

THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

November 2016

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“Pay It Forward”



One morning in December of 2012, at the drive-through window of a Tim Hortons coffee shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a customer paid for her order and then picked up the tab for the stranger in the car behind her in line. Then that customer paid the bill for the following customer in line — and so on, for the next 226 customers, in a three-hour sequence of spontaneous generosity.

I share this story in hopes of bringing some perspective to our struggling times. It seems we have had a series of sadness and tragedy in and around our community in the last several weeks. The devastation of homes by fire, damage and destruction caused by storms, and the loss of children in accidents all weigh heavy on our hearts.

Many times it seems hard to move forward from such sadness. I believe in these times we need to learn to find ways to demonstrate gratitude to others. It is precisely under crisis conditions when we have the most to gain by a grateful perspective on life. In the face of tragedy, gratitude has the power to energize. In the face of brokenness, gratitude has the power to heal. In the face of despair, gratitude has the power to bring hope. In other words, gratitude can help us cope with hard times. In trying to find perspective I often think of acts of kindness given by strangers. It seems paying it forward has lasting benefits that we do not even realize (Edmonds, 2013).

We have all heard of incidents where others paid it forward and felt good about the events taking place. Observing an act of kindness is likely to play an important role in setting a cascade of generosity in motion, since many people can potentially observe a single act of kindness. Although giving to others feels good the act of receiving for no reason seems to be the motivation for others to continue paying it forward. I often wonder what is behind the generosity among strangers if your own action is not directly reciprocated or rewarded.

The good news is that receiving help increases the likelihood of being generous toward a stranger, and that participants who benefit from generosity are more likely to pass on the good will. So the next time you stop to help a stranger, you may be setting into motion a ripple effect that may strengthen entire communities.

Giving is contagious. So whether you buy gifts, volunteer your time, or donate money to charity this holiday season, your giving is much more than just a one-time event. It may help you build stronger social connections and even jumpstart a series of kindness. And don't be surprised if you find yourself benefiting from a big dose of happiness in the process.

Blessings,

Linda Cash

November Highlights

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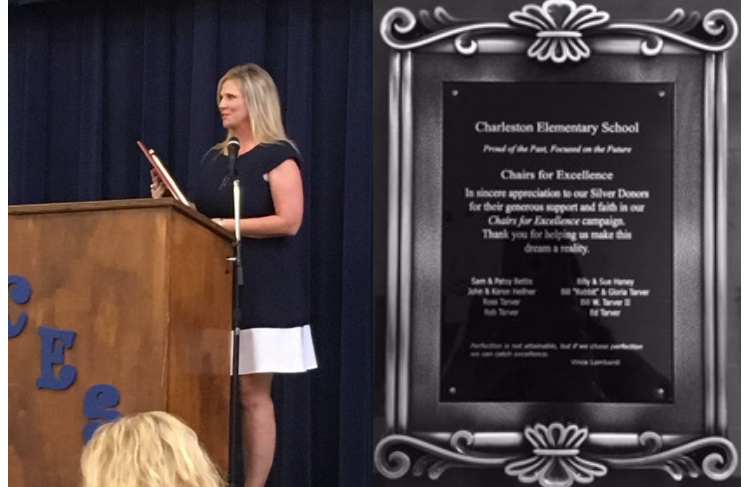
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Elementary News

CES Chairs for Excellence Dedication

The Charleston Elementary Chairs for Excellence Dedication celebrated the efforts of the school and community to purchase and install new auditorium seating. The Chairs for Excellence project, which spanned 10 years and three principals, was completed this summer and celebrated with a dedication ceremony recognizing those that supported the effort throughout the years. Nameplate donors were recognized by former Principal Beverly Tipton, with these individuals donating \$150 to have commemorative metal nameplates on the new seats' armrests. Nameplates are still available for purchase with funding to support additional auditorium upgrades. Silver sponsors were recognized by former Principal Jodie Granon, with a plaque dedicated in their honor for donations of \$500 each. Principal Belt recognized the continued community and alumni support that made the completion of the project possible, including the support of Bradley County Schools, the Bradley County Commission, and the Bradley County School Board with 2nd District Representative Mrs. Vicki Beaty in attendance. Students began enjoying the new seats when returning to school in August.



TES Jr. Beta Club Takes 1st Place in Talent!

Taylor Elementary School's Jr. Beta Club recently attended the state convention in Nashville. Fourth and fifth grade students competed in academics, art, talent and Tower of Power competitions and engaged in a number of leadership activities. The club's vocal and dramatic performance of "Hard Knock Life" from Annie, under the direction of Leah Hughes, won 1st place in the state talent competition. As a result of their outstanding performance, the students have been invited to compete again at Nationals this summer.

The photo to the left shows the TES students, dressed as orphans, holding the winning plaque and celebrating with Mrs. Hughes shortly after their performance in the finals.

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Elementary News (Continued)

NLE 5th Grade Jr. Beta Club win several state convention competitions!

November 20-22nd, 16 Junior Beta Club students from North Lee attended the Tennessee Junior Beta Convention in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. At this event, students competed in several categories ranging from math to STEM to visual arts. Due to their outstanding performances in these competitions, 10 students qualified for the National Beta Convention in June of 2017 in Orlando.



Luke Smith - 1st place in Math

Luke Iosia - 3rd place in Science

Tucker Myers - 1st place in Language Arts

Allison Turner - 3rd place in Recyclable Art

Macie Starr & Kennedy Smith - 2nd Place in Special Talent

Chloe Poe, Adelaide Thompson, Madi Oran, Ethan King, & Payton Brooks-2nd place in Tower of Power (a STEM project)



Hopewell Singers, led by Mrs. Sarah Burris, visited many areas in the community to share Christmas songs. Places visited included Tennova Health Care, Ocoee Middle School, Garden Plaza, and First United Methodist Child Development Center.

SINGERS



**HOPEWELL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Secondary News

Ocoee Middle School Celebrates Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is always a memorable day at Ocoee Middle School. On Friday, November 11, Ocoee Middle hosted its 5th annual Veteran's Day breakfast. During this event, students and faculty are encouraged to invite family members that have served, or are currently serving, in our military. Board member Teddy Bryson, and Bradley County Schools/Cleveland City's Safety Coordinator, Scottie Hernandez were present and participated in the ceremony.

After having a light breakfast provided by OMS, students had an opportunity to have their pictures taken with their family member. Photos were taken in front of flags that represent the branch of military in which they served. The 8th grade band also provided patriotic music as part of the day's program. Flags were donated by the men of North Cleveland Baptist and are flown proudly in the Freedom Circle in front of OMS.



GOAL Academy Partners with Horse Therapy

For the last 6 years, GOAL Academy has partnered with Tri-State Therapeutic Riding Center (TSTRC) to offer equine-assisted therapies for students. With the help of GEAR UP, at-risk students can participate in Horse Therapy on a weekly basis in order to improve upon and meet students' social, mental, and emotional needs. While students at GOAL have been encouraged to volunteer at TSTRC to fulfill service hour requirements in the past, this year we are taking it a step further. TSTRC has continued to partner with GOAL and is providing a bus that will pick up participating students after school at GOAL on Thursdays. Students can fulfill service hours and have parents pick them up at TSTRC at 5:45. This opportunity will help seniors meet their TN Promise requirements for service hours and will allow GOAL to pay forward the support we have received from TSTRC by helping them in return. Participating students will be helping care for the horses and provide much needed assistance in maintaining the horse barn facility that we have enjoyed for so many years. Students can pick up the information to participate in the program in the front office at GOAL Academy.



Secondary News (Continued)

Bradley County Schools 2016 Graduation Report

The Tennessee Department of Education recently released the graduation rates for the 2016 Graduating Class. TDOE announced that the state had a graduation rate of 88.5%, which is the highest on record since the state changed to a more rigorous calculation of graduation rates in 2011. The TDOE also stated that 76 districts, roughly 60 percent of districts in the state, had graduation rates at or above 90 percent for both 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The Bradley County School System is pleased to report having graduation rates at or above 90% for the past 3 years. As our students are earning their diplomas, BCS is working hard to ensure that they are leaving with the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce. At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, we graduated 774 students with a graduation rate of 91.97%. This is a slight decrease from the previous year which had a grad rate of 92.1%. We have noticed that our graduation rate for our Economically Disadvantaged students was 88.48% and our Special Ed population was 76.62%. We will be working to address the needs of both of these subgroups to increase the percentage of students who graduate. CTE students had a graduation rate of 97.23%. As more students have the opportunity to graduate with a diploma and a type of certification, they are more motivated and prepared to move forward into the next phase of their lives.

As a means of evaluating where we are when compared to other districts in the Southeast region, we review the data from other districts as well. Out of the 11 districts in our area, we have the 5th highest graduation rate. The chart below will provide you with the comparison of the districts over the past 2 years. We did move from the 4th position to 5th with our decline of -0.13.

In looking at our secondary schools, we see that we have some positive trends establishing as well. For instance, GOAL Academy increased their graduation rate from 97.62% in 2014-2015 to 100% this past year graduating all 32 students. Walker Valley High School also increased their graduation rate to 96.37% and graduated 345 students with a regular diploma. Bradley Central High School had a slight decrease and had a graduation rate of 89.18%. They graduated 371 students with a regular diploma and 7 with either a special education or occupational diploma. The chart below will provide you with the historical data for the district and each school.

District Name	2014-15 Grad Rate	2015-16 Grad Rate	Change
Meigs County	96.7%	99.10%	2.4
Grundy County	86%	96.00%	10
McMinn County	93.1%	95.30%	2.2
Richard City	93.3%	92.86%	-0.44
Bradley County	92.1%	91.97%	-0.13
Polk County	91.1%	91.71%	0.61
Cleveland City	86%	90.03%	4.03
Hamilton County	85.4%	83.83%	-1.57
Marion County	82.8%	82.24%	-0.56
Sequatchie	77.2%	82.08%	4.88
Rhea County	81.2%	78.96%	-2.24

GRADUATION!



Name	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
District	84.8%	83.4%	87.7%	85.6%	87.6%	93.86%	89.82%	93.07%	92.08%	91.97%
Bradley Central	79.2%	77.6%	87.8%	82.8%	84.5%	93.38%	85.04%	92.76%	89.35%	89.18%
GOAL				53.4%	63.0%	89.09%	97.37%	89.74%	97.62%	100%
Walker Valley	92.1%	89.8%	88.8%	93.9%	96.7%	95.21%	94.85%	94.19%	95.37%	96.37%
Virtual School							50%	86.96%	64.71%	67.86%

Secondary News (Continued)

Leadership through Walker Valley Beta Club

The Walker Valley Beta Club attended the state convention in Nashville, TN on November 18-20 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The group consisted of 34 members, 3 sponsors, and 1 parent, one of the biggest groups that has ever participated. While there, they attended leadership sessions and competed in competitions in talent, all academic subjects, quiz bowl, visual arts, advertising, and banner.

Alayna Tweed and Alex Smith performed a contemporary ballet piece and qualified for finals, which included the top 8 out of 39 acts. Two groups placed 1st in the state in their respective competitions. Both groups received a plaque and an invitation to compete at the Beta Club national convention in Orlando in June. The club is planning on going if enough funds are accrued.



Traegan Gober, Mason Cross, Blake Campbell, and Alex King participated in Fresh Look at Beta; this activity involves a team of four freshmen who take a written quiz on the history of the Beta Club and then write an essay on leadership and character.



Next, Matthew Stuckey, Brandon Solsbee, Jake Smith, and Bailey Mullett competed in BETA Build, which consists of a 4 member team who builds a 5 step Rube Goldberg project with various materials that they were able to bring with them.



Secondary News (Continued)



Bradley Central High School recently had a class assembly in honor of Red Ribbon Week. Bill Cherry, 10th Judicial District Drug and Violent Crime Task Force Director, and Agent Terry Wyatt shared a Drug Prevention Presentation in the Fine Art Center at BCHS on Friday, October 28, 2016. Let's continue to unite and take a visible stand against drugs in our community!

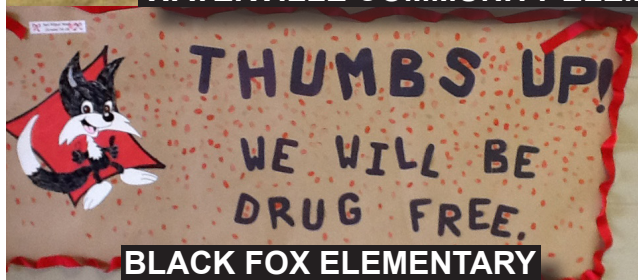


BRADLEY CENTRAL HIGH

Schools across the county showcase the messages they placed around their campuses in celebration of "Red Ribbon Week." All the county schools recently spent a week emphasizing the importance of drug-free living.



WATERVILLE COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY

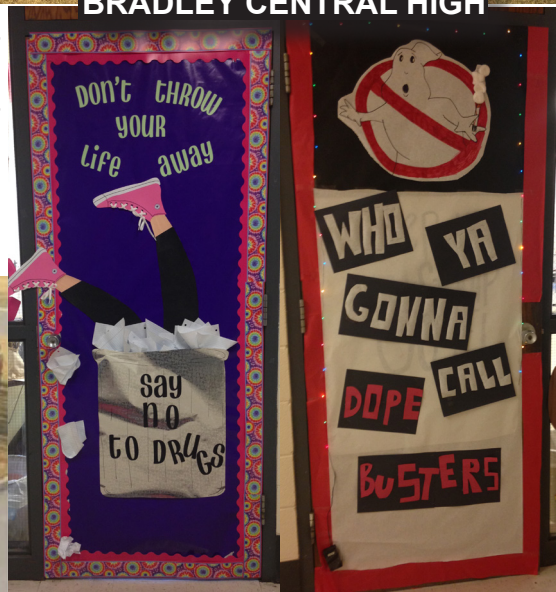


BLACK FOX ELEMENTARY

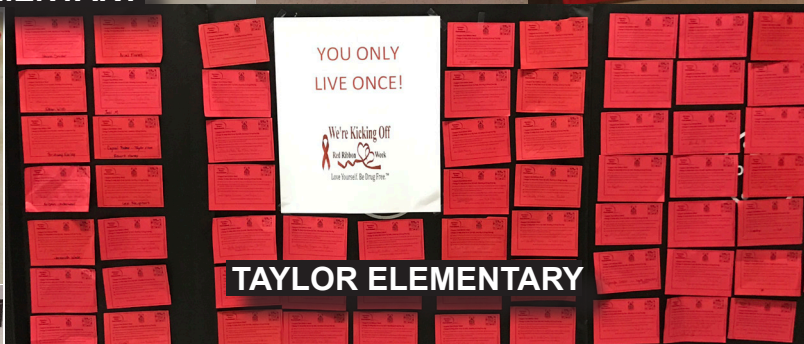


HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY

BCS Central Office Staff wear red and display signs in honor of "Red Ribbon Week." All the schools throughout the county school system held activities to observe the week, which was planned to emphasize the importance of being and staying drug-free.



TAYLOR ELEMENTARY



CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Other District News

Battle of the High Schools Blood Drive



Parents and Teachers of Bradley Central High School, Cleveland High School, Polk County High School and Walker Valley High School are invited to compete in this Community Challenge.



The high school with the most blood donors during this period of time will receive a cash scholarship toward their health science program.

Stop by and donate blood for your favorite high school today. The blood drive will continue between Friday, November 25th thru Saturday, January 3rd at the Cleveland Blood Assurance Facility located at the Village Green, Keith Street in Cleveland.

All donors will receive a Blood Assurance t-shirt and great refreshments.



#balifesaver

@bloodassurance

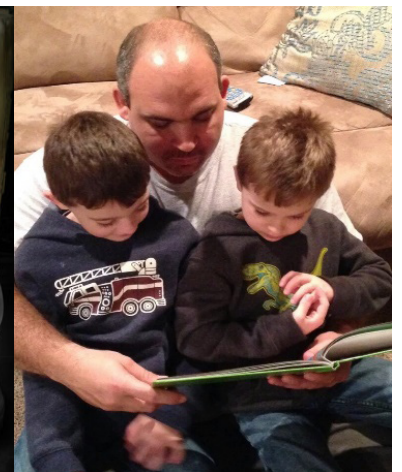
Other District News

Every Child Deserves a Happily Ever After



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? This year include the gift of reading for the children in your life. There are books appropriate for children of every age, written on every subject and interest level. Books transcend time. They inform us of our past and help us envision the future. They open the mind to new ideas and help us see new possibilities. They inform and inspire dreams. They allow us to explore fact and fiction, unravel mysteries and experience new adventures.

Most importantly, be sure and pull your children close and spend time reading together. Allow the words to leap from the pages and transport you to new destinations. You might just find it's the best time of the Christmas season.



Other District News (Continued)



Teachers serving as mentors to new teachers across the district met at a reception held in their honor to discuss plans to improve the mentoring process across the district. Director of Schools, Dr. Linda Cash, was present to thank mentors for their service and to encourage their support as the program moves forward in the district. The goal of this initiative is to be certain the newest members of the teaching profession in Bradley County are supported in their very important first years of teaching.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

- 3rd (Sat) - Athletic Groups, Bands and Clubs March in Cleveland Christmas Parade
- 6th (Tues) - BCS Board of Education Work Session (5:30PM)
- 8th (Thurs) - BCS Board of Education Meeting (Central Office @ 5:30PM)
- 16th (Fri) - End of the Semester/2nd 9-Weeks
- Abbreviated Day (dismissal 10am ES, 10:30am MS, 11am HS)
- Dec. 17th - Jan 2nd - Christmas Break - Schools Closed
- Jan 3rd (Tues) - Teacher In-Service (No School for Students)
- Jan 4th (Wed) - Staff Development Day (No School for Students)
- Jan 5th (Thurs) - Students Report Back to School for Spring Semester
- Jan 6th (Fri) - Report Cards Issued

BLACK FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 2nd (Fri) - Group Photos

BRADLEY COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL

- 5th (Fri) & 7th (Wed) - Tutoring
- 12th (Fri) & 14th (Wed) - Tutoring

BRADLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- 10th (Tues) - ACT Test

CHARLESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 5th (Tues) - Christmas Program Grades 3-5 (6:30PM in CES Auditorium)
- Ninja Math and AR (until 4:30PM in Library)
- 8th (Thurs) - Christmas Program Grades K-2 (6:30PM in CES Auditorium)
- 14th (Wed) - Ice Cream Bar & Movie Ninja Winter Reward

HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Choir Concert (6:30PM)
- 14th (Wed) - Character Lunch
- 15th (Thurs) - Hopewell House Celebration

MICHIGAN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Santa Social for Pre-K through 2nd Grade (5PM - 7PM)
- 2nd (Fri) - AR Reward Carmike K-5th
- 6th (Tues) - Family Reading (3PM - 5PM)
- Winter Concert, Grades 1 & 2 and MAS Chorus
- 8th (Thurs) - Christmas Luncheon 1st, 3rd, & 5th Grades
- Family Reading (3PM - 5PM)
- 9th (Fri) - MAS Chorus Caroling to BEST Partners
- 13th (Tues) & 15th (Thurs) - Family Reading (3PM - 5PM)

NORTH LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 6th (Tues) - DARE Graduation (9AM)
- 8th (Thurs) - 5th Grade Science Fair (6PM)
- 12th (Mon) - Christmas Concert (6PM)
- 13th (Tues) - Recycle Drop Off
- 14th (Wed) - 5th Grade Christmas Tour

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Old Time Christmas Event
- 7th (Wed) - Show Choir Rehearsal
- 15 (Thurs) - Show Choir Christmas Concert

BCS Spotlights



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Logan Woodruff
Third Grade Student
Oak Grove Elementary School



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT
Amy Blackwell
First Grade Teacher
Valley View Elementary School



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT
Tina Shoemaker
Kindergarten Teacher
Prospect Elementary School



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

PARK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Noteworthy Knights perform at the Greenway
- 2nd (Fri) - Noteworthy Knights Christmas Caroling Field Trip
- 6th (Tues) & 8th (Thurs) - Family Reading Night
- 12th (Mon) - Family Christmas Knight
- 13th (Tues) & 15th (Thurs) - Family Reading Knight

PROSPECT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Ovation Chorus Rehearsal (7:30PM)
- 6th (Tues) - Chorus Dress Rehearsal @ Mt. Olive Church of God (8:30AM-11:30AM)
- Family Reading Night (3PM)
- Ovation Christmas Concert @ Mt. Olive Church of God (6:30PM)
- 8th (Thurs) - Ovation Chorus Christmas Tour (8:30AM - 2:15PM - Locations TBA)
- 9th (Fri) - PTO Winter Wonderland Gift Market and Fun Fest (5PM-8PM)
- 12th (Mon) - Beta Club Meeting in Ms. Cantrell's Room (3PM)
- 13th (Tues) - Family Reading Night (3PM-6PM in Santa's Library)
- 15th (Thurs) - 2nd Nine Weeks AR Reward Party (11AM @ Mt. Olive Church of God)

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Fri) - Color Run Pizza Lunch Field Trip
- 11th (Sun) - Voices Christmas Concert (with Greater Cleveland Concert Band at CSCC)
- 14th (Wed) - VV Voices Tour

WALKER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- 2nd (Fri) - Drama Club to Life Care
- 5th (Mon) - Band Concert (7PM)
- 9th (Fri) - Chamber Choir to Elementary Schools
- 12th (Mon) - Choir Concert (7:30PM)
- 13th (Tues) - Pep Rally

WATERVILLE COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Thurs) - Family Reading Night
- 2nd (Fri) - AR Parent Night
- 5th (Mon) - 9th (Fri) - Christmas Store
- 6th (Tues) - Christmas Choir Concert @ 1:30 for students
- Christmas Choir Concert @ Waterville Baptist
- 8th (Thurs) - AR Animal Encounter (1:15PM - 1:45PM)

Watch Weekdays on WTNB
Charter Channel 5



@ 2PM, 5PM & 11PM