November
Dates of Interest
2 School nutrition service training
2 "Winning the Homework Battle"- Hamilton
3 Funston Fall festival
7 School nutrition service mgr training
7 GHSGT-language retest
7 "Workshop Design" - Sunset
8 Election Day
8 Counselors mtg
8 District administrators’ mtg (Gray)
9 Funston school council mtg
9 Hamilton school council mtg
9 Stringfellow school council mtg
9 School nutrition service training
9 GHSGT-science retest
10 GHSGT-social studies retest
11 Veteran’s Day
11 Veteran’s program at Hamilton
11 Veteran’s program at Hamilton
11 Veteran’s program at Hamilton
14 Regular board mtg
14 Education fair - Sunset
16 Cox school council mtg
16 School nutrition service training
17 Gray school council mtg
17 Okapilco school council mtg
17 Rhythm olympics at Hamilton
17 "Making Math Fun" for parents - Odorn
18 Basketball vs Thomasville
18 "Reader’s Workshop for Parents" - Doerun
21-25 Thanksgiving holidays
28 Williams school council mtg
29 Basketball vs Monroe (H)
30 Elementary and middle admin mtg
30 School nutrition service training

School Lunch:
It’s Instrumental

The National School Lunch Program was established in 1946 after the government had to reject many World War II recruits due to malnourishment. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman. It is the largest of the federal child nutrition programs in terms of spending and the number of children served. Congress appropriated $11.4 billion for the child nutrition programs for fiscal year 2005. The Colquitt County School Nutrition Program operates 13 school sites while managing a budget in excess of 3 million dollars.

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the NSLP. Children from families with incomes that qualify can receive free or reduced price meals. Applications can be obtained from any school cafeteria or from the School Nutrition Office.

Colquitt County School Nutrition celebrated National School Lunch Week during the week of October 10th—14th in all school cafeterias. Started in 1963, NSLW was established by a proclamation from President John F. Kennedy. It was designed to help raise awareness of and garner support for the role that school food service and nutrition programs play in the lives of America’s children today, and in the strength of America tomorrow. The School Nutrition Association helps celebrate the event each year with a theme and promotional materials. This year’s theme was “School Lunch—It’s Instrumental”, with many schools highlighting the theme in their cafeteria’s. Bands played, choirs sang, speeches were given, and community leaders served over 45,000 meals to the students of Colquitt County over the five day period.

School lunches provided through the National School Lunch Program can be essential to maintaining a healthy childhood weight. Based on federal nutrition guidelines, these balanced meals provide more fruits and vegetables and less fat than the average bag lunch brought from home. School lunches are “Instrumental” in providing the ultimate source of energy to help children succeed. Last year, Colquitt County School Nutrition served over 1,700,000 (one million, seven hundred thousand) lunch and breakfast meals to the student’s in the Colquitt County School System.

School Lunch Week is one way to highlight our program and bring attention to the monumental task we face each day ~ feeding the children in Colquitt County. Staffs are trained, quality food is purchased, facilities are cleaned and maintained, and children are served well balanced and nutritional meals each and every day. On behalf of the Colquitt County School System and School Nutrition Program, I want to thank each person who took time to visit the schools, serve meals, perform, and lend support to our program. I am proud to be part of this aspect of the school system—it is one of the most important!”

~Monika W. Griner
Colquitt County School Nutrition Director

Pictures left to right: Jim Turner, Durwood Dominey, and Darrell Strange. “Voices of the Packers” at Williams Middle School. Mickey Key - Assistant Superintendent, School Nutrition Assistants for Funston Elementary- Lou Bryan & Carolyn Hancock. Beth Miller - music teacher for Funston & Sunset. Tammy Hart - Williams Middle Cafeteria Manager with Sheriff Al Whittington. Marlene McIntyre - Williams Middle School Nutrition Assist. Board Members; Jerry Meister, Trudie Hill, Roy Reeves & Debra Hampton volunteering at CCHS.
Getting to Know the Teachers of the Year

**Tracy Willis** teaches biology at Colquitt County High School. She received a Bachelor and Masters in science education from Georgia Southern University and is in her 13th year of teaching. Tracy has also completed the required coursework for Gifted Certification. She commented, “It is a teacher’s responsibility to make everyday important and to help students develop as lifelong learners. It is much easier to teach children biology once you get to know them and understand where they are coming from. I feel that I reach students because they know that I care about them first and biology second.”

**Clare Tripp** teaches third grade at Cox Elementary School. Clare received a Bachelors in art from Florida Southern College. She completed additional courses and added early childhood education to her certificate. She is currently working on her Masters in education. She is in her 21st year of teaching. She stated, “I hope to make my students realize that they do love school, that they are worthy of love, and that I believe in them. My masterpieces are the upturned faces with proud smiles at their mastery of a concept. Their looks of wonder have the impressionable innocence of a block of clay. I am a teacher. I am also an artist, an artist of lives.”

**Lois “Sunshine” Bird**, a kindergarten teacher at Doerun Elementary School, received a Bachelors and Masters in early childhood education from La Grange College. Sunshine said, “Helping children learn and be successful in their progress is fun for me as I ‘love them into’ education. When children, no matter what age they are, have fun learning, then what they learn is going to be easily remembered. Education should never, ever be boring...It should always be exciting, enjoyable, differentiated, uplifting, and fun.” Sunshine is in her 7th year of teaching with many years to her credit as a substitute teacher.

**Heather Horne**, kindergarten teacher at Funston Elementary School, has been teaching for 10 years. She received a Bachelors, Masters, and Specialist degree in early childhood education from Valdosta State University. She also has added a reading endorsement. In reflecting on her teaching experiences, she stated, “Students come to school from varied experiences, homes, and intellects. My job as a teacher is to find each student’s strength and build upon that strength to improve their weakness and uplift poor self-esteem. Seeing my students grow and progress is the greatest reward I will ever receive in my teaching career.”

**Randy Saturday** teaches sixth grade math at CA Gray Middle School. He is in his 3rd year of teaching. Randy received a Bachelors in Finance from VSU with a teacher’s certification in middle grades math. Randy serves as the vice-president for the Colquitt County Association of Educators. When asked his thoughts on teaching, Randy commented, “I have found that educating children includes much more than teaching and assessing student achievement. Today’s child seeks motivation, guidance, respect, and a sense of belonging that must be met before the learning process can begin. Teaching is not a profession of glamour; instead, it is an occupation of nobleness, honor, and responsibility to our children, our parents, and our community.”

**Pat Carroll** is a 4th grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary School, and is in her 20th year of teaching. Pat received her Bachelors in criminal justice, Masters in middle grades education, and also her Specialist degree all from VSU; she was also named Hamilton TOTY in 1999. She said, “I believe that all children can learn and want to learn if they have someone who believes in them, sets high expectations, praises them for the least little things, and pushes them to exceed their own expectations-whether in or out of the classroom! I believe that children have a right to be happy and treated with dignity and kindness by their peers as well as adults while at school.”

**Kim Sumner**, a second grade teacher at Norman Park Elementary School, received a Bachelors and Masters in early childhood education from VSU. She is in her 28th year of teaching, and was named the TOTY for Norman Park in 1998. When asked her thoughts on teaching Kim remarked, “Always keeping in mind what is best for children, I am willing to listen to and frequently ask for the input of other educators. This open attitude helps me deal effectively with my colleagues, my students, and my students’ parents.”

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**Open Enrollment: Your Response Is Required**

If you are enrolled in any health plan with the Colquitt County Board of Education you must verify your health benefit selection on-line at www.shbp.org. The open enrollment dates are October 17 - November 8, 2005. The web site will be available until 4:00 p.m. on November 8, 2005. Please see your school secretary to receive your health insurance packet. If assistance is needed in making plan selections and/or answering surcharge questions, Benefits Manager Faye Wood will be available November 1st - 8th. You may contact Mrs. Wood by calling 890-6219.
Deidre Redding, a third grade teacher at JM Odom Elementary School, received her Bachelors and a Masters in early childhood education from VSU. She has furthered her education by also receiving a Specialist degree in early childhood education. She is in her 14th year of teaching. When pondering what influenced her to become a teacher, Deidre stated, “When growing up, if someone asked me what I wanted to be, I always said ‘a mama.’ I decided by being a teacher, I could be a ‘mama’ to my school children. In today’s society, a teacher may be the only true mother figure a child has in his life. I feel if students have a good, positive, open relationship with their teacher they are more likely to be successful.”

Val Bell teaches second grade at Okapilco Elementary School and is in her 17th year of teaching. She received her Associates in early childhood education from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and her Bachelors in early childhood education from the University of Georgia. This is the second time Val has been honored as Okapilco’s TOTY. Val said, “The world of education is ever changing. The profession of teaching requires me to be flexible and willing to address that change even when it gets me out of my comfort zone. I must have an attitude that success will come! The paths I take and the things I do along the journey of achievement will reap benefits for all my students in the long run.”

Faye Rowe represents the Professional Association of Georgia Educators and teaches 3rd grade at Okapilco Elementary School. She received her Associates in early childhood education from Brewton Parker College. Faye went on to receive her BS and Masters from Valdosta State University in early childhood education. Faye has 19 years of teaching experience. In 1998, Faye was named Okapilco’s TOTY. In explaining her approach to teaching, she said, “I have always practiced honesty and respect toward all my students. I do not show favoritism regardless if the student is loving or unloving. If you look long enough you will find something good in the worst person. If expectations are clear and students are made to feel good about themselves, you will see learning take place.”

Barbara Allen is a 3rd grade teacher at Stringfellow Elementary School. She received a Bachelors and Masters in early childhood education from VSU and is in her 26th year of teaching. Barbara commented, “My greatest contributions to or accomplishments in education were and still are helping students succeed in all academic areas and helping them to strive to become productive citizens in our society. I believe my contributions to education cannot be seen in the form of a piece of paper. I measure my contributions by merely seeing the delight in my students’ faces when they have overcome any kind of academic struggle.”

Dena Mathis teaches first grade at Sunset Elementary School, and she is in her 12th year of teaching. She received her Bachelors in early childhood education from Georgia Southern University and was selected as PAGE TOTY in 2001. Regarding her beliefs about teaching, Dena responded, “My students are provided with a structured environment where they know the rules will be the same every day. This consistency furthers stability. There is never a question that the atmosphere is calm and the students are expected to do their best. They know they will be treated fairly and their educational requirements are met according to their level and needs.”

Clovis Barber, 6th grade math teacher, is the TOTY representative for both WJ Williams Middle School and the Colquitt County Association of Educators. She received a Bachelors in middle grades education from Albany State University. Clovis has taught for 13 years. She stated, “It does not matter how much I know if I cannot communicate it effectively. I believe that I am called to serve the children that I teach. A servant makes sure that the needs of the one being served are met, whatever it takes. A true servant appreciates the opportunity to serve. I am blessed to do what I love, and find great satisfaction in knowing that I have the opportunity to serve children.”

Jenny Marion, an upper grades literacy coach at RB Wright Elementary School, received a Bachelors in elementary education from Southwest Texas University and a Masters in reading education from VSU. This is her 16th year teaching. Jenny shared, “I believe that teaching is being a part of learning. It is sharing my room, my books, my knowledge, and my experiences with the students who each year become a part of my school family. It is when the students know that you like them, respect them, and want them to learn that they in return value your role in their lives and join you in the quest for achievement.”

Employees in the Spotlight

Kim Booth, Sunset fifth grade teacher, was recently named to the “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.”

Colquitt County Board of Education Board Member Trudie Hill has been chosen to represent the school board as the Legislative Liaison for the 2006 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

Bob Jones, CCHS Principal, is serving on State Superintendent Kathy Cox’s Principal Advisory Council.

C.A.Gray Middle School Principal Nathan Brown is serving on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Council.

The Colquilt Connections newsletter was recognized at the recent Georgia Department of Education Board meeting by Peggy Nielsen, our state board representative, as an example of innovation and leadership on the behalf of students.

We would like to put YOU in the Spotlight. E-mail your accomplishments to the School/Community Relations department: llardy@colquilt.k12.ga.us
“Bread deals with living things, with giving life, with growth, with the seed, the grain that nurtures. It’s not coincidence that we say bread is the staff of life.” ~ Lionel Poline

The smell of cinnamon and warm bread draws me into the kitchen. There I find everyone working, busy preparing lunch for the day and working ahead toward breakfast. After hugs and greetings from several folks, I ask for Ms. Dorothy. She is busy in her office, on the telephone and completing paperwork at the same time, making sure her kitchen and records are in order.

Dorothy Sampson is the cafeteria manager for Stringfellow Elementary School. This month we celebrate School Nutrition and with over 25 years in the Colquitt County Schools, Ms. Dorothy epitomizes the attitude and dedication of our school nutrition staff. She shares with me that she started working in the RB Wright cafeteria right out of high school. After 16 years at RB Wright, she moved to Stringfellow where she has worked almost 9 years. The past four, she has been their cafeteria manager.

Ms. Dorothy remembers her beginning salary in 1980 was $2.10 per hour. I asked her why she kept doing it. Ms. Dorothy shares, “I love the children. I don’t have children of my own and I worry about those that especially need to be fed. If they’re not full they can’t learn.”

Children are more than a daytime commitment for Ms. Dorothy. She has five nieces and nephews she takes special care of. Stringfellow is the home school for each of them. Right now the children and their mother live with Ms. Dorothy along with Ms. Dorothy’s mother.

As we talk, Ms. Dorothy shares, “I did something wonderful this summer. I went to Georgia Southern and took a class for a week, Culinary II. Anybody that worked in foods could take the class, but it was mostly managers and assistants. I also worked with ‘Christians for Christ’, the group that helped build Temple Baptist Church. I worked in the kitchen with the men…don’t believe you can find nicer men. They told me I could go with them again.”

Dorothy Sampson continues her education and self improvement as a manager. She is currently taking a class that meets once a week with Monika Griner for managers. She says, “It’s tough to be a manager. I have to think about what to say to people and how to say it. I pray about that.”

Dorothy Sampson is a native of Colquitt County. She was born in Hartsfield and has three brothers and five sisters. She still attends Sinner Friend Church and sings in the choir. From Hartsfield she moved to Sigsbee and attended Doerun Elementary, CA Gray, and then was a member of the first graduating class of the ‘new high school’ in 1980.

Monika Griner, our School Nutrition Director, had this to say about Ms. Dorothy Sampson, “I can always count on an agreeable attitude and welcoming smile from Dorothy each time I visit Stringfellow or discuss our program. She extends her kindness to the students at Stringfellow, her family, and the community. I am proud of Dorothy, her accomplishments, and look forward to many more years working with her in School Nutrition. Our program is about feeding children – Dorothy has not lost sight of that!”

Thank-you to Ms. Dorothy Sampson and all those who prepare bread for our children.