$1.056 billion school construction plan will build 11 new elementary schools, four middle schools and two high schools. Additional capacity is created by converting some traditional calendar elementary schools to multi-track year-round, adding ninth-grade centers for five high schools and adding 2,000 seats at middle schools by adding mobile units or converting traditional calendar middle schools to the multi-track year-round calendar. The plan will provide major renovation projects at East Millbrook Middle, Lynn Road Elementary, Aversboro Elementary, Martin Middle, East Wake High, Lacy Elementary, Root Elementary, Poe Elementary, Wilburn Elementary, Bugg Elementary Smith Elementary, Cary High and Enloe High, and minor projects such as roofing, boiler and carpet replacement at dozens of existing schools.

The decision to convert schools from the traditional to the multi-track year-round calendar has been based on maximizing capacity at school facilities and strategically locating schools on both calendars to provide access for families.

Staff is working on a set of criteria and a process for both identifying schools to be designated year-round and for populating current year-round schools. Staff will discuss potential criteria with the school board on June 6, and follow up with a work plan and timeline at the June 13 meeting. After gathering additional community input on the criteria, staff will present to the Board of Education in August a list of schools that could be converted.

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AUXILIARY SERVICES DIVISION

Vision
Providing Services That Power
Education

Mission Statement
Provide quality facilities and
support services to ensure safe,
healthy, inviting and optimal
learning environments.

Goals

- 1) Recruit, develop and retain a qualified and high quality workforce.
- 2) Provide and maintain quality facilities and support services that result in a safe and healthy learning environment.
- 3) Effectively communicate successes, challenges and needs.

Once schools have been named, the school system will get feedback from parents to make every effort to accommodate families for which the year-round calendar proves a hardship. The board would be asked to approve the list by or before September to give schools time to be ready to open in July 2007.

County commissioners will decide how to fund the school construction plan. Part of the funding will likely include general obligation bonds, which commissioners would seek permission to sell in a referendum November 7, 2006.

For additional information, including a weekly GrowthCast, visit the Growth Resource Center at www.wcpss.net/growth. Each GrowthCast is a short (3 minutes or less) QuickTime video covering some aspect of Wake County's record-setting growth and its impact on the school system.

2006 Custodial Professional Development Conference

The 2006 Custodial Professional Development Conference will be Thursday, June 15, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. Custodians may choose from a variety of workshops in technology, health and safety, customer service, human resources, and environmental fields. All training sessions will be offered on a first come/first serve basis. For a schedule, go to <http://www2.wcpss.net/departments/orgdev/>.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the cafeteria from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony at 8 a.m. Workshops begin at 8:30 a.m.; an awards presentation and a drawing for prizes will take place during lunch from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and the final round of workshops starts at 1 p.m. Custodians will also have the opportunity to visit vendor displays throughout the day.

Organizational Development is sponsoring the conference. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Williams, training specialist, Organizational Development, at 856-8018 or via e-mail at bwilliams2@wcpss.net.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in front of the Child Nutrition Services office at Rock Quarry Road from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 15. To schedule a time to give the gift of life, please contact Marilyn Moody, senior director of CNS, or simply drop by. The drive is also open to the public.

State Health Plan PPO Sign-Up Reminder

The North Carolina State Health Plan is offering three new NC *SmartChoice* preferred provider organization (PPO) plans along with the current Comprehensive Major Medical plan during this year's open enrollment. **Completed forms are due to WCPSS Compensation Services by June 30, 2006.**

The State Health Plan's website (www.statehealthplan.state.nc.us) has a benefits calculator to help compare plans and determine which plan is most cost effective for your needs and budget. In most cases, PPO plans offer greater savings compared to traditional plans like the current indemnity plan.

The State Health Plan has contracted with BCBSNC to use the Blue Options network for the North Carolina *SmartChoice* PPO plans. To determine if your provider participates in the Blue Options network you can:

- Go to www.ncsmartchoice.com and click on "Find a Doctor";
- Call customer service at 1-888-234-2416; or
- Call your doctor's office.

Experts Predict "Very Active" Hurricane Season – Are You Prepared?

Christina Larkins, Resource Management Administrator, Organizational Development

North Carolina officials are urging residents to plan ahead for the hurricane season (June 1 – Nov. 30) by getting ready for potential emergencies. The best time to assemble a three- to seven-day emergency supply kit is well before you will ever need it. Most people already have these items around the house and it is a matter of assembling them now. The most important thing you can do is to **be informed and prepared**.

Start with an easy to carry, water tight container – a large plastic storage container will do, or line a sturdy cardboard box with a couple of trash bags. Stocking up now on emergency supplies can add to your family's safety and comfort during and after a disaster. Store enough supplies for at least three days, preferably seven days, in one place.

Essentials:

Water – 1 gallon per person per day (a week's supply of water is preferable)

Water purification kit

First aid kit and first aid book

Pre-cooked, non-perishable foods, such as canned meats, granola bars, instant soup and cereals, etc.

Baby supplies: formula, bottle, pacifier, soap, baby powder, clothing, blankets, baby wipes, disposable diapers, canned food and juices

Non-electric can opener

Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel

Blanket or sleeping bag per person

Portable radio or portable TV and extra batteries

Flashlight and extra batteries

Essential medications

Extra pair of eyeglasses

Extra house and car keys

Fire extinguisher – ABC-type

Food, water, leash and carrier for pets

Seasonal change of clothing, including sturdy shoes

Cash and change

Sanitation supplies:

Large plastic trash bags for waste, tarps and rain ponchos

Large trash cans

Bar soap and liquid detergent

Shampoo

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Feminine hygiene supplies

Toilet paper

Household bleach

Rubber gloves

The names chosen for 2006 storms are: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sandy, Tony, Valerie and William.

For other useful information, visit the state's new emergency website at www.readync.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Last Day of School (Traditional Calendar)
June 9

Father's Day
June 18

Gasoline – Why Prices Go Up

Christina Larkins, Resource Management Administrator, Organizational Development

Americans have an unquenchable thirst for gasoline. Look at the roads and highways and you'll see that a severe gas shortage would practically cripple the country. Americans drive more than 2.5 trillion miles per year in automobiles, light trucks and SUVs. That's equal to 14,000 roundtrips to the [sun](#). Today, we drive almost twice as much as we did in 1980 (1.5 trillion miles).

The United States consumes an average of 20 million barrels of oil per day, according to the [Department of Energy](#). To break that number down, about 45 percent is used for motor gasoline. The rest is used for distillate fuel oil, jet fuel, residual fuel and other oils. Each barrel of oil contains 42 gallons, which yields 19 to 20 gallons of gasoline. So, in the United States, roughly 400 million gallons of gasoline are consumed every day.

Typically, the demand for gas spikes during the summer, when people go on vacation. Holidays like Memorial Day and the Fourth of July create jams of tourist traffic during the summer. This high demand usually translates into higher gasoline prices, although that's not always the case.

In 2004, prices continued to rise past the end of the summer travel season for a variety of reasons, including several hurricanes and an increase in the price of crude oil. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina (along with a sizeable increase in crude oil prices) pushed prices to \$3.07 per gallon on September 5, 2005. Prices settled down somewhat in November and December of 2005. Now the numbers are climbing again, with an average price for regular unleaded gas at \$2.68 in April 2006.

Price increases generally occur when the world crude-oil market tightens and lowers inventories. Growing demand can sometimes outpace refinery capacity. In the spring, [refineries](#) perform maintenance, which can place a pinch on the gasoline market. By the end of May, refineries are usually back to full capacity.

Gas prices also vary from state to state for several reasons. Taxes are probably the biggest factor in the different prices around the country. Distance from the oil refineries can also affect prices – stations closer to the Gulf of Mexico, where many oil refineries are located, have lower gas prices due to lower transportation costs.

World events, wars and weather can also raise prices. Anything that affects any part of the process, from the moment the oil is drilled, through refining and distribution to your car will result in a change in price.

Historical Gas Prices (Adjusted for inflation)

| Year | Price Per Gallon |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1950 | \$1.91 |
| 1955 | \$1.85 |
| 1960 | \$1.79 |
| 1965 | \$1.68 |
| 1970 | \$1.59 |
| 1975 | \$1.80 |
| 1980 | \$2.59 |
| 1985 | \$1.90 |
| 1990 | \$1.51 |
| 1995 | \$1.28 |
| 2001 | \$1.66 |
| 2002 | \$1.31 |
| 2003 | \$1.52 |
| 2004 | \$1.79 |
| 2005 | \$2.28 |
| 2006 (April) | \$2.68 |
| Source: U.S. DOE | |

Sources:

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/423165.asp?cp1=1>

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Stay Informed

The *Auxiliary Adviser* is e-mailed to subscribers in the school system and posted on the Internet. A hard copy of the *Adviser* is sent to the head custodian and child nutrition staff at each school. To have the newsletter e-mailed to you directly, simply send an e-mail with "subscribe" in the subject line, to kflenniken@wcpss.net.



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