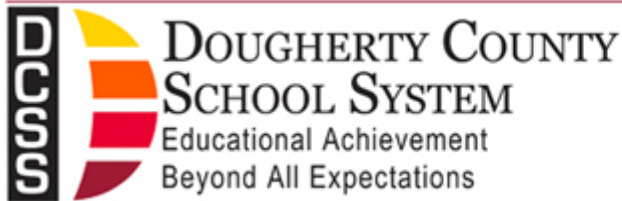


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Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
(229) 431-1285
joshua.murfree@docoschools.org

February 20, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 25



The DCSS Update

Dear Lana,

The DCSS Update is published throughout the school year to inform the community and our employees of the many honors and awards our students and staff members receive along with some of the significant events that take place in our schools.

Deadline for submission of articles to be considered for the DCSS Update is 12:00 noon on Thursday before publication date.

CORRECTION: *Last week's Update included a story about Dougherty County School System's AP honor schools. Dougherty Comprehensive High School was incorrectly named as an AP STEM school. Westover Comprehensive High School should have been included as one of two AP STEM schools. We regret the error and are happy to print a correction.*

Monroe Students Excel at SkillsUSA Competition

On February 10, Monroe Comprehensive High School's SkillsUSA members, along with their advisor Linda Jackson, attended region competition in Moultrie. Throughout the competition, students had opportunities to test their skills, make job contacts,



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Upcoming Events

Find event details on our web site:
www.docoschools.org

Feb 20

-President's Day
Holiday (no school)

Feb 22

-Kindergarten Report
Cards
-BOE Work Session,
12:30 p.m.

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and to advance to state and national competitive levels. The following students were contest winners.

- 1st Place, Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Dontrelvius Parks, Hydea Collins, Albert Brown, Grady Jackson, Charity Fuller, Mimi Land, Tavaris Ramirez
- 1st Place, Computer Maintenance and Repair: Jaleun Willis
- 2nd Place, Prepared Speech: Dontravius Simmons
- 2nd Place, Job Interview: Ana-Alicia Menefee
- 2nd Place, Preschool Teaching Assistant: Raven Riley
- 3rd Place, Carpentry: Jacquez Poullard
- 3rd Place, Architectural Drafting: Jarvis Williams
- 3rd Place, Technical Drafting: Travius Scott

Lake Park Archery Team Competes in Regional Tournament

The Lake Park Archery Team competed in one of five regional tournaments on February 4 in hopes of qualifying for the National Archery in the School Program (NASP) state tournament to be held on March 21 in Perry. In order for the team to automatically qualify for the state competition they had to take first place in



their division. If not, the team would have to wait for the completion of all five regional tournaments. Once all tournaments are completed, the top eleven scores make up a wild card for teams to qualify for state. Lake Park Elementary School came in second place in the elementary division sealing a spot as a wild card to attend the state tournament. If the Lake Park team had not secured a wild card to compete at state, then students who were individually successful at the regional tournament would go to the state competition. Individual qualifying requirements are 1st - 5th place in grade and gender.

Individual accomplishments for Lake Park Archery Team members are:

- 4th grade female: 1st place - Kate Douglas (*second overall in the region competing against 88 female archers from high schools, middle schools and elementary schools*); 3rd place - Natalie Cave; 4th place - Madison Carr
- 4th grade male: 4th place - Nathan Sagasser; 5th place - Davidson Mock
- 5th grade female: 2nd place - Rachel Bonner
- 5th grade male: 5th place - Dylan Butler

Westover Senior Wins District Oratorical Contest

Kensley Fields, a senior at Westover Comprehensive High School and recent Post 30 oratorical champion, won the American Legion

District Oratorical Contest on February 10. Chelsea Fitzhugh, Albany High School senior, was the runner-up. Kensley will compete next on February 25 in the American Legion Area II Competition. The area competition will be held in Valdosta at Post 13. This is Kensley's third year of competition in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. He placed second in the state last year.



Leadership Albany Class of 2012 Tours DCSS

The 2012 Class of Leadership Albany made the organization's annual tour of the Dougherty County School System last week. The community leaders were welcomed at their first stop by Superintendent Murfree who outlined his goals and objectives for "Educational



Achievement Beyond All Expectations." Members had the opportunity to visit International Studies Elementary Charter School, Albany Middle School, Albany Early College and Albany High School. In each location students and staff explained the special opportunities available to students such as magnet themed schools for multimedia communication and honors, the International Baccalaureate program, and the Early College program.

After the school visits, the class returned to the administration building where they enjoyed a performance by the Westover High School Concert Choir and Pre-kindergarten students welcomed the group by reciting the Pre-K pledge and presenting valentines to class members. Finally, the class heard from the system's leadership staff, and engaged in conversation with a principals panel. Mary Ligon, director of the organization, has been instrumental in supporting the system using the tours as a means of creating understanding of the work and organization of Dougherty County Schools.

Sherwood Acres Fifth Grader Wins Systemwide Spelling Bee

Eighteen spelling bee winners, each representing their own school, met on February 20 to participate in intense competition for the systemwide title of best speller in the 2012 Dougherty County School System Spelling Bee. Hard work by both coaches and spellers was evident throughout the contest. After many rounds of spelling, there were just two students left, Blake Thomas, a Lake Park fifth grader and Danaijah Snipes, a fifth grader at Sherwood Acres. In the final

round, Blake was asked to spell the word beatific but was not successful. Danajah spelled beatific along with the next word on the caller's list, timorously, to be declared the winner of this year's spelling bee. Danajah will now represent Dougherty County in the district spelling bee on February 25 in Moultrie and Blake will be the alternate.



Dougherty County School System Superintendent Dr. Joshua Murfree and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dianne Daniels assisted with certificates, pins, trophies, and remarks. James Little, Albany State University, was caller for the bee. Commodore Conyers and Stella Pete, both retired educators, along with Barbara Turner, Director of Safe and Drug Free Schools, served as judges. Media Specialist Rashay Traeye was recorder. Monica Paramore Lewis served as spelling bee chair. Mary Wilson is Danajah's spelling bee coach.

The objectives of the spelling bee are to help students learn to spell quickly and accurately, promote correct word usage in meaningful activities, to help students learn to compete, and to provide an environment to promote self-esteem, character development, and sportsmanship. The Dougherty County School System Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Dougherty County Association of Educators.

Lady Tornados Track Team Honored for Accomplishments

The Monroe Comprehensive High School Lady Tornados Track & Field Team achieved its third consecutive state AAA title at Hugh Mills Stadium last May. At a special ceremony on February 7, team members were honored for athletic excellence and presented with triple-crown championship rings. The recipients, pictured with DCSS superintendant Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, were Alezendria Alexander, Maikela Davis, Destinee Collins, Ashley Johnson, Jade Perry, A'Lanasha McFarland, Davon Anduze, Alexandria Childs, Znastasha Green, Shameica Carter and Mimieux Land. Team member Mimieux Land recently signed a track and field scholarship with Clemson University. Coaches Paul Jones, Billy Glanton, LaToyia Johnson and Athletic Director Charles Truitt, were also honored during the ceremony.



Monroe High Class of '69 Supports Reading Campaign

With community support from the Monroe High Class of 1969, the "Triple R Campaign" is continuing its reading challenge to students. The campaign's 14th drawing was held on February 14th in the school's media center. All of the Triple R Readers' names were entered in the drawing for Albany Mall gift cards. The Triple R Campaign (Read, Recall and Rewards) is a reading program that was created by the school's media committee to promote and encourage reading. Students are challenged to read and pass quizzes for at least three books and the equivalent of three books from either newspaper articles, magazines, chapters from books, or web pages. Support from the Class of 1969 makes the recurring rewards possible. Members of the Class of 1969 who are pictured are Nathaniel Harpe, Teresa Taylor, Norma Meadows, Norman James, Linda Brown, Jim Kegler, and Barbara W. Coleman. Accompanying them is Monroe High School's Principal Dr. Valerie Thomas.



Radium Middle FBLA Shows "Lots of Love" for Senior Citizens

Radium Springs Middle Magnet School of the Arts Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members showed "lots of love" to the residents at Palmyra Nursing Home on February 13. FBLA members delivered handmade Valentine's Day cards for all of the residents and sweet treats for the staff. The FBLA members chose to visit Palmyra Nursing Home because they wanted to do something special for senior citizens as a community service project. FBLA advisor at Radium Middle is Katherlene Stewart.



Students Shadow Employees in Dougherty County Workforce

Students from Albany High, Dougherty Comprehensive High, Monroe Comprehensive High and Westover Comprehensive High Schools had an opportunity to shadow employees within the Dougherty County workforce on February 9. This opportunity was provided through the Youth Apprenticeship Program which is a structured combination of school-based and work-based learning. The program provides students with opportunities for instruction in academics as well as occupational skills, career exploration, and gives

guidance in identifying employment and educational goals. Students have opportunities to connect what they learn in school with work-site application, enabling a smooth transition into the workforce or education beyond high school.



Job shadowing provides first-hand experience in students' chosen careers. They learn appropriate behavior and skills needed in the workplace. Mentors familiarize students with equipment and technology used in their occupations. Job shadow activities include completing tasks around the work area, attending meetings, solving real or hypothetical problems, and running errands. The students who participated in the job shadowing activity were Kanya Lewis, Demetrius Sexion, Amaud Ross, Robert Daniel, Jacori Oliver, Vintrez Davis, Marcus Ford, Anissa Turner, Zachary Jackson, Cameron Williams, Jarvis Williams, Albert Brown, Islam Qawiy, Keyonna Pinkins, Ana-Alicia Menefee, Danielle Waters, Kristilyan Guy, Jade Perry and Darryl Hines.

Mentors volunteered from various businesses in the community including Buckley and Associates, Albany Honda, Heritage Bank, City of Albany Water, Gas and Light, SelectTel Systems Inc., Dougherty County Sheriff's Department, City of Albany District Attorney's Office, Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base, Darton College, Sherwood Acres Elementary School, Technical Associates, Samaritan Clinic, U-Save-It Pharmacy, Albany Diagnostic Center, Orthopedic Associates and Dockery Williams Odom and Deriso Veterinarians.

Lovetta Dudley is Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator.

Albany Middle Cafeteria Manager Places 1st in Competition

Albany Middle School cafeteria manager Cynthia Anderson recently earned first place for the Georgia Nutrition Culinary Arts Competition at both the local level and for District II which includes all of Southwest Georgia. For the competition, Anderson prepared a strawberry and mandarin orange salad with dark greens. Albany



Middle School students Albert Mumphrey and Terryio Brown participated in the Setting the Table for Success art contest. The students tied for first place for their age group. Anderson will participate in the state competition in the spring and the students' art work will be entered in the District II competition. The competitions were sponsored by the Georgia Schools Nutritional Association.

The Dougherty County School System is committed to "educational achievement beyond all expectations" in all that we do. We encourage you to visit our schools, explore our web site and ask questions. Please contact the Public Information Office any time you have a question or comment.

**Public Information Office
Dougherty County School System**

R. D. Harter, Public Information Director
email: public.info@docoschools.org
phone: (229) 431-1264
web: <http://www.docoschools.org>

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