

# BENGAL BULLETIN

FUQUAY VARINA HIGH SCHOOL



Published by the PTSA

December, 2009-January, 2010



## *From the Desk of Principal McFarland:*

### **Professional Learning Teams (PLT) at Fuquay-Varina High School:**

#### **What Are They And Why Are They Important?**

The textbook definition for *the professional learning team* is a place where the staff continuously seeks and shares information about student achievement and learning and then acts on what they find. The professional learning team is seen as a powerful staff

development approach and a potent strategy for school change and improvement. The goal of what we do is to enhance our effectiveness as professionals so that Fuquay-Varina High School students benefit.

Three years ago the staff at FVHS embarked on a journey to make changes in our school that would benefit student learning and ultimately improve our graduation rate. We have spent an enormous amount of time and resources on staff development learning about differentiated instruction, an instructional model that basically means providing students with different avenues to acquiring content and skills. In our training sessions we have focused on the differences among learners - how they learn, learning preferences, and their individual interests. This type of professional practice requires teachers to spend much time focusing on the readiness level of students, interests of students, and the preferred mode of learning of students; thus, the need for time to collaborate about students and how to best meet their individual needs.

Using data, professional experiences, and best practices, teams of teachers work toward improving student learning by improving teaching and programs of support offered by the school. The types of things that teachers work on during a typical Early Dismissal Wednesday might include:

- Working together to create or score a common learning assessment
- Discuss in-depth how students demonstrate learning of essential elements from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study
- Review student data and plan for immediate remediation and/or enrichment
- Share best teaching practices, ideas, and activities

The power of this kind of focused work is supported by the improvement of our student achievement over the past three years. FVHS has improved our passing rate on End of Course Exams by almost 8.5% compared to the Wake County growth of 4.8%. The most important number to examine is our graduation rate in which we have increased the number of graduating seniors and surpassed the county average by 5% over the last three years. The bottom line is that our students are improving at a rate that is double that of the average Wake County Student. That kind of success could not occur without teachers having the opportunity to collaborate about student achievement and learning on a regular basis.

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To stay informed about FVHS news, visit the official school website at <http://fvhs.wcpss.net>.

This is the second issue of the Bengal Bulletin for the 2009-10 school year. The newsletter is available on line at the FVHS website <http://fvhs.wcpss.net>.

### Upcoming issues of the Bengal Bulletin:

- February – March 2010 issue  
(Deadline for submitting information is January 15)
- April – June 2010 issue  
(Deadline for submitting information is March 15)

Submit information via email to Clara Stiers at [clara.stiers@live.com](mailto:clara.stiers@live.com)



## FVHS PTSA News

### *A Message from our PTSA President...*

I can hardly believe we are one-third of the way through our school year. For many parents and students it has been a year of transitions in one way or another. Many are experiencing high school for the first time. Congratulations, you have survived your 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and are nearly halfway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of your first year of high school. Most students and parents fall somewhere in the middle. You have successfully completed one to two years and are settling into your own high school routine. For some of us that all important SENIOR year is well underway. I encourage everyone to remain focused. No matter where you are in your high school experience, college is attainable and what you do now does count!

Our goal remains constant: to provide every student with the best education possible. YOUR PTSA continues to strive to fill the gap in funding as a result of the budget crisis which has impacted education and our schools. Membership is up 30 % already this year. Thank you all for your continued support! If you have not joined, please do so today. Forms are available at the Front Desk or may be downloaded from the school website.



The FVHS Website <http://fvhs.wcpss.net> contains up to the minute details about everything FVHS. There is a wealth of information available to parents, students, and staff. Student Services posts an abundance of helpful information, and guidelines and procedures for services they provide. They also generate a monthly Newsletter to keep you informed.

FVHS offers a multitude of ways for students and parents to get involved. I hope that you have been able to attend a variety of events at FVHS this first semester. Every month at FVHS is packed with activities for everyone. Sporting events, clubs, the Arts, all offer programs to support and entertain our community. Show you value education by becoming personally involved at FVHS.

The second FVHS Education Summit was held November 10<sup>th</sup>. Community leaders and school staff, faculty, and parent representatives from each of the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools throughout the region, met to formulate ideas and plans to support education locally. YOUR PTSA was there to represent YOU!



As always, we value your input. Our monthly meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6 PM in the Media Center. Membership gives you a voice at FVHS! PTSA Membership also ensures that you will receive the Daily Bulletin and PTSA updates in your e-mail inbox.

Parents, let me wrap up by encouraging you to cherish these high school years with your student(s). Thanksgiving having just passed, many of us used that time to reflect on things they were thankful for in this past year. The holiday season is a stressful time for us all. Let your student know you care and are interested in what he/she is doing. Success deserves praise! Struggles deserve encouragement. What we do as parents matters, too!

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me with your concerns, questions, or suggestions. YOUR PTSA is here to support YOU!

On behalf of the FVHS PTSA Board,

Joy Daubenspeck ([thedaubenspecks@earthlink.net](mailto:thedaubenspecks@earthlink.net))(H#557-6209)  
FVHS PTSA President

## Outstanding Educator

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. CAROLE BARBER OUR NEW FVHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR!!!!

The teachers and staff at FVHS recently selected Mrs. Carole Barber as our Teacher of the Year. This is the highest award a teacher can earn in the school. Mrs. Barber was chosen by her peers to represent our school, meaning she has earned their respect and professional admiration. It is especially significant as there are so many outstanding educators here at FVHS, and choosing just one is difficult.

Mrs. Barber now moves on to the Wake County Selection Process. That process will include a review of her professional record, a portfolio, and a 15-20 minute video of Mrs. Barber's classroom instruction. An administrative panel will narrow the field to seven candidates and then make the final decision after interviewing the finalists and visiting their classrooms. We are very proud of Mrs. Barber and wish her much success in the countywide selection process!



## Bengal Rock-N-Shop

The PTSA is sponsoring a Bengal Rock-N-Shop fundraiser on April 10, 2010 from 11:00 - 3:00. The Bengal Rock-N-Shop will include student bands, faculty bands, and community bands. In addition to a great showcase of bands, there will be a \$500 cash raffle and big ticket items for raffle. In an effort to give back to the community, we are offering FVHS parents the opportunity to make contacts to promote their small businesses during this day's events. The FVHS Art students will have the opportunity to have their art on display as well.



The Bengal Rock-N-Shop will be an event to remember! Don't miss it!  
More information will be coming your way soon!



# FVHS Band News

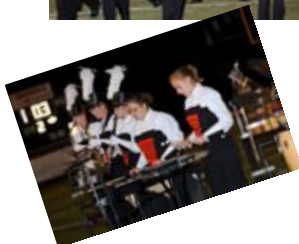
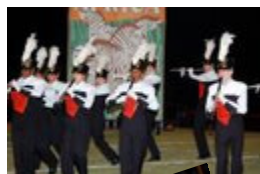
Congratulations to the Marching Bengals for another outstanding season. Their final score of 79.55 at Cary was the highest score an FVHS marching band has earned in more than 5 years and easily topped local rivals Harnett Central, Millbrook and Middle Creek. The ensemble has received a number of awards this Fall, including:

Panther Creek Invitational - Class AA  
 2nd Place General Effect  
 2nd Place Color Guard  
 1st Place Percussion  
 1st Place Visual Performance  
 2nd Place Overall

Wakefield Heart of Carolina Invitational - Class AA  
 1st Place Percussion  
 2nd Place Color Guard

Greene Central Band Day - Class AAA  
 2nd Place Visual Performance  
 2nd Place General Effect  
 2nd Place Music  
 2nd Place Percussion  
 2nd Place Drum Major  
 1st Place Color Guard  
 2nd Place Overall

Cary Band Day - Class AAA  
 2nd Place General Effect  
 2nd Place Music  
 2nd Place Color Guard  
 1st Place Percussion  
 3rd Place Drum Major  
 2nd Place Overall



In all, the Marching Bengals have earned a total of 20 placement awards this year.

The band, Band Boosters and Mr. Edwards sincerely appreciate the support from the administration, staff and community as we hosted more than 2500 spectators and performers from 15 visiting high schools at the 21st Annual Festival of Bands marching band competition on October 17th.



The FVHS Orchestra has been very busy so far this year. They started out the year participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Wake County Orchestra Festival. This festival featured high school orchestras from Athens Drive, Apex, Cary, Garner, Green Hope and Fuquay-Varina and middle schools from Davis Drive, West Cary and Fuquay-Varina. It was a big honor to play under the direction of this year's guest conductor, Dr. Steven Errante from UNC-Wilmington. After each middle school orchestra had a chance to shine individually, all the high school students performed several selections together. The evening concluded with ALL 200 students combining for a rousing rendition of the Can-Can!

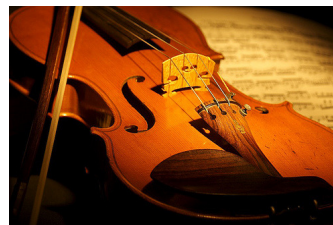
The end of October brought the North Carolina Music Educator's Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. Those students who participated in this judged event, worked on their own or in an ensemble group, perfecting their musical as well as technical skills.

Congratulations to this year's participants for receiving a "Superior" rating on their performances:

Katherine Willis – solo on violin

Marena Ferrel and Chelsea Williams – violin duet

Kyle Kikendall and Lawrence Libby – cello duet



# Clubs and Organizations

## Key Club News

Key Club is having the 20th annual Christmas party for the children at Fuquay-Varina Elementary school in our cafeteria from 3:30 to 6:00 pm on December 11th. Fifty-three K-3rd grade children will be entertained by Key Clubbers with outdoor and indoor games, holiday crafts, supper, a visit from Santa and lots of presents.



## Student Council News

### *Winter Formal*

Student Council is busy planning our annual Winter Formal. The dance will be held in the cafeteria on Saturday, February 20 from 8 PM - 11 PM. The cost is \$10. Outside guests will be permitted if students complete the outside guest application.

### *The Gauntlet*

The Gauntlet is a class competition with field day games in which all students may participate. Last year's Gauntlet raised \$1200, which was donated to the Autism Society of NC. This year's event will benefit the Fuquay-Varina Food Pantry and we will be conducting a class can drive as part of the competition. The date is Thursday, March 18 in the gym. Mark your calendar for this event - it will be well worth watching!



## *Student Accolades*

Check out the new Student Accolades paw print on the FVHS website at <http://fvhs.wcpss.net>. It contains up-to-date acknowledgements of and congratulations to our outstanding students.

## NEWS FROM YOUR FVHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The fall sports season at FVHS has been an exciting one! We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our student athletes for their many outstanding accomplishments both on and off the playing fields/courts!

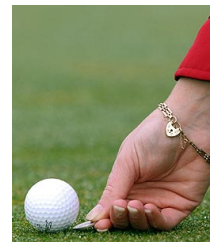
Congratulations to our **Varsity Football Team** - they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Conference and made it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the State Playoffs!



Congratulations to our **Varsity Men's Soccer Team** - they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Conference and advanced to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Playoffs!

Congratulations to our **Varsity Volleyball Team** - **Junior Raquelle Keaton** was named to the All-Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> Team for the Tri-9 Volleyball Season and **Senior Jenny Elms** was selected from FVHS as the "Senior Athlete of the Week" by The Raleigh Sports Club!

The **FVHS Ladies Golf Team** continued its streak - since Ladies Golf began at FVHS seven years ago, we have had at least one player, if not more, qualify for the NCHSAA State Championship. This year, **Senior Callie Thrower** qualified for States by winning a sudden-death playoff at Regionals. Callie's 2-day, 36-hole State competition took place in late October at the Foxfire Golf Club in Pinehurst.



Be sure to read the next issue of the FVHS PTSA Newsletter as it will be filled with more accolades from the Fall Athletic Sports Night!

**Our Fall Athletic Sports Award Night is scheduled for Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will begin at 6:30 PM in the gym lobby, followed by the Awards Presentation in the main gym at 7 PM. Please join us as we celebrate our fall sports teams and their many accomplishments.**

Please join us! The **FVHS Athletic Booster Club Monthly Board Meetings** are held on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM in the administrative conference room - all are welcome to attend!

Best of Luck this winter sports season to all our Student Athletes!

**GO BENGALS!!**

You make us proud!!



## Exam Schedule - January 2010

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14**  
(Regular Schedule)  
1st Period - Exam Review

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 (Early Release)

7:25a – 10:25a 1st Period Exam  
10:25a – 10:40a Class Change/Snack  
10:40a – 11:40a 2nd Period Class (Exam Review)  
11:50a Buses Depart

### MONDAY, JANUARY 18

(School Closed – Holiday)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

(Early Release)  
7:25a – 10:25a 2nd Period Exam  
10:25a – 10:40a Class Change/Snack  
10:40a – 11:40a 3rd Period Class (Exam Review)  
11:50a Buses Depart

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

(Early Release)  
7:25a – 10:25a 3rd Period Exam  
10:25a – 10:40a Class Change/Snack  
10:40a – 11:40a 4th Period Class (Exam Review)  
11:50a Buses Depart

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

(Early Release)  
7:25a – 10:25a 4th Period Exam  
10:35a Buses Depart

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

(Make-up Day)  
7:25a – 10:25a EOC Retest #1  
Afternoon - Other retests and make-up exams as needed.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 25

(Teacher Workday)  
Focused intervention session for students who did not pass retest #1.

## Dates to Remember



### December

December 2	Early Release
December 3	7pm Financial Aid Workshop
December 5	7:30am Cheerleader Pancake Breakfast
December 6	3pm F-V Christmas Parade
December 8	Orchestra Concert
December 10	Choral Concert
December 11	2:30 Key Club Christmas Party
December 12	Holly Springs Christmas Parade
December 14	Fall Athletic Awards Night
December 21-January 1	Winter Break



### January

January 11	Band Concert
January 15	Exams (1 <sup>st</sup> period)
January 18	Holiday
January 19	Exams (2 <sup>nd</sup> period)
January 20	Exams (3 <sup>rd</sup> period)
January 21	Exams (4 <sup>th</sup> period)
January 22	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter ends
January 25	Teacher Workday
January 26	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester begins
January 29	1 <sup>st</sup> semester report cards

## Looking Ahead

February 11	Spring Open House
February 11 – 13	Drama Production
February 20	Winter Formal
March 2	Band Concert
March 18	The Gauntlet
	Chorus Concert
March 26	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter ends
March 29 – April 2	Spring Break
April 5	Teacher Workday
April 10	Bengal Rock-n-Shop