

*Robert L. Merritt Junior High*

**THE MERRITT GAZETTE**

*Christopher Turner, Principal  
Catasha Brown, Assistant Principal  
Sherby Hale, Counselor  
Mary Carter, Academic Coach*

705 Kinlock Road  
Indianola, MS 38751  
662-884-1270 (phone)  
662-884-5247 (fax)  
[cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us)

**“Equitable Education for Every Student”**

**Principal’s Message**

I want to thank all of the parents who came to show their support at our first awards program to end the first 9 weeks of school! We are nearing the mid-point of the 2nd 9 weeks of school, which means that we are getting closer to our next benchmark test. I am asking you to help us increase student achievement by making sure your child/children study at home to help master any skills they are working on in class, making sure they have their materials for school, and by encouraging them to be on their best behavior. At Robert L. Merritt Jr. High, we are building skills and increasing student engagement for all of our students. We envision a school culture that focuses on producing high levels of student achievement and staff effectiveness in leadership, instructional practices, and positive student teacher interactions. I believe that with your support, we can achieve our vision by academically growing ALL of our students and positively impacting our school culture. As always, I thank you for choosing Robert L. Merritt Jr. High as your child's educational institution. If you need to speak with me about anything concerning our school, please feel free to contact me at [\(662\) 884-1270](tel:662-884-1270).

[Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray](#)

WE ARE STILL WAITING!!.....Come on out and visit our Parent Center at RLMJH. By visiting the center you will receive parenting literature and learning tools for you and your child. Our goals are to make a difference in the lives of children and provide support to parents. I am still looking forward to seeing you at workshops. On Thursday, October 19, 2017, we had a great time at our Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop. We are having our Dad's Role in Education Workshop on Thursday, November 9, 2017, from 11:30-12:30 P.M. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child education. such as: Active Parents, PTO/PTA meetings, school events, and you may also volunteer. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us). My hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, and alternate Friday's from 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. PARENTS WE NEED YOU!!!!



**Upcoming Events at RLMJH**

- 11/09/17-Dad's Role in Education 11:30-12:30 P.M.
- 11/09/17-Basketball Game (Away) Inverness 5:30 P.M.
- 11/13/17- Basketball Game (Home) Inverness 5:30 P.M.
- 11/15/17-Unified PTO Game Night 5:00 P.M.
- 11/16/17-Basketball Game (Home) Shelby 5:20 P.M.
- 11/16/17- Progress Reports Sent home
- 11/20-24-Thanksgiving Break
- 11/20/17-Basketball Game (Away) Open 5:30 P.M.
- 11/27/17-Basketball Game (Away) Greenville Coleman 5:30 P.M.
- 11/30/17-Computer Literacy Workshop 12:30-1:30 P.M.
- 11/30/17-Basketball game (Away) Humphrey County 5:30 P.M.

*Media Center*

eBooks with codes are available in the library. Please visit the library to get the code. You can download eBooks to your cellphone, tablets, or any electronic devices. The Reading Fair was a success. Below is one of our winning boards.



1<sup>st</sup> Place winner: Tyren Boyd and Demarrion Worship



*Happy Thanksgiving!!*

## Counselor's Corner

November is the month of gratitude and thanksgiving. If you are concerned about how to raise teenagers who are grateful, please read the following excerpt from an article found on the following website <http://drdavewalsh.com/posts/tips/174> and posted by Erin Walsh on November 19, 2013.

### 10 Ways to Teach Your Child Gratitude - Plus Tips for Teens

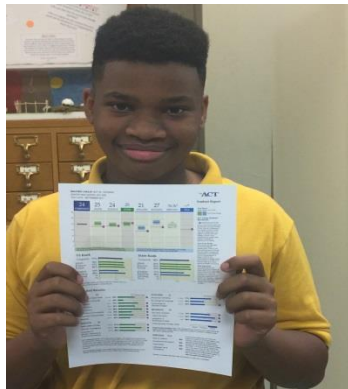
Adolescence can be seen as a self-absorbed time in life but it is also a time of great transformation when young people are opening up to the world around them and figuring out who they want to be. Gratitude helps teens be more resilient as they travel on the rocky and exhilarating road from childhood to adulthood. Here are a couple of tips for nurturing gratitude in teens:

- **Don't give up.** You may need to modify family gratitude traditions or let your teen shape them, but don't abandon them completely. They are likely more important to your teen than you know.
- **Gratitude is a practice, not a script.** Avoid "correcting" your teen if he or she expresses gratitude about something that doesn't meet your expectations. It is okay if your teen goes in and out of taking gratitude seriously around you.
- **Modeling still matters.** While they may never tell you this, your actions still matter. A lot. Practice gratitude.
- **Give credit to others.** Teens are vulnerable to the "self-serving bias" which means that when something good happens they think it is because of them and when something bad happens they blame the circumstances or someone else. Encourage them to think of how others have helped them succeed *and* to take responsibility for their own actions.
- **Expand the conversation.** Talk to your teen things like rights versus privileges and equity versus justice. Gratitude calls on us to be more aware of our relationships with others.

### The McKinney-Vento Act

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the affected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2) financial situations destroy students' interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children.

This policy provides assistance for homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know of families with children who are homeless, please contact the Homeless Liaison at RLMJH, Geraldine Ray at (662) 884-1270 ext. 317. Your call could be of great assistance to a family in need.



Kudos to Mr. Brayden Bailey, on scoring a 24 on his ACT. Brayden is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. He loves playing football and reading. Upon graduation he plans to attend Mississippi State.



**School's Vision: At Robert L. Merritt Jr. High School, we envision a school culture that focuses on producing high levels of student achievement and staff effectiveness. The mission: One School...One**

**Team...One Goal... Student Achievement**



“With us plus you, there’s nothing our students can’t do”!