

Auxiliary Adviser

"Providing Services That Power Education"

Volume 7, Issue 4

October 2006

In This Issue

Mark Your Calendar

Proposed New School Locations

Student Assignment Timeline

Fox Road Elementary Opens Employees' Eyes to Conservation

Energy Conservation Myth Busters

Thanks!

Training Schedule

Dr. Ramey Beavers Retires

After a career that began in 1962, WCPSS Senior Director for Growth Management Ramey Beavers retired last month. Beavers held his current job – working to keep all Wake schools healthy – in 1997. Prior to that, he served as principal of West Lake Middle School and Cary High School. Dr. Beavers helped to develop the Community Engagement Meetings where he led discussions across the county about the impact of growth and the plans for opening new schools. At a reception in his honor, Beavers was congratulated for his years of hard work in the school system by Superintendent Del Burns, board members, co-workers and friends.

Fact or Fiction

An interactive quiz, *Fact or Fiction – The Straight Story*, opened on www.wcpss.net October 2 to test one's knowledge of issues surrounding the school system's upcoming building program, Blueprint for Excellence 2006. There is a lot of misinformation circulating in the community, and this quiz allows the Wake County Public School System the opportunity to set the record straight and ensure people have the facts.

Test-takers simply read a statement, click Fact or Fiction, and then read the supporting facts. The school system will expand the quiz as WCPSS hears of additional rumors or "fiction."

Within a week, more than 5,000 people took the quiz. From the beginning, quiz-takers have gotten approximately one in three questions wrong. Here are the top three most commonly missed statements (in order), along with the back-up info.

1.) Instead of raising property taxes, the Board of Education should implement impact fees so that developers help pay for growth.

False! First, the school board does not have taxing authority. County commissioners determine whether to raise property taxes. Second, at this time, neither board has the ability to levy impact fees (or transfer fees for that matter); it would require legislative approval to do so.

The Board of Education is charged with determining school needs and the Board of Commissioners is charged with funding those needs. However, in light of the tremendous, continued growth in Wake County, the school board recognizes the need for multiple funding sources to pay for that growth and is drafting a resolution in support of impact fees.

2.) WCPSS's construction costs are higher than most other N.C. districts.

False! WCPSS bid day building costs for new schools have been below the average Department of Public Instruction cost per square foot for each of the last five years.

Continued on page 2

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.

If other counties' school construction costs seem lower, often times it's because it isn't an apples to apples comparison. Before comparing counties' school construction costs, find out what's included in the amount.

Based on data from DPI's website dated 3/17/06, WCPSS spent approximately \$121/square foot and the average N.C. school district spent \$126/square foot for the building portion of new school construction in 2005.

3.) The Wake County school system hasn't spent all the money from the last bond yet.

True! As far as the school system's current building program, WCPSS has built five of the 11 new schools included in PLAN 2004, with the remaining six to open in the 2007-08 school year. Work is paid for as it is completed.

WCPSS will be coming out with a new set of questions for *Fact or Fiction* soon.

For more information on the building program, please visit the Blueprint for Excellence 2006 online resource center (www.wcpss.net/bond).

Mark Your Calendar

- A **Colonial Benefits** representative will be in the M&O Conference Room at Rock Quarry Road for enrollment meetings from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 18 and 19.
- **Daylight saving-time ends** on October 29, 2006. Time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. As the saying goes, "Spring forward, fall back."
- The **2006 Annual Meeting for Support Personnel** is October 30, at the McKimmon Center (NCSU). Lunch is provided from 11:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. for all support staff who pre-register in eSchoolsSolutions. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. and will end by 3:30 p.m.

Proposed New School Locations

The school board agreed to the proposed new school locations presented at the beginning of October as part of the Blueprint for Excellence 2006. There are links to maps of these new locations, as well as the locations of major renovation projects, on the Blueprint for Excellence 2006 online resource center (www.wcpss.net/bond).

The Blueprint for Excellence 2006, the school system's new building program, includes 17 new schools and land and design start up for 13 future schools. All 30 sites are represented on the maps.

The school system contracted with N.C. State University's Operations Research and Education Laboratory (OR/Ed) in fall 2004 to create a data-driven process to better determine long-range student enrollment projections and locations for future schools.

OR/Ed's data reaffirmed the locations that WCPSS has already identified. The circles represent the general area where a new school is needed based on future land use plans, enrollment projections and filling schools as efficiently as possible. Many of the new schools' opening dates are marked "to be determined" because the needs in different areas may shift – WCPSS knows all the schools are needed, but whether one elementary school needs to open before another is being analyzed.

Student Assignment Timeline

The school board reached consensus on a 2007-08 timeline for year-round track assignment, magnet and calendar applications. There will be separate applications for magnet schools and for calendar options (either into year-round from traditional calendar or into traditional calendar from year-round). All applications would be completed online to provide faster processing and notification to families. Lots of support will be provided to those who need it. For the timeline, application process, accommodations being made for families, and more, please visit the Year-Round Schools Resource Center (<http://www.wcpss.net/year-round/>).

Fox Road Elementary Opens WCPSS Employees' Eyes to Energy Conservation

Mindy Hauptman, Resource Management Educator, Organizational Development

October is Energy Awareness Month and what better way to celebrate than to recognize the efforts made by Wake County Students and Staff. Fox Road Elementary and Organizational Development have brought energy awareness to WCPSS employees and students through the National Change a Light Program.

October 4 is National Change a Light Day, and this year Fox Road Elementary along with Organizational Development, distributed compact fluorescent light bulbs to employees attending a meeting held by the superintendent, emphasizing the importance of conserving energy. Along with the bulbs, educational material was distributed, explaining the importance and benefits of replacing just one incandescent light bulb in your home, office, or school with an Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulb.

Fox Road Elementary is also an active participant in our EnergySavers Program here at WCPSS. Amy Constant is a fifth-grade teacher at Fox Road and serves as the team's coordinator and leader. She has been part of the EnergySavers Program for nine years and says: "Through these activities, students become more excited about science and become leaders. It is amazing to watch a child who is shy in the classroom give a demonstration to a group of adults or to a group of first-graders."

For more information about the EnergySavers Program, or to start a team at your school, please contact either Christina Larkins at 856-3715 or Mindy Hauptmann at 856-8078.

Energy Conservation Myth Busters

Christina Larkins, Resource Management Administrator, Organizational Development

During the course of the year, the EnergySavers staff members are asked numerous questions regarding the facts and myths of energy conservation. The following is the most popular.

Question: I have heard that you shouldn't turn fluorescent lights on and off when I leave my office. Should I turn my lights off to go to a 30-minute meeting?

Answer: Years ago, lamp manufacturers strongly advised against switching fluorescent lights on and off because you could reduce lamp life by as much as 20 percent. Since that time, the manufacturers have modified and improved these lamps to provide 20,000 hours of operation compared to 10,000 – 12,000 hours for the older style lamps. The newer lamps are far less prone to failure due to switching and it is unlikely that frequent switching will affect lamp life more than five percent. Regarding the issue of energy consumption associated with starting a lamp, the same philosophy applies – the newer rapid-start lamps combined with electronic ballasts do not use a significant amount of extra energy when turned on as compared to when they are operating in a steady state mode.

A good rule of thumb is that if you are going to be out of the room for more than 15 minutes, you'll save money by turning out the lights.

Please e-mail energy-related questions to clarkins@wcpss.net.

Thanks!

A special thanks to **Federico Llubes**, multi-task employee in the West Lake/Cary Cluster, and to **Tu Trinh**, head custodian at Leesville High School, for volunteering their translation services to Organizational Development and Custodial Services. Llubes and Trinh translated training and awareness material for the Auxiliary Services Hispanic and Vietnamese professional learning communities.

– Beth Williams, Training Specialist, Organizational Development

Training Schedule Computers/Technical/American Red Cross

Oracle for Central-Based Secretaries/ Bookkeepers: The Basics (Day 1 of 2)

Oct. 23
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Crossroads
SRN: 26150502

New Employee Orientation (Auxiliary Services)

Oct. 24
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (All custodial staff)
8 a.m. – 12 noon (For all other staff)
Rock Quarry Road Training Center

OSHA Power Platform

Oct. 25
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Refrigeration Shop
SRN: 269023002

ARC Flash Training

Oct. 25
2:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Refrigeration Shop
SRN: 269003502

OSHA Ladders & Fall Protection

Oct. 26
8 a.m. - 12 noon
Garner Training Center
SRN: 269017001

Oracle for Central-Based Secretaries/ Bookkeepers: The Basics (Day 2 of 2)

Oct. 26
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Crossroads
SRN: 26150502

2006 Annual Meeting for Support Personnel

Oct. 30
1 – 3:30 p.m.
McKimmon Center (NCSU)
SRN: 263004701

Oracle for Non-School Budget Mgrs

Oct. 31
1 – 5 p.m.
Crossroads
SRN: 26151302

MAXIMO

MAXIMO Two-Day Session

(For M&O employees only)
Oct. 18-19
Starts at 8:30 a.m.
Rock Quarry Road Training Center
SRN: 269021702

MAXIMO Everywhere Training

(For school-based employees)
Nov. 8
10 – 11 a.m.
Rock Quarry Road Training Center
Course #: AS90063

Please contact Beth Williams (bwilliams2@wcpss.net or 856-8018) to register for the new employee orientation. To register for all other classes, go to <https://ero3.eschoolsolutions.com/user/login.taf?orgID=42358&userID=&PIN=&function>. Enter your user ID=SS# and Pin=last four digits of your SS#. If you have questions about MAXIMO training, please contact Petra Harris, MAXIMO System Administrator, at 856-8128 or pharris2@wcpss.net. For questions about all other classes, please contact Beth Williams.

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.

