

**Baldwin County
Education
Coalition**



One voice. Every child.

November 2016 Community Newsletter

The lesson of giving back & helping those in need

In every school across Baldwin County, students are learning one of life's greatest lessons: it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Schools in Baldwin County engage in a variety of initiatives aimed at giving back to support their community and provide for those in need. Students give their time by volunteering for Coastal Cleanup, Special Olympics, and at nursing homes and various community functions. They host programs to show appreciation to our veterans, and organize toy drives and blood drives.

Our children and teachers also raise money to support local social services such as United Way, Ecumenical Ministries, and Toys for Tots. They've even held special collections for communities affected by natural disasters.

One initiative unique to Foley Elementary and Foley feeder schools was established to provide families with a warm meal on Thanksgiving Day - Turkey Take Out. In the first year, the program provided meals to 60 families. Now in its seventh year, the program has expanded to include Gulf Shores and Rosinton, and will provide a full turkey, all the fixings, and non-perishable food items to almost 225 families.

Over the years, Turkey Take Out has evolved into a community partnership of churches, civic organizations, and active citizens. Dr. Lawrence, Principal of Foley Elementary, said, "A child is not able to learn if they're

hungry. We do whatever we need to do to help our children and families."

To support Turkey Take Out, please visit www.turkeytakeout.com.



This time of year, half of our schools are collecting canned food for Prodissee Pantry and Ecumenical Ministries. Officials are estimating that 20,000 pounds of canned goods will be donated to support families over the holidays. Congratulations to Spanish Fort Elementary for collecting more than any school in the county with over 3,200 pounds!



Another great program and example of community partnership was started by the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office. Pennies For Puppies began four years ago to raise money for the purchase of a new drug dog, a cost of \$12,000. The department was about to retire several dogs that were approaching the end of their service life. Half of our schools participated, raising close to \$15,000 the first year. To date, three new dogs have been added to the K9 Unit. Corporal Jeff Spaller said, "These K9's have taken a lot of drugs off the streets. It's the gift that keeps giving." Each participating school receives a visit and demonstration by one of the dogs during Red Ribbon Week.



Recently, Daphne Schools rallied to provide over \$10,000 to one of their own, Jon Mason Lim. A third grader at Daphne Elementary, Jon Mason was diagnosed with a serious brain tumor. Funds raised are assisting the family with medical expenses. The effort expanded to the community that has also provided significant support to the family. You too can donate by visiting www.gofundme.com/2rekisk.



Baldwin County Schools have a rich history of giving back and supporting

those in need. Students are eager to serve others and recognize what a difference they can make in the lives of their neighbors. What better life lesson is there?



BCBE's Progress Report Summary

BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE - PRESENTED OCTOBER 18, 2016

ACADEMICS/CURRICULUM: ACADEMICS FIRST

RECOMMENDATION #1: Provide the necessary leadership to ensure academics is the number one priority of the district.

- Academic Dean
- Academic data reviewed quarterly with stakeholders, BCBE and during school visits
- Waiver from ACT Apply to Scribner Achievement Series for accountability and to drive instruction
- Updated District Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION #2: Provide teachers and schools with the resources they need to deliver quality and equitable instruction.

- Guided Reading Initiative
- Dyslexia Initiative
- Response to Instruction Initiative
- Review and Revision of Elementary and Secondary Policies and Procedures
- An College Ready

LEADERSHIP: CRUCIAL TO EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

RECOMMENDATION #1: Implement a recruitment, training and succession plan for the development of aspiring administrators and current administrators.

- Spring Instruction Leader Program
- Principal Academy
- GRITC and EOGGS Administrator Strand
- Assistant Principal Exchange Program
- Teacher Mentor Program (ALISE Mentoring Program)

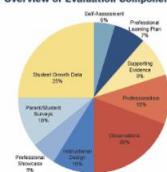
RECOMMENDATION #2: Assure that an effective evaluation plan is in place.

- Baldwin County Board of Education Educator Effectiveness Program
- Leadership Committee formed: teachers, administrators and stakeholders
- Meetings with each administrator to review areas of strength & weaknesses

RECOMMENDATION #3: Build a collaborative and cohesive Board Team that includes a culture of concern for ALL students in Baldwin County.

- Building a Better Team training

Overview of Evaluation Components



Recently, the BCBE presented its progress report to the Community Advisory Task Force. Check out this summary to get the details.



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