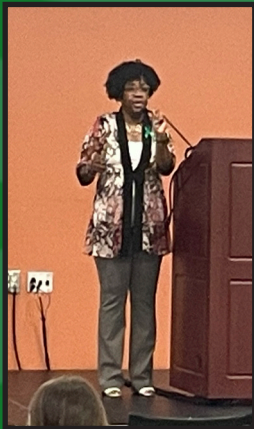


# STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

## Mental Wellness Summit

In celebration of Mental Health Awareness Month, Project AWARE held a Mental Wellness Summit. The event took place at the Cary W. Martin Conference Center on May 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Jason Hobbs and Deborah Kinlaw, both local therapy providers, and Sgt. Kevin Lashley with Houston County Sheriffs Department held presentations titled: *Recognizing and Addressing Anxiety and Depression in Youth*, *Supporting Students Through the Global Pandemic*, and *Social Media and Your Youth*. Local community providers were also invited to share resources during a meet and greet for community members, school personnel, and parents.



# Mental Health First Aid Kits

May was Mental Health Awareness Month. Project AWARE distributed Mental Health First Aid Kits to each student and staff member in our school district. The kits were a collaborative effort with Nikki Lytle, Founder of Mental Health 1st. Kits were delivered with the messages below.

## Student Mental Health First Aid Kits:

These are mental health first aid kits. In your kit, you will find an educational card and a motivational card. The educational card has emergency numbers for mental health services. The motivational card is for you to keep, trade and/or share with a friend in need. The tissues are a reminder that sometimes you may need to shed a tear or be a shoulder to cry on. The lifesavers are a reminder to enjoy the sweet things in life and that you can be a lifesaver! The fidget pop-its are a reminder that someone cares about you and sometimes you just need that extra push! The pencil case is a reminder that sometimes we need help holding our things. It is okay to ask for help. Happy Mental Health Awareness Month!

## Adult Mental Health First Aid Kits:

These are mental health first aid kits. In your kit, you will find an educational card and a motivational card. The educational card has emergency numbers for mental health services. The motivational card is for you to keep, trade and/or share with a friend in need. The lifesavers are a reminder to enjoy the sweet things in life and that you are a lifesaver! The sticky notepad is a reminder to stick together. "Tough times don't last, but tough people do" - Robert Schuller. The pen is a reminder that we'll be WRITE there with you. The cup is a reminder that sometimes we need help holding our things. It is okay to ask for help. We cannot pour from an empty cup. Happy Mental Health Awareness Month!



Staff Kits

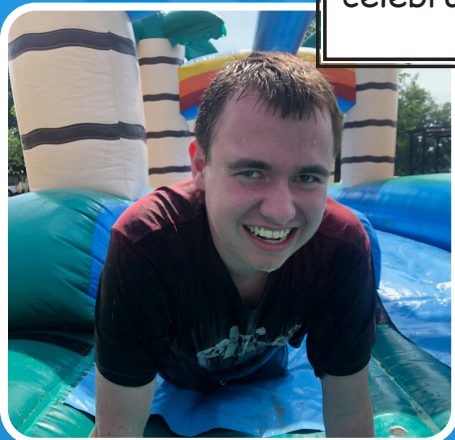


Student Kits

# TRANSITION ACADEMY CELEBRATES!



Students at the Transition Academy worked extremely hard during the school year, both on their community job sites and in our Daily Living Center. The classes continued to expand their very successful casserole and dessert business. This allowed them to learn how to budget and operate a small business while learning essential life skills. The students happily celebrated the end of a successful school year with a water day. The students, and even school staff, enjoyed the giant water slide! Everyone had a fun and relaxing day to celebrate their hard work during the school year!





# SCHOOL NURSE DAY



Cathy Sillence



Chasity Williamson



Tania Bartlett



Brenda Marshall



Suzanne Simpson



Shanelle Bobo



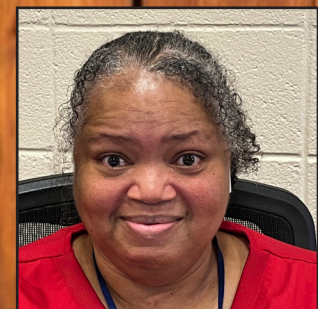
Heather Roland



Jennifer Lawrence



Liz Tosi



Sonovia Ling

Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses and foster a better understanding of their role in the educational setting.

School Nurse Day was celebrated on May 11th. The theme for this year was “Bridging Healthcare and Education.” A school nurse protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success.

School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education. They provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals to develop their full potential. Thanks to each of our school nurses for their dedication to the students and schools of Houston County.

# BOWL-A-RAMA



The Bowl-A-Rama returned this year! A total of 536 students from around the county converged on Gold Cup Bowling Center for three days of this extended adapted p.e. lesson. Elementary schools were knocking down pins on May 9th. Middle schools were swinging for strikes on May 10th, and the high schools were trolling for turkeys on May 11th.



# PARAPROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



This month's spotlight is on Kim Grubb who has been at Matt Arthur Elementary four years. She previously served as a lunchroom monitor at Langston Road Elementary. When asked why she chose her career Ms. Grubb shared, "It was while working at Langston Road that I realized my true love was fostering greatness in children. I fell for all the children but had an especially soft spot for the exceptional children of the building. They became my babies!!! I've always wanted to work with children with special needs and this was like a window into my dream job."

Ms. Grubb shared that she has learned new ways to communicate with her students since many are non-verbal. They may use sign language or communication devices to express their wants and needs. Ms. Grubb stated, "With every challenge there are rewards." One of her rewards was watching a student WALK independently for the first time. Mostly, she appreciates how her students show love in their own way.

An interesting fact about Kim Grubb are that she loves Kit Kats, so much that her students and their parents affectionately call her "KitKat Kim". Her hobbies include gardening and driving. Ms. Grubb has four amazing children in our district. Houston County is fortunate to have Ms. Grubb. She goes above and beyond each day to ensure the success of her students.

# SCHOOL NUTRITION AWARDS

In April, Houston County School Nutrition employees attended the Georgia School Nutrition Association Conference in Savannah, Georgia. While this year has been difficult, our school nutrition employees stepped up, stayed flexible, and kept serving meals. It took everyone on our team to make this possible. Several individual employees were recognized at the conference. All of these winners have shown leadership, humility, and kindness to students and staff. We are lucky to have them on our team! Congratulations Robert, James, and Josephine! We could not be more proud!



Robert Johnson, MSES  
Statewide Employee of the  
Year!



James Bryant, WRHS  
Second place for Manager  
of the Year!



Josephine Durham, HMS  
Beyond the Plate Award

## Special Education Teacher Induction

The program for the May New Special Education Teacher Induction meeting was led by Mrs. Monica Smith and Dr. Alicia Campbell. They presented on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS), explaining the essential components of the data driven framework. MTSS is used to identify and predict students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes, experience social/emotional needs, or behavioral concerns that impact learning. The participants learned how MTSS work is done through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to meet our goal of producing high achieving students.

# All Things SHARKS

The Varsity Sharks ended their season with a statement... **THEY ARE BACK!!** The varsity team entered the football tournament in first place, having finished the regular playing season as undefeated. During the semifinal game, they faced off against the Clayton County Eagles. The Sharks played a solid defensive game, not allowing the Eagles to score during the first half. Sharks' offense was on fire, putting 43 points on the scoreboard. During the championship game, the Sharks continued to dominate on defense holding a strong West Georgia team to a single touchdown and a field goal. Sharks offense, led by captains Langley Yoh and Dylan Thompson, continued to rack up yardage. The Sharks defeated the Wolverines 35-10 to recapture the title.



The Houston County Sharks JV team peaked at the right time this season. They defeated the Gwinnett Heat, snapping their undefeated streak, and winning their first two games of the year. The JV team has worked hard all year, improving with each practice. It showed at the tournament! The JV team defeated the Muscogee Lions 33 to 19. Solid defense, led by Laila Kindness, won the day. During the championship game the JV team came up short on the scoreboard, but they left everything on the court. The Sharks' future is bright!

What do the Sharks do on their first weekend off? They find a wheelchair basketball tournament to play in, of course! Representatives from the present and past Houston County Sharks teams joined up to play in the 1st annual West Georgia Wolverines 3v3 Tournament. In the single elimination tournament, the Sharks represented themselves well. The team made up of Langley Yoh, Jacob Stevens, and Elianna Stevens came in 3rd. The team of Dylan Thompson, Orlando Hicks, and Kenneth Odom captured the 2nd place trophy. Our long-time coach, Christy Jones, volunteered as a tournament official.





# Celebrate The SHARKS

On May 18th, the Sharks were celebrated by family members, friends, and supports for the accomplishments of the year. The Varsity Sharks won the State Championship for handball, basketball, and football. Special Recognition Awards were given to retirees Dr. Jenny Millward and Mr. Stephen Thublin for their unwavering support of the Sharks program. Shark Awards for all around leadership went to varsity player Dylan Thompson and JV player Jaden Screen. Senior, Langley Yoh was announced as the recipient of the Tanya Peavy Memorial Scholarship. Langley will be attending Georgia Southern University to study exercise science. We appreciate all who attended to honor our athletes.

## Varsity Handball Awards

Ger'mir Gordon (MCMS) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Caron Harris (VHS) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Anthony Cuti (MCMS) - Most Improved Player of the Year

## JV Handball Awards

Elijah Gibson (WRMS) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Madison Ryan (LRES) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Josh Cruz (MCMS) - Most Improved Player of Year.

## Varsity Basketball Awards

Adonis Brown (HCHS) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Jaquavious West (WRHS) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Elianna Stevens (HCHS) - Most Improved Player of the Year.

## JV Basketball Awards

Champ Ryan (LRES) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Laila Kindness (PSES) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Destiny Forster (HES) - Most Improved Player of the Year.

## Varsity Football Awards

Dalton Crosby (HMS) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Elex Brown (PHS) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Langley Yoh(HCHS) - Most Improved Player of the Year

## JV Football Awards

MaCayla Moody (NHS) - Offensive Player of the Year  
Asher Hayes (MCMS) - Defensive Player of the Year  
Naomie Wilson (HCHS) - Most Improved Player of the Year.



# Student Awards

Students in Ms. Natalie Johnson's small group class at Eagle Springs Elementary School were honored at the 4th grade awards ceremony on May 19, 2022 in front of parents and peers. Ms. Johnson's students have flourished this year, and their hard work and dedication has paid off! Awards include:

- Dexter Hill - The Clever Award: Your ability to think out of the box is truly out of this world.
- Ariel Pitts - The Enthusiasm Award: Your love and determined personality will bring you extraordinary success.
- Jaden Elder - The Joyful Award: Your contagious joy fills the world with love and happiness.
- Payten Shepherd - The Perseverance Award: When things get tough, you step up your game and push on through. Way to go!
- Craig Hancock - The Respectful Award: You are an extraordinary role model for respectful behavior and you will have an invaluable impact on the world.
- Emiliano Anguiano - The Spirited Award: Your exuberance and zest for life brighten the world around you.
- Dallas Washington - The Adventurer Award: Your adventurous side will surely serve you well for a successful life.
- Jacob Brown - The Passion Award: Putting your whole love into every single thing you do will make you a spectacular success.
- Devan Coleman - The Patience Award: The patience you show when faced with challenges will bring you starting success.
- Jordan Collins - The Witty Award: Your quick wit and your humor spreads smiles and laughter in every direction.
- Daylen Howard - The Tender Hearted Award: Your deeply caring attitude leaves a trail of sweetness every place you go.
- Raylan Gray - The Peacemaker Award: Your ability to solve problems and brainstorm solutions are truly remarkable. The world needs you.
- Antonio Brown - The Optimist Award: The positive way that you approach life will make you an extraordinary success.

