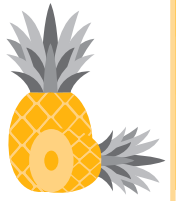




QUARTERLY REPORT

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER
2015



THE CYCLONES EXPLORE SCIENCE

Agrowing Partners in Education relationship between Jefferson Middle School and Columbia College afforded the Cyclones an after-school enrichment program based on the STEM curriculum.

"We have a very active role with Columbia Public Schools," said Teresa VanDover, associate professor and coordinator for the Columbia College masters of education leadership program and the chair of the Columbia College committee for Partners in Education. "We have an institutional partnership, meaning we partner with all public schools. The partnership with Jefferson started last spring. We figured they are right across the street so that makes it possible for our students to come onto their campus and vice versa."

A recent partnership activity called "Cyclone Science Investigations" used five different activities to focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The activities were: forensic science, fingerprinting, math and physics via bungee jumping Barbies, introduc-

"All across the United States we are seeing increased focus on STEM activities."

- Teresa VanDover



tion to nursing and chemistry.

"All across the United States we are seeing increased focus on STEM activities," VanDover said. "The better we can help play a role exposing students to those areas of growth and interest, the better off we are in the future."

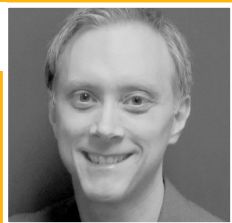
The activity started with Jefferson Middle School Teacher Tracy Worthington who suggested an after-school program centered on the STEM curriculum. VanDover contacted the related departments at Columbia College and helped to create the structure for the week-long activity. Up to 20 Jefferson Middle School students a day came to campus and worked with professors and students from Columbia College for an hour after school.

"Our Jefferson Middle School partnership is rocking right now," VanDover said. "We have our international student group meeting with theirs and creating a community garden. We will give two end-of-year awards to students selected by the faculty for achievement and citizenship. We have around 15 students volunteer to tutor at Jefferson once a week."

Columbia College also partners with the school district on its Summer Expeditions program and will host the MAC Scholars Honors Academy this summer.

Meet Two New Administrators

David Wilson – *Executive Director of Special Services*



David Wilson is Columbia Public School District's new executive director of special services.

Arriving in the district in 2001, Wilson has served as a school psychologist at Lee and Blue Ridge elementary schools, Oakland Middle School and Bearfield (now called CORE). He also served as the data coordinator/school psychologist for special services. In the 2009-10 school year, he was hired as a supervisor of special services and last year he was the assistant director of special services. Wilson will work with many of the same people in his new role, but will take on a much broader responsibility for the department as a whole.

"I'm anxious to start in my new position and have already begun to talk with teachers and leaders to get ideas on how our department can best serve our students and families and how we can better serve the staff," Wilson said. "I have long believed that a servant attitude is the best model for a good leader, which means I'm here to serve families and help staff to do their best at their respective roles."

A Columbia resident for 24 years, Wilson and his wife, Jen, have a son, Connor, in the fourth grade at Mill Creek Elementary School. "He is energetic and makes me smile every day," Wilson said of his son. "They are my heart and soul and give me the energy to serve our families and staff better."

"I have a passion for doing what is right for kids, especially those who tend to be marginalized in our society. I believe in integrity, transparency and giving it your all."

Tori Ballew – *Director of Special Education*



Tori Ballew will be Columbia Public School District's new director of special education. She is currently the director of special programs for the Southern Boone School District.

Ballew started her educational career at Southern Boone, teaching sixth grade social studies and K-12 special education. She then came to the Columbia Public School District as a process coordinator.

"I am so excited to be a part of such a dynamic and talented group of professionals," Ballew said of returning to the district. "CPS has amazing teachers, psychologists, paraprofessionals and administrators. I can't wait to dig in and work with everyone again."

Ballew and her husband, Donny, have one son, Audie, who will be starting middle school next year.

KAREN BURGER RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

Karen Burger's 25 years in Columbia Public Schools comes to an end with her retirement at the end of the school year.

"I was a substitute for six years before being asked to be a long-term sub for kindergarten at Benton," Burger said. "Then, on Oct. 10 of that same year, I was asked to teach sixth grade at Parkade. Talk about a difference—one day I was teaching kindergartners and the next it was sixth grade!"

Her journey took Burger to what was then Field Elementary School and then back to Parkade Elementary School, teaching sixth grade at both, and then to Two Mile Prairie Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. Her administrative career began at Paxton Keeley Elementary School, where she was assistant principal for five years. She then came to Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School, where she has been the principal for six years.

"As an arts-integrated school, we have had to come a long way in our professional development," Burger said of her time at Lee. "We do all we can to promote arts throughout the curriculum and have the mindset of looking at education through the arts."

Burger's time at Lee has seen her deal with facets that most other schools do not have to face, such as having an autonomous nine-person school board that deals just with Lee as well as Lee's existence as a lottery school, where about half of the school's population comes from the surrounding area and half come from a lottery system.

After working summer school, Burger's retirement will start with a fourth grandchild, due on July 4. She will spend time with her husband, three children, soon-to-be four grandchildren and her mother. She hopes to get back into education at some point, working with student teachers.

"Most fondly I will remember the kids," Burger said of her time in the Columbia Public School District. "I grew up in Columbia Public Schools – Russell, West and Hickman. I am proud of the system. They put kids first and have their priorities where they need to be."



LOU ANN TANNER-JONES RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

Lou Ann Tanner-Jones is retiring from the Columbia Public School District after nearly 30 years spent in the special services field.

Since coming to the Columbia Public School District in 1986 as a school psychological examiner, Tanner-Jones has held other administrative positions in the district before taking on her current post as director of special services four years ago. While she is retiring from the district, she is not leaving the field she loves, as Tanner-Jones has already started work as the director of the Boone County schools mental health coalition.

"I started that work in January, so I have been sharing my time between Columbia Public Schools and the University of Missouri, which is where the position is," Tanner-Jones said. "The position and department work to service students and address mental health needs in all schools in Boone County. That means I'll still be working with Columbia Public Schools as well as Southern Boone, Sturgeon, Centralia, Hallsville and Harrisburg."

Centralia was Tanner-Jones' home, as she graduated from Centralia High School before graduating from the University of Missouri and coming to Columbia Public Schools.

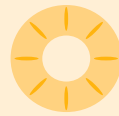
"In Columbia Public Schools I am proud that we expanded services for students with disabilities. We also expanded the group of school psychologists and examiners in the school district. I am proud of the services we now have for students with significant behavioral issues, autism and learning issues. I am proud that we have grown a very dedicated and engaged group of learning specialists."

Tanner-Jones points to the decrease in number of students the department of special services has in secondary education as a positive note for the department. "It is a sign that they are able to be successful in the regular curriculum."

"I have greatly enjoyed the support of my peers and the camaraderie. This is a group of smart and dedicated educators I have worked for."



Bond Update



Voter-approved bond projects for Columbia Public Schools continue with the construction of Battle and Beulah Ralph elementary schools.

Battle Elementary School is 80 percent complete, with work to be done mostly on the inside. "Technology will be a significant portion," said Linda Quinley, the district's chief financial officer/chief operations officer. "We are knee-deep in buying all of the equipment – desks, playground and equipment for the nurse's office."

Battle has a \$13.5 million construction cost and a total cost of about \$20 million. The school will not be finished by the June 1 opening of summer school, but students who will be attending Battle in the fall of 2015 will be able to visit during the final week of summer school to be introduced to their future educational home. Battle's opening will remove six trailers from Two Mile Prairie Elementary School.

Beulah Ralph Elementary School has a budget of \$20 million, \$16 million of that for construction. About 15 percent of it has been paid out so far.

Building additions at Shepard Boulevard and West Boulevard elementary schools will be completed and ready for teacher move-in over winter break. Work at West will cost \$5.5 million and Shepard will cost \$6.5 million. "Work at Shepard will displace trailers," Quinley said. The Shepard Boulevard and West Boulevard additions will eliminate a total of 18 trailers – 12 at Shepard Boulevard and six at West Boulevard.

April saw the sale of the voter-approved bond from April of 2012. That money, around \$41 million, is mostly being used to pay for projects already under construction, namely Beulah Ralph, West Boulevard and Shepard Boulevard elementary schools.

"There will not be many more large projects until April of 2016, when we sell the voter-approved bond from April of 2014," Quinley said.

"We are knee-deep in buying all of the equipment."

- Linda Quinley



SHEPARD BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S BUILDING ADDITION IS SET TO BE COMPLETED IN THE WINTER OF 2015.



BATTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS NOW 80 PERCENT COMPLETE.



BATTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL BE OPEN FOR STUDENTS IN THE FALL OF 2015.

COLUMBIA FUND FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

On an otherwise unassuming Friday morning before spring break, a delegation of Columbia Public Schools' administrators visited seven different schools to surprise the winners of the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence awards.

Since its inception in the 1979-80 school year, the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence has recognized more than 200 educators in Columbia Public Schools. Each year, educators are selected from nominations submitted by parents and peers as outstanding educators. Honorees receive a \$1,500 cash award and an engraved silver tray at a banquet ceremony.

The fund began through the work of Ray and Jeanne Lewis, with an initial contribution and extensive fundraising efforts. The late Mr. Lewis was a local attorney and former Board of Education member. Mrs. Lewis is a former teacher and has actively served the Columbia community in a number of ways. She travels along with the administrative contingent to congratulate the winners on the day of the announcement.

This Year's Honorees:

- **CONNIE DIVINE** at CORE, Outstanding Administrator
- **IBRAHIM KHALEEL** at Oakland Middle School, Outstanding Middle School Teacher
- **JIM MEYER** at Rock Bridge High School, Outstanding Educator in a Specialized Area
- **KERI PRATT** at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades PreK-2
- **JORDAN ROCKETT** at Battle High School, Outstanding Beginning Teacher
- **NICHOLE SALAS** at Parkade Elementary School, Outstanding Elementary School Educator, Grades 3-5
- **LINDSEY TROUTMAN** at Hickman High School, Outstanding High School Educator



NICHOLE SALAS



LINDSEY TROUTMAN



KERI PRATT



JORDAN ROCKETT



JIM MEYER



CONNIE DIVINE



IBRAHIM KHALEEL

News You Can Use

GENTRY STUDENT FINISHES IN THE TOP FOUR AT THE STATE GEOGRAPHY BEE

Gentry Middle School eighth grader, **George Frey**, finished fourth in the State Geography Bee. Frey was one of 106 mid-Missouri fourth through eighth grade students who competed for the title of geographical genius.

ROCK BRIDGE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM TAKES FOURTH CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Coach **Jill Nagel** and the Rock Bridge High School girls' basketball team on winning its fourth consecutive state championship.

HICKMAN MUSIC ENSEMBLES RECEIVE TOP RATINGS

At the State Large Ensemble Competition, all eight of the ensembles representing Hickman High School received "1" ratings, the highest possible rating awarded by the adjudicators. These include three bands, three choirs and two orchestras - a first for the school. The directors of these groups are: **Denis Swope**, head band director; **Margaret Lawless**, orchestra; **Robin Steinhäus**, choir; and **Tom Sweeney**, assistant band director.

21 MARKETING STUDENTS FROM CAREER CENTER QUALIFY FOR DECA NATIONALS

Pete Eichholz, **Anne Hickman** and **Scott Fuenfhausen**, DECA Advisors for Columbia Area Career Center, are proud to announce the results of the DECA State competition, where more than 1,750 students from around the state of Missouri competed in the three day-long event including DECA members from the Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge DECA chapters. The following DECA students qualified for nationals: Human Resource Management, sixth place, **Lily Burns** (Hickman); Hotel & Lodging Management, third place, **Betsy Poehlman** (Rock Bridge); Sports & Entertainment Marketing (individual series), third place, **Gareth Greenwell** (Hickman); Principles of Hospitality & Tourism, second place, **Ana Tager** (Hickman). In Team Management Events: Business Law & Ethics, second place, **Brett Norton** and **Peyton Tettleton** (Hickman); Buying & Merchandising, first place, **Lauren Forest** and **Maddy Towns** (Rock Bridge); fourth place: **McKenzie Harris** and **Eden Bartok** (Hickman); Hospitality Services, sixth place, **Elliot Bones** and **Paul Kindling** (Rock Bridge); Sports & Entertainment (team), first place, **Carson England** and **Eric Kuse** (Rock Bridge); third place, **Andrew Wooldridge** and **Matt Eichelmeier** (Rock Bridge); Marketing Communications, third place, **Charlie Dranginis** and **Sam Baugher** (Hickman); Leadership Delegate, **Brooklyn Hill** (Rock Bridge); District 2 Vice President/Missouri State Action Team, **Madison McDonnell**. Medalists but do not qualify for nationals: Apparel & Accessories Marketing, **Becca Wagner** (Hickman); Business Finance, **Jack Rentschler** (Rock Bridge); Principles of Finance, **Mariah Murphy** (Rock Bridge); Financial Analysis, **Tanner Lawrence** and **Daniel Veros** (Hickman); Hospitality Services, **Sam Hoyt** and **Aubrey Jaco** (Hickman); Travel & Tourism, first place, **Maddie Gilmore** and **Kay Frymire** (Hickman); Market-

ing Communications, **Matasen Chambers** and **Caitlin Price** (Hickman).

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS HONORED AT CEC AWARDS PRESENTATION

Several Columbia Public School educators were named winners of awards from the Council for Exceptional Children. The following teachers were honored: 43rd Annual Joan Davis Award, **Lou Ann Tanner-Jones**, Director of Special Education, Columbia School District; 12th Annual Para-Educator Award, **Kim Ginther**, Paxton Keeley Elementary; 21st Annual Partner in Education Award, **Megan A. Canlas** - Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, and **Breuda Granneman** - Secondary, Hickman High School; 31st Annual Teacher of the Year Award, **Carissa Bowers**, Derby Ridge Elementary.

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED OUTSTANDING BEGINNING TEACHER

Charles French, Special Education Teacher at West Middle School, was chosen by the University of Missouri as one of two 2015 Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Outstanding Beginning Teacher Award recipients.

HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NAMED YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Hickman High School senior **Junyi Wu** has been named the Youth Volunteer of the Year by the American Red Cross Heart of Missouri Chapter.

ROCK BRIDGE SCHOLAR BOWL TEAMS EARN TRIP TO NATIONALS

Rock Bridge High School Varsity Scholar Bowl teams earned fourth and seventh place at the MOQBA State Tournament, both earning berths to high school nationals. **Luke Chval**, **Nathan Kempf**, **Ashwini Mantrala**, **Robbie Schmidt** and **Victor Topouria** were all among the top 20 scorers in the tournament that featured many of the state's best teams. Other team members included **Alain Chen**, **Arnold Chen**, **Andy Kegley**, **Daniel Shi**, **Delaney Tevis** and **Derek Wang**. Rock Bridge Junior Varsity Scholar Bowl teams competed at JV State, and were tied with two other teams for the top spot. Nathan Kempf was the second highest scorer, earning first-team All-State, and Daniel Shi earned the ninth spot, for second-team All-State. Other teammates included **Bridger Bornstrom**, **Bana Daghlaz**, **Zane Durante**, **Dzugen Nguyen** and **Boon Palipatana**.

ROCK BRIDGE AND CAREER CENTER STUDENT WINS TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

Katherine Lydon from Rock Bridge High School and the Columbia Area Career Center received an award from the National Center for Women & Information Technology. She won in the field of Computer Programming. She is one of only 23 young women to receive the award throughout high schools across the St. Louis and Southern Illinois region.

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 18	First day of classes for grades 1-12	January 27	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
August 20	First day of classes for kindergarten	February 12	Teacher collaboration day: school not in session
September 7	Labor Day: school not in session	February 15	Presidents' Day: school not in session
September 28	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	February 26	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session
November 2	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	March 28 – April 1	Spring recess: school not in session
November 3	Election Day: school not in session	April 27	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
November 5	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration	May 25	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
November 13	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session	May 30	Memorial Day: school not in session
November 25-27	Thanksgiving vacation: school not in session	June 3	Last day of classes
December 21 – January 1	Winter recess: school not in session		Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
January 4	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	June 6	First day of summer school 2016
January 18	Martin Luther King's Birthday: school not in session	June 30	Last day of summer school 2016

Six snow days are built into the calendar (May 26 – June 3). If the district uses exactly three inclement weather days, the district will consider taking May 6 as a holiday, so that the final day of school will not be a single early release day following the weekend.

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