

EC Express

December 2017

Upcoming Events:

12/7/17
3:30 pm -
4:15 pm

Compliance Booster
Session
PLAAFP and SMART
Goals Review
*Location: Mrs. Tripp's
Classroom (PCHS)*

12/11/17
6:00 pm

Special Olympics
Meeting

1/4/18
3:30 pm -
4:15 pm

Compliance
Booster Session
Overview of Parent
Handbook
Location: TBD

We wish you a very special holiday season and hope that you enjoy a restful and relaxing break in just a few weeks. We truly appreciate your compassion and hard work that you display everyday for our EC students and their families. Together, we are striving to be an ELITE EC Department in our region and state. Thank you for your continued dedication!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Sykes

Highlights from the 67th Annual Conference on Exceptional Children: 11/15 – 11/17

The theme of this year's EC Conference was "Prescriptive Instruction: The Key to Proficiency." This conference is the largest gathering of professional educators and parents of children with disabilities in the United States! At the plenary session, the crowd listened as the keynote speaker Rick Guidotti shared his perspective as a photographer of people with physical limitations and impairments. His stories were truly heart-warming and his collections of image and narratives celebrated the beauty of human diversity. That evening, Mrs. Amy Woodard, accompanied by her mother and friends, was honored as our Perquimans County Schools' Teacher of Excellence at the Recognition Banquet. We commend Mrs. Woodard for all of her recent accomplishments! Please be sure to collaborate with your EC colleagues who attended this year's conference for additional updates and innovative ideas to continuously improve the educational outcomes for all of our EC students! PQ EC Team Pride!



Highlights from the District EC Family Night

The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) led an informative session for our families at the District EC Family Night on Thursday, November 2. The speaker provided numerous handouts and tips on the development of the IEP process as and parental rights of a child with special needs. Each school's EC Team hosted a table to meet and greet with their respective families. Dinner was provided by ECAC in the cafeteria for all participants. It was truly a wonderful evening connecting with our families and partnering with ECAC!



Staff Spotlight: Ms. Donna Jones

PRC 29 Behavior Support

Our EC Department welcomes Ms. Donna Jones as our new PRC 29 Behavior Support. Her office is located on the 2nd floor at PCHS. She is a proud mom of 4. Her youngest child attends Perquimans Central School. Recently, she became a grandmother and has settled into the role pretty well. Her educational background consists of an Associate's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, which she feels fits well in her new role. Her hobbies include indoor gardening, reading, and writing. She is a Chicago Cubs

fan and this is a big interest of hers. She enjoys entrepreneurship and encourages people to explore this further. Helping young people see that they have the potential to be productive and successful members of society is a main goal. She is genuinely interested in helping others. Her educational philosophy is that we are all educators; some just do not have a license or certificate for our area of expertise. Everyday, there is the opportunity to teach and there is also the opportunity to learn. She feels that we can inspire students to make more informed choices and display the behaviors we want to see in others. As educators, we

have the responsibility to shape our students' lives and behaviors because everyone in the community is responsible as a role model and we need to take that responsibility seriously. Her goals are behavior support specialist for the year are to stay on top of what needs to be done to keep everything running smoothly and to be seen by students and staff as not only a welcomed addition, but also as a big help. Mr. Harrell and Mr. Dozier have already done a great job in these positions and she is looking forward to working with them to needs of the students. Teamwork makes it all work. Welcome to our EC Team, Ms. Jones!

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Carter Dozier

PRC 29 Behavior Support

Our EC Team welcomes Mr. Carter Dozier as the new PRC 29 Behavior Support based at the Accelerated Learning Center (ALC). He is retired with over 30+ years in local and state government. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from ECSU, Master's Degree in Public Administration from Strayer University, and 90% completion of a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Health Services through Strayer University. His educational philosophy includes a positive stance on behavior

management, change through diversity, application of methods conducive to the nature of the behavior, being proactive, belief in the well-defined rules and procedures, provision of stability and a structured classroom and procedures, comfortable and safe learning environment, and positive reinforcement for desired behavior. As teachers, we are roles models and must hold students accountable and responsible for their learning while showing respect. His goals this year include the following: providing support to the students and learning

experience at the ALC; conducting observations and make recommendations to assist addressing specific behavior issues; developing ideas and suggestions for creating a comfortable and safe learning environment; successfully assess and evaluate student development; developing training workshops; providing skills training and counseling to students; implement individual and group development plans to effect behavioral changes; and keeping current and well documentation. We are excited to have you on our EC Team, Mr. Dozier!

Thanksgiving Teaching Moments

During the week of Thanksgiving, Mrs. Whidbee's Independent Living class and Mrs. Jan Tripp's OCS class enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal full of many delicious entrees and special treats. Prior to the meal, students in Mrs. Whidbee's Independent Living class learned about the traditions and history of the first Thanksgiving as well as reviewed cooking and food preparation safety. In Mrs. Tripp's OCS Prep class, students learned about setting a dinner table, reading recipes, and budgeting for groceries to prepare for their upcoming meal. It was truly an enjoyable real-world application and experience for all!



Special Olympics Committee Update



The Special Olympics Committee, under the leadership of Ms. Chiquita Sutton, has experienced a productive month. Our Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser was a huge success. The top three sellers included:

Ms. Anisha Spellman with 83 boxes, Mrs. Stephanie Crank with 45 boxes and Ms. Danita Whidbee with 32 boxes. We raised a lot of "dough" for such a great cause. Last week, several of our Special Olympics Committee Members helped with the Concessions at the PCMS basketball game against Chowan Middle School. We were able to receive a portion of these profits. We are exploring additional fundraising ideas for the spring. On December 2, we participated in the Hertford Christmas Parade. The theme of our float was

the "Educational Express." Students from HGS, PCMS, and PCHS boarded our train-like float dressed in college and career ready gear and Santa hats. Mrs. Woodard and her husband spent countless hours designing and building our float. We received numerous compliments. Several committee members assisted decorating our float. Mrs. Kanika Griffin greeted everyone aboard the "Educational Express." If you are interested in joining our Special Olympics Committee, please see Ms. Chiquita Sutton.

**"Teamwork - Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller**



Compliance Reminders

Email Correspondence

- Please be sure to refrain from using student identifying information in email correspondence; use student numbers instead
- For example, do not use Student C. Sykes, instead use Student 12345678
- Don't forget to utilize district password when sending reports, etc.



Accessing Records

- Sign in/out records each time that you access them
- Don't forget to sign the access form inside the folder
- Please make sure that new access forms are placed in the file if old ones are completed filled

Data Notebooks

- Reflect upon your 1st Quarter Data and 2nd Quarter data gathered for students on your caseload
- Use all available sources of data gathered to drive your next instructional steps for the remainder of the semester and/or MOY and to prepare for IEP Progress Reports in January



Parent/Family Engagement

- Continually develop a personalized relationship with families to establish safe and inviting classroom environment and two-way, open communication
- Gather and provide information and support in culturally responsive ways