

This Week

A Newsletter For Richland One Employees



November 3, 2008 • Volume 21, No. 17

Teachers invited to apply for PIE grants

Twice each school year, the Partners In Education Foundation awards \$500 grants to Richland One teachers. The grants allow teachers to implement innovative projects to enhance their traditional instructional activities.

Applications are being taken for the Winter 2008 Classroom Innovation Teacher Grants. All Richland One teachers are eligible to apply. Applications may be downloaded from the Partners In Education page on the district's Web site.

Completed applications should be sent to the Office of Communications (mail code 550) by 5 p.m. Monday, December 8. Please make sure that you complete all sections of the application and that you have your principal's signature of approval on the last page.

For more information, contact Karen York at 231-7504 or Colette Dryden at 231-6867.

All schools/offices closed on November 4

All schools and offices will be closed on Election Day (November 4).

All 240-day employees, originally scheduled to work, will not work that day (because the work day was not properly noted on the district calendar). However, all 240-day employees will now work on Saturday, May 30 (as will 190-day employees).



Pictured are (from left) School Commissioner Jeanette McBride, Steven Dantzler, Dr Bonita Manning-White, Toyletta Riley, Tamara Hannibal, Meredeith Primus, Bonita Chisolm, Alison Harmon, and Superintendent Dr. Percy Mack.

Richland One schools meet AYP standard

Seven Richland One schools met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals as outlined under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The schools were recognized at the October 28 meeting of the Richland One Board of School Commissioners. Each school received a banner to hang, proudly proclaiming that it achieved the AYP goal.

The list of Richland One schools that made AYP includes two Title One schools and one A+ school. Also, only 50 of the 200 high schools statewide

and only 9 of the 22 high schools in Richland and Lexington counties made AYP this year and three of those high schools are in Richland One.

The following schools were recognized:

- Brockman Elementary
- Columbia High
- Dreher High
- Eau Claire High
- Gadsden Elementary
- South Kilbourne Elementary
- E.E. Taylor Elementary

US Education Secretary speaks at Columbia High School

Columbia High School and Richland School District One were in the national spotlight on October 28. US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings chose Columbia High as the first stop on her visit to South Carolina to make a major announcement



Margaret Spellings

regarding the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

She was greeted by Columbia High Principal Dr. Sean Alford, Richland One Superintendent Dr. Percy Mack and Kristin Maguire,

Continued on page two



Richland One Superintendent Dr. Percy Mack (left) speaks with US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings during her visit to Columbia High School.

US Secretary visits Columbia High School

Continued from page one

chairwoman-elect of the State Board of Education, along with Columbia High students, staff and district administrators.

Secretary Spellings spoke with Columbia High students and staff, visited Melony Sanford's sociology class and YuXin "Susan" Wang's Chinese class, and fielded questions from several local and national media.

After leaving Columbia High, Secretary Spellings went to SCETV where she announced final regulations to strengthen and clarify NCLB, including a new requirement that all states use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time and how many drop out.

During her remarks at the school and at SCETV, Secretary Spellings noted that Columbia High made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) this year and she complimented the school on its high level of parental involvement, faculty/staff accountability for student achievement and increased graduation rates.

Dreher presents The Wizard of Oz

The Wizard of Oz will fly into the auditorium at Dreher High School beginning on November 20.

The wizard is none other than Dreher's very own Michael DuBard. Dubard will take the stage and take flight as he leaves the Emerald City for Kansas. The production at Dreher will feature the Flying by Foy team of professional flyers from Las Vegas. The audience will be enthralled as Dorothy swirls in the tornado, as the flying Monkeys leap upon the unsuspecting heroes, and when the Wicked Witch of the West swoops around on her broom.

The Dreher High drama department offers its thanks to the Town Theatre, Richland One and all the parents of Dreher High's 70+ thespians for their generous support.

Shows will be November 20-23. The curtain goes up at 7 p.m. on November 20-22 and 3 p.m. on November 23. Tickets are available at the door (\$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 17).

HAPPENING This Week

Monday, November 3

- Teacher workday; holiday for students

Tuesday, November 4

- Election Day; all schools and offices closed

Thursday, November 6

- Middle school football championship, 6 p.m., Memorial Stadium

Friday, November 7

- High school football: Teams and sites to be announced


For Your Information

The Richland One Classified Employee of the Year Program is open to all classified employees who have been employed with Richland School District One for at least 12 months. Nomination forms are available at your workplace and also may be downloaded at www.r1intranet.org.

Completed forms should be turned in no later than 5 p.m., Friday, December 12, to Room 208 of the Stevenson Administration Building (Mail Code 550). For more information, contact Charlton Cain at 231-7507 or jocain@richlandone.org.



	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Board Briefings	6 pm	7 pm		6 pm	8 pm	6 pm	6 pm
C.A. Johnson Cluster Meeting			8 pm	9 pm		9 am 9 pm	9 am 10 pm
On The Sidelines		6:30 pm 11 pm	7:30 pm 10:30 pm	10:30 pm		11:30 am	11:30 am
Red Carpet Schools	9 pm	5 pm	6 pm	5 pm	6 pm	8 am	12 noon
Richland One This Week	7 am 10 pm	7 am 6 pm 10:30 pm	7 am 7 pm 10 pm		7:30 pm 11:30 pm	11 am 11 pm	11 am 9 pm
Schools for the 21st Century	10:30 pm	10 pm		7 am	7 am 7 pm	10:30 am 10:30 pm	10:30 am 9:30 pm



This Week is a publication for employees of Richland One and is published by the Communications Office.
Charlton Cain, Editor
jocain@richlandone.org
(803) 231-7507

Student transportation employees, Perry student come to aid of lost infant

Two Richland one employees, and one W.A. Perry Middle School student, have been recognized for coming to the aid of a lost infant.

October 23 was a typical cool fall morning, but it was anything but normal for bus driver Laronda Bethel. She was doing what she does everyday, transporting students to school.

Bethel finished picking up her students and was en route to W. A. Perry. As she turned a corner, she observed a very young child in the road dressed only in a diaper. When the toddler heard the sound of the school bus he turned and reached up his arms as if wanting to be picked up. Though shocked, Bethel though reacted quickly. She immediately stopped the bus, sent a student after the child and called dispatch for assistance.

W.A. Perry student Shanice Brown quickly made her way down the steps of the bus, took a coat and wrapped the baby in it for warmth. Supervisor John Russell arrived at the scene to take control. Russell wrapped the child and cared for him until the authorities and EMS arrived.

The child had apparently wandered away from his caregivers. Law enforcement authorities are investigating.

Brown, Bethel and Russell were all recognized for their efforts by the Richland County Board of School Commissioners at its October 28 meeting.



Shanice Brown



Laronda Bethel



John Russell

College scholarship established in memory of Dr. Min Ching

Family, friends and colleagues of the late Dr. Min Ching have established a scholarship in her memory through the Partners In Education Foundation.

Dr. Ching served as the district's executive director of research and evaluation. She passed away on December 14, 2007.

The first \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in May 2009 to a graduating Richland One senior. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and have been accepted into college to major in math or statistics. Scholarship applications will be sent to high schools in February.

Contributions to the scholarship fund should be made payable to the Partners In Education Foundation (please indicate that your donation is for the Dr. Min Ching Scholarship Fund) and mailed to Partners In Education - Attn: Nathalie Gregg, P.O. Box 11036, Columbia, SC 29211.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Linda Gillespie at 231-6818 or at lgillespie@richlandone.org.



Dr. Min Ching

Workshops announced to aid in National Board application process

The Office of Professional Development will offer support workshops for district employees who are 2008-09 National Board Certification (NBC) candidates.

Sessions will be offered at the Olympia Professional Development Academy site. The deadlines for registration in Avatar are November 7 for workshops starting the week of November 10, November 14 for workshops starting the week of November 17 and November 24 for workshops starting the week of December 1. There will be a 30 person limit per workshop. Questions should be directed to Dr. Sam Whack at 400 - 1673 (swhack@richlandone.org or nationalboardsprogram@richlandone.org).

The following opportunities are available and employees may register in Avatar for selected workshops:

Effective Writing and Assessment Center

Monday, November 10, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 4, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

National Boards Video Taping

Tuesday, November 11, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 20, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, December 1, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

National Boards Entry Four: Documented Accomplishments

Thursday, November 13, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, November 17, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 2, 2008	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Navigating the National Board Process: A One Day Overview (Effective Writing & The Assessment Center, Video Taping, and Entry Four Tips)

Saturday, December 6, 2008	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
----------------------------	-----------------------

Southeast implements literacy initiative

Southeast Middle School is now in the second year of implementation of its literacy initiative "Pathways to Reading Proficiency."

This initiative aims to ensure that every student becomes a fluent and proficient reader. All students have been tested during the ELA block. Data from these tests help teachers place students in the appropriated classes to focus on intervention/enrichment strategies.

Students in intervention groups have been placed in classes with a 10:1 student-teacher ratio and will work on skills fundamental to becoming fluent readers. There are two levels of intervention classes using two specific programs, *SIPPS Plus* and *SIPPS Challenge*. These students require more intensive support.

The enrichment classes consist of students who are on or near grade-level in reading. These classes will work on higher-level reading comprehension skills. Students are placed in literacy classes with approximately a 20:1 student-teacher ratio and will use the grade-specific program, *Making Meaning*. Teachers use high-interest read aloud, discussions, collaborations, cooperative structures, guided practice, and independent daily reading to create a supportive community of readers. This supplemental instruction will enhance and support core classroom instruction and ensure that students sustain their current proficiency level and continue to develop.

Board Briefings

October 28, 2008 • Sandel Elementary School
an abbreviated school board action report prepared by the Office of
Communications

School Board Spotlight

The Board recognized the following individuals and organizations:

- Student Transportation Services employees John Russell and LaRonda Bethel, and W.A. Perry student Shanice Brown who rescued an infant that wandered into the street.
- Crayton Middle School teacher and 2008-09 SC Dance Educator of the Year Katy Strickland
- The following Richland One schools that met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals as outlined under the federal No Child Left Behind Act: Brockman Elementary, Columbia High, Dreher High, Eau Claire High, Gadsden Elementary, South Kilbourne Elementary, and E.E. Taylor Elementary

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the following items:

- Minutes from the October 14, 2008 meeting
- September financials
- Hiring of personnel
- A contract extension for data cable installation

Office of the Board

- The Board honored outgoing School Commissioners Jeanette McBride and King B.L. Jeffcoat. McBride was on the Board for four years. She will begin serving as Richland County's new clerk of court in November. Jeffcoat is retiring after serving on the Board for 14 years.



Jeanette
McBride



King B.L.
Jeffcoat

- The Board approved first reading of the following policies:
 - BJ – School Board Legislative Program
 - IG – Curriculum Development
 - IGCA – Service Learning
 - IHCA – Summer School
 - IKF – Graduation Requirements
 - ILBB – State Program Assessments
 - IHBC – Programs for At-Risk/Disadvantaged Students
 - JFAA – Admission of Resident Students
 - KA – School-Parent-Community Relations Goals/Priority Objectives
 - KD – Public Information Program

Office of Academics

The Board approved two student waivers for the physical education requirement for high school graduation.

Office of Operations

The Board approved a contract for security guard and support services.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of School Commissioners will be held Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at the Stevenson Administration Building. Open session begins at 7 p.m.



Pictured are (from left) Donald Sweeper (St. Andrews Middle), Martino Mingo (Webber Elementary), Barbara Dire (Forest Heights) and Dr. Lemuel Patterson (Challenger Learning Center).

Richland educators participate in coastal waters study

The fifth annual Coastal Legacy workshop was held at the College of Charleston from June 23-28.

Coastal Legacy is sponsored by the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence South East (COSEE-SE).

Approximately 20 persons from various school districts attended the workshop. Participants studied tidal creeks, estuary ecosystems and the species that live there.

The goal of COSEE-SE is to partner with agencies to provide relevant field-based and classroom experience designed to engage students in learning about how watersheds and coastal waters are connected. All activities are aligned with state standards for physical, earth and life sciences. Each participant received lodging, meals, recertification credit and a stipend.

St. Andrews Middle School teacher Donald Sweeper was one of this summer's lead teachers for the workshop. He said this year's participants went canoeing out on Noisette Creek and the Cooper River to collect water samples to do E-Coli bacteria tests. He said, "After collecting the water samples, the results of the tests were finalized at the Hollis Marine Laboratory at Ft. Johnson on James Island. There we had the opportunity to collaborate with scientists and to be introduced to ongoing research in marine science."

Teachers who are interested in learning about next year's institutes can access the COSEE-SE website at www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/.