



THE HOME OF THE MIGHTY BULLDOGS

"WORDS MATTER. THEY'RE CONTAGIOUS. AND HOPEFUL WORDS INFECT PEOPLE"

Phillips Middle
 Counseling Department
Angela D. Jones, School Counselor
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Jennifer O'Meara, Principal
LeShaun Jenkins, Asst. Principal
 4371 Leggett-Battleboro Road/
 Battleboro, NC 27809

PHILLIPS BULLDOG NEWS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OUR FAMILIES!

Academics and Attendance Matters!

WORDS Matter!

Parents we need your help in setting language expectations for our students. Phillips has been experiencing an alarming increase of students using inappropriate (foul) language at school. It has been reinforced to our students that such words are not allowed to be used in school, which is followed by an OK and later the student then ignores the instructions and repeats the inappropriate behavior.

We are doing everything possible from meeting with students to help with words choices to taking other steps such as assigning reflective lunch, poor choices and even in/out of school suspension (which is our last option), to help curb the negative trend of this inappropriate language and create a culture of positive language usage.

ALL teachers are taking a stand as a unified front in setting a high standard. However, in order for this effort to prove fruitful we need our parents to reinforce positive word choices with their child(ren) to help them to express their concerns in a more appropriate manner.

SOCIAL SKILLS BUILDING AND MORE...

Parents help us build our students social skills by reinforcing what we teach them weekly at home. During the month of November we focused on Respecting Personal Space, Respecting other Rights and Property, Sharing, Empathy and Being Honest. December: Apologizing, Saying Thank You and Giving Compliments. January: Dealing with Winning and Losing, Standing Up for a Friend and Good Citizens at Home, School and in the Community. The lessons will be retaught again throughout the school year.

PBIS SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS: Be Respectful, Responsible and Prepared with an attitude of always LEARNING.

PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO FOLLOW SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS.

CHARACTER WORDS FOR MONTHS OF November, December and January:
Service to Others (servicio a los demás- Spanish) - Nov and Dec.
Respect (el respeto - Spanish)

KEY POINT: We believe in fair and consistent discipline that encourages students to be responsible for their actions. At school, we try to create a safe environment where courtesy and kindness prevail and where there is respect for differences in other people, customs and cultures.

PBIS department created a calendar of events(incentives) to reward students who has earned the right to participate due to positive behavior. Please note below are the criteria(s) for earning these incentives:
Schoolwide (weekly activity) student must not have any infractions on their record of any sort. **Schoolwide (30 day activity)** student must not have any Out or In-School Suspensions, can have only one (1) reflective lunch or poor choice. **Field trips 1st semester:** no OSS/ISS and (1) poor choice, (1) reflective lunch. **End of Year Field trip:** No infractions of any sort (we will look at information starting from the 2nd semester only for the end of year trip). In addition to the above ALL students must receive an activity pass from their teacher(homeroom) in order to participate.



Starting on far right, Principal O'Meara, Angel Sharpe (6th grader), Jha'waiun Drake, (7th grader) and Damiyah Felder (8th grader), Alumni President, Willie Harris and Alumni Secretary, Maurieta Cozart.

Phillips Alumni Association has taken on another great initiative to support the efforts of the students at Phillips Middle School, during this 2017-18 school year. The Alumni has agreed to provide gift cards (\$25) for three well-deserving students who have shown academic improvement during the nine (9) week grading periods. The purpose of this initiative is to reinforce to all students how important their academics are and to show them that we care about every measure of growth they are achieving. Pictured above are the first three recipients of this great efforts.

In addition, the Alumni Association helps us to recognize students with **perfect attendance** every nine weeks by sponsoring a pizza party. The criteria for perfect attendance is no unexcused absences and no tardies. The students for the 1st nine weeks (8/28-10/30) were:

Dustin Allen, Na'Siyah Fountain, Karina Gonzalez, Montana Gorham, Ronnie Hardy, Jaheim Knight, Jeremiah Morgan, Zyrian Pittman, Cristian Ponce, Kevon Savage, Arjane' Smith, Dontrevious Whitaker, Jha'waiun Drake, Olivia Garrett, Galilea Raya, Mikayla Hudson and Eric Lopez.

We have restarted the **Dress for Success** initiative on Thursdays, effective Dec 7. Students participated in an assembly (Dec 4) on what the expectations are for this initiative, a connect-Ed message went out on Dec 5/6. Flyers went home on (Dec 8). In order for this effort to be successful we need our parents support to make sure that if their child is participating they adhere to the rules that was outlined in the flyer. If you need further information contact Ms. Jones, School Counselor. Also information will be posted on the school website.

"SHOUT OUTS"

Congratulations to our students and staff who are making a world of difference at Phillips Middle School.

Star Students

September – Cristian Ponce (6th), Azaria King (7th) and Quanasia Bryant (8th).

October – Angel Sharpe (6th), Albino Garcia (7th) and Breyia Alston (8th).

November – Maria Mejia Aguirre (6th), Tanaja Moss (7th) and Nasiah Taylor (8th)

December – TBD in January, 2018

Gold Key Students: 2017-18 (1 semester)

Na'Siyah Fountain (6th), Albino Garcia (7th), Christian Sharpe (8th) and Manzeah Hedgepeth (8th).

Special Recognition: Star Teachers

Ms. Pamela Harrison (ELA) – September, 2017

Mr Darren Gemzik (Science)-October, 2017

Mr Brady Buchanan (SS) – October, 2017

Ms Maya Pittman (Health/PE)-November, 2017

Watch Out for Those Fire-starters Candles and Fireplaces

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and **12% of home candle fires occur in December**, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

For more information visit the National Safety Council: <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/news-and-resources-holiday-safety.aspx>

"No matter what people tell you, WORDS and IDEAS can change the world." Robin Williams

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Toys for Tots for supporting some of families this school year and Ms. Stephanie Gay, School Social Worker for coordinating this effort.

North Edgecombe High School Alumni Association for providing Food Baskets to several of our families during the Christmas Holiday.

Civitan Club for their continuous support since 2017 of providing healthy snacks for our students during the weekends and Ms. Ann Tripp, for coordinating these efforts through our school counselor, Ms. A. Jones.

Salem Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (who started the initiative at Phillips in 2015) for their continuous support of providing healthy snacks to many of our students during the weekends and to Ms. Sandra Johnson and Ms. Dusty Harrell who put forth effortless hours to coordinate this initiative through their church.

Phillips Students and staff participate in giving back during these most precious times of the year by donating toys, books, puzzles and other items for the **Treasure Box Project**. The recipient of this initiative is Nash General Hospital (Children's Emergency Room), Rocky Mount NC. Phillips school began this project in 2015. Students who assisted Ms. Jones, School Counselor with initiative are Azaria King and Keiria Bridgers (7th graders)



Pictured far right DoMarius Parkr, PBIS Student Rep (7th), Nicholas Lewis, (8th), Quanasia Bryant, PBIS Student Rep. (8th) and Jeremy Morgan, (6th)

Counseling department host different small groups during the school year to help meet the needs of our students. These groups include anger management, study skills, new students, self-control, self-awareness and more. If you would like to have your child participate in any these groups, please contact the school counselor. The group sessions will last from 2-6 weeks (at least once a week) and students will meet at a time which does not interfere with their core classes.

In order to address attendance issues and express the importance of being in school every day the school counselor and social worker meet with identified students in a small group monthly to discuss ways to achieve success in the area of attendance.

Ms. A. Jones, School Counselor and the School Psychologist L Jones will be providing a therapeutic group (SPARCS: Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to chronic Stress) for students that have been impacted by trauma and loss starting in January, 2018. This initiative provided is in collaboration with the North Carolina Child Treatment Program.

Student Support Services:

- Angela Jones, School Counselor - ajones@ecps.us
- Stephanie Gay, Social Worker - sgay@ecps.us
- Sharon Malone, EC Teacher - smalone@ecps.us
- Lori Jones, School Psychologist - ljones@ecps.us
- Gwyn Howell, Power School Data Manager - ghowell@ecps.us
- Phyllis Mangum, ISS Coordinator - pmangum@ecps.us
- School Number: 252-446-2031 / Counseling Ext 6314

Counseling Department Mission Statement

To provide a comprehensive developmental counseling program through collaborative efforts of staff, parents, community and our students. A program that will meet the diverse needs of each student; address barriers to learning and prepare students to become architects of their own lives, and change agents who are productive members of society.