

PE

FOCUS



Serving Prince Edward County Public Schools Faculty and Staff

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Issue #2

Six High School Students Earn Academic Recognition

Six Prince Edward High School seniors received special recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Tennant Brastow and Karin Eastby are semifinalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Andrew French, Katie Pelland, and Meredith Townsend are named as commended students, and Anita Redd is a commended student in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Brastow and Eastby have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship® awards, worth \$33 million, that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must advance to the finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several requirements. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and

approximately half of the finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

French, Pelland, and Townsend are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2007 competition for Merit Scholarship awards, commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2007 competition by taking the 2005 Preliminary NMSQT.

Redd is recognized as a commended student and will have her name forwarded to a large number of colleges and universities for her outstanding achievement on the NMSQT.

Congratulations are extended to each of these six high school students.

Committees Established to Review Discipline, Recognition, and PR

Discipline Committee

A Discipline Committee was formed to look at the issue of discipline within the district and to research strategies that could be implemented to better handle this growing concern.

The committee members include Richard Goode, Director of Support Services, Joan Dooley, Coordinator of Special Education/504, Mr. Edward Newby, High School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Katri-sha Little, Third Grade Teacher, and Ann Langston, Seventh Grade Teacher. Parents and students will be added to the committee at a later date.

The first official meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 3:45 p.m. in the School Board Conference Room.

Recognition Committee

A Recognition Committee has been developed to generate ways to effectively highlight and celebrate the successes and accomplishments of all employees.

Freda Reid, Director of Human Resources, and Allie Yarbrough, Assistant Principal of the high school, chair the committee. Committee members are Dianne Wright, Patricia Bobenrieth, Ellen Wood, Eric Vaughan, Ella Brown and Angela Foster.

The committee is scheduled to have its first meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 3:30, at the School Board Office.

Public Relations and Community Engagement Committee

A Public Relations and Community Engagement Committee is seeking ways to revise and improve communications

Division Implements Benchmark Assessments

Benchmark assessments were administered to students in grades 2 – 11 in English and math on September 20-21. Benchmarks are standards-based assessments administered at regular intervals to monitor student growth and student performance relative to state-wide achievement expectations. They can be used to guide classroom instruction and identify individual student needs for re-teaching, intervention and/or acceleration. They can also be used to provide evaluation of program effectiveness and to guide professional development. Benchmarks assessments will continue to be administered just before the end of each six-week period throughout 2006 – 07.

Members of the Data Focus Teams from each school will review each set of benchmarks for quality control. They will compare the assessment items with the pacing guides for that six-week period to determine appropriateness of assessment items. Feedback from team members will guide the revision of the benchmarks before they are printed.

Data Focus Team members, representing all four core areas from each school, are Bernice Ford, Bonnie Sheeler, Jeanette Simmons, Beth Fitts, Tim Winkler, Wanda Dews, Adam Wolf, Cyndi Early, Joseph Wanjala, Niels Kiewet de Jonge, Gwendolyn McQuaige-Hicks, and Sarah Fulcher.

between the school and community.

Members of the committee include the following: Jeff Dingeldein, Chair, Mary Beth Blessing, Ricky Brown, Lucy Carson, Shirley Lee, Tom MacDonald, John Ross, and ***. Additional community members will be invited to serve on the committee.

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 10.

School Division Hosts First Community Forum

As an initiative to reach out to the community and involve citizens in the operations of the school, school administrators hosted their first community forum on Monday, October 2.

Superintendent Dr. Patricia Watkins addressed the group, explaining her vision for the school district and some of the initiatives that have been implemented since August. Immediately following, school administrators worked with community groups to respond to various questions regarding what the schools need to do to improve relationships and to build stronger academic and extracurricular programs.

While attendance was low, the forum proved successful. Additional forums will take place throughout the school year to gather information from citizens and school employees regarding the needs of the school division. The next scheduled forum is Thursday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria.

Come Out to Support the Next Community Forum

Thursday, October 12
Middle School Cafeteria

6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

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| 10/16/06 | <i>Last Day to Pay Class Dues at the High School before Penalty</i> |
| 10/17/06 | <i>Interim Report Day</i> |
| 11/02/06 | <i>New Teacher Mentor Program: Data Analysis</i> |
| 11/03/06 | <i>Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.</i> |

PE Focus

PE Focus is a bi-weekly publication from the superintendent's office at Prince Edward County Public Schools. Its purpose is to keep faculty and staff members informed of district-wide initiatives.

Superintendent
Dr. Patricia Watkins

Editor
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