

The GreenWaveNews

*Inside the Wave Academia, Views/Opinions, Features, Ask Angus, Sports, Classes and Clubs, Counselor's Corner
Leeds High School Quill and Scroll Honor Society (established October 10, 1947)
International Honor Society for High School Journalists*

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Hmm....I'm checking my LHS list twice!
Let's see whether they've been
Naughty or Nice.... pgs 6, 7 & 8

FCCLA Leaders in Washington, DC



Photo courtesy of Casey Collins
FCCLA team represented LHS and the Leeds area with dignity at the recent Capitol Leadership Training. Pictured, left to right, Keaton Glass, Casey Collins, Jordan Teems, and Evan Kennedy. [See complete story on page 9]

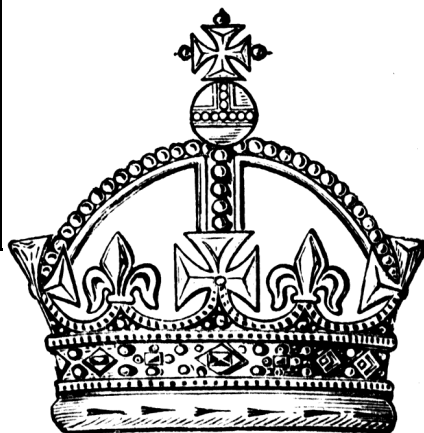
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Oops.....Correction!!!

Mr. Michael Turner
LHS Principal
has been with Leeds City Schools
for 9 years!

2012 Leeder Pageant



The 2012 Leeder Pageant will be held on Saturday, January 28th, at the LHS Auditorium. The annual pageant will begin at 6:00 P.M. Doors will open promptly at 5:15 PM.

Reserved tickets will be available the week prior to the Saturday event. Reserved tickets are \$10.00 each.

General Admission tickets are \$6.00 each and will be available at the door on the night of the pageant. **Reserved Tickets will NOT be sold at the door**

Visit the school website for applications and for more information about the event.

www.leeds.al.lch.schoolinsites.com

The Vision of Leeds City Schools is Promoting Achievement, Respect, and Success.

Opinions and Viewpoints

Why “Protest in America” is doomed to fail

By Tyler Deverell

If you have flipped on a news channel lately, you have noticed that a new glut of protesters has occupied our cities in the hopes of rendering change. What they want to change and how they want to make the change is not entirely clear. In my opinion, what matters is that it will not work primarily because of the same power that drives it – popular opinion – that most finicky and illogical of forces. The original “Occupy Wall Street” has spread to occupy cities across America.

What one must understand is that the nature of journalism today would disgust Hearst and that journalism today shapes public opinion. Civil discourse has become a shouting match and the dismissive attitude is the prevailing attitude of the day. This combined with the healthy, robust culture of partisanship so lovingly fostered by decades of lazy, inept governance will relegate the movement to fodder for late night TV jokes.

Civil discourse has always been a relative term, but our culture has endeavored to take the spirit of debate to an all-time low. Political discussions are primarily composed of a set of talking points parroted over and over, with the occasional witless barb thrown in for good measure. The favored tactic of most seasoned debaters is to simply dismiss the opposing side’s view through humor. This is the strategy currently employed to break any protest movement and it is scarily effective. Reasonable

arguments are shouted down. Fringe parts of the movement are billed as the heart and soul of the movement which are picked apart by late night comedians. To put it simply – who jokes wins!

Recent statistics show that only nine percent of American approve of Congress. Thus, I feel totally correct in saying that the United States government is more corrupt, dull, nonsensical, and lethargic than it has ever been. Yet, despite its amazing aptitude for failing at the most simple procedures, it is amazing good at one thing: protecting itself. There is divine providence for drunkards and fools and, it appears, Congress is both. Congress has created a culture of partisan hatred in America that has split the country and diluted the potency of any protest. If the “Tea Party” and “Occupy” movements were to ever merge forces, change to the system would be quite likely. Apparently our representatives in Washington have ensured that this will never happen, as they fight bravely for “your viewpoints.” Politics is the process of telling the voters they’re right and then saying, “you know what you’re also right about...”

The man who dares tread first on rational grounds is the loser in any debate. It is simpler instead to stand solely on one talking point and defend it with all the humor that your speech writers can muster. Your Congressmen learned these lessons a long time ago and have applied them well, using them to break resistance among their constituents

by making them partition themselves willingly. Both the “Tea Party” and the “Occupy Wall Street” members believe that government has gone too far and has become a corrupt force. In an important way, both groups are quite similar. However, they are typecast as Republican and Democrat. There is no hope for any protest in this country as long as we think of things in terms of left and right, rather than “We the people...”

**Seasons Greetings
from the staff of
The
GreenWave News**

**Special Thanks to
The Leeds Herald**

**Online Staff
Publisher, David Hogan
Sr. Editor, Jake Hogan
Sr. Reporter, Justin Hogan
Sr. Photographer, Sean Hogan**

The Leeds Herald has graciously granted exclusive & limited rights to *The GreenWave News* (while under the supervision of Sponsor Maggie Shannon) to reprint *The Leeds Herald* photographs giving proper credit to *The Leeds Herald*.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Leeds City Schools is to develop confident, productive young people and enable them to become independent life-long learners. We will accomplish this through a dedicated professional staff committed to continued learning. A relevant curriculum will be taught based on thinking and reasoning skills. This will take place in a positive environment recognizing the individual differences in children.

The GreenWave News

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Purpose

The focus of *The GreenWave News* is to provide a school and community informational service highlighting activities of Leeds High School. Additionally, the publication seeks to provide a public forum for the opinions of students, the newspaper staff, and faculty.

Articles and opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of Leeds High School nor the City of Leeds Board of Education.

The editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Staff.

Corrections:

Errors appearing in *The GreenWave News* should be reported to the advisor. If a correction is warranted, one will be published in the next edition.



Freeman earns spot on elite list of teachers with National Board Certification

By Keaton Glass

Mrs. Stephanie Freeman, math teacher at LHS since 2005, recently earned the prestigious National Board Certification. The rigorous process involved in earning this distinction takes countless hours over the course of a year — both in and out of the classroom. Thousands of teachers attempt the task each year, but only about 50% attain the award on the first attempt.

“It is very exciting,” Freeman said. “I appreciate the support of my family, my students, and LHS during this journey. I feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment for achieving the highest honor a teacher can receive. With this certification, I hope to continue improving my instruction and impacting student learning.”

Freeman is currently teaching Algebra II, Pre-Cal, and Algebraic Connections. Algebra III, Calculus, and AVID 12 are on her schedule for the 2012 semester.

Becoming a Nationally Board Certified teacher rewards those teachers who go the extra mile in and outside of the classroom for his or her students. These are teachers who dedicate their lives to the betterment of high school students.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue NBC provided to me by Leeds City Schools. I would especially like to thank the Leeds National Board Cohort group for their support and guidance throughout this process,” Freeman added.

Leeds High School is very proud to have teachers who care about the students and their well-being beyond the classroom, and yet still have unparalleled teaching ability.

Our SUPER HERO of LHS



By Cherish Briskey

Mrs. Susan Stovall is the front office secretary for LHS. She is a **super hero** who jumps into action to deal with the student body, faculty, and the parents of Leeds. This is her 10th year with LHS — and, WOW, the stories she could tell!

There is no *down time* for Mrs. Stovall. The phone is ringing before she can get in the door — and she arrives extremely early every day! While fielding telephone calls, she is checking in tardy students, responding to administration and faculty needs, returning voice messages, and answering emails. When she finds a spare moment, she is recording student excuses, tracking down students who are being summoned to the office for checkout or “other” reasons. She is usually the first stop for students sent from classrooms for disciplinary reasons on their way to the principal’s office.

During the hours until noon, she is the “on duty *play nurse*” for students. She is also the confidant and friend for students who need a sympathetic listener. She does this all with a smile on her face and a cheerful spirit.

If you think being “just a secretary” is easy, try spending one day with Mrs. Stovall. As her office aide, I understand how hard her job is and she has truly earned my respect and gratitude. We all need to appreciate the work she does and congratulate her often! The school could not function without a caring, hands-on person like Mrs. Stovall.

Mrs. Stovall’s interest in photography has grown from a hobby into a passion, and now when she is **NOT** at school, she and daughter, Julie Hubbard, are busy starting their own business, Crown Photography, which specializes in senior portraits and engagement photography. She and husband, Hoyt, also own and manage Stovall Condo Rentals in Panama City and Destin, FL. — a venture they began 23 years ago.

All in all, Mrs. Stovall deals with a lot of people who need a lot of things done — ASAP!

In my opinion, she needs more help **or at least more coffee!**

Samford University professors and media professionals teach the essentials of publication writing to LHS students



Halie Lindsey and Cherish Briskey, Senior Editors of *The GreenWave News*, won the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Award" for describing the proper sequence of putting the sandwich together — this individual workshop focused on media writing with emphasis on sequential order in reporting events.



Quill & Scroll sponsor Maggie Shannon, Yearbook sponsor Emily Thomas, and English 12 Dual Enrollment teacher Mandy Beason accompanied the twenty-one students to the annual journalism workshop sponsored by Samford University.



By Cherish Briskey

Newspaper, yearbook, Dual Enrollment English, and AVID students enjoyed an informative media conference on the beautiful campus of Samford University. This annual event is sponsored by Samford University's Department of Journalism and Mass Communications and The Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation. Samford's Dr. Bernie Ankney welcomed 200+ students from twelve schools and organizations across the state and introduced Keynote Speaker Chris Pollone of Alabama's 13 News who entertained the audience with personal stories of his years in journalism — both print, television, and internet news reporting.

Seminars throughout the day featured: Samford University's Dr. Julie Williams, Dr. Dennis Jones, Mike Grace, Dr. Lee Farquhar, Dr. Jon Clemmensen, and Kenny Smith. Other notable journalism professionals presenting media sessions were Martin Swant of *The Birmingham News*, Kaitlin McCulley of CBS 42, Carla Jean Whitley of *Birmingham* magazine, Kim Cook of *Southern Living*, Donovan Harris of *Progressive Farmer*, Hannah Wolfson of *The Birmingham News*, and Kyle Whitmire of www.thesecondfront.com and WELD Birmingham.

This marked the second year Leeds High School was represented by talented student journalists.



Thanksgiving Myths

By Casey Collins

We celebrated Thanksgiving 2011 on November 24th. More than likely, everyone traveled to relatives' homes and feasted on 500,000 calories worth of food that tasted fantastic. We all learned the history behind Thanksgiving in 4th grade. The pilgrims traveled from Great Britain to America in order to achieve religious freedom from King James I.

After the long and treacherous boat ride on the *Mayflower* from England to the Americas, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast with the "Natives" of the land. This feast lasted three days. Despite what we have been told since childhood, there is a wide variety of common **Thanksgiving Misconceptions!**

Myths

- The pilgrims were the first colonists in the New World.
- Pilgrims dressed in black and white with buckles and pointy hats.
- The Pilgrims and Native Americans sat together around a table for their feast.
- The feast took place in November.
- They ate turkey.



The TRUTH: The "Pilgrims" didn't even refer to *themselves* as "Pilgrims" — they called themselves "Saints." Early Americans applied the term "pilgrim" to *all* of the early colonists; it wasn't until the 20th century that it was used exclusively to describe the folks who landed on Plymouth Rock.

The first Thanksgiving celebration took place sometime between late September and the middle of October — after the harvest had been gathered. "By November," wrote historian Richard Erhlich, "the villagers were working to prepare for winter, salting and drying meat, and making their houses as wind resistant as possible."

None of the participants were dressed anything like the way they have been portrayed in art: the pilgrims did not dress in black, did not wear buckles on their hats or shoes, and did not wear tall hats. The 19th-century artists who painted them that way did so because they associated black clothing and buckles with being old-fashioned. Additionally, the pilgrims ate *deer*, not turkey.

LHS Library receives \$100 contribution



LHS Librarian Emily Thomas accepts a \$100 contribution from Sherry Whisenhunt on behalf of the Delta Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Attending the presentation were (l. to r.) Dr. Grady Sue Saxon, Whisenhunt, Thomas, LHS Assistant Principal Steve Hall, and LHS teachers Mrs. Terri Leigh Gibson and Mrs. Mandy Beason.

Photo courtesy of Susan Stovall

Contributed by Mandy Beason

Delta Theta is a chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an organization that promotes professional and personal growth of key women educators and excellence in education. Membership is by invitation only, and the organization seeks educators who best represent those ideals.



Dear Santa,
Many other "good" children will ask for toys, cars, and possibly even world peace; however, I would like to ask for MONEY! Our economy is in extreme distress, so a little extra money wouldn't be bad. I accept cash, checks, Visa and Mastercard. Please make checks out to me!

Halie Lindsey

Dear Santa,
I want a MacBook Pro and lots of cash!
Tomi Kate (O'Malley) O'Neal

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a new truck and the Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3 video game.
Josh Hall

With this in mind, the project committee donated \$100 to the libraries of area schools where many Delta Theta members are employed. Those schools presently include all three Leeds City Schools. "I am thrilled to receive this generous donation. I have wanted to supplement a few novel series for quite some time. This is the right amount of money to do that. It means so much to me to receive this gift for the LHS Library in a time when funds are limited," Mrs. Thomas said. Delta Theta members and school libraries receiving \$100 donations :

Leeds Elementary:

Leslie Miller, Anita Gay, and Jessica Webster (recently moved)

Dr. Kathy King, former LES principal – now LCS Board of Education

Leeds Middle School:

Susan Hutto

Leeds High School:

Amanda Beason, Terri Leigh Gibson, and Amy Terry, former LHS teacher – now LCS Board of Education

Members (retired educators):

Dr. Grady Sue Saxon, Samford University, and Sherry Whisenhunt, Jefferson State Community College.

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is to see everyone happy and for everyone to show love to one another.

Arturo Mato

Dear Santa,
I really don't want anything material this year for myself. I want Christmas to be all about God, Family, Love, Unity, and Thankfulness. I want to be able to give more to my nephews and nieces. As long as I live to share Christmas with my family, I'm satisfied.

Robert McDowell

Dear Santa,
I am taking the time to write you to tell you what I want on the day of Christmas. I want some clothes, shoes, jewelry, and a car. I ask every year, but I never get it.

Amanda Woods

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want some dishes and furniture that I can take with me to college. Oh, a new car would be nice!

Katie Crane

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a lot of money and peace and happiness with my family.

Clitasha Henderson

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like an early graduation present – a new car! I also want my family to have a good Christmas and be together.

Mashiyah Pickett

Dear Santa,
I would like to spend Christmas Day with my (half) brothers and sisters like we did when my father was alive. I would love to share Christmas with the brother and sister who live with me and my other brother and sisters all together. That's my Christmas wish as a big sister.

Ambernique Boswell

P.S. If you could get me a 2011 Nissan Maxima before graduation, I would be so thankful!

Dear Santa,
I would like to get a brand new car for college and a new laptop for my college classes.

Dylan Shelton

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is for my family to be together. I want to see everyone smiling and having fun. I also want a puppy as my Christmas gift. I thank you, in advance, Santa.

Pastoria Rogers

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to have clothes that actually fit and money that I can spend on things that I would like to buy. If you can possibly get either one of these or both, I would be most appreciative.

Marshall Roberts

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I want a new car or my old car back. I also want an iPad2 that I could use in college.

Ashlyn Newton

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to have my family back to the way it used to be. Also, I would like to see my grandfather one last time. I miss him so much.

Eric Isbell

Dear Santa,
I want to be happy and have a good life. I hope you can help me Santa, please. I really want a cell phone and a game, too.

Jarvest Thomas

Dear Santa,
I really would like my Daddy back. I would also like my own car.

Jessica Rafferty

“Oh! You better watch out..You better not cry..I’m telling you why..Santa Claus is coming to town.”

Dear Santa,
I really would like to have a dog. I'd also like a large iPad and some apps to put on it. Thanks a lot.

JaViere Mitchell

Dear Santa,
I would love to get a new cell phone for Christmas.

Caitlin Frederick

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a set of 24” rims and some more shoes and clothes.

Stanley Strickland

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I want a big house and a million dollars to spend on anything I want.

Stephanie Alvarez

Dear Santa,
There are a few things I want for Christmas — a new car or truck (preferably a Ford F-150 King Ranch). I also want a laptop for college in the fall. I will be expecting these things on Christmas Day.

Seth Laird

Dear Santa,
I don't really need anything for Christmas but there are some less fortunate people throughout the world who do. All I want for Christmas is for those people to know Jesus and have a better quality of life.

Evan Kennedy

Dear Santa,
I would like some money for Christmas. That is all I want and here is the reason why: with that money I can make money by becoming an entrepreneur and make profits from the money you leave under the tree. Then I will be buy the things to meet my needs.

Christian James

Dear Santa,
Christmas comes this time of year..oooh...oooooh! I will spread this Christmas cheer. All I want for Christmas is you! I really like clothes and shoes too. A little money would not hurt!

Maya Everett

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year and I would like a white Teacup Poodle, an iPhone4S, a new laptop, and a blue Mustang convertible. I will be extremely happy if I get these things.

Kelsey Mitchell

Dear Santa,
I would like \$1,000, clothes, shoes, and new purses. Also, in my stocking, I would like a lot of candy!

Taylor Bouchillon

Dear Santa,
Here is my Wish List for Christmas:

- Samsung Transform Ultra (Boost Mobile)
- Ojamajo Doremi 16 (light novel)
- *Steve Jobs* by Walter Issacson

Jacob Smith

(Only my sweet Jacob would explain requests to Santa!...Mrs. Claus)

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to ask for some new sweaters and, if you could pull some strings, please get me Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3. If you were extra nice, you could give me one of your little helpers to help me at my house until next Christmas.

Aaron Brown

Dear Santa,
I would like to receive new clothes and possibly some money this year. I also would like to have the opportunity for my whole family to all come together and get along on Christmas Day.

Amber Moore

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I would love to have a new computer desk, a new DS lite, a 20-gallon fish tank, some clothing, a table/stand, a new computer chair, and multiple video games of different kinds.

Drake McElroy

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I would like the following: Modern Warfare 3, a plasma screen television, and I would also like to receive Madden NFL 2012.

Jacob Callaway

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like nothing more than time. More time to learn new things, to travel to new places, and to try new experiences. I want to swim with sharks, zip-line through the Amazon Forest, and ride an elephant in India. I want to learn how to use a sewing machine, cook from scratch, and speak a new language. I know if I had more time to plan, make money, save money, and do these things that my life would be much fuller and I would be wiser. I appreciate your kindness.

Blaise Herman

Dear Santa,
I know I'm a growing teenager, so I really don't need a lot, but there are a couple of things I would like:

- a car
- a flat screen T.V.
- Xbox 360 Kinect
- new clothes and shoes
- a Teacup Yorkie

That's basically all I want. Thanks Santa!

Alexis Nolen

Dear Santa,
For this Christmas I want a Playstation 3 (you could throw in two million PSH points) with these games: Modern Warfare 3, Assassins, Creed Revolutions, Dead Island, Infamous 2 and two remote controllers. I also want a Beretta 50-caliber sniper with a thermal scope attachment and at least 1000 bullets. I want a year's supply of gum and candy. I want ten million dollars cash in a fancy metal suitcase and a black car with four doors that gets good gas mileage. I want the most recent fighter jet and a teacher to teach me how to fly and land. Guess that's all I want this Christmas.

Stephon Montgomery

(Stephon, what a "jokester" you are...Mrs. Claus)

Dear Santa,
I want a new car this Christmas. I don't like the one I have now. I didn't get to choose the car I'm now stuck with — I'd rather have a truck or a BMW...anything better than what I have now.

Drew Laster

Dear Santa,
I don't want much — just a video game or two, some clothes, but, most of all, I want my brother and sister to come home for Christmas. I would really like to have the things I've mentioned, but if I think of anything else that I really want, I will send you another letter.

Russell Alicea

Dear Santa,
This year I want a million dollars, a helicopter, a maid, a car, a big screen HDTV, and a fridge packed with drinks. You can just park the car and helicopter in the driveway.

Bradley George

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth! Well, actually you can throw in \$300, um..maybe some new boots, high waisted pants, a new phone..uh..oh yea, you can give me EVERYTHING. I believe that will take up for the time of explaining what I want exactly in details. Your cookies will be waiting for you right beside the fireplace in the den next to the television as always. I've always wanted to catch you in action, but I have never succeeded. Thanks. BYE!

Jimeria Williams

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is one million dollars.

Ladarius Rodgers

Dear Santa,
I want a '67 Mustang.

Tyler Deverell

Santa Baby...hurry down the chimney tonight

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I would like an iPad, new shoes, and a new car. I would like some gifts for my parents, and, of course, world peace! A real Christmas wish could arrive later...like in May...when I would love to receive my high school diploma from my dad at graduation.

Cherish Briskey

Dear Santa,
I want a Mac Book and a puppy for Christmas.

Victoria Lyon

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is money and to spend time with family.

Aaliyah Looney

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a million dollars; however, we all know that rarely happens. A car would be nice though.

Amber Mundell

Dear Santa,
I want a new car for Christmas.

Devarte Posey

Dear Santa,
What I really want this 25th of December is to be with my family in Los Angeles, but what I need is money to pay my bills so that my life is balanced and happy.

Juan Rivas

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is just to get my life in order and rebuild my relationship with my bestie — Brittany Snow.

La'Darius Burt

Dear Santa,
For this Christmas, I would like a digital camera, clothes, shoes, and a car would be amazing.

Trevon Strickland

Dear Santa,
All I ask for this Christmas is to accomplish my goals. I don't ask for materialistic things. I ask for joy and a sense of accomplishment.

Imelda Mendoza

Dear Santa,
I would like some new video games and some pants for Christmas.

Tanner Baggett

Dear Santa,
For my 17th Christmas, I would like material things like a new iPad, a new phone, and lots of love.

Danylle Everson

Dear Santa,
My Christmas wish is that I want to be accepted at the University of Montevallo.

Heather Moore

Dear Santa,
I would appreciate an alarm clock for Christmas. I believe that I need one, so it is less of a *want* and more of a *necessity*.

Blake Isbell

P.S. A booklet of doctor's excuses would be an acceptable alternative.

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to find a job. With a job, I can get my own presents, so that's one less thing you have to worry about.

Perrin Marbury

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like my Paw Paw to live and to actually be able to see my Maw Maw. A white Christmas would be wonderful also.

Courtney Morgan Watkins

Dear Santa,
I don't want much for Christmas, but I would like a laptop, clothes, and lots of money. I would also like to get my life organized and keep my "Little Man" healthy.

Brittany Snow

Dear Santa,
This year, now that I'm finally a senior, all I want for Christmas is money. I have so many things to pay off — it's crazy! I owe \$205 in school fees which is ridiculous. LHS is supposed to be a public school, not private. If anything, all I really want is for my family to have a great Christmas.

Alexis Oden

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a new pair of boots and an iPad. I also want a new Indian-brown color purse and a new wallet. I really would like a scholarship to college and a car! I would love it if you could arrange for my niece and nephew to come to my house for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your time. I hope I get everything I want.

Courtney Blackmon

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I would love to have a puppy. My mom won't let me have one, so if you could get me one, that would be GREAT! I just want something cute that loves me unconditionally.

Casey Collins

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I would enjoy and hope for new clothes, a new pair of shoes, and a tank full of gasoline. I don't want much for Christmas. I just enjoy the holiday season and having a small break from school. I hope others enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Jordan Teems

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is for my mother to get her full health back. I also want the Lady Greenwave to win the state title this year.

Camille McNeely

**Does Santa
Visit TEACHERS?**

Dear Santa,
Instead of coal this year, could you please give all the misbehaving children a dose of responsibility? Thank you.

Greg Anderson

Dear Santa,
I don't know if I'll find my name on your **Naughty** or **Nice** list, but here's hoping. For Christmas I would like to see all our troops come home from the wars, economic recovery (especially since I'm retiring soon), good health so I can enjoy my retirement, and of course I would want **all seniors to pass the grad exam**. Oh, and also, I would like more parents and students to become more responsible toward their education and their actions.

Please tell the elves, the reindeer and Mrs. Claus thanks for all their hard work. Just remember to watch all those milk and cookie treats! You are a member of Mrs. Obama's *Move It Team*....Right!!

Ms. Hunt

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is to spend some quality time with my family, but if you have a few extra iPads lying around, I would take that too! Or, even a new tennis racket...your choice.

Mrs. Freeman

Dear Santa,
I am not a zombie, but I need lots of brains. I will not eat the brains. To be honest, the brains are not for me, but for my students. My students are not zombies. Well, maybe some of my students are zombies, but the brains are not for eating. The brains are so my students will know what to do in case of zombies — which is one of the various reasons they need to pay attention in class.

Thanks for the brains!

Coach Downey

Dear Santa,
This is your old pal Angie Walker. I know you have been watching me. Beside some minor setbacks, I have been a pretty good girl this year. After a year of observations, I have come to a determination. This school is way too big for me to get from one end to the other in a short amount of time. I could really use some roller skates — not roller blades because I would break my leg for sure — to get around. That would be AWESOME! Also, make sure that ALL my kids, family, friends, and you have a wonderful holiday season.

Much love,

Angie Walker

LHS students meet “history” then & now



Photo courtesy of Casey Collins
“Honest Abe” looks on as Collins, Kennedy, Glass, Teems, and Turner pose at the historical monument.

By Casey Collins and Miriam Turner

Leeds High School students recently returned from the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America’s (FCCLA) Capitol Leadership Training in Washington D.C. which was held October 9-12th.

Students Keaton Glass, Evan Kennedy, Jordan Teems, and Casey Collins were accompanied by FCCLA Sponsor Miriam Turner and parent chaperone Cary Kennedy.

Students participated in the Master Advocate Leadership Academy program which focuses on team building, service, professionalism, planning, communication, networking, and ethics. Powerful leadership development and certification programs enabled LHS students to develop goals and action plans in order to achieve success in meeting Alabama’s FCCLA program goals.

“The programs emphasized the important aspects of becoming skilled leaders and provided avenues to advocate to officials on issues that are important,” Collins said.

Over 150 students from across America attended the conference. Casey Collins holds the state office of Vice President of Programs. It’s not too late to join Leeds High School’s FCCLA.



Photo courtesy of Casey Collins
FCCLA Sponsor Miriam Turner proudly introduces her outstanding students to Congressman Spencer Bacchus. Pictured with Mrs. Turner are (l. to r.) Evan Kennedy, Keaton Glass, Congressman Bacchus, Casey Collins, Jordan Teems, and Cary Kennedy who joined the group as the Parent Chaperone.

“I really enjoyed getting to meet students from all around the country and learning how they operate their FCCLA chapters and impact their schools through their programs,” Glass said.

This was the first trip to Washington for Glass, Teems, and Mrs. Turner.

“It was mind blowing to see all the monuments and memorials. My favorite two were the World War II Memorial and The Holocaust Museum,” Keaton added.

FCCLA Sponsor Miriam Turner spoke for the group with her remarks, “I truly want to thank Mr. Elliot Cook, a staff member in Mr. Bacchus’ office, for the wonderfully informative tour of the Capitol. We all felt that we were being treated as special VIPs during our visit.”

Turner added, “I also want to thank Mr. Cary Kennedy for serving as a chaperone for this trip. He has been to Washington many times and was invaluable resource for maneuvering through the city. He is a true advocate for Leeds High School students with his generosity and support! Thank you so much, Cary, from all of us.”

“If you have never ridden on public transportation in a huge metropolitan area like the elevated train in Chicago or New York or on the Metro in Washington, you have truly missed an experience. This adventure requires one to be directionally savvy and quick on your feet! On one particular excursion, Evan and Cary Kennedy were able to disembark the train; however, the rest of us were not quite quick enough! As the doors slammed shut, all we could do was wave at the Kennedy men on the train platform and travel on in the wrong direction to our next stop! Luckily, the Kennedys knew their way around the city

and met us at our next destination,” Turner noted.

“My favorite part was networking with so many interesting people from all over the United States. An interesting slogan we learned is ‘It’s not always what you know, but who you know that’s important,’” Kennedy said.

The group visited The Lincoln Memorial, The Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, White House, and The Washington Monument. They were also fortunate to witness the changing of the guards at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They also had the opportunity of visiting the newly-opened Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

“The Holocaust Museum was one of the most moving experiences of the trip,” Turner added.

According to the travelers, this was a fantastic experience for all. It was a trip filled with new friends, new experiences, a wealth of knowledge, and a renewed spirit for the importance of FCCLA as a student organization. It has been reported that Evan Kennedy was so energized by the experience that he is considering running for an FCCLA state office.

FCCLA is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as its central focus. Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities. See Mrs. Turner or Casey Collins for more information or visit the FCCLA website, www.fcclainc.org.



overVU
NEWS FOR VANDERBILT PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Vanderbilt prepares for next phase of College Halls

A big change in student housing is coming to Vanderbilt. Immediately at Commencement in May 2012, Kinsam Quadrangle's six residence halls—built undergraduate students each year for 55 years—will be demolished to make way for the next phase of the university's residential college system, College Halls. Two residential colleges will be built and are scheduled to open in August.

Approximately 430 students—a mixture of seniors, juniors and sophomores—will be housed in each of the two colleges, along with a resident faculty director. Each college will be divided into two halls led by resident graduate fellows. A resident advisor will support both colleges. Room types will include singles, doubles and duplexes alongside amenities like informal dining, study and social spaces, practice rooms and a classroom. The colleges will provide intimate and vibrant settings for upperclassmen that leverage the sense of community that is fostered on The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt during their time there.

To increase on-campus housing options and capacity, the Office of Housing and Residential Education (OHARE) is acquiring and renovating a building on the campus. The building will be turned over to the Vanderbilt Police Department. This new residence hall will be named in honor of the late...

Key dates

- September 19: Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
- September 19-27: Thanksgiving/fall break
- September 27: Residence halls reopen at 9 a.m.
- September 8: ...

Failure is not an option at LHS

By Maya Everett

When you reach high school there are two things that should be accomplished. First, you should begin preparing to attend college. Secondly, your high school should set forth the correct curriculum to prepare you for college. From the information gathered from our counselor, Lisa Hudson, that is the goal at Leeds High School.

According to Mrs. Hudson, LHS offers all academic classes necessary to meet the requirements of an incoming freshman college student.

"There is also a possible change coming into place by next year. We will either be back on traditional schedule which consists of 7-8 periods or on the modified block schedule. The traditional schedule will give students a chance to stay in one class an entire school year rather than one semester. This could possibly boost graduation exam scores because of the closed gap between subjects," Hudson explained.

"The modified block schedule would be more of a spread. For example, some classes could be taken Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and others on Tuesday and Thursday," Hudson added.

Extra classes such as AP/ Dual Enrollment are also set to prepare students for college. Currently, Leeds High School does not offer AP classes, but they are available online in the ACCESS class.

LHS does offer Dual Enrollment classes. The on campus Dual Enrollment classes consist of English 101 and 102 and History 202 and 203. LHS also allows students to branch off and take speech and psychology outside of the campus. Dual Enrollment classes are helpful and convenient all in one. These classes give students a taste of a college curriculum while receiving college credit. Another plus is that the cost of these early classes is less than the normal English and history classes at the freshman level.

"The goal is to prepare our students for college," Hudson noted, "but only a graduate student of LHS who is attending college could be the witness of our goal being reached."

Recent responses from Wesley Hudson, Jesse Turner, and Josh Everett indicate that they felt well prepared to face the rigors of college academics!

Look closely at the "Man in the Middle"... he is our own Joshua Everett, 2011 Graduate of Leeds High School, now a freshman on the Vanderbilt University campus in Nashville, TN. Josh was featured in the *overVU* publication and is pictured with his mom, Tarrika Everett (left) and sister Maya (right).

Josh is double-majoring in Economics and Communications Studies with a minor in Financial Economics. His current plan is to be a financial planner when his academic studies are completed. Josh is also training with the Vanderbilt radio station and participates on Vandy's Spoken Word Team. He performed "spoken word" during Family Weekend for the Vandy for the Arts program and gave another live performance at the Blair School of Music State of the Word program.

Josh spoke with Ms. Shannon's English 12 Honors seniors recently about the realities of college life. Being a Commodore seems to fit this outstanding young man from Leeds High School! Congratulations Josh!

Students visit Auburn & Tuskegee

Amber Mundell

Everybody loves a field trip! On November 3rd, Coach Jeff Thomas took students to Auburn University and Tuskegee University for tours of the campuses.

First stop, Auburn University. Mr. Thomas, an Auburn graduate, informed the group on the history on his school.

Auburn was established in 1856. Over 25,000 students are enrolled. There are over 140 majors offered and 300 school clubs and organizations. We first visited the quadrangle, the most social area on the campus. Then, we passed Toomer's Corner where he explained the tradition of *rolling the trees* after winning football games. There was not enough time to go into the football stadium, but we did get a look at the new basketball gym.

Our final stop was Tuskegee. One of the best parts of Tuskegee University is its history.

Three tour guides explained the significance of the school. Booker T. Washington founded the college in 1881. His idea was not to just bring one race together, but to bring **all** races together so that everyone could have a better education. It is a HBCU, or in other words, a historically black college. There are currently 3,000-plus students studying the 39 major fields offered at Tuskegee. Our visit coincided with homecoming week preparations which made it quite interesting to see the abundance of activity going on. Two of the most important sites we saw were the Booker T. Washington Monument and Washington's house located right off the campus.

Teachers and students CONNECT at LHS



Photo by Susan Stovall

LHS Grant Winners for 2011/2012

LHS teachers were recognized on November 10th at a reception in their honor as 2011/2012 Grant Winners. The Grants Committee of the Leeds Schools Educational Foundation selected this year's worth recipients from the numerous grant requests submitted and awarded monetary grants enabling these outstanding teachers to enhance classroom instruction.

Winners (left to right) above:

Becky Hunt — LED Notebook

Brent Reese — Kindle Fire

Valorie Purser — iTALK2 Communicator

Bryan Swift — Kindle Fire

Terri Leigh Gibson — ELMO Document Camera

Lonnie Goldberg — Kindle Fire

The Leeds Schools Educational Foundation is a valuable asset to Leeds City Schools through the Foundation's efforts in providing technological equipment, books, and reusable materials to all three schools.

John Windham

By Courtney Watkins

Mr. John Windham is one of the multiple 9th grade biology teachers and is the sole anatomy and physiology teacher. His biology students work hard creating interactive notebooks and model DNA strands. While they are creating these objects in class, they are also consistently improving in a lot of areas. He still wishes all his students would come better prepared and would manage their behavior better.

In anatomy and physiology classes, skeletons and coloring pages are used to teach various bones in the body as well as the muscles and other bodily systems used in everyday life.

"By using a skeleton to learn the 206 bones in the adult human body, students get the ability to actually see what the bones look like and how they articulate with other bones," Windham said.

Even with having an articulated skeleton Mr. Windham wishes he could have a fully disarticulated skeleton.

"I also wish the classroom had fewer cabinets and more wall space for student work. A model of a pterodactyl or an archaeopteryx would be terrific," Windham added.

Maybe Santa will bring him something nice!

Angela Walker

By Courtney Watkins

Mrs. Angela Walker is our Computer Aided Drafting and Designer (CAD) teacher. She is teaching three different levels of CAD.

The first level is Introduction to Drafting where students learn to draw basic shapes from circles and lines.

"They are learning quickly and can 'talk shop' using command words instead of asking, 'Where does this squiggly line go?'" Walker noted.

The next level of CAD is Intermediate Mechanical Design.

"In this class, we simply take our one dimensional objects and rotate them,

Coach Reese

By Alexandria Shorter

Brent Reese is a teacher who obviously loves history and sports! As a coach for the LHS football team, his defensive ability just might be the best statewide.

Coach Reese is a 1982 Leeds High graduate. He graduated from Samford University with a double major in history and physical education.

He has spent the past 13 years teaching history to 10th and 11th-grade students and coaching a variety of sports. Coach Reese was also the "Designated Driver" in the Drivers Education course before that class was dropped from the curriculum this past year.

He currently teaches four history classes ranging from U.S. History I to U.S. History II Honors — this is a full schedule without a planning period break. I wondered how he manages this without a free moment during the day, so I went right to the source.

"I love teaching history so that makes it easy," Reese answered. His love for teaching history shows in his all-time favorite lesson on "American Exceptionalism". Reese explained that it is "because of our religious and political freedoms."

This semester's sophomore studies have included the "War of 1812", the Madison Presidency, and "The Era of Good Feeling". Juniors have studied "World War II" and America's victory over Germany and Japan.

Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions!

make them look 3D, and draw what they would look like cut in half. To some it is quite difficult but it just takes practice." Walker added.

The third level students are actually making house plans — real house plans that can be used to make a REAL house. This may seem confusing, but the students are doing great according to Walker.

Students have recently been learning good posture with the ergonomic kneeling drafting chairs that were just purchased. They look quite funny but are comfortable. Go try one out when you have the chance!!

Mrs. Walker loves her classes. When asked how she can improve her classes, she responded, "Improve on this? Are you kidding me? We are FABULOUS!"

Blaise Herman excels in summer program

By Courtney Watkins

When most students were spending last summer at the beach, relaxing at home, or working at a part-time job, Blaise Herman was **studying** at the Dauphin Island Discovery Hall program. Ms. Herman was one of only 30 outstanding students selected from across the United States to participate in this excellent educational program. The annual event is a month-long session at Dauphin Island's Sea Lab. And, thanks to science teacher Bryan Swift and contributions from the Leeds community, Ms. Herman did not have to spend one "out of pocket" penny!

Mr. Swift, a former high school Sea Lab summer student, is excited that someone took the excellent opportunity. Swift completed some of his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Sea Lab as well. He also returns to the Sea Lab for teacher workshops.

"Blaise is the only student in at least 10 years to have the honor of selection for the summer course," Swift said.

"She had over 150 hours of supervised activities while working with actual Marine Biologists. This was an experience she will never forget. She learned a lot from it and it also helped her narrow down her career path," Swift added.

The month was filled with science and study, but there was still room for fun. The group traveled to New Orleans to explore the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies and the New Orleans Aquarium.

"That was my first trip to New Orleans...WOW," Herman said.

"We also had time for a fun trip to Panama City, FL for a snorkeling adventure. That study occurred during the July 4th celebration, so we also got to enjoy the spectacular fireworks show on the beach," Herman added.

"This experience was amazing and I had a wonderful time. I made so many new friends and learned so much. I truly appreciate the efforts by Mr. Swift and the community in making this trip possible," Herman said.



Blaise Herman gives a "Thumbs Up" to science teacher Bryan Swift for arranging her amazing Dauphin Island Sea Lab experience. The summer curriculum included extensive studies in Oceanography, Chemistry, Botany, vertebrates, invertebrates, and plankton. Blaise's project for the month included collecting fish, naming them, organizing data, writing papers, and preparing the final presentation which was held on closing day to an audience of scientists and parents of the students attending the month-long camp.

One note of interest...this photo was snapped on Mr. Swift's birthday: his big FOUR-OH.....Oh No!

SPECIAL LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

I have been extremely good this year! I donated all of my old clothes to charity, mowed my neighbor's grass for free, and even helped save a stray dog! I didn't lie, cheat, or steal the entire year. I feel as if I deserve a good Christmas as a reward for my good behavior. You know me, I never ask for much, but this Christmas I have my sights set pretty high. I know the economy is in a rough state, so I feel pretty greedy for asking. In fact, I know there are people who have nothing this Christmas. My parents say there is a single mom in their church who has picked up a third job to try to get extra money for presents for her three children. She is refusing handouts! A family in my neighborhood lost their house to a fire just last week. They are staying with other family members in their basement. Wow, I guess I shouldn't ask after all. I tell you what Santa...this Christmas I'll ask for something small. I really don't need anything after all. Maybe if we all stop thinking about ourselves and being greedy, we can focus on what really matters...the ones we love. So, all I'm asking is that my family and friends are safe, healthy, and filled with happiness this holiday season.

Hey Santa, some new socks would be nice though...is that too much to ask?

Leah Whitten

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Lisa Hudson, LHS Counselor

Call 699-4510 for an appointment

What's happening around school?

Advancement Via Individual Determination

By Alexis Oden

Leeds High School consists of wonderful teachers who interact with their students five days each week. One teacher in particular, Coach Jeff Thomas, does an extraordinary job demonstrating useful ways to teach his class. This semester he has an English 9, Honors English 9, and AVID 11 class.

His students are performing very well, "Students are doing what I want them to do, but my goal is for them to stay on the main idea," said Coach Thomas. "However, getting the grades may not always be the goal as it would be in an 'ordinary' classroom," he added.

Thomas prefers to focus on students interacting with one another and viewing each other's opinion from a different perspective. So how does he teach his class?

"I use the Socratic Method, creating controversial type questions, which gives students examples to others' philosophies whether they agree or not based upon their own philosophy. It creates understanding in the beliefs of others. Not every teacher teaches the same way," Thomas answered.

When questioned about ways to improve his class? He replied, "I could do a better job getting things graded and being able to give students back their grades quicker. I also could do a lot more formal writing. I get involved in the conversations."

His students have read many books this semester such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Athletic Shorts*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. His 11th-grade class read *Fallen Angels*, and several selections from *Southern Short Stories*. His class is also covering topics such as the Harlem Renaissance, Realism, and poetry.

Coach Thomas managed to purchase new editions of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for his class this year with grant money that was awarded to him this by the Leeds Schools Educational Foundation. The time Coach Thomas spent in completing the grant application shows just how important his students are to him.

Heritage Panel Assembly

By Amber Mundell

As we all know, W.A.V.E is an important part of Leeds High School. Recently, the Heritage Panel held an assembly in the auditorium. Heritage Panel is a program focused on breaking down all ethnical barriers among individuals and making our school and community more inclusive places.

It is led by LHS teacher Jeff Thomas. During this November program, five panelists each told a story of a time in the past when they felt excluded. Mr. Webster. Every panelist/member gave an idea through his or her story as to how Heritage Panel helped them and stands ready to help you and the people around you. It makes you see others from a whole different perspective.

Following the presentation, the student body was allowed to ask impromptu questions.

New LHS teacher and LHS graduate Shaemun Webster led the group in an awesome rendition of "We Shall Overcome" and received a standing ovation from students and teachers. It was a heart warming experience.

"SHAWTY FREE"

By Keaton Glass

Welcome to Shawty Free's class where math comes fast-paced, challenging, mind-stimulating, and is relative to today's world. Mrs. Freeman's Pre-Cal class is completing trigonometry: circles, ellipses, parabolas, and hyperboles. Her Algebra II class is completing the logarithm stage and the dangers associated with learning about these scary logs.

Luckily, Mrs. Freeman has come up with some math tunes with help from her students like "Logs have rhythm....Logarithms". If anyone would like to learn more fun math tunes just stop on by Shawty Free's class to learn about math. Mrs. Freeman has an exciting and fun learning environment, but she also teaches the importance of math and its relativity to the real world.