



Hickory Public Schools Week in Review

December 1 2017

“A snapshot of HPS good news”



*Thank you for your
service to HPS!*

(L-R)

Reginald Hamilton

Sallie Johnson

Julie Correll

HPS to host reception for three outgoing board members

Hickory Public Schools is hosting a community reception to honor three outgoing members of the Board of Education. The members include **Reginald Hamilton**, chairman, Ward 5; **Sallie Johnson**, vice-chair, Ward 2; and **Julie Correll**, Ward 1. The reception is scheduled for **Monday, December 11 at Northview Middle School’s** media center, beginning at **5:30 PM**. Light refreshments will be served.

Immediately following the 5:30 PM reception, a meeting of the HPS Board of Education will take place in Northview’s auditorium, starting at 6:30 PM, which is also open to the community. During the meeting, there will be recognitions and presentations for the three outgoing board members. Following the words of appreciation and gratitude for Hamilton, Johnson and Correll, the newly elected members of the HPS Board of Education will take their oath of office. New members include Beth Meadlock, Ward 1; Sarah Temple, Ward 2; and James Brinkley, Ward 5. The oath of office for the new board members will be administered by the Honorable Judge Burford Cherry. Other members who will remain on the HPS Board of Education include Ittiely Carson, Ward 3; Dr. Bryan Graham, member-at-large; Amy Monroe, Ward 6; and Margaret Pope, Ward 4..

For the full article, click [here](#).



Joseph Hans, art teacher at HHS, is presented with a “recruitment” check from the HPS Education Foundation. Joining Hans, William Pleasant, Foundation President, and Sandi Fotheringham, Executive Director.



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Hickory Public Schools celebrates academic success

BY JOHN BAILEY
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HICKORY — During the 2014-15 school year, Hickory Public Schools was classified as a low-performing district because only four out of nine schools had a school performance grade of a C or higher, and only five schools out of the nine met or exceeded growth.

The district turned this around in the 2015-16 school year, coming off the low-performing list, and continued to improve into the 2016-17 school year. The school board celebrated this success by recognizing those schools showing improvement with academic growth awards during Monday's board meeting.

In the 2015-16 school year, Hickory Public Schools (HPS) came out of low-performing status with seven out of nine schools working up to school performance grades of a C or above.

"That was a 75 percent increase. We had one more school meet or exceed growth as well," HPS Assistant Superintendent La'Ronda Whiteside told the school board. "Then last year, 2016-17, we maintained the school performance grade of a C or above, but we increased academic growth from six out of

nine to eight out of nine."

School board member Ittieti Carson thanked HPS superintendent Robbie Adell for his leadership through the district's recent growth. Adell then responded by saying the system, "just has great principals."

The four schools meeting academic growth for HPS were Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High, Longview Elementary, Viewmont Elementary and Southwest Elementary.

The three schools exceeding academic growth were Jenkins Elementary, Oakwood Elementary and Northview Middle schools.

The recent growth scores came from the state's report providing growth and performance data for the 2016-17 school year based on analysis of all end-of-grade (EOG) tests and end-of-course (EOC) tests, according to the state's Department of Public Instruction press release. The tests were aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study in English language arts/reading and mathematics and the essential standards in science, for all district schools and charter schools.

The school board voted to approve the school improvement plans presented at the October meeting for Grandview Middle,



JOHN BAILEY/HICKORY DAILY RECORD

The Hickory Public Schools board recently recognized the district's seven schools that earned a school performance grade of a C or above, based on the state's recent accountability data. Their success helped pull the system off the low-performing district list for the state.

Northview Middle, Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High and Hickory High schools.

The board voted to approve Neill Construction Company as the low bidder for the exterior alterations project at Southwest Primary School at the cost of \$267,000. It will be completed next summer.

"This is for Southwest for them

to tear down two existing canopies, the bus entrance canopy and right behind the tower there's a white canopy and tear all the concrete out at the entrance to the school," HPS Facilities and Maintenance Director Adam Huckabee said. "They'll add new concrete and add three new canopies with brick columns and some new curb and

gutter and dress up the landscape, just to dress up the front of the school."

Adell reminded the board about the Superintendent Advisory Council this Thursday at Grandview Middle School.

The next HPS school board meeting is Monday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. at Northview Middle School.



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Art and teacher inspire students to grow

BY JOHN BAILEY
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HICKORY — The visual arts aren't just about art at Northview Middle School.

For the students in Byron Jones' class, creating art is about pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

Eighth-grader Sam Hackney is the most current example of pushing past boundaries. She recently had her grid design zentangle portrait accepted into the fall edition of the CelebratingArt.com journal of K-12 student artwork from across the United States, according to a Hickory Public Schools press release.

The online student art competition, sponsored by Blick Art Supplies, is a yearly competition, and the fall edition had more than 2,000 submissions.

Her accomplishment is just one in a string of 102 state and national award-winning moments in the last four years from students in Jones' visual art class at Northview Middle School.

For Hackney, realizing her potential as an artist was as surprising as earning national recognition for it. She didn't see herself as an artist before taking the class. Now she does.

"Without art, the world would probably be just a very boring place," Hackney said.

Her winning piece was a self-portrait done in a grid. She decided on the patterns she liked and separated them by dark and light. Hackney spent three weeks of her time in art class working on the portrait last school year.

The project was based on the work of American painter Chuck Close, who is famous for grid-portrait designs.

All the students who gravitate to the visual art class see it as a good way to de-stress from the pres-



Northview Middle visual art teacher Byron Jones has inspired his students to success with 300 earning local, state or national recognitions in the last four years. Pictured are Jones, Lauren Lyerly, Addie Barrier, Sam Hackney, Ai-Ling Kue and Lorna Seddon.



Eighth-grader Sam Hackney recently had her grid design zentangle portrait accepted into the fall 2017 edition of the Celebrating Art.com journal of K-12 student artwork.

sures of school.

"Sometimes it's really overwhelming. We have the stress of keeping our grades up, just a lot of numbers and letters," fellow eighth-grader Lauren Lyerly said. "With art, all that stuff that's crammed up there can just kind of get out, and it's a good chance to catch your breath."

Lyerly won the Judge's Choice Award in the 2017 National Elie Wiesel Holocaust Awareness Art Competition in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ai-Ling Kue was a second-place winner in the same competition.

Art has been eye-opening for her.

"Other subjects they base your performance on

grades and tests, but there are opportunities other than just standardized items or numbers," Kue said. "Art is another way to express yourself, and with art you can express yourself with numbers as well because art is more than just painting and drawing."

Addie Barrier is another Judge's Choice Award winner in the Wiesel Holocaust Awareness competition. She thinks the value of art is in the way it opens the world to students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone.

"If you're quiet, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what kind of personality you have," Barrier said. "You can be good if you put the work into it. You can find a way to express yourself on paper."

Jones sees this as the key value of art as well, as something that goes beyond a test score.

"It opens a door for cre-

ativity that a standardized test which asks you for the best possible answer, not the correct answer, and I tell these kids all the time, colleges aren't going to ask for their eighth-grade EOG (end-of-grade) or high school EOC (end-of-course) scores," Jones said. "They're going to see if you're a good person, if you're involved, if you're empathetic, if you care about people."

He describes his art students as "extremely creative, extremely motivated, extremely bright."

If you add the local district art contest winners from his class to the number of state and national award winners, there are more than 300 students who have received some kind of recognition for their work.

"If kids are bright, it doesn't matter where they come from, it doesn't matter about your socioeconomic background. Most kids these days are tired of numbers from a standard-

ized test to prove their self-worth," Jones said.

He's a former principal and doesn't see those tests as being the only indicators of what students are capable of accomplishing.

His students give Jones credit for being inspired to be so creative and successful.

"I could barely draw a stick figure before this class, but when I left, I was doing portraits and silhouettes that I had never dreamed were possible," Lorna Seddon said.

The class has given the students a sense of empowerment as well.

"We learned you can do anything," Barrier said. "It doesn't matter what type of home environment you have — you can come in here and accomplish amazing things."

Recent NMS Art Winners

Lauren Lyerly: Judge's Choice Award, 2017 National Elie Wiesel Holocaust Awareness Art Competition in Norfolk, Virginia.

Lorna Seddon: Third place (\$75), 2017 National Elie Wiesel Holocaust Awareness Art Competition.

Ai-Ling Kue: Second place (\$125), 2017 National Elie Wiesel Holocaust Awareness Art Competition; two-time state champion 2017 Woman's Club Art Competition watercolor division and graphic division.

Addie Barrier: Judge's Choice Award, 2017 Elie Wiesel Holocaust Awareness Art Competition; state champion, 2017 Woman's Club Art Competition digital photography division; nationally published artist, CelebratingArt.com online art competition; first place, Paul Whitener Middle School Art Competition at the SALT Block in Hickory.



Thank you to the Gaston County Dental Bus for visiting with some of our students!

School Activity Calendar for BOE
December 2017
(as submitted from schools)

Jenkins Elementary

December 7 – Staff Workroom – PTA Teacher Appreciation Lunch – 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
December 7 – Classrooms, Cafeteria, Gym – PBIS Student Clubs – 2:00 PM
December 20 – Mall Area – Holiday Sing-Along – 9:00 AM

Longview Elementary

December 12 – Gym – Holiday Program – 6:30 PM
Community Involvement: BETA Club – Toy and Food drive for Brenner’s Children’s Hospital
Nov. 13-Dec 6 - Longview - Coat Drive

Oakwood Elementary

December 12 – Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night – 4:00-8:00 PM
December 20 – Gym – Christmas Sing-Along – 1:30-2:20 PM

Southwest Primary

December 15 – Gym - Strings and Things: HHS Orchestra hosts interactive concert – 9-11 AM
December 15 – Gym – PTA Sponsored Parents Night Out – 6:00-9:00 PM
December 18 – Media Center - Reading is Fun (RIF) for Pre-K through 2nd Grade
December 20 – Gym - Holiday Sing-Along – 9:00 AM

Viewmont Elementary

December 5 – Salsarita’s Night – 5:00-9:00 PM
December 14 – Media Center - Project LIFT (Learning Is Fun Together with Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center and UNC-TV)
December 19 – Gym – Holiday Sing-Along - K-2 @ 8:50 AM; 3-5 @ 9:30 AM
December 20 – Gym – Dance Team performance – K-2 @8:50 AM; 3-5 @ 9:30 AM

Northview Middle

December 6 – Auditorium – 8th Grade Orchestra Concert – 6:00-8:00 PM
December 7 – Auditorium – 6th & 7th Grade Orchestra Concert – 6:30-8:30 PM
Dec. 11-15 – Week of Giving – during school hours
December 12 – Auditorium – Band Concert – 6:00-8:00 PM
December 14 – Auditorium - Chorus Concert - 7:00-8:00 PM
December 19 – Auditorium – Christmas Play “A Christmas Carol” – 7:00 PM
December 20 – Room 332 – Student of the Month Luncheon – 12:00 PM

Grandview Middle

December 5 – Auditorium – Orchestra Winter Concert – 7:00 PM
Dec. 11-19 – Media Center – Scholastic Winter Book Fair – 8:00 AM-2:15 PM
December 18 – Progress Reports
December 18 – Room 206 - School Improvement Team Meeting – 2:40 PM
December 18 – Auditorium - Band Winter Concerts – 6th Gr. @6:30 PM; 7th&8th Gr. @7:30 PM
December 19 – Auditorium – Chorus Winter Concert – 7:00 PM

Hickory High

December 11 – Lenoir-Rhyne University – Chorus/Orchestra Concert – 7:00 PM
December 14 – HHS Mall – Band Concert – 7:00 PM
December 19 – Chorus Room – IB Graduate Recognition/Refreshments – 1:30-2:30 PM
Winter Sports begin December 1 – See HHS website for updates and information

Hickory Career and Arts Magnet

December 7 – Multicultural Night – 6:00-8:00 PM
December 14 – Cafeteria – Christmas Party for Staff – 6:00 PM
Dec.12-14 – Tentative Middle School Tours
December 15 – Cafeteria – Blood Drive for Scholarships – 8:30 AM
December 15 – Conference Room – Staff Breakfast provided by PTA
December 20 – Gym - Student/Faculty Basketball Game “Incentive Program” – 3:00-4:00 PM

