

## **Volunteer Services Community Relations**

### **Board Report 2016**

#### **Community Relations**

##### *Annually:*

- District Profile - This thirty-six page booklet called Traditions contains information per building and also stats of the district. The profile's main purpose is to showcase our district and is used as a tool by administrators when promoting the district and all it has to offer. It is also available on the website to give parents and community members a quick glance of our entire district, updated annually. Dr. Hadfield commented he thought the booklet was very well done this year.
- Fall and Winter/Spring Sports Guides - This is a collaborative effort between coaches and the community relations department highlighting not only student athletics but also their strong academics.
- Pictorial Directory - Many hours are spent creating this directory. What a great way to put a face with a name in a district of our size. Volunteers also copy and assemble the hundreds of district phone directory for district use.
- Maintain the volunteer website - This site shows all the ways volunteers and teachers work together using volunteer services.
- Alumni and District Facebook page - It's important to show all the positive happenings with our community. I would like to thank Angela Sellers. She's been great technical support to our office as we continue to grow in this area. My administrative assistant, Andrea Rhoades, daily spends a great deal of time improving and supplying information for these pages.
- Reaching our community through Media - We send, almost daily, press releases to various media outlets in our community. Typically that includes five different local papers plus radio and TV stations when asked. This year we reached the community 194 times through press releases. This number does not include the tips and suggestions to the papers for feature stories.
- Events chair for the Foundation Elegant Evening - Fabulous event this year. A special thank you to the entire district staff in helping make this year's event the best yet!
- Lake Area Food Bank Advisory Council - I am currently the President of the advisory council. We have met numerous times at OBE. The council is working on building awareness and creating ideas for further funding of the buddy pack program.

### *Quarterly:*

- The Laker Letter has been a popular way to communicate school news in the community. Four letters are created and mailed each school year.
- First quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to 19,606 residents in October, and also available on the district website
- Second quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to 19,637 residents in January, and also on the district website
- Third quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to 19,528 residents in March, and also on the district website
- Fourth quarter newsletter - 16 pages, graduation issue, full color and mailed to nearly 19,660 residents in June, and also on district website.
- Community relations provides the printed program for the TOY and EOY banquet as well as the monthly Excellence in Education poster which hangs in the administration office
- Kiwanis Club of Camdenton's Terrific Kids Program - The club reached 224 students this past school year. Certificates are printed for each student awarded and presentations are made at Oak Ridge and Hurricane Deck school, quarterly. The Kiwanis club also supports the volunteer program by packing buddy packs weekly at Dogwood and last year donated \$1,000 to the buddy pack program as well.
- Looking Good Program - Local non-profit groups donate over \$2,500 which supports our teachers and nursing department with hygiene and clothing items. Daybreak Rotary just announced we will be receiving another 2,500 gift in August and Harper Chapel and Kiwanis are also going to support the program as well.

### *Highlights:*

- As Director of the Community Relations program it was exciting to play such an important part in the planning of the two dedication ceremonies for OBE and HDE.

## **Volunteers in Public Schools**

- Parents letter are sent to all parents throughout the year encouraging parent involvement. It is also important for the director to all go out into the community and make presentations to groups building awareness and support to our schools. Press releases are also circulated and oftentimes

I present a program to civic organizations in hopes to recruit new volunteers and provide further details on our buddy pack program among other programs we offer in the district. The volunteer program also coordinates the Dogwood parent involvement portion for their week long reading week and assistance with Grandparents day and promotes businesses to assist with the Book for Bikes program.

- The volunteer program is proud of the 250+ volunteers who assisted in some way this school year. Out of the two hundred and fifty volunteers, thirty-six volunteers reached the 100 or more hour mark for the very first time. Sixty-one returning volunteers continued to give over 100 hours of services. Nineteen volunteers were nominated to receive the Volunteer of the Year award. Brad Mitchell from Hurricane Deck and Diane Knoll from OBE and Dogwood share the title this year as Volunteers of the Year. Over two hundred volunteers, staff members, and guests attended the annual dinner. *I especially want to thank each school board member and administration who attended and assisted with this special evening. Photos and highlights of the banquet can be found on the district website under programs and then school volunteer program.*

### *Special Programs:*

- Therapy Dogs - This past August, the volunteer program was pleased to implement the first Therapy dog in the District. Handler Kathy Spaulding brought Augie in to work with students, under the direction of Jessica Koviak, once a week at Dogwood and several days thereafter at Horizons. Augie, doing such a great job, caught the eye of social working Rebbeca Caufield who also had a therapy dog who was finishing his training. Molly began working with the Dogwood students in early spring when then Augie moved strictly to Horizons after March. This program has been found to be extremely effective and the district looks forward to both dogs returning in the fall. I would like to share a very complimentary email from Ms. Caufield about the volunteer program Molly and Augie.

*"I am soooo excited of all you guys do in your department! I wanted to take the time to thank-you! You hard work is filtered down to the students throughout the district and it truly amazes me! I have only been in 3 school districts. And I have NEVER seen a volunteer services program anywhere near what you provide!"*

*Oh....and I should have provided the full story about Augie in case you had not heard:) When Augie's mommy (hee hee) put their home on the market and informed that they were moving from the area, I inquired of admin, the DE principals and counselors if they wanted me to get Molly re-certified for Therapy Dog. To be quite honest, I never would have spent the money or time to get Molly up to snuff if Augie was not leaving simply because I did not want to impose on Augie or his handler:)*

*Jessie is so creative and several of the students that Augie helped through his time here at*

*DE made him an adorable good bye gift. It was a pic of Augie and on the matting had all of their fingerprints:) SOooooo cute:)*

*Anyway, the transition worked great and we are excited that Molly passed all of her tests at 100%. The students did an amazing job presenting and tying in goal setting in the introduction:)*

*Once again, you never cease to amaze me and I am so grateful to know you!!!! You make a huge difference in not only the student's lives, but EVERY staff member's! You rock!!!!"*

- **Leader in Me** - I had the great pleasure working with the parent volunteers at OBE as they came together and hosted the Leader in Me event in April. What a day for the district to shine in every way.
- **OARS** - Outstanding Adults Reading with Students, Oak Ridge Intermediate - 80 students in the interventions program was involved in this quarterly program. Each student was paired with an adult partner
- **Buddy Packs** - 20,000 packs were sent home this past year. The number of Schools Served- (7) Dogwood 164 buddy packs weekly, Hawthorn 78 buddy packs weekly, Oak Ridge 49 buddy packs weekly, Hurricane Deck 74 buddy packs weekly, Osage Beach 51 buddy packs weekly, Macks Creek 51 buddy packs weekly and Climax Springs 80 buddy packs weekly. We also served the Stoutland School District this year only as a drop off point. Horizons, Middle School, and High School students also received a buddy pack when needed. Secondary students are referred to our office through the counseling department. All students were provided a buddy pack when requested. Summer school students also received a buddy pack through the month of June. Local monetary donations received through my office were \$6,140. Additional food supplies were also received to serve students. The cost per student per year is \$180.00. Central Food Bank does provide the majority of the funding for our district. Without their support this program would not be available for our students.

*I hope you were able to get a glimpse of all the great support the volunteer program has available to staff members and their students and also how effective the community relations department is. I can't say enough about the teachers who are just phenomenal using the great recourse of both departments. We try each day to touch the classroom, touch the community, and in our small way help us all grow as Lakers. It is always a great day in Laker Nation. Please feel free to visit our website. We try hard to put our touches out there for all to see.*

*Joi*