

The Director's View is a publication of the Applied Arts Practicum Students
in the A/V Production Program at Bradley Central High School.
Published by Benjamin "Zayn" Bunch



THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS



"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."

Mitch

Albom

Author, Screenwriter, Musician

As I pondered over the word generosity, I struggled with how to articulate the value of giving to others. I am not sure if we can measure generosity but I know without it the world is a much sadder place. The most valuable part of generosity is actually the feeling you have when you have given it freely without expecting anything in return. I am always amazed at the generosity of children. So during this season of giving I just wanted to share some of my favorite thoughts from Robert Fulghum's, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, wisdom about generosity and life.

1. "Share everything."
2. "Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess."
3. "When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."
4. "Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that."

At the conclusion of the list Robert Fulghum shares how much better our community and nation would be if we all grew in the basic policies of Kindergarten: The Golden Rule, love, always putting things back and cleaning up after ourselves or in other words living out generosity. I hope you enjoy the Holidays and I wish you a Merry Christmas.

-Dr. Linda Cash, Director of Schools

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This Month's Focus:
Generosity

IN THIS EDITION

- Volunteer Spotlight on Becca Brnik from Michigan Avenue Elementary
- Oak Grove Students Demonstrate Generosity
- Student Spotlight on Ocoee Middle's Zach Turner
- Prospect Elementary's Students Demonstrate Generosity Through Service
- Administrator Spotlight with Rachel Wilson, principal of Bradley County Virtual School
- Generosity at Taylor Elementary
- Teacher Spotlight with Bradley Central's Bridgette Chastain



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This month's Volunteer Spotlight is being cast on Michigan Avenue Elementary School Parent Volunteer, Becca Brnik. Becca shows her commitment to the school through art classes that she teaches to students as well as through her work as PTO President. When we spoke with her this month, she discussed her belief in finding parents' talents and pairing them with tasks that needed to be done around the school.

**Oak Grove Students: Showing Generosity
to the Community.**

For the past few years, during the weeks leading up to Christmas Break, Oak Grove fifth grade students have been involved in reading the book Gideon's Gift. This book, written by Karen Kingsbury, inspired our fifth graders last year to give back during the Christmas

season. The book is about a young girl who does all she can to make a homeless man "believe" again. The young girl volunteers at a mission where the homeless man receives meals each night. This is where she encounters the homeless man and through her generosity, love, and kindness she succeeds in making him "believe." Tucker Stringer, a former Oak Grove fifth grader, decided that it would be thoughtful to make blankets for the homeless shelter. All fifth grade classes joined him in his efforts by collecting items to make care packages for Cleveland's homeless shelter. Items that were collected included: toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, gloves, hats, socks, scarves, and notes of encouragement. Our fifth graders this year are making this generous project an Oak Grove tradition. They are currently collecting much needed items for the homeless shelter as a part of their book study. All items collected will be delivered to the homeless shelter by teachers and students. We are so proud of the giving spirit of our Oak Grove students and families.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

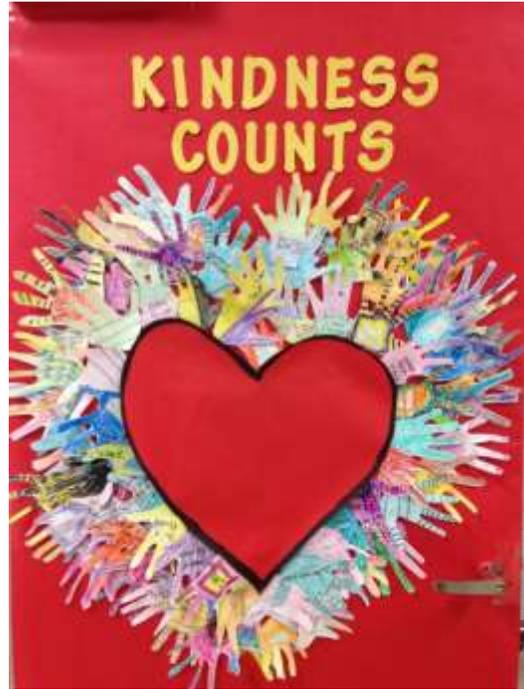
The Student Spotlight this month is shining on Zach Turner, the student council president at Ocoee Middle School. Zach credits OMS service organizations and sports to his character developments. His experience at Ocoee Middle has also laid the foundation for his future career in engineering.

Prospect Elementary Demonstrates Generosity Through Service

Prospect Elementary raised \$2314 and received an additional \$1000 donation from Santek, our BEST Partner in order to make Operation Unite a success! We provided a Christmas gift for 520 students at Clifton Hills Elementary in Chattanooga, TN along with \$25 Walmart gift cards for their teacher, \$10 gift cards for all other support staff at their school, a large breakfast and cake for all staff, and 50 DVD players and 15 digital clock radios for Bradley Healthcare in Cleveland, TN. Our own Prospect staff donated money and purchased 2 SEC Championship Football tickets for Cheryl Dunson from Santek to express our sincere appreciation!



Operation Unite is about bringing unity among our school with our community along with crossing the border into our outer communities in order to teach our students the importance of giving back. We wanted to teach our students that we receive many blessings throughout the year that many other schools never experience and that in our abundance, we should always be willing to share and do for others! Change will never happen if we all think about doing something but never DO anything about it! It's time to Pay It Forward and do something UNCOMMONLY GREAT for those around us!



ADMINISTRATOR SPOTLIGHT

Bradley County Virtual School Principal Rachel Wilson is the focus of the Administrator Spotlight. This month when we met, Rachel discussed how Virtual School creates an individualized learning experience for Bradley County students.

Generosity at Taylor Elementary

To teach the importance of generosity, Taylor Elementary conducts a two-week, school-wide canned food drive annually. Classes compete to see who can collect the most non-perishable food items. Guidance counselor, Jason McDonald organizes this service project and divides the donations between two organizations that directly benefit the Taylor community. The Southern Heritage Food Drive benefits the Caring Place which sponsors the school's Sack Pack program and offers many services to families in need. Kinser Church of God, a church partner of the school, also benefits from the food drive. Pastor Guinn Green works with church members to organize a food kitchen which services the Taylor community. Mr. McDonald uses this school-wide service project in conjunction with classroom guidance lessons to teach students the importance of giving back. This year, Ms. Bledsoe's kindergarten class won a pizza party for having the largest donation to the canned food drive - over 500 cans.



Mr. McDonald with bank officials at Southern Heritage's Food Drive after unloading boxes of donations



Ms. Bledsoe's kindergarten class won the canned food competition by collecting 500 cans to donate to the food drive.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

The Teacher Spotlight for this month is highlighting Bridgette Chastain, a math teacher in the Humanities Academy at Bradley Central High School. Bridgette's dedication to her students has helped them realize their full potential in their classes.

Starting next month, *The Director's View* will be produced by the students in the Applied Arts Practicum Program at Walker Valley High School.

More details will be released soon.

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