

The District Digest



Volume 2, Issue 7

JUNE 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

W.T. Sampson Schools

August 17

Sneak Peak - Students and Parents New to School

Elementary Campus
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Secondary Campus
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

September 5

Open House
Elementary Campus
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

September 6

Open House
Secondary Campus
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fort Stewart Schools

August 3

Open House, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

August 6

First Day of Students, K - 6.

August 13

Full-Day Kindergarden begins

Laurel Bay Schools

August 15

Meet the Teacher

Bolden, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Elliott, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Galer, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 16

First Day for Students, K - 6

August 23

Full-Day Kindergarden begins

Fort Jackson Schools

August 15

Meet and Greet at each School,
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

August 16

First Day for Students, K - 6

August 23

Full-Day Kindergarden begins

The View from Here: Notes from the Superintendent's Desk

Another school year is about to end, and as I look back, I am so proud of the accomplishments that we have made during the 2011-2012 school year. We owe much of our success to the Garrison Commands at each installation. The amazing support they have given our schools, community, and district is always recognized and appreciated. Their dedication and volunteer work has made it possible for our schools to complete many projects this year. We thank them with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation.

As the district staff and principals work through the summer, we will be preparing to welcome our students back with a continued focus on student achievement. To all of the teachers, staff, and students in our district, I wish you a very safe and exciting summer. We look forward to seeing you back in the fall.

Samantha J. Ingram, Ph.D.
Superintendent



FORT STEWART SUMMER READING PROGRAM, June 1 - July 27. Registration began May 30 for children up to age 12 to join in the Summer Reading Program, "Reading Is So Delicious". The reading program continues thru July 27. Children receive a special reading bag, reading lists, etc. For details, call 912-767-2828.

FORT JACKSON SUMMER READING PROGRAM, June 1 - July 14. Contact Thomas Lee Hall Library, 803-751-5589, for their "Reading is So Delicious" Reading Program. Online registration may be completed at <https://usarmy.evanced.info/hall/sr/homepage.asp>

LAUREL BAY MCAS READING PROGRAM, June 11 - July 13. "Reading is So Delicious," at the MCAS Beaufort Library. For details, call 843-228-6131.

Kessler Elementary Family Picnic: April 26



Special thanks go to the 3rd ID Military Band Ensemble for providing Kessler Elementary with enjoyable live music for their family picnic on April 26. Kessler Elementary would like to thank all of the friends and families that help make Family Picnic Day a success. Parents were given the option to bring their own picnic basket full of the things that their Kessler Eagle liked best, or they were able to purchase a sack lunch from the cafeteria.

Military Child

By: E B
Brittin Elementary

Mom cries when she finds out he's leaving.
I encourage my mom to stay strong.
Leaving is hard for mom.
I try not to cry.
Trying to forget he left.
Always praying for him to be safe.
Reminiscing about him.
Yearning for his return.

Cheerful he's coming home.
Helping my mom around the house.
Interested in his stories he will tell.
Loving that he's coming home.
Delighted he came back but he needs rest.

*

April was the Month of the Military Child, and students across the South Carolina/Fort Stewart/DoDDS-Cuba School District were encouraged to write about their experiences. As such, this poem captures the essence of the life of a military child.

What Teaching Military Children Means To Me

By Ms. M, Fort Jackson Counselor

Teaching Military Children means that I was able to fulfill my destiny. I began my life at the old hospital in 1956 on the Fort Jackson Army base. Both my parents had ties to Fort Jackson. My dad completed his basic training, and my mom worked in Procurement for 28 years. I followed in their footsteps and have taught and counseled military students at Fort Jackson for 36 years.

Teaching military children means fulfilling my passion. As a teacher and now counseling military children, it means that I have had the opportunity to give back to the soldiers by being there for the military parents' child while he/she serves our country. As a teacher, I observed military children and families face huge obstacles in their lives. The military child scarifies, too, so their parent can protect and keep us safe. If I can be there for the military soldiers' child, then the military parent will know their child is being taken care of.

Over the many years I have taught military children, I am amazed how resilient the children are. I have never moved out of Columbia, SC. Most military children move many times during their life as a military child yet he/she walks in a classroom and starts their school day like they never moved.

Teaching military children is a real-life culture and geography lesson right in your class. There are different cultures and geographic locations they have experienced. The military child and parent are readily available to share their wealth of knowledge with other military children and me. Through these experiences, I have learned so much from teaching the military child. The military child has taught me the importance of understanding diversity as a teacher and counselor. My family and friends tell me they can't believe I have worked at the same job for 36 years. Teaching military children is always changing, brings in new knowledge from the military child's life experiences, teaches current events, and keeps me active and involved.

I am grateful for my job, cherish the memories, and will add more memories as I continue working with military students.

Ms. M wrote this essay in order to honor her students during the Month of the Military Child.



Elliott Elementary Month of the Military Child Family Picnic: April 27



Each child received a “2012” medal with a red, white, and blue lanyard to show our appreciation. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to be a military child, and we appreciate the sacrifice and strength that we see every day.

STEMposium 2012

Science and Math were blended in a unique way in a STEMposium held April 18th for Brittin and Kessler Elementary Schools, and April 20th at Diamond Elementary. There was an exciting day of learning with Science and Mathematics activities embedded in the engineering design process. An OPM-STEM professional, J B, presented a half-day work shop on how to plan STEM-based lessons with the engineering design process. Other district schools participated in STEM awareness by having science and engineering resource agencies engage their students through hands-on investigations. The STEMposium’s goal is to spark an interest for students to seek careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Further STEM activities will be held during the school year 2012 - 2013.



The SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District Spelling Bee

The geographical dispersion of the SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District Spelling Bee was just another part of the excitement at the annual Spelling Bee held on March 30, 2012. Unique to this event was that the nine contestants were competing for the district title simultaneously in four different locations. The school level winners from the three schools on Fort Stewart completed at the District Superintendent's Office, while the winners from Laurel Bay and Fort Jackson participated via Video Teleconference. The school winner from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, took his turn in the competition via the telephone.

Fourth through sixth-grade students in each of the nine schools across our four installations completed throughout the school year in class, then school level Spelling Bee competitions. The winners from each of the schools were eligible to compete in the district-level competition.

First-place winner for the spelling bee was X R from Bolden Elementary, and second-place winner was J B from Diamond Elementary.



“Saddling-up with a Good Book” at Elliott Elementary

Among the activities at Elliott Book week, April 16-20, were guest readers from the Naval Hospital, student-made bookmarks, and Western attire for “saddling-up with a good book”. Each day had a theme related to reading books. On “Read-a Shirt” day, students wore shirts with slogans. Students were Patriots one day and wore sunglasses on another day to “Brighten their Day With a Good Book.”

However, Friday, “Dress as Your Favorite Book Character” was considered the most enjoyable by all. Not only was every imaginable book character represented, but Elliott also had a huge Book Character Parade outside. Parents and siblings joined the fun and applauded as their favorite characters marched past the school. In the finale parade, students sang a ditty, “Pinkalious,” about loving to read, which was written by Mr. O, the music teacher.

The Arts are Alive at C.C. Pinckney Elementary

“The City Mouse and the Country Mouse” by the Atlantic Coast Theater exemplified good acting for the start of the Pinckney PatriARTS Project this spring with a week of drama workshops for all Pinckney students. Experiences included a visit by Author/Illustrator Chris Soentpiet, who presented his secrets for illustrations. Dance artist, Richard Durlach, also led third-graders in a unit on dancing the Carolina Shag, South Carolina’s state dance, worked with fifth-graders on Colonial-American dances, and taught swing dance to sixth-graders, ending with a swing dance at the Columbia Historical Site, the Big Apple, the birthplace of swing dance.”



Concluding the PatriARTs Project was the chorus performance with the Baillie Players in the *Wizard of Oz* after four months of rehearsal.



Brittin Elementary Third-Quarter Reading, Academic, and Student-of-the-Month Assemblies

On March 28, Brittin Elementary School held their 3rd Quarter Reading, Academic, and Student of the Month assemblies. Parents, faculty, and staff celebrated their student's success with reading incentives, certificates and lots of applause.

Firefighters Teaching Second-Graders Safety at W.T. Sampson Elementary

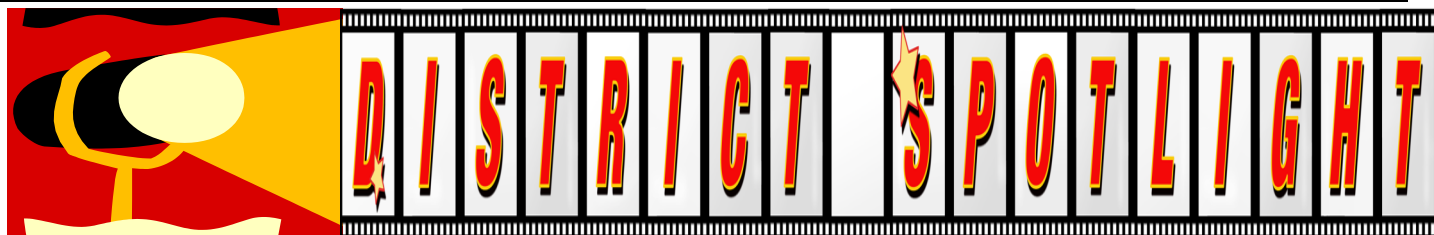
Second-graders at W.T. Sampson Elementary were delivered hands-on, or feet-on, safety lessons in Mrs. Trias' class.

Of such lessons, W.T. Sampson's principal, Sonja Rodriguez, identifies Mrs. Trias as someone who demonstrates the South Carolina/Fort Stewart/DoDDS Cuba School District Core Values of Excellence and Professionalism.



The following SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District staff members have been recognized by their peers during the month of May 2012 for their outstanding commitment the to the district and for representing the District's Core Values!

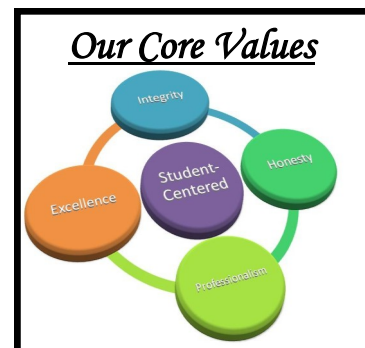
<p>Mrs. M Counselor- Kessler Elementary</p>	<p>Mrs. M goes above and beyond what she has to do. She is very professional and compassionate. She is one of the best teachers I have ever encountered, and all her students love her. My son always wants to buy her gifts and says she is a very nice teacher. He says that he likes her a lot because she is nice and friendly.</p> <p>By Student</p>
<p>Ms. S Teacher - Brittin Elementary</p>	<p>She helps me do my things. She makes going to school fun. Always spends the time to answer all my questions.</p> <p>By Student</p>
<p>Dr. M Counselor- Brittin Elementary</p>	<p>Dr. M presented second-grade with a method of looking at data that is vital to how we direct our teaching. Her drive in helping our children achieve excellence is beyond reproach. She is truly a leader who makes a difference for educators at Brittin.</p> <p>By Educator</p>



Have you seen or interacted with someone in our district who goes above and beyond the call of duty? We would like to recognize these special people in our District Digest each month and celebrate how they are representing our Core Values.

If you have someone who you would like to nominate for our District Spotlight, please submit the following information via email to merilee.cox@am.dodea.edu.

- Name of the employee that you would like to nominate
- Location where the employee works
- At least one example of how this employee demonstrates one of the Core Values of the district (professionalism, excellence, integrity, and honesty)



Please submit your nomination no later than the 15th of each month.