

HURRICANE WINDS



BEN HILL COUNTY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER: DEC/JANUARY EDITION 2025

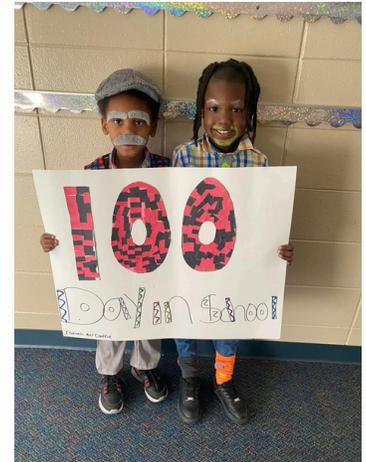
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REMEMBERING MARTHA DIXON

Our School District lost a gentle soul, Martha Dixon, on January 4, 2025. She was a pillar of our community working daily to better the lives of our students through her work as our Food and Nutrition Director, Monitor Enrichment support, Coat Drive through her sorority and so much more. She will be greatly missed by all of us. Please continue to pray for her family and friends.



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL CELEBRATED AT BHPK AND BHP



HARDEN'S HIGHLIGHTS



- Baseball/Softball and Practice Fields construction has begun at FHSCCA
- Bids have been received for the New FHSCCA Healthcare Clinic to open once completed later this year.

COAT DRIVE DONATIONS FROM SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY



Thank you to Sigma Gamma Rho for this wonderful donation of warm coats for our students at Ben Hill Preschool, Ben Hill Primary and Ben Hill Elementary School.

The KPS Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority presented the Ben Hill Preschool, Ben Hill Primary School, and Ben Hill Elementary School with new coats through The Operation Warm Heart Coat Drive. The sorority goal for this year was 500 coats divided between 9 countries. We exceeded our goal to over 500 coats with the help of our donations(Individual & Businesses) and hard work. Pictured Martha Dixon & Adrienne Young from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and our principals.

GSBA PARTNERSHIP AWARD~ WEST FRASER

West Fraser was presented with the GSBA Partnership Award for 2024. Shirley Brooks, BOE Board Chair and Stevie Harden, Interim Superintendent, presented the award to Kyle Cooper, Taylor Studstill, and Charlotte Russ from West Fraser. Thank you to West Fraser for your investment in the lives of our students and community. Through your donation and support, our school can expand our educational abilities and provide hands-on learning about forestry products.



The West Fraser Fitzgerald Sawmill Division donated a \$250,000 gift to Ben Hill County Schools to fund a forestry-related education facility on the Fitzgerald High School College and Career Academy campus. The company is also donating wood building products which will feature prominently in the design of the forestry facility. Construction is expected to be completed during the 2024-2025 school year. The facility will be named the West Fraser Forestry Lab and Sustainable Forest. It will be used to educate generations of students about forestry, natural resources, ecology, sustainability and environmental stewardship. The Ben Hill County School District is excited to form this partnership with West Fraser. Locally, the county has a vast forestry industry with all types of natural resources and job opportunities to grow the workforce in Ben Hill County. With students having access to a forestry lab, they will be able to receive hands-on training in forestry. Partnerships with corporations like West Fraser help the district continue training a workforce focused on improving the quality of life for rural Georgia. Comprised of both indoor and outdoor spaces, the new facility will serve as a multi-purpose educational space for the school district.

The indoor meeting space will hold up to 150 people and will be equipped with modern educational technology such as smart boards. There will also be a kitchen and restrooms, as well as indoor and outdoor storage. Incorporating West Fraser-made structural products into the is a top priority that will further educate generations of students on the importance of wood products in construction and their structural and aesthetic significance in building design. The West Fraser Forestry Lab and Sustainable Forest will provide unique, hands-on educational experiences for Ben Hill County Students, ranging from primary through secondary school learners. The school can expand students' horizons in forestry and related fields. "At West Fraser, we believe in investing in people and their potential." said Jerone Nails, general manager of Fitzgerald Sawmill, West Fraser. "Forestry and wood products manufacturing are important industries to this region, and we see this partnership as a way to create awareness with youth about exciting areas of study and potential careers that can directly impact the local environment and economy," Nails said.

TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Toys for Tots Drive. These toys helped to provide Christmas for children in our community. Thank you to Communities in Schools, Becky Gay and staff for organizing and promoting this each year for our community.

COMMUNITY BANK DONATES TO BHCS THROUGH GEORGIA'S PEACH EDUCATION TAX CREDIT

Thank you, Community Bank, for paying their Georgia's Peach Education Tax Credit with a \$90,000 donation to Ben Hill County School District. The tax credit through Georgia Foundation of Public Education allows businesses and individuals to receive a Georgia's Peach Education Tax Credit when making a charitable contribution to our school system. Interim Superintendent of Ben Hill County Schools, Stevie Harden, accepted the donation from Corey Gibbs, Community Bank President, and Marci Cleghorn, CFO of Community Bank, along with Natalie King, CFO of Ben Hill County Schools and Payton Dix, CEO of FHSCCA. This donation will help our schools with needed projects throughout the system to better the educational experience for our students.



For more information, please visit Ben Hill County Board of Education website or our Facebook page for more details on this amazing tax credit. You can also contact Natalie King, CFO at Ben Hill Schools at natalie.king@benhillschools.org or call 229-409-5500.

PARAPROFESSIONAL COLLEGE DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

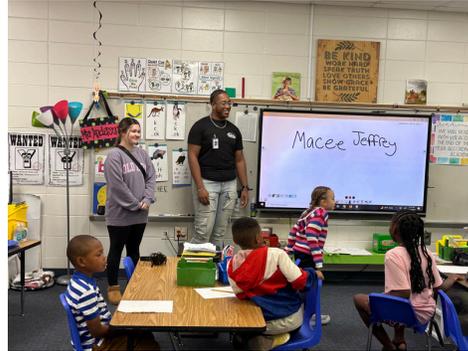
BHCS held a Paraprofessionals College Fair today for paraprofessionals in our district. Aiming to inform our paraprofessionals about Georgia institutions with online programs.

Thank you to the following colleges:
Georgia Southwestern University
ABAC
Valdosta State University
Albany State University
Gordon State College



SENIOR PALS AT BHP

The Senior Pals program is a program for the 2nd graders at BHP. The work based learning students are able to go participate in the 2nd grade classes at certain times. They play games with the students and get to answer questions little inquiring minds want to know about high school. This program is great for our Little Canes and our Seniors. Thank you to Mrs. Christie Cook, Counselor at BHP and Sheri Brown, Work based learning teacher at FHSCCA, for coordinating this awesome program.



MILLEX VEX BORDER WARS COMPETITION AT FHSCCA

Our Millex VEX Border Brawl Robotic Tournament was a huge success this weekend! Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and made this event possible. A special shoutout to our award winners who exemplified excellence, innovation, and teamwork:

- Volunteer of the Year: James Turpin
 - Partner of the Year: Millex
 - Sportsmanship Award: Team # 49278A Greyhounds from Jones County High School, Gray, GA
 - Judges Award: Team # 63780A Lakeside High School TSA, Evans, GA
 - Innovate Award: Team # 37116B Rooster City Robotics from Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy, Fitzgerald, GA
 - Robot Skills Champion: Team # 84248A R1C3, Atlanta, GA
 - Design Award: Team # 2105B Swampbotics from Ware County High School, Waycross, GA
 - Tournament Finalists: Team # 2105A Swampbotics (Ware County High School) & Team # 63780A Lakeside High School TSA
 - Tournament Champions: Team # 84248A R1C3 (Atlanta, GA) & Team # 383D Dagr - Lowndes Viking Robotics (Lowndes High School, Valdosta, GA)
 - Excellence Award: Team # 84248A R1C3, Atlanta, GA
- Congratulations to all the winners and participants!



FLAG FOOTBALL~ SENIOR NIGHT

The first team of the FHSCCA Flag football team had an amazing season. The team was able to compete in the 1st playoff game but got defeated. We are so proud to have this new sport for our girls. Congratulations players and Coaches Hadden, Wiley and Braddy. Thank you to the community for your support of this sport. Way to go on a great first season!

2024 Lady Canes Flag Football Roster

- #0 A'mya Hill
 - #1 Nalisa Shelton
 - #2 Brie Henderson
 - #3 Ny'kesia Middlebrooks
 - #4 Aleka Goodwin
 - #5 Murphey McCranie
 - #6 Gabby Carter
 - #7 Rachel Dale
 - #8 Ty'kerria Barney
 - #9 Ka'naejah Carter
 - #10 Akenyon Toombs
 - #11 Kalaysia Hampton
 - #12 Cassidy Troutman
 - #13 Jaliyah Scott
 - #14 Molli Cleghorn
 - #15 Sandi Alamilla
 - #16 Kasie King
 - #17 Ella Roberts
 - #18 Kelsie Bozeman
 - #19 London Thornton
 - #20 Sanorra McKind
 - #21 Marisol Falcon
 - #22 Alexis Hayward
 - #23 M'elayah Benton
- Makiya Carter- Manager
Coaches: Jay Hadden, Hal Wiley & Brian Braddy
FF Practice Jersey Supporters:
Community Bank



BHPK VISITS BHP



BHES NAMES STOCK MARKET WINNERS IN MRS. SPIVEYS CLASS



Emma Grace Davis, Brooke Carroll, and Brooklyn Cowan in Mrs. Spivey's class were the winning team in the Stock Market Game for the Fall semester at BHES. During the ten week game, these girls made \$11,034.91 with their stock investments!

SHOP WITH THE CANES EVENT WITH JACKIE'S HELPING HANDS



Best Day Ever...Shop with a Cane!
This event is sponsored by Jackie's Helping Hands, Jeanie Leigh & Emily Harper began this organization in memory of their mother, Jackie Harper. Mrs. Harper was a school nurse at BHES and worked diligently to help students in our community in need. The Shop with the Canes event began years ago when Jackie's Helping Hands wanted to purchase Christmas for children in our schools in need but add in some fun with our Canes in the process. Each year, Ben Hill Primary and Ben Hill Elementary give names of children in need to Jackie's Helping Hands based on the number of student that can be sponsored at that time. Then our Canes are invited to come and help Shop with our students. These kids had a blast Shopping with a Cane!



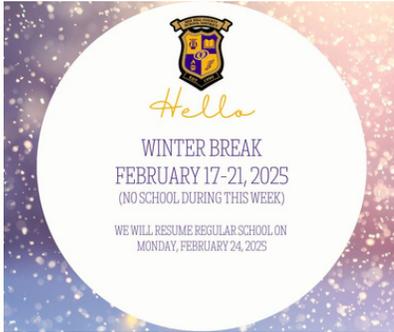
**Thank you to the Purple Hurricane football players & cheerleaders for helping these kids pick out a special Christmas gift at Walmart. A special thank you to Central Wesleyan Church for hosting the after party and Domino's Pizza for providing pizza and drinks. Thank you to the school counselors and teachers for helping coordinate the logistics. Last but not least thank you to the sponsors who make this event possible each year!



Happenings in Events

JANUARY

- JANUARY 30TH~ 8TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT AT FHSCCA
- JANUARY 31ST~ FLEX: PITCH DAY & FLEXPO AT FHSCCA



FEBRUARY

- FEBRUARY 3RD-7TH~ BOOK FAIR AT BHP
- FEBRUARY 5-7TH~ MUFFINS IN THE MORNING AT BHP
- FEBRUARY 7TH~ REALITY U AT FHSCCA
- FEBRUARY 11TH~ BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AT 6PM AT BOE
- FEBRUARY 13TH~ BHP GIFTED PROGRAM AT FHSCCA AUDITORIUM
- FEBRUARY 14TH~ HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
- FEBRUARY 14TH~ CAREER DAY AT BHES
- FEBRUARY 17-21ST~ WINTER BREAK (NO SCHOOL)
- FEBRUARY 28TH~ PRIDE PROGRAM AT BHP 1ST GRADE TEAM A



SNOW DAYS WERE ENJOYED BY OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS

