April Dates of Interest

1 Spring holiday
2 Spring holiday
2 JV soccer vs. Valdosta (h)
3 Baseball vs. Shiloh & McIntosh (h)
3 Soccer vs. Lee Co. (h)
5 B-team baseball vs. Tift Co. (h)
6 Doerun school council mtg
7 CCHS school council mtg
7 Stringfellow school council mtg
7 9th grade baseball vs. Thomas Co. (h)
8 Wright school council mtg
9 Baseball vs. Lee Co. (h)
9 Soccer vs. Coffee (h)
9 Social Workers meeting
11 Easter
12-18 Okapilco turn off the TV week
12 9th grade baseball vs. Valdosta (h)
12 Cox school council mtg
12 JV soccer vs. Lowndes (h)
12 School Board work session – Hamilton
13 CRCT – reading
13 Sunset school council mtg
13 Tennis vs. Valdosta (h)
14 CRCT – language arts
14 Baseball vs. Lincoln (h)
14 Funston school council mtg
14 Hamilton school council mtg
14 Norman Park school council mtg
15 CRCT – mathematics
15-18 CARTS spring show
15 Gray school council mtg
15 Middle school choir concert
16 Baseball vs. Tift Co. (h)
16 Soccer vs. Valdosta (h)
17 Colquitt County job fair
19 CCHS science end of course test (EOCT)
19 Okapico school council meeting
20 Administrative meeting
20 CCHS science EOCT
20 CRCT – science
21 Odom school council mtg
21 CCHS language arts EOCT
21 CRCT – social studies
22 CCHS language arts EOCT
22 Soccer vs. Lowndes (h)
23 Baseball vs. Coffee (h)
23 CCHS math EOCT
26 Clean school evaluations
26 Regular School Board meeting
26 Williams school council mtg
27 CCHS math EOCT
27 Clean school evaluations
27 CCHS spring band concert
28 South Georgia Ballet performance
29 FCCLA banquet
30 Baseball vs. Valdosta (h)

Teamwork Approach To Discipline

With an emphasis on keeping kids from falling through the cracks and addressing behavior needs of children, Brian Lewis is working as Colquitt County Schools’ first behavioral intervention specialist. With a Bachelors degree in psychology, Masters degree in behavior disorders and vast experience with students of all ages and abilities, Mr. Lewis is interested in helping kids with problems be successful in school. He stated, “I'm available to work directly with classroom teachers to listen and offer support and intervention strategies for students who are having specific behavioral issues.”

Mr. Lewis is also busy planning for an innovative, research-based discipline program to be piloted next year at Stringfellow Elementary and Williams Middle Schools. The program to be piloted is called Effective Behavioral and Instructional Support (EBIS), which is a prevention-oriented model for school-wide discipline. The EBIS program uses school data for school-wide discipline and individual student decision-making and builds a collaborative, team-based approach to problem solving. “I really like the team component which utilizes staff members' experience and knowledge to incorporate successful strategies that are already being utilized. Also, the data piece allows schools to evaluate the effectiveness of their discipline system,” commented Mr. Lewis.

Regarding this progressive program, Williams Principal Scott Michie stated, “Effective schools have consistent discipline throughout the building. WJW is looking forward to strengthening our discipline plan to become even more efficient.” The schools involved in this pilot program will be taking a positive, proactive approach to teaching behavior and classroom management. “The Stringfellow School community is committed to meeting the needs of all learners,” noted Principal Barbara Stewart. “We are excited about being involved in a project that will allow us even greater opportunities to improve instruction. This project will allow our staff and students to generate solutions and ideas that will provide positive, innovative strategies for working with all students.”

According to Superintendent Leonard McCoy who complimented both schools for their initiatives, “Discipline, just as instruction, functions most effectively if a research-based plan supported by well-designed training is used consistently throughout the school.”

Visit the new facilities progress webpage at www.colquitt.k12.ga.us/news/facilities.htm

Funston
Hamilton
Stringfellow
Vereen

April 4th
Spring clocks forward;
replace batteries in smoke detectors.
Meet Monika

On May 1, 2004, Monika Griner will succeed Virginia Hart as Colquitt County School Food Service Director. She began her career at Colquitt County Junior High School as a home economics teacher and then joined the home economics department at the high school. She's worked the last six years as a media specialist at Funston Elementary School. Mrs. Griner earned her Bachelors degree in home economics from Georgia Southern University and Masters from Valdosta State University, where she also added vocational leadership, instructional technology, and media certification. She stated, "I am very excited about this opportunity. To follow an exemplary role model such as Virginia is an honor and a privilege. She has done a tremendous job for this county. I look forward to starting a new era in school nutrition and ask for the continued support of the Colquitt County School System and the community." Monika is married to Keith Griner. They have three children, Keaton, a sixth grader at Williams, Bryson, a fourth grader at Funston, and 2 year-old son, Garrett.

Never give up on a child; you were once one, too.

What Is Munis On-Line?

There is now a MUNIS On-line link on the main web page for employees to view accrual of leave and vacation, pay stubs and pay history or to update personal information such as address and phone numbers. Employees can login by typing their first initial and last name. The password will be the last four digits of their social security number. Some employees have the same first initial and last name. In that case the user name will be the same as their email user name.

Bus Drivers Equipped for Emergencies

If on a bus route a child has a seizure, an asthma attack, or other health needs, bus drivers now have information to assist him. Local emergency medical technicians from CRMC presented manuals titled "Emergency Guidelines for Schools" to the Colquitt County School System Transportation Department. Assistant Superintendent Mickey Key stated, "These manuals offer our drivers a wealth of information for dealing with specific medical emergencies. The manuals contain step-by-step procedures for 47 different medical injury or illness situations."

Clyde Rides Again

Colquitt County High School teacher Rolando Martinez and his automotive technology students recently received an opportunity to showcase their talents through the restoration of Clyde, a 1926 Model T touring car. Donated by Board member Roy Reeves’ father, J. Hinton Reeves, Clyde has a new lease on life and will be featured in upcoming parades and select school events. Mr. Reeves, a 1937 graduate of Moultrie High School, commented, “I was delighted to donate the car to Colquitt County High School. Mr. Martinez and his students did a great restoration job.”

Welcome New Employee

Emily Nichols - Vereen

Archbold Employee Assistance Program
1-877-327-2724

Confidential help is only a phone call away.

Earth Day April 22
visit earthday.net

Arbor Day April 30
visit arborday.org

Do your part to help keep America beautiful.
TESTING

Teachers and students will certainly need to enjoy the “R and R” they receive during the upcoming spring break, because once they return to school in early April, they will be finalizing preparations for high stakes testing in grades 1 through 12.

For five days in April, students in grades 1-8 will participate in the state mandated Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). CCHS students in designated English, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses will take End of Course Tests (EOCT) over eight days during the last two weeks in April.

CRCT results will be used by the Office of Student Achievement to grade schools and to determine if individual schools are meeting the requirements of the federal law known as No Child Left Behind. In addition, results from the third grade CRCT will be used to determine promotion/retention of students.

All students in grades 1 through 8 will take three tests: Reading on Tuesday, April 13, Language Arts on Wednesday, April 14 and Math on Thursday, April 15. The next week, all students in grades 3 through 8 will take two additional tests, Science on Tuesday, April 20 and Social Studies on Wednesday, April 21. This will be the sixth year that students in grades 4, 6, and 8 have participated in this testing program but only the second year that all grades have been involved.

The EOCT for this year only will be used to set standards. However, scores on the EOCT this year will appear on students’ transcripts. In future years, EOCT results will be used in the calculation of students’ final grades in EOCT courses. EOCT courses are Ninth Grade Lit/ Comp and American Lit/Comp, Algebra I and Geometry, Biology and Physical Science, and Economics and U.S. History.

Everyone has worked hard to focus teaching and learning in order to improve student performance. This focus has created an environment that is supportive and conducive to learning. It is time now for students and teachers to shine. Go for it!

Viruses Reek Havoc On Computer Network

Recently, a destructive virus invaded the network of Colquitt County Schools. To avoid future viruses, take the following steps to update your virus protection:

~ Restart your computer daily.
~ Always log-in at the Novell log-in screen.
~ Allow the Command Anti-virus software process to run completely.
~ Do not open e-mail from unfamiliar individuals.

Benefits Open Enrollment

April 16-May 15, 2004

- Life Insurance
- Short Term Disability
- Long Term Disability
- Cancer Insurance
- Dental Insurance

May 1 - May 15, 2004

- State Merit Insurance

Colquitt County Board of Education member Debra Hampton was recently selected to serve on the 2004 Georgia School Boards Association Governmental Operations Committee which is active in the GSBA legislative process and promotion of public education.

CCHS science teacher Tommy Hall has been selected as this year’s STAR teacher by STAR student Nathaniel Hiers. Mr. Hall has been selected STAR teacher four times during his 40+ years of teaching science to high school students.

Melissa “Bebe” Argo, CCHS food service assistant, has a new hairdo. She donated 15 inches of hair to Locks of Love, which makes children’s wigs.

Hamilton School received $200 for having the most students attend the Youth Safety Day Camp held recently at Spence Field.

CCHS mathematics teacher Stephanie Terrell was named to “Who’s Who Among America’s High School Teachers”.

Employees In The Spotlight

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Each of us has a professional colleague that we admire and possibly even envy. Virginia Hart, Director of School Food Service, is one of those people for me. Being a collector of sorts, in a manner of speaking I collect people – tidbits and facts that I treasure or maybe even find curious or interesting. What I admire about Virginia and what I treasure is her basic philosophy about her job. She tells me, “Children who are hungry cannot learn. That is the basis of the whole food service program. I truly believe if a child’s physical needs are not met they will not progress. Every child and every parent needs to be treated with respect. I have tried to emphasize to school food service employees they serve children.”

Virginia could simply be mouthing the politically correct words, but we have all watched how she has run the school food service program over the years.

When Virginia took her present job in 1981, the lunch program was in all schools, but the breakfast program was only in five. We now have both lunch and breakfast programs in all schools plus summer feeding and a snack program. Virginia tells me proudly that we participate in every program offered by the USDA. She also shares that she learned her lesson years ago when she was told by a colleague, “Hunger pains don’t take summer vacation.” Virginia knew then how important the school food service program was to our children year round.

Another accomplishment that Virginia is proud of and considers one of the most positive changes in the program is what she calls “Choices” and “Cycle” menus that were implemented in 1997. Virginia had several managers attend a training session (Sylvia Hiers – Sunset, Jean Flanders – Gray, Tammy Hart – Williams, and Jane Barwick – CCHS) designed to improve the school lunch program by giving children food choices. She shares, “Most of my career has been convincing people they could do things they didn’t think they could do.” The result – our system has been a leader in implementing new school lunch programs. Another result – the excellent leadership provided by Virginia has empowered cafeteria managers and staff to try new things and excel at their jobs.

Virginia takes her beliefs about the importance of the school food service program beyond the boundaries of our school system. She is currently president of the Georgia School Food Service Association. That position has given her an opportunity to lobby at state and national levels on behalf of hungry children – something 25 years ago she never envisioned herself doing. Virginia has also served as state secretary, system level chair, and served on various committees as a member of GSFSA.

After 33 years, Virginia plans to retire effective April 30. Thirty-one of those years have been in Colquitt County teaching home economics, first grade for one year, and since 1981 as Director of School Food Service. She already has plenty to keep her occupied during retirement. Virginia is a member of the Federated Guild, Georgia Cotton Women, and Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. She and her husband, Scott, are Sunday School Directors at First Baptist Church where Virginia also sings in the choir. As if that isn’t enough, Virginia will be helping her husband and son, Trey, on their farm. During the fall, school children visit their Pumpkin Patch for field trips and in the spring they visit their Strawberry Patch. Virginia is also a very proud grandmother of a future prekindergarten student named Mary Grace, the daughter of her daughter, Mary Beth and husband James Watson. She warns me that Grandma will be involved in school.

I asked Virginia if she had anything else she wanted to share about her time with us. She then said, “I’ve always looked on challenges as opportunities. Every time I put before the staff the needs of children, we have found a way to meet them. I have been blessed with good people to work with.”