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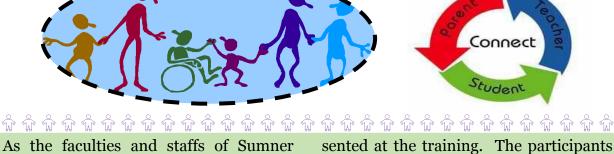
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Sumner County Schools News 2015-16 Issue 1

SCS—Committed and Focused on Growing Learners Creating a Collaborative Culture with all Stakeholders



As the faculties and staffs of Sumner County Schools (SCS) reflected on the 2014-15 school year, many revisited our district and schools' visions and missions. One of the reviewed and valued commitments to our stakeholders was to build a collaborative culture for all. To ensure that we were working successfully toward that goal, Dr. Cathy Lassiter, a leadership content specialist with The Leadership and Learning Center and the author of The Secrets and Simple Truths of High-Performing School Cultures, led a professional learning session for many of the SCS Central Office personnel. The focus was to guide all in better serving as a support center for our schools while encouraging the achievement of a collaborative culture throughout the district.

Each Central Office department (Instruction, Human Resources, Pupil Services, Attendance, Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, Finance, Federal Programs, School Nutrition, Technology, and Administration) was represented at the training. The participants engaged in developing skills and strategies on collaboration to best support the work of our teachers and the learning of our students. Throughout the coming years, these collaborative tools will be utilized and shared with all stakeholders.

The premise of Dr. Lassiter's message was that there are three secrets and three truths that are driving tenets for building a positive and achieving school district culture. In relationship to Sumner County Schools, these are:

<u>Secrets</u>

- 1. How can the powerful effect of intrinsic motivation influence the work of principals, teachers, and others vested in the academic success of SCS students?
- 2. What are the vital behaviors of SCS high-performing schools, how can they be implemented or duplicated, and what support might stakeholders provide them?

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

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3. How are cooperation and collaboration skills implemented in our schools and the district culture from the Central Office to the classroom?

Simple Truths

- 1. All schools in SCS will maximize the impact of effective teachers and develop talent.
- 2. SCS will create a culture of leadership throughout the district to reap the rewards of a high-performing school culture.
- 3. SCS will use data and shared accountability for continuous improvement in all schools as well as success in meeting external accountability policies.

After the professional learning session, Dr. Jennifer Brown, Assistant Director for Instruction, conveyed Dr. Lassiter's remarks of praise for the strides toward a collaborative culture that Sumner County

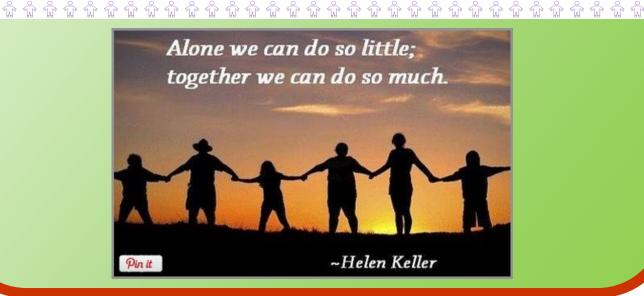
Schools has made already. "Dr. Lassiter touted the praises of Sumner County Schools for its collaborative culture. In fact, she said that after reading our vision, mission, and goal statements - along with researching our system, its successes and opportunities for improvement, she could sum up Sumner County in two words - collaborative culture," stated Dr. "We will continue to join forces Brown. with stakeholders to communicate all our schools are doing within their school walls, outside of their school walls, and across the district to bring all stakeholders to the table in order to discuss student learning and student growth." Ŵ

Subsequently, moving into the 2015-16 school year, our district and schools will continue to address collaboration with all stakeholders as one of our communication goals. We will strive to ensure that ŵ the basis of Dr. Lassiter's message will ŝ become central beliefs for all involved and invested in the education of Sumner County's students.

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Visit our schools' websites and see representations of collaboration between school, families, and community. Here are just a few!













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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Great things can be accomplished when we all come together. In 2008, **Station Camp Elementary School** (SCE) opened its doors as just another building. In the six years since that opening, it has become so much more. We have become an important part of our community.

Our parent volunteers and PTO members have worked tirelessly to raise money for playground equipment and technology. Our PTO works with local businesses to hold *Station Camp Spirit Nights*. In addition, the *Station Camp Fall Carnival* is not an event to miss! The Volunteer Fire Department even gets in on the action and offers rides on a vintage fire truck.







More collaboration occurs when:

- Our teachers and administrators open their doors and welcome SCHS and Vol State Community College students while providing them with mentoring and senior project opportunities.
- Our local Boy Scout troop works diligently to keep the school grounds looking good all year long.
- We hold a Grandparents' Luncheon each year. On those days, our PTO volunteers and Bison Café ladies serve close to 1,800 lunches!

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

While we like to ensure our parents are involved in community activities, we also strive to involve them in the classroom. Here at **Station Camp Elementary**, we inform our parents of instructional goals and expectations. Our weekly newsletter sent via email delivers the most up-todate information. Throughout the year, we work to engage parents in Open House events and Parent-Teacher conferences. They can ask questions and meet with teachers and staff during those events.

We don't forget about our newest SCE families either! An event to welcome the parents of our incoming kindergarten students is held every May to focus on easing their fears and anxieties about their children beginning their school careers. The parents are offered tours of our building, meet-and-greets with our kindergarten teachers, and opportunities to ask questions about their child's first year of school.

Everyone working together toward one common goal — this is the thing that makes Station Camp Elementary successful. It's what makes us work. It's what makes us "*The Camp*."





Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

At **Watt Hardison Elementary School** (WHE), we love our parent involvement! Children enjoy it immensely when their parents are able to come to school to visit, eat lunch, read to the class, or be involved in a party or an activity. Some of our parents love being in the school so much that they substitute teach here! WHE offers many opportunities for parents and community members to collaborate for our students' successes, and some of those are:

Our Title I Program invites parents to school on a regular basis. In the fall, we have *Reading under the Stars*. Community members come to the school and join us in enjoying a bonfire. We sit around the bonfire or in tents while ghost stories are told. Then, we read . . . using flashlights, of course! In the winter, we move indoors for *Mystery Night*. Parents and their children participate in a search for clues to solve a mystery. This evening is anticipated all year long!

We also celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with a Family Night. Children read to their parents, and parents read to their children. You can't beat that for fun! In addition, our incoming kindergarteners and their parents attend *Kindergarten Book Camp* where they work at stations full of activities. The parents leave with a better understanding of what their children need to know when they arrive for kindergarten the next school year and discover the kinds of things their children will learn. Parents who are able to attend this event better understand the rigor and learning expectations for our kindergarteners.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Also, **Watt Hardison Elementary's** PTO helps us encourage parent involvement. We have *Donuts with Dads* in December and *Muffins with Moms* in May. Occasionally, we have Parents' Night Out. This gives parents some time to accomplish needed tasks (e.g., shopping, running errands, or even a "Date Night") while the students have fun hanging out together.

Community members support WHE's collaborative culture, too. Mr. Graham, a committed volunteer, comes each week to read with our 5th graders. 4-H is actively involved at WHE. Yearly, Mrs. Juechter, WHE's music teacher, leads the students in a performance for the community to enjoy. The singing is excellent and the experience is priceless for our students.

> Ms. Turner, our principal, and the school is also thrilled when Ms. Massey's class participates in Special Olympics. They are our champions!



WHE's *Veterans' Day Celebration* is a time of excitement for everyone at WHE because Ms. Turner loves honoring our veterans. Our choir performs, and we honor our veterans by showering them with love and appreciation. In return, they share their time and stories with us. If you ever have the chance to attend this celebration, you will find it heartwarming and note that there are very few dry eyes in the room!

Furthermore, when the weather is nice, we can be found in the community taking advantage of walking field trips. We are proud of our city and want to be sure the students know all that Portland has to offer!



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Collaborative Events

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In the school year 2014-2015, **J.W. Wiseman Elementary School (**JWWE) worked closely with various parent and community stakeholders to prepare our students for academic and social success. Some of the events on which we collaborated were:









-Camping Under the Stars Roscoe from the Bowling Green Hot

Rods helped promote reading in the home.

-Reading with Dr. Seuss

Students read Dr. Seuss stories over the radio for local listeners.

-"Believe In Yourself" Magic Show

Bruce Amato presented a magic show for students at JWW to promote the power of confidence!

-TCAP Preparation

Parents and students practiced TCAP item samplers via a computer lab.

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Together, the **Vena Stuart Elementary School** (VSE) staff, parents, students, and community create a collaborative culture. Pictures of this culture are shared below:



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Vena Stuart Elementary partners with Sumner Regional Hospital for an annual *Souper Bowl* fundraiser.



Vena Stuart's annual Souper Bowl fundraiser was held at the Sumner Regional Hospital. Bowls were created by fifth grade students during their art time. Soup was donated by; Chef Christopher, Chick-Fil-A, Demos', Longhorn Steak House, Simply Sumner Gift Shoppe, Sumner Café, Wendy's, White Staffing Services, Bluegrass Country Club, VSCC, Morningside of Gallatin, and Commerce Union Bank.



And the winner is ... Dr. Valentine!

Dr. Valentine's piggybank received more pennies than Mr. Pursley's piggybank in the Penny Drive fundraiser.

Dr. Valentine graciously kissed the pig to the delight of the students.



Dr. Valentine "goes the extra mile" for the students and school!

Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



Holly Jolly Fun Night

In December, our Title 1 coordinators held a *Holly Jolly Fun Night*. Activities included storytelling by our own BBE Elf, ornament decorating for parents and students, and a free family picture with Santa! Families enjoyed the holiday-themed evening with their children.



At **Benny Bills Elementary School** (BBE), the Title I teachers work diligently to create an environment of interest and engagement in the school curriculum for all students, parents, and community members.

Reading Under The Stars

In the spirit of developing adult and student leaders, Jennifer Short and Kathy Childress coordinated a wonderful event to not only encourage quality family reading time but to also promote school wide literacy . . . all done under the stars!



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, Oakmont Elementary School (OES) held their final OES Parent Night for the school year 2014-15. It was a night of celebration for the achievement of a great school year and was combined with our Science Fair. The night began by our school welcoming everyone, sharing Title I celebrations, and offering helpful reading tips for the summer to keep our students from experiencing the "summer reading slide." After our welcome, Mr. Bond, The Science Guy, provided an interactive presentation on the scientific method that involved parents and students. He also explored the five senses with everyone by making cotton candy. We had lots of sticky fingers and happy tummies!

Next, we hosted a cookout for students and parents to continue our celebration of the close of another successful school year. Our principal and a parent volunteer cooked all of the hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food.

Afterward, it was time to present the Science Fair awards. During the day, students displayed their work and explained the process of their experiments to judges. Judges from the community determined the winners of the Science Fair. Awards were given as one of the OES Parent Night activities. The OES Book Fair was open for parents to purchase summer reading materials for their students. This was a great night for students, parents, and community members!



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

This school year, Jack An-**Elementary** derson School (JAE) implemented a before and after school tutoring program for academic collaboration. Students engaged in small groups to provide struggling students with an additional source of support. Students in the lower grades focused on activities to support the development of foundational reading skills using program, **Phonics** the Dance. Students in upper grades worked to reinforce skills in both reading and math using the TCAP Coach program.





The Lakeside Park Elementary School (LPE) Appreciation Team and Gratitude Force expressed appreciation for Mrs. Shelton in the month of Feb-The theme was **"You** ruary. can't give underwear to your sweetie for Valentine's Day, but you can give it to Mrs. Shelton's sweetie, Mr. Shelton, who runs the Family Resource Center for our school district." Guidelines were provided for sizes of socks and underwear. At the end of February, the donations were given to the Family Resource Center . . . and Mrs. Shelton's sweetie!

Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders









In 2014-15, North Sumner Elementary School (NSE) had a full and AWESOME Between Fall Festival, parent school year! meetings, Jump Rope for Heart, and TCAP Prep Week, the students, teachers, and stakeholders have been busy! NSE's Fall Festival was a great success as we used this time to celebrate NSE's 55th anniversary. Many of our alumni showed up for this event. Then, our first parent meeting introduced our stakeholders to Math and Movement, a program that incorporates math, crossbody movements, and exercise. Finally, we "ROARED" through TCAP. All stakeholders at NSE believe it has been a wonderful year watching the children grow in knowledge!



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



It's all hands on deck as parents, teachers, students, and community sponsors come together to support **Indian Lake Elementary School's** (ILE) *Powwow Festival and Auction Dinner*. Among other things, stakeholders donate items for auction, spend time creating classroom auction items, and volunteer their help at the festival. Months of planning culminate in a whirlwind weekend of fun and fundraising where true collaboration connects all participants.

Another great tradition that has seen increased interest over the last couple of years is our "*Pay It Forward*" drive. During events like the *Powwow*, donations can be made to help support a local Sumner County School. This year, Indian Lake parents, staff, and students paid it forward to Gene W. Brown Elementary School. Sharing resources and love for education helps us promote collaboration among schools.





Mrs. Mitchell and Gene Brown Elementary's principal, Mr. Gentry

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

At ILE, a culture of collaboration can be seen as each grade level participates in a PTO performance. Not only is the PTO diligent about meeting to discuss important business, students and teachers are excited to showcase their hard work and talents! The cafeteria is full for each and every presentation as parents, administration, and teachers come together to support the school and students!



Supporting each other comes in various forms here at ILE. The ILE Select

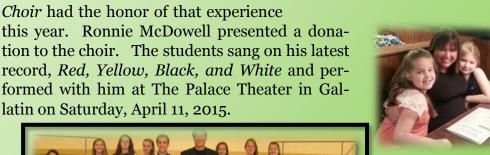
latin on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Family Nights are great fun at ILE! Families have a chance to support the school and local business community. Students enjoy spending time with other students. What fun!





In and around the community, you never know where you will have a chance to see Mrs. Mitchell. Here, she spent some time helping to coach 6U girls' softball.





Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders





Stakeholders take notice as Colleen Mooy, a fourth grade teacher at ILE, is honored as VFW's Teacher of the Year at both the state and local levels.

Collaborating to host the local Boy Scouts troop allows ILE to partner in preparing young learners to have community involvement, outreach, and learn skills that will help each scout become an active stakeholder.

Indian Lake's library received special attention this year when the ILE PTO decided to allocate funds to spruce up the area and inspire students to read. Members from the community were brought in to create a reading haven. Throwing an open house to dedicate and celebrate this wondrous area and the stakeholders that made it happen was an event shared with teachers, parents, and the community.

learn!

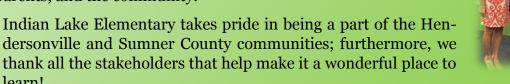
Fourth grade students at ILE were given the chance to interact and learn from a prominent member of the Nashville community, meteorologist Davis Nolan from News Channel Two. What an experience for students, not only to learn about weather, but to have the chance to see what an impact they could have on their community! Again, just one more way stakeholders are encouraging our learners.













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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Everyone at **Clyde Riggs Elementary School** (CRE) works tirelessly to involve all stakeholders throughout the entire school year. From the first few days to the last few days of the school year, students, teachers, administrators, families, and community members are invited and encouraged to be a part of the CRE community. CRE strives to create an environment that fosters a sense of belonging in all stakeholders with endless activities.

As school begins in August, our *Back to School Night* serves as a meet-and-greet opportunity for all those involved in the upcoming school year. This night is to help students and families become acquainted with the school personnel, policies, and environment.



Also, in those first few weeks of school, we have a *Boo Hoo Breakfast* for the families of incoming kindergarten students. The goal of the breakfast is to ease minds about many of



the unknowns of starting kindergarten. It offers families a chance to hear from school personnel about school specifics and ask questions as they wish.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Because we feel it is important that the school includes all those that care for our students, we invite our grandparents to come for lunch in September. We want our students and their extended family to feel welcome at CRE. We are fortunate to have many grandparents and some greatgrandparents eat with the students on this

During our two Book Fairs, Mrs. Greer, our librarian, hosts a *CRE Family Night*. On each of those nights, parents and families are invited to shop for books to read with their children. Families are given a chance to make their own books, also. PTO conducts a meeting and Mrs. Granlund, our music day and other days throughout the year. As the year progresses, we have *Donuts with Dad* in January, Dr. Seuss breakfast in February, and *Muffins with Mom* in May. It is heartwarming to see how many parents, grandparents, and others take time out of their schedules to share a meal with the students at school.

teacher, provides a musical program with the students as the stars. Families enjoy watching their children perform as evidenced by their willingness to attend and the applause for their efforts. In addition, Mrs. Granlund prepares students to perform a winter and spring music program for their families.





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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Teachers further involve community members by working with local high school students. Ms. Bates hosts the Portland High School FFA members in her 1st grade classroom to read with her students in a yearlong buddy reading program. Both the high school students and our elementary students are excited when they get to spend time sharing and learning with one another.

In Mrs. Wix's 2nd grade classroom, students worked on writing their own personal novels. Mrs. Wix had students from the Portland High School art department come and work one-on-one with her students to create the artwork for the covers of their novels.



In addition to all of the aforementioned activities, we have Parent-Teacher Conferences, Field Days, Awards Days, and many other special events in which families are invited and encouraged to attend. It is easy to see that Clyde Riggs Elementary encourages and values participation from all of its stakeholders. We at CRE truly believe the African proverb "it takes a village to raise a child." It is not a matter of simply encouraging stakeholders to be involved in our school, but a matter of needing them to be an integral part of our students' successes.



In November, one of CRE's most powerful endeavors is our *CRE Veteran's Day Program and Breakfast*. This is a time when veterans from our community are invited to come and talk with our upper grades and enjoy a performance in song by the students to honor them. It is always wonderful to see the students fill with pride as they are able to invite someone they know and love to speak to the school and then be honored with song. This is a morning filled with emotion and honor.



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

School and community relations are important parts of **Westmoreland Elementary School** (WES). Community leaders, county and city service personnel, and parents are regular fixtures at the school. School collaboration is fostered by parents serving on school committees, and the faculty and staff of Westmoreland Elementary being active in the community through the Rotary Club, the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, Westmoreland's Industrial Restoration Board, and local government.

In addition, the kindergarten and first grade curriculums support community trade persons and professionals coming into the classroom to share about their roles in the community. As an added bonus for the positive relationships, the parents of WES show their appreciation for all the school staff does by hosting events for *Teacher Appreciation Week*.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

A school with an effective learning culture maintains an image of a "professional community." At **Howard Elementary School** (HES), teachers have a clear, shared purpose, engage in collaborative activities, and accept a collective responsibility for student learning. Teachers value the interchange of ideas with colleagues. Strong values exist that support a safe and secure environment. There are high expectations of everyone including teachers. Likewise, there is strong, not rigid, leadership. HES is a place where both teachers and students learn.

Examples of collaborative culture with all stakeholders at HES are:

Strong PTO – Our PTO works extremely hard to provide essential learning needs at HES. A huge addition to our school this year has been a computer lab. The computer lab was a combined effort of our faculty, parents, and PTO. In addition, HES will receive playground equipment. This will benefit all students.

Title I – Title I engages our parents, community, students, and faculty in many different ways. In August, HES celebrated a *Back to School Bubble Bash*. The exciting events on this night created lifetime memories that will remain in the minds of all stakeholders. In addition, HES celebrated reading by providing a *Reading under the Stars* event to support parent involvement with reading to their children.

Data Meetings – Data meetings are another

way that HES creates a collaborative culture. During these meetings, teachers are focused on student data. The culture of these meetings provides an opportunity for teachers to problem solve concerns they have about students. This is also a time when teachers celebrate students who met their SMART goals.

At HES, we believe in sharing common values and beliefs that guide our practices which include high expectations for all students, education of the whole child, a viable and coherent curriculum, student focused instruction, and effective use of formative and summative data.



Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



Fall Carnival



Recycling Project



Howard Elementary collaborates with stakeholders to provide a fun learning environment for the students.







Animals joined us for learning today!

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



George Whitten Elementary (GWE) hosted its annual Career Day in May 2015. Guidance counselor, Janet Watkins, organizes this event each spring inviting parents and members of the community to share and demonstrate the necessary skills needed for various careers. Students rotated throughout the school building visiting sessions and demonstrations involving each profession. Students used this opportunity to ask questions relating to the different fields' job requirements and educational background. Students learned about specific skills needed to succeed in certain occupations and professions. Careers showcased by parents of George Whitten Elementary students were a body shop owner, plumber, interior designer, and a scientist who is searching for a cure for cancer. Careers for members of the community included the Hendersonville Fire Department, Hendersonville Police Department, a local veterinarian, a banker, a drummer for a country music band, and a famous songwriter. All of these GWE stakeholders volunteered their time to share their passions and inspire Whitten's young students to set academic goals that lead to success for their desired careers.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



The stakeholders of **Nannie Berry Elementary School** (NBE) agree with Margaret Meade who said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." That is because NBE is changing the world student by student with lots of collaborative help from our community and world partners. That collaboration occurs as close as home in Hendersonville and as far away as Russia!

Recently, it was 8:15 a.m. in the morning in Hendersonville, Tennessee while already 6:15 p.m. in Nephtekamsk, Russia. Despite a ten-hour difference, 4th and 5th grade English Learners (EL) of NBE were eager to launch their first meeting via Skype with 5th grade Russian students from Nephtekamsk's Magnet English School. The EL students are learning that students of the 21st century not only need to develop a deep understanding of information but need to be able to apply it to new experiences and communicate it globally. Therefore, they are working to organize and clearly convey information to their Russian peers who are learning English as a foreign language. This collaborative approach will help the NBE EL students develop interest and respect for people from different countries, discover new ideas, and strengthen their use of technology. The endeavor is aligned with NBE's vision of empowering students, building character, and valuing discovery.

Traveling a bit closer to home, Nashville has provided collaborative experiences for our students. In the winter months, fifth grade students took part in *BizTown*. The fifth graders explored and utilized teamwork, work skills, and the art of completing job applications. This collaboration is beneficial to students' learning because the *BizTown* curriculum correlates to the TN State Standards. The fifth graders left *BizTown* with an in-depth understanding of the way the U.S. economy works and how there have been economic booms and busts throughout his-

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

tory. Students also left with the new appreciation of adult life and responsibilities. They became more aware of the maturation process necessary to develop into an adult who functions successfully in society.

To enhance the learning opportunity, the fifth grade teachers utilized our community's resources by inviting several local business people to come to the school to conduct "job interviews." Each student was interviewed by one of these volunteers as part of the hiring process for their *BizTown* visit. The interviews led to students being assigned positions for the operation of *BizTown*.

Along with the assigned positions, there were roles that needed to be filled through elections. One of those roles was the mayor of *BizTown*. Student candidates organized, advertised, and ran their own campaigns. Before the official ballots were cast, speeches of oration, unheard of since President Abraham Lincoln's era, were given to hopefully sway the vote for that candidate. Speeches covered political agendas of NBE *BizTown* improvements, creation of opportunities of interest expressed by the populist, and testimonies of why they were the best candidates for the job of mayor.

Taryn Jones, a mayoral candidate, expressed the statement that she really likes to read, write, and give speeches and that the experience of addressing her classmates was good. Sam Campbell stated in his speech, "My goal is for everyone to learn what it's like when you grow up and for all of us to work as friends." Who knows . . . perhaps the future mayor of Hendersonville will be a Sumner County graduate!



NBE would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our partners in 2014-2015!

An additional NBE collaboration occurred with the *Nashville Sounds* baseball organization. The Sounds helped NBE hit a homerun with our recent TCAP testing. Their mascot, Booster, came to help out at the *TCAP Pep Rally* inspiring our students to SWING for proficient/ advanced scoring! The chant that Booster led was:

Hey, Batter, Batter! Hey, Batter, Batter! S: Start by reading the question and ALL the answer choices.

W: What answers can you eliminate?
I: I won't rush.
N: Never skip a question.
G: Go back and check your work.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

The Stakeholders of Walton Ferry Elementary

A member of the Walton Ferry Elementary School (WFE) staff was walking by the office recently when she saw our local firefighters leaving after a visit. One of the firefighters was standing with a faculty member. Something about the way they were talking and the expressions on their faces drew her attention. This appeared to be more than polite conversation or an expression of gratitude for their time, and indeed it was. The firefighter saw our Giving Tree, full of requests for supplies, and was making a donation so that we could purchase some of the needed items. A fellow public servant saw a need and met it. What a perfect picture of community! Even though he did not have a child or grandchild attending this school, he was investing in our Walton Ferry family.





Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world." Walton Ferry's parent volunteers, although small in number, are mighty in effect. They are having a positive impact on our little corner of the world. They continuously display a generosity of time, spirit, love, and resources that is second to none.

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



Finally, when WFE shares praise for our stakeholders, we cannot forget our teachers. How do you describe the impact of a group of people that is so great it cannot be measured? That is the challenge of trying to capture the essence of our Walton Ferry teachers. They model an attitude of excellence and caring each and every day. Our teachers cast stones each day, producing ripples that can never be contained.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

- Mother Teresa

http://www.flickr.com/photos/petermackie/5344935037/

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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

This year, Millersville Elementary School (MES) has done a fantastic job of creating a collaborative culture with all of our stakeholders. We have tried to involve the students, their families, and people from the community. On Thursday, March 5, 2015, we had a *Title I Science Night* with Mr. Bond, the Science Guy. If you are unfamiliar with him, he is an energetic presenter that performs science experiments with audience participation. Mr. Bond, the Science Guy (a.k.a. Keith Trehy), has devoted over 20 years to inspiring kids to love science via his inspirational programs that make science fun! He did many experiments with dry ice and finished off the evening serving everyone cotton candy.

For our "take home" element, we had stations set up for the students to be able to participate in some very simple experiments that they could reproduce at home. Many teachers manned the stations titled: Don't Drop the Water, Where is the Gravity?, Osmosis in Potatoes, Make Invisible Ink, Duck Call, and Magical Ketchup.









Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



On Friday, May 8, 2015, MES also hosted another Title I Parent Night event, Reading Under the Stars. Parents and students were invited to join teachers around a campfire for a night of reading fun. Several tents were decorated, and books were supplied according to the tent's theme. The tents ranged from non -fiction themes on outer space and famous historic people to fiction ideas with Dr. Seuss and fairy tales. Each tent had a giveaway for students that visited and read a book. A representative from the new Millersville Library was present to distribute information and sign students up for their own public library cards. We also had a few local storytellers that thrilled the students with their delightful stories.



Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders









In addition, a former parent, Diane Denson, wrote and received a \$2000 dollar grant from Lowe's Milling Warehouse in White House. Lowe's partnered with us to make our playground a happy and safe place to play. Lowe's heroes spread two eighteenwheel trucks of mulch earlier in the year, and every piece of playground equipment was recently given a fresh coat of paint.

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, MES students were treated to Career Day. Many parents and local community workers came to share information about their jobs with the students. The students were provided handson experiences by local EMS workers, firefighters, and police officers through observing their vehicles and equipment used on a daily basis. A new local restauranteur also came to talk to the students about owning their own businesses, and the fun they can have with careers in cooking. The restaurant workers brought in some samples of their menu items to share with the students. A local bank sent someone to speak about financial institutions and to share the importance of a savings account. Local musicians and entertainers spoke about the people with whom they had worked, and the places they had traveled. One musician showed each class how to write a song.

Students asked questions and learned about

many new career options for their futures. Each career's spokesperson talked to the students about the importance of an education and graduating from high school.

As a follow-up to *Career Day*, on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Duanne Abel gave a presentation entitled "*Draw Your Destiny*" to the 3rd - 5th grade students. He is a cartoonist for the comic, ZED. He was a very energetic and entertaining speaker. Mr. Abel discussed the power of reading and the value of an education. His focus was on setting career goals and completing the education to reach the goals.

Millersville's teachers and parents have made a concerted effort this year to work together. Learning for the stakeholders has been a focus, too. The collaboration shows that all are committed to having a successful learning environment for students.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



At **Union Elementary STEM & Demonstration School** (UES), we are teaching our students how to work hard in the *Union Garden* and how they can help our community. Our students are learning the gardening process by starting with the preparation of the cans for planting and then moving to planting the seeds. They have learned to clip leaves & harvest fruits and vegetables as well as sell them to our parents and the community.

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At UES, we collaborate with local restaurants to provide great fruit and produce to our customers. The garden is grown and cultivated by one of our teachers, Mr. Collins, and our students. Most recently, *Swaney Swift's on the Square* and *The Grayfeather Grill* purchased our items and used them in their daily menus.

Also, the *Union Garden* not only serves our school, but past students that are working on service hours for middle/high school program requirements. This year, a former student returned to help work our annual plant sale to gain his service hours for R-SMS's Jr. Honor Society. We love our garden and what it teaches our students about hard work and being a part of a community.





Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

T. W. Hunter Middle School (TWHMS) continues to foster a collaborative culture with students, faculty and administration, parents and families, community members, and business leaders where stakeholders can experience all success. This school year, the faculty and staff had the distinct pleasure of working closely with our PTO on several projects. Some of these projects were the installation of the sound system in the gymnasium, the addition of equipment in the computer labs, the beautification of the school grounds, and assistance as general goodwill ambassadors.

In addition, TWHMS has welcomed numerous distinguished speakers from the community to share their knowledge or craft with students on subjects such as medieval history, songwriting, and microbiology. Our school had the privilege to host a legion of special performances and events including the *T.W. Hunter Band and Chorus shows*, a *TWHMS Drama Club play*, a golf tournament, a basketball tournament, and book fairs for families and neighbors to celebrate.

The faculty and staff has been enlightened, encouraged, and embraced as we continue to collaborate in an effort to provide TWHMS students each and every opportunity to achieve their highest potentials. In conclusion, we are excited and inspired to continue our work towards excellence as students continue to experience success at T. W. Hunter Middle School.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

PWMS-A Glimpse of the Future

Eighth grade students at **Portland West Middle School** (PWMS) peered into their futures by participating in a county-wide project-based learning activity (PBL) on careers. Each student was required to choose a college or career and research what it takes in high school to achieve this goal. Next, students created a budget based on their chosen careers and educational levels. Each spending plan had to include housing, utilities, phone, transportation, insurance, food, clothes, medical care, savings, and miscellaneous items. All of this research culminated in a portfolio, which included an information sheet, college entrance requirements, a resume, a household budget, a sample weekly menu, and a supporting poster. Additionally, each student was required to present their findings in front of a panel of teachers.

Students learned a great deal about what decisions they will need to make to reach their life goals. Lessons learned now will make their lives easier in the future as they begin preparing for adulthood. This investment of time and thought toward their futures was a collaborative effort with many stakeholders that will reap rewards for the students and our community.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

In creating a collaborative culture with all stakeholders at **Knox Doss Middle School** (KDDCMS), there are many examples of collaboration that come to mind. Each morning throughout the week, math tutoring is available in all grades. The teachers who offer tutoring work with any student that needs the support regardless of their grade level or class assignment. The teachers collaborate together to ensure they are offering the best instruction for those students and that those students are developing conceptual understanding.

Knox Doss, like many schools in the area, also offers a Unity program. In this program, KDDCMS teachers and community members come together to help students with homework as well as work in other areas such as computers and science. One science teacher even had the students working on robotics and a community garden.

The collaborative culture continues beyond tutoring and into the Related Arts hallway. Our band director invited other area band directors to the end-of-the-year program, so they could become aware of the skill level at which the 8th graders would be entering their high school programs the next year (or what talent would be coming in the next few years).

Our chorus director showcased students by hosting *Mustang Idol*. Much like *American Idol* without the harsh judging from Simon Cowell, community members from a local recording studio were invited to choose the winners. The winners were able to record a number of songs over the next year. The chorus teacher was also in charge of the annual musical. When the musical had the need for some intense backdrops, the chorus teacher reached out to a colleague at another school to take on the job. The teacher along with his art council — was able to create the backdrops and collaborate with the KDDCMS music program to make it a success.

Lastly, the Beta Club at Knox Doss is always looking for ways to service the community. In the fall, the Beta Club collected an amazing amount of food to supply the food closet at the school that services the community as well as students within the school. Also, our administrative assistant has initiated a snack drive for the Vanderbilt Children's Oncology Unit. This drive provided snacks for the children and families who are receiving services (such as chemotherapy or radiation) and are sometimes there for several hours. KDDCMS knows that our care and collaboration with stakeholders creates the quality of school we strive to be.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Ellis Middle School (EMS) continues to seek authentic, student-centered partnerships with our parents and community through a collaborative culture. This year, we intentionally organized events at the school for parents and the community and pursued partnerships within our neighborhoods to connect local businesses with the educational successes of our students. An extra and valued aspect of this collaboration is the financial support that we receive from our business partners.

Our fine arts department took the lead in organizing events to showcase our students. Art teacher, Stephanie Preston, collaborated with the art teacher from Indian Lake Elementary, Kyle Sircy, to connect kindergarteners with our eighth graders in a *Monster Project*. The elementary students drew a monster, and then our Ellis students brought the monsters to life as a toy. Ms. Preston also invited the community to our annual art show which was May 11-15, 2015. Artwork from our students was displayed. Additionally, the theater department had a record turnout from the community with their spring musical, "Aladdin." Excellence in academics, service, and performance helps define the culture at Ellis. Each year, we honor our students' accomplishments with programs and ceremonies. This year, we engaged our parents and community more than ever by moving our programs to the evenings to make them easier to attend. Student and parent participation were at an all-time high.







Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

In the fall, Ellis Middle School invited parents and selected teachers to engage in casting a new vision for the next 20 years. This process revealed areas where our collaborative culture is already inviting and strong as well as areas we can improve. One area we have deliberately addressed with parents is communication. Many teachers are using social media avenues to communicate regularly with parents and students. This collaboration is having a positive impact on our students and our family relationships.

Also in the fall, we reached out to our local government officials to begin a relationship

with the *EMS Student Council*. Mayor Scott Foster was generous enough to join us one day to swear in our new student body officers. This proved to be much more valuable than we had originally imagined as our student body officers took their roles very seriously and organized twice as many service opportunities for EMS than we had ever had before. These opportunities included partnering with local non-profits such as *American Cancer Society, Second Harvest Food Bank*, and the local *Samaritan Center* to raise awareness and funding. Our students were visible, active, and impacting our community.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

EMS collaborative culture also starts in our classrooms. This spring, some of the 6th grade language arts classes hosted their parents for a *Poetry Day*. This event allowed students to present their original poems and share their new literary wisdom. Our 8th graders collaborated with local colleges and businesses for a project-based learning (PBL) experience to prepare them for the transition to high school.

However, the most powerful collaboration perhaps was borne out of the teachers' daily interaction with one another. EMS has established a professional learning community (PLC) where teachers share data and information about each of their students as well as teaching strategies and resources. This collaborative community gives the teachers factual information to share with students about their learning, and the teachers help students to set and achieve learning goals. The professional learning community will embrace more local stakeholders this summer as we prepare for the next school year.



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

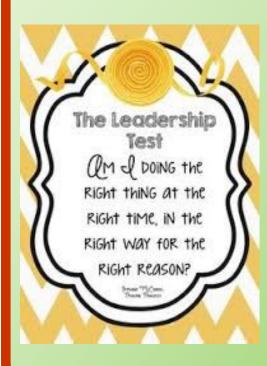
Shafer Middle School (SMS) creates a collaborative culture by including the school, parents, and community in special events such as the *SMS Annual Awards Day.* Over 250 parents, grandparents, and friends attended on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 to celebrate the accomplishments of Shafer students and faculty/staff. According to Shafer's Assistant Principal Doug Brown, "Our awards day is a great way to showcase our students and celebrate their achievements with the Shafer community." Brown adds, "We give families time to take pictures, talk with teachers, and spend time with their students after the ceremony concludes." An additional highlight of the awards ceremony was the honoring of students such as Jerilyn Challenger for winning the regional spelling bee and Erin George for having all As for three consecutive years.





Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

This year's awards day was alan opportunity to SO acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of two of SMS's own. Chandra Merryman, a sixth grade language arts teacher, was recognized as the school's Teacher of the Year. Also, Shafer teachers and students honored their principal, David Hallman, for being named Sumner County Principal of the Year. During the ceremony, teachers, students, and parents proudly commended and congratulated both accomplishments.





Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Middle White House School (WHMS) hosted a Spring Book Fair during the week of May 11th, 2015. This event allowed students, teachers, and parents to visit the school and purchase books and other items. An author's video produced by Scholastic built excitement for the event as it gave a preview of books to peak interest. Parents were encouraged to volunteer at the fair, and many did. Also, parents, grandparents, and other family members purchased items online if they could not attend. The book fair was a great way to promote reading throughout the summer and prevent the summer reading "slide."

As another collaborative activity, our WHMS 8th graders had an exciting opportunity to investigate and research their possible future career plans. They participated in a county-wide research project, *What My Future Holds,* in which they investigated a career. Some of the research came from a visit to a

Career Fair at Volunteer State Community College. This was an opportunity for the students to talk and ask questions of representatives of universities and local businesses. In doing the research, the students learned about tuition costs at colleges/trade schools, possible job salaries, and the standard cost of living. They created monthly budgets for food, utilities, insurance, rent, etc. Most of the time spent on research was done at school, and an online portfolio using Google Apps for Education was created. At the end of this project, the students presented their research to their peers and teachers using presentation software. Many dressed in attire to represent the profession that they were researching. This activity was part of a Project-Based Learning (PBL) initiative and provided our students with a focus on their futures as they move to high school.





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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Sixth grade students at **Hawkins Middle School** (HMS) have been learning about environmental risks and ways to prevent those risks. As a culminating activity to their studies, the students participated in *Environmental Awareness Day* on May 5 at Rockland Park and Recreation Area in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The park is managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The park rangers organized station activities that allowed the students to engage in hands -on activities relating to conservation and the environment. There were eight highquality station areas set up throughout the park. Students rotated through the stations and learned about water conservation, recycling, and Tennessee wildlife. The day was a fun way for students to conclude their study of our environment. The work with our community members provided a collaborative aspect to the day as well.



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Rucker-Stewart Middle School (R

-SMS) had an amazing year creating a climate and culture that was warm and welcoming to the community. We are proud of our new PTO members that helped make our school events special and memorable for all. Our *STEM EXPO* was one of the largest in the county with parents, teachers, and students joining together to showcase the innovative creativity of our R-SMS students. The Ram Pride continued to shine with forty students representing the school for *Youth in Government* at the Tennessee State Capitol, a successful *R-SMS Open House* with our upcoming sixth grade students and families, and the big hit, *Hairspray Jr.*, that received rave reviews.



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Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders





Collaboration in action at R-SMS!



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Station Camp High School (SCHS) and the United States Armed Forces collaborate to offer the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (JROTC) to foster strong leadership skills and high quality character traits in SCHS students or cadets as they are called in JROTC. Every year, those cadets do a service learning project because the JROTC's mission is to motivate young people to be better citizens. This year, the cadets chose to clean up the Bison Woods as their service project. The Bison Woods are located among Station Camp Elementary School, Station Camp Middle School, and Station Camp High School campuses.

The cadets decided to clean up the Bison Woods so all three schools would have a place to walk for exercise as well as being provided an outdoor classroom. The cadets trimmed branches and raked leaves to clear a path through the woods. Black tarps and mulch were put down to make the path more defined. To enhance the space, an Eagle Scout from Station Camp Middle placed stumps as seats for students to provide a place to sit and learn in the woods. Now, the three schools have access to an outdoor learning space right in their backyards.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

High Hendersonville School (HHS) Senior Project student, Courtney Hattaway, spent her spring semester involved in her senior project at the Humane Society of Sumner County which is located at 16 Volunteer Drive in Hendersonville. The main task she was assigned was working with pets that were proving difficult to place in forever homes. Courtney learned that the pets least likely to find new homes are older pets. In addition, she learned that the following pets are difficult to place: pets with medical problems, dogs suffering from breed prejudice (primarily pit bulls), shy pets, and dogs or cats who need to be the only pet in the home. As she worked at the shelter, a typical day might have her administering a flea treatment to a cat, walking dogs, picking up dogs that had been successfully treated at local veterinarians' offices, or working to re-socialize an abused cat who needs to become comfortable with people

again. Actually, Courtney found that a large amount of her time was spent with the socialization process.

Courtney is considering a career as a veterinarian. She shared, "My favorite project was working with a dog named Ocean who had been abused. It was very rewarding work to see her grow from cowering under a table when I first began working with her to now being comfortable around me. My time at the shelter has taught me a compassion toward animals that will help me in my decision to become a vet."

HHS faculty believes that the collaboration between the Humane Society and Courtney's senior project experience shows that positive results may occur for the student and community when a student's career goals match a community need. In Courtney's case, these requirements harmonized brilliantly.





Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Beech High School (BHS) held its 2014-15 *Senior Awards Celebration* on May 1, 2015. The day began with a breakfast for the graduating seniors. It was hosted by the BHS Student Council. During the breakfast, the seniors enjoyed a fun video of various faculty members lip-syncing, dancing, and role-playing to different songs. Most of the students wore their college shirts to the celebration. Parents, grandparents, other family members, and members of the community were in attendance for the program and cheered on the students as their names were called. Students received recognition in sev-

eral areas: academic subject areas, exemplary attendance, school organizations' competitions, Beta Club, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Hope Scholarship candidates, and TN Promise candidates. With all students, especially those who do not typically receive recognition for their accomplishments, it was a priceless experience to see their facial expressions upon receiving an award. The enthusiastic crowd, including the students, enjoyed this successful *Senior Awards Celebration*!



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

Community businesses and **Gallatin High School** (GHS) have joined forces to introduce students to a variety of future job opportunities. Starting with just eight students in this year's first semester, the GHS job shadowing program now boasts 48 student participants in the volunteer program.

Three days a week, for several weeks throughout the semesters, students traveled to area businesses including *MGM Industries, Aladdin Temp-Rite, Crowley Tool,* and *Novita.* Each visit allowed students a new experience that ranged from safety instruction and plant tours to speaking with and shadowing workers of their choices. In addition to jobs on the plant floor, students also gained insight into the process that the professionals needed to run each business including those in reception, accounting, IT, and sales.

Jennifer Holdren, GHS assistant principal and coordinator of the program, has received many positive comments from the participating businesses as well as from the students. Sophomore student Ben Carter participated in the program both semesters. "I was able to examine options that I never knew I had," he said. Mrs. Holdren shared, "Plans are in place to expand the program in the coming school year. We want to include businesses here in Gallatin and offer the program to even more students who are interested." Once again, student and stakeholder collaboration that leads to a positive outcome for all!



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

At R. T. Fisher Alternative School

(RTF), the faculty and staff are committed to helping each of their students in the area of social development needed. Therefore, the school and the Sumner County Board of Education take a collaborative approach to intervention and sponsor the FACE IT program for students who have alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse problems in their lives. These students have the opportunity to recognize the benefits of living free of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs and to participate in a personal assessment of their own views and experiences related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

For students who have violated the school district's zero tolerance policy on drug and alcohol policies, *FACE IT* provides an opportunity for the students and their families to work together to address and change these student behaviors. Participation in the *FACE IT* program, which includes both youth and family classes, offers students the chance to reduce the length of their stay in the RTF program. For students who have not violated these district policies, *FACE IT* offers a means of understanding and avoiding problems related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.



Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders



<u>The Inaugural Graduating Class of Sumner County Middle College High School at VSCC</u> Front row (left to right): Taylor Wiley, Jacobi Calloway, Brandon Garrett, Lily Gailmard, Bonnie Breland, Josh the (service) dog, Cheyenne Hanloh, Tyler Swift, Jennifer Tucker, Kaylee Wheeling, Wesleigh Hayes

Back row (left to right): Andrew Phillips, Cristian Iacob, Robin Wallace, Jr., Brice Swope, Mangok Johnson, Benjamin Sandu, Braydon Roberts, Bryttany Fisher, Courtney Warren

Sumner County Middle College High School at VSCC graduated 19 seniors on May 16th, 2015 in Wemyss Auditorium in Caudill Hall. Dr. Jerry Faulkner, President of Volunteer State Community College, gave the commencement address, and SCS Director, Dr. Del Phillips, brought greetings and congratulations from Sumner County Schools. The graduating class had four students who were recognized as members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In addition, this inaugural class had fifteen students who will continue to attend Volunteer State Community College in the fall as Tennessee Promise recipients. Two will attend Belmont University, one will attend MTSU, and one will attend Florida Southwestern State University.



Senior Celebration Cookout–April 30, 2015

Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders





Parents, community, teachers, and students collaborate for STEM demonstrations at Jack Anderson Elementary







Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF) believes learning to read and receiving your high school diploma or equivalent is an investment that opens doorways for personal, professional and economic growth. That is why their commitment to literacy is strong. The Foundation believes that education is the one gift that no one can take away – the one gift that lasts a lifetime.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has been funding literacy programs for over 20 years now. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$98 million to nonprofit organizations and schools that have helped more than 5.8 million individuals advance their literacy and

basic education skills. Sumner County Schools (SCS) is fortunate to be a recipient of one of the DGLF's grants. The funds are used for our Power 4th summer reading program which helps 120 of SCS incoming 4th grade students work to build strong reading comprehension skills. This year, Sumner County Schools received \$45,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and students participated in the Power 4th program in July. We want to offer a sincere thank you to Dollar General for its powerful benevolent spirit and commitment to children's futures. DGLF truly shows its passion in completing their mission of *Serving Others*. Collaboration at its most effective!



Sumner County Schools News

Creating a Collaborative Culture with All Stakeholders





SCS Kindergarten winners, Mattie Graham and Luree Kirkpatrick, are pictures with their teacher, Tracy Duncan, and librarian, Scotti Harris. Recently, North Central Read-Association honored ing Countv students Sumner who were recognized through the Elizabeth Brashears Celebrate Literacy contest. Every vear, the Tennessee Reading Association sponsors the Elizabeth Brashears' Celebrate Literacy Awards Program. This is a writing contest that promotes creative writing. Students in grades K-12 may submit original books to their local council. Books are judged at the local level, and the winners are submitted to the state level competition. Sumner County had fourteen young authors who received recognition at the state level. The names of students and the school of attendance are listed below:

Merrol Hyde Magnet

Mattie Graham, Luree Kirkpatrick, Sophia Zhang, Addison Hannold, Brody Hitchcock, Natalie Bricker, Asher Worrell, Sydney Yim, Amory Flynn Hopper, Sofia Hackett, Greta Sue Hansen, Olivia Hande

Indian Lake

Lincoln Elrod, Mik Lester

NCRA and Sumner County Schools are proud of these young authors.