



November 2017 Community Newsletter

Coalition awarded \$90,000 grant to benefit Baldwin County Schools

The Baldwin County Education Coalition received a \$90,000 grant from Impact 100 Baldwin County at its annual meeting last week. The grant was awarded to the Coalition from the education category for the project known as "Opening Minds and Doors through Child Literacy." This project supports Baldwin County Public Schools' (BCPS) Guided Reading Initiative, which was identified as a best practice and strategic priority in the BCPS Plan for Academics.



Guided Reading is a research-based instructional process that meets the needs of all students. The initiative empowers teachers by training them to teach in different ways to small groups of students with similar reading behaviors. It also provides teachers and students with quality reading materials and resources.

The project will focus on all elementary and intermediate schools in the Bay Minette, Foley and Robertsedale feeder patterns impacting almost 9,000 students in grades kindergarten through sixth. These schools were selected based on longitudinal data that identified the three feeder patterns with the lowest reading proficiency scores.

A pilot of the initiative that took place last fall supports Guided Reading as a best practice with proven results:

- Prior to the pilot, the third grade reading proficiency was below state average for 11 of Baldwin's elementary schools. Those 11 schools were identified as Tier II (or at-risk) by the State Department of Education. By spring 2017, 10 of the 11 schools were no longer at-risk.
- Six of the 10 schools ranked in the top 20 for student gains in Alabama; Silverhill Elementary ranked third in the state with 131 percent growth.
- Students at all proficiency levels experienced gains.
- Students who were once reluctant to read are now excited about reading and are allowed to choose what they are interested in reading.

Funds from the grant will be used to invest in the professional development of our teachers, who are on the frontlines everyday making a difference in the lives of our children, and for quality content-specific reading libraries that focus on math, science, social studies and STEM texts.

"We are so very grateful for the support of Impact 100 and honored to be among so many worthy nonprofit organizations. As a rapidly growing school system with limited district funds, we're dependent upon community partners such as Impact 100 to accomplish the literacy vision for our county. The ability to read proficiently lays the foundation for a child's success in school and in life, ultimately creating a healthier and stronger Baldwin County." - Terry Burkle



In Partnership with Baldwin County Public Schools

Please Join Us!

For This Complimentary Event

**BUILDING A LEGACY OF LITERACY:
CREATING A COMMUNITY OF LIFE LONG LEARNERS**

DECEMBER 11

11:15 A.M – 1:00 P.M.

TROJAN HALL

DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL
9300 CHAMPIONS WAY
DAPHNE, ALABAMA 36526

Agenda

- 11:15 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Welcome
- 11:40 a.m. Keynote Featuring Carmen Agra Deedy
- 12:15 p.m. Complimentary Lunch

Baldwin Patrons of Literacy Project

Baldwin County Educators are empowering students to be active super readers! Students have made many gains but there is more work to be done. With your support, Baldwin County Educators can continue to focus on engagement in reading inside and outside of the classroom. Join our literacy community to hear about current gains and future goals, and learn how to become a Literacy Patron.

Questions?

Terry Burkle, Executive Director,
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[Click here to register.](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

We need your input.

Join us for one of the final three Community Meetings to help shape the future of our schools. Email info@betterbaldwin.com and help us improve student achievement.

YOUR VOICE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS

JOIN US FOR A
**BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL
COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

For more information email info@betterbaldwin.com

NOVEMBER 20 • 5–7 PM

ORANGE BEACH
Orange Beach City Council Chambers
4099 Orange Beach Blvd.


NOVEMBER 27 • 5–7 PM

BAY MINETTE
Bay Minette City Council Chambers
301 D'Olive Street

NOVEMBER 30 • 5–7 PM

DAPHNE
Coastal Church Coastal Cafe
11101 County Road 64



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