



Canton Public School District

"TEACHERS OF THE YEAR" ISSUE

January 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- "A Good teacher Explains ... A Superior teacher Demonstrates ... A GREAT teacher Inspires." Unknown

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Tiger Talk



"DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR" 2012-13



Eric Brooks/McNeal Elementary Principal, Charlene Fountain, Superintendent Dwight Luckett, Sr.

McNeal Elementary "Teacher of the Year" 2012-13 Charlene Fountain

CPSD Superintendent Dwight Luckett, Sr. commends Ms. Charlene Fountain for going above and beyond the call of duty to inspire, motivate, and elevate our students. "Your commitment and dedication to help students reach their full potential is priceless," says Luckett.

Charlene Fountain has over 29 years of experience in Education. She has taught First Grade at McNeal Elementary for six years. Because of

“District Teacher of the Year”



the dedicated and nurturing teachers Fountain encountered during her early years in the lower elementary, she yearned to be a teacher one day.

Fountain's educational journey began in Lorman, MS, a small town which was sparsely populated. She attended Alcorn State University. Since her desire was to become an educator, her tenure at Alcorn State University enabled her to earn her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. However, her thirst for learning lingered. She matriculated to the home of the mighty Tigers, the royal white and blue, the

urban university. She obtained her Masters in Elementary Education. Nevertheless, she still had a burning desire for more knowledge. She left the central portion of Mississippi and ventured north to study at Mississippi State University. Her tenure in Bulldog country, the home of the mighty maroon and white afforded her the opportunity to earn her Specialist degree in early childhood education. The purpose of earning her degrees was to give back to her community, she did not take a job out of state, but she ventured to the



Mississippi Delta to help those who were less fortunate. Fountain's first job was in Indianola, MS. She taught fourth grade for four years. Due to a desire to be around her family, she ventured back to her hometown to educate people in the community where she originated. She wanted to give back some of the educational content that she obtained to help others in her hometown and also in surrounding areas. She taught first grade in Meridian, MS for several years. There was



still a need for her to educate children in low social-economic areas: therefore, she migrated to Canton, MS. Fountain is presently in Canton teaching children that originated from homes where the population is below the poverty level.

Fountain says she plans to continue her career until she is satisfied that she has left many positive imprints into the lives of deserving young individuals. She says after all they are our future.

Ms. Charlene Fountain will go on to compete in the State's "Teacher of the Year" Competition.

Mrs. Vanessa Bennett at Canton Career Center was named as the Runner-Up District "Teacher of the Year."

Superintendent Dwight Luckett congratulates all of the Teachers of the Year. Luckett says they are to be commended for empowering students to strive for excellence. These teachers met rigorous standards for selection, including peer nomination, participation in professional responsibilities, and increased student achievement.



“District Teacher of the Year” Runner Up/ Canton Career Center “Teacher of the Year”



Vanessa Denise Bondurant Bennett was born in Mobile, Alabama. She lived in Chicago, Illinois with her parents and later moved to Rockford, Illinois. There she received her High School Diploma from Auburn High School while simultaneously receiving her Licensed Practical Nursing Diploma from Rockford Area Vocational Center.

A few years later she met and married a wonderful man named Lee Roy Bennett a native of Madison, MS. After five years of marriage, she and her

husband moved to Madison, Mississippi. She worked at the University of Mississippi, Oxford Health Care Nursing Agency, clinics, hospitals, private duty, and insurance companies.

After a 29 year career as an LPN, she decided to further her education. Receiving an academic scholarship from the Win Job Center here in Canton, MS, she pursued and obtained the Associate in Applied Science/ Associate Degree in Nursing from Hinds Community College of Raymond, MS. Graduating with honors she wanted to give back to the city of Canton, MS. However, three years later the awesome opportunity became available to teach in the Canton Public School District. She prayed, applied and became the Allied Health Instructor at the Canton Career Center of the Canton Public School District.

Bennett is a very active young woman in her Community and her church, Word of Life Church, of Flowood, MS. She is a Registered Nurse and the Health Occupational Student of America's (HOSA) local Chapter Advisor. She is IC3 certified, certified in Tuberculosis Surveillance, and a certified Basic Life Support CPR Instructor. She is a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, Association for the Advancement of Wound Care, the North American Center for continuing Medical Education, and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). Her personal educational goal is to obtain her Masters of Nursing Degree.

Canton High School “Teacher of the Year”

Patricia Dunlap was born and raised in Flora, Mississippi, a small town north of Jackson. She has been married for 31 years to her husband, Tommy. He is a contractor/home builder in the Jackson area. They have one son, Peyton, who is 30. Peyton and his wife April have blessed them with two grandchildren, Britton and Molly Chase. Dunlap is also the step-mom of Travis who is 37. Travis and his wife Lisa are the parents of Kaleb, their first grandchild.

Teaching is her second career. While raising her family, she worked for many years in Hospital Administration at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. After leaving UMC in 2004, she attended Holmes Community College in Ridgeland for two years. While at Holmes, she was a member of the academic team that competed at the annual Scholar’s Bowl and was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. During her final semester, she was awarded the W.Y. Sudduth Social Science Award and was one of eight students elected by the faculty into the Hall of Fame.

In the Fall of 2006, she transferred to Mississippi College and was awarded a President’s scholarship. She is also a recipient of the William Winter Teacher Scholarship. At Mississippi College she was asked to be a student representative to the Professional Education Advisory Committee and was also inducted into Alpha Chi. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Mississippi College in May 2009 with a degree in Secondary Education, Social Studies with a concentration in United States History.

After graduation it was extremely hard for her to find a social studies teaching position. Her first teaching position was at Pisgah High School where she taught Special Education in a self-contained classroom of 7 students. This experience led her to attain SPED certification by taking the Praxis Exam for Special Education. Dunlap’s only other teaching position has been at Canton High School where she has been able to teach her favorite subject – US History.

It has always been a dream of hers to be a social studies teacher, but other responsibilities made her put her dreams on hold. Her entry into this career at this stage of her life is for all the right reasons. Dunlap says she teaches for the love of teaching. Dunlap says becoming a teacher, attaining this goal, has been deeply satisfying to her.

As a teacher, she is committed to being the best possible role model that she can be, both as an instructor and as a person. Dunlap sincerely hopes that she can develop positive values in the students entrusted to her care. Yes, she wants them to learn history, but more importantly, she wants them to see reflected in her the qualities that make a good citizen.

Embarking on this career at this stage of her life has been the right choice. Dunlap says she is doing what she is supposed to be doing. She knows in her head and her heart – she is meant to be a social studies teacher. Dunlap says her only regret is that in taking so long to reach her goal, she lost a lot of time in the classroom working with young people. This regret motivates her to be the best teacher that she can possibly be every day to every student she comes in contact with.



Reuben B. Myers CSAS “Teacher of the Year”



Henry L. Doyle, Jr., the fifth son of Henry and Earlene Doyle, is a native of Canton, MS and a 1995 graduate of the Canton Public School District. He is married to Lakesha Meeks Doyle and together they have two sons, JaKorri and Javian who are also both students within the Canton Public School District.

Henry found his passion for working with children while being employed as a substitute teacher and assistant teacher in the CPSD. He has always secured jobs where developing children was in the job description. He has worked as a permanent substitute at the former Sacred Heart Catholic School and Unit Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi Walker Unit. The joy he found in working with children prompted him to pursue a degree in elementary education. He obtained both his Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and Masters of Science in Elementary Education from Jackson State University. He has been a 5th Grade educator at the Rueben Bernard Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences.

Henry finds great joy in working at his Alma Mater. “If I am to educate children, why not educate the children of the community in which I belong? I really take pride in teaching in this district where I come in contact with the children of people I have known for years from the community. It inspires me to put forth the extra efforts needed to ensure success.”

Not only is Henry an educator in the secular world, but he takes the strategies afforded to him through his career to the Mt. Able Missionary Baptist Church where W. A. Travis, Sr. is his pastor. At Mt. Able, Henry serves as full time pianist and Sunday School teacher. There again, he inspires and motivates his students, who sometimes find themselves in both his classes, to reach for the stars. Giving them the hope and encouragement they may need to be all that they were designed to be.

Nichols Middle School “Teacher of the Year”

Ashley McGee comes from a long line of educators and considers educating others part of her heritage. Her mother has educated hundreds of children over thirty years. She inspired Ashley to become an educator and encouraged her to pursue a career in education. Ashley’s mother also pushes her to go further in education than she has ever been (become a leader). Ashley’s mother also inspired her to be passionate and thorough in the art of teaching. Ashley now loves educating others and aspires to make teaching a lifelong career.



Ashley has taught at Nichols Middle School for approximately four years. She taught seventh grade science for two years. Due to a research based strategy of looping, Ashley followed a group of her students to the 8th grade. This year Ashley is teaching the seventh grade and preparing another group of students for the 8th grade state science exam. Ashley is enjoying learning the latest strategies for preparing students for the test. She has learned how to make classroom instruction data driven. She allows students to take part in this process by also showing them how to analyze data and identify strengths and weaknesses. Ashley is also excited about changes that will occur with Common Core on the horizon. She believes it will foster more thinking capabilities among students. Most importantly it will challenge teachers to go that extra mile.

Ashley obtained her Bachelors of Science Degree in Science Education at Mississippi Valley State University. She later earned her Masters of Art Degree in Secondary Education at Jackson State University. Ashley is currently obtaining a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership at Mississippi College. Ashley is presently a recipient of the Mississippi Teacher Fellowship, which is awarded to approximately 50 teachers in Mississippi per year.

Ashley has established a very good reputation among her colleagues; she does not mind receiving help or criticism to better her instructional delivery. She also does not mind sharing her strengths with others. Ashley is known as a strong but caring disciplinarian among her students. She believes that the best leader should also know how to follow.

Canton Elementary School “Teacher of the Year”



Edward Dunigan, Jr. was born in Jackson, Mississippi to Edward, Sr. and Linda Dunigan.

Mr. Dunigan is married and is the proud father of three children. He graduated from Canton High School in 1998. He received his B.S. degree in Music Education from Alcorn State University. He will receive a Master's degree in Music Education at Jackson State University in May 2013. His plans are to receive a Doctorate degree from University of Southern Mississippi. Mr. Dunigan has been Canton Elementary School's "Mr. Music Man" since 2003. He is the leader and founder of the CES Choir and the CES Marching Band. Mr. Dunigan is a member of ASCAP and BMI. His greatest hopes and wishes for his students are that they learn through music and share with him his love for the magic that music can bring to life.

Canton Educational Services Center “Teacher of the Year”

Aleatrice Monchele Liddell was born on a frosty fall morning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lee Rodgers. After moving to Mississippi in the sixth grade and graduating from Louisville High School in 1982, she decided to attend Mississippi State University without much thought. It was close to home, it was where most of her friends were going, and it was a prestigious school. She graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree.

After a long, successful career with Union Planters Bank, she decided to change careers to education. In 2003, she enrolled at Mississippi Valley State University and pursued the alternate route to teacher certification. That same year, she passed the Praxis tests the first time, received her teaching license, began graduate coursework, and also began her teaching career with the Cleveland School District. The next school year, she was employed with the Greenville Public School District and remained there until relocating to the Jackson, Mississippi area.

Liddell says she has enjoyed a successful career in education. She served as department chair or grade chair for five years. She has been named Teacher of the Month during several years. She was chosen to serve on the School Leadership Team at Matty Akin Elementary School in Greenville. She was a member of the district SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Peer-to-Peer Practice Committee. She also assisted in the development of the pacing guide for the GBOK (Greenville Body of Knowledge) district manual.

Liddell has been employed with the Canton Public School district since January 2011 at Canton Educational Services Center, where she has experienced the challenges and rewards of teaching alternative school students. It is her passion to teach and motivate children to become thinkers, to be lifelong learners, and to become productive members of society. Liddell says, “It is quite rewarding to feel that I have made a positive difference in someone else’s life.”



Achieving the Mission

THE CREATION OF THE TEACHER

The Good Lord was creating teachers. It was His sixth day of 'overtime' and He knew that this was a tremendous responsibility for teachers would touch the lives of so many impressionable young children. An angel appeared to Him and said, "You are taking a long time to figure this one out."

"Yes," said the Lord, " but have you read the specs on this order?"

TEACHER:

...must stand above all students, yet be on their level
 ... must be able to do 180 things not connected with the subject being taught
 ... must run on coffee, coke and leftovers,
 ... must communicate vital knowledge to all students daily and be right most of the time
 ... must have more time for others than for herself/himself
 ... must have a smile that can endure through pay cuts, problematic children, and worried parents
 ... must go on teaching when parents question every move and others are not supportive
 ... must have 6 pair of hands.

"Six pair of hands, " said the angel, "that's impossible"

"Well, " said the Lord, " it is not the hands that are the problem. It is the three pairs of eyes that are presenting the most difficulty!"

The angel looked incredulous, " Three pairs of eyes...on a standard model?"

The Lord nodded His head, " One pair can see a student for what he is and not what others have labeled him as. Another pair of eyes is in the back of the teacher's head to see what should not be seen, but what must be known. The eyes in the front are only to look at the child as he/she 'acts out' in order to reflect, " I understand and I still believe in you",

without so much as saying a word to the child."

"Lord, " said the angel, " this is a very large project and I think you should work on it tomorrow".

"I can't," said the Lord, " for I have come very close to creating something much like Myself. I have one that comes to work when he/she is sick.....teaches a class of children that do not want to learn.....has a special place in his/her heart for children who are not his/her own.....understands the struggles of those who have difficulty.....never takes the students for granted..."

The angel looked closely at the model the Lord was creating.

"It is too soft-hearted, " said the angel.

"Yes," said the Lord, " but also tough, You can not imagine what this teacher can endure or do, if necessary".

"Can this teacher think?" asked the angel.

"Not only think," said the Lord, "but reason and compromise."

The angel came closer to have a better look at the model and ran his finger over the teacher's cheek.

"Well, Lord, " said the angel, your job looks fine but there is a leak. I told you that you were putting too much into this model.

You can not imagine the stress that will be placed upon the teacher."

The Lord moved in closer and lifted the drop of moisture from the teacher's cheek.

It shone and glistened in the light.

"It is not a leak," He said, "It is a tear."

"A tear? What is that?" asked the angel, "What is a tear for?"

The Lord replied with great thought, " It is for the joy and pride of seeing a child accomplish even the smallest task. It is for the loneliness of children who have a hard time to fit in and it is for compassion for the feelings of their parents. It comes from the pain of not being able to reach some children and the disappointment those children feel in themselves. It comes often when a teacher has been with a class for a year and must say good-bye to those students

and get ready to welcome a new class."

"My, " said the angel, " The tear thing is a great idea...You are a genius!!"

The Lord looked somber, "I didn't put it there."

Author Unknown



Achieving the Mission



- Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.
Abigail Adams - 1780
- Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.
Jane Goodall
- A teacher has to be a prophet who can look into the future and see the world of tomorrow into which the children of today must fit.
Anonymous
- It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.
Albert Einstein
- We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
Winston Churchill
- If you think you can do a thing, or think you can't do a thing; you're right.
Henry Ford
- What is the greatest sign of success for a teacher...?
It is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist".
Maria Montessori
- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.
Robert Louis Stevenson
- The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.
Peter F. Drucker
- It is not enough to have a good mind, the main thing is to use it well.
Rene Descartes
- Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.
Mahatma Gandhi
- Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
Albert Einstein



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Canton Public School District, with full participation of parents and the total community, is to enable all students to become analytical thinkers, self-directed lifelong learners and effective communicators who are prepared to continue their education and /or to enter the global workplace and to participate in society as responsible citizens.

OUR VISION

Children are our greatest asset and value. It is the responsibility of the parents, school and the community to serve as a perpetual bridge for the development of our children's character and the enhancement of their ability to master data, interpret knowledge, and apply the practical principles of their mastery.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- **All children can learn, but at different rates and in different ways.**
 Students must be actively involved in the learning process.
- **Education is a community effort.**
It is the responsibility of the parents, the community and the schools to be active participants in nurturing and educating our youth.
- **Family is a powerful influence on both children and the community.**
Parents must be informed about and involved in the education of their children.
- **Self-respect and self worth are essential to success.**
The schools are the vehicles for students to develop the positive attitudes and goals that lead to a sense of motivation and self worth.
- **High expectations for our children will produce higher achievement.**
The schools provide the environment to model and reinforce higher goals for students.
- **Working together it is possible to change negative perceptions and environmental factors that affect student learning.**
Civic organizations, businesses, churches, news media, and the schools must become active partners in change.

The Canton Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability in hiring *or* in participation in educational programs or activities.