Oxford High School was honored to have as our guest Congressman Mike Rogers, representing the 3rd district of Alabama. Congressman Rogers delivered an American flag that was flown over our nation’s capitol in honor of the men and women of Oxford who have served in our Armed Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Representing the service men and women of Oxford who have served in these campaigns were:


Staff Sergeant Eric Wade, Army Reserve, served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2008 and is scheduled to be deployed for a 3rd time next month as a member of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is the father of Oxford High School student Hunter McConathy.

Receiving the flag on behalf of the service men and women of Oxford is Lieutenant Colonel Bobby Jones, Army National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Jones served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from June, 2009 until May, 2010. He is the father of Oxford High School student T.R. Jones.

The flag will be placed in the display case at Oxford High School and be available for public viewing. Oxford High School wishes to thank Congressman Rogers for this special recognition, but above all, we salute the members of the Oxford community who have served in defense of our nation!
“PENNIES FOR PATIENTS”

Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, proclaimed September 2010 as “Childhood Cancer Awareness” month in the state of Alabama. He encouraged all Alabamians to become more active in the fight to eradicate childhood cancer. Conner Burleson, an 8th grade student at Oxford Middle School was diagnosed last year with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma. In spite of ongoing clinic visits and periodic absences, Conner remains upbeat and excited about school. This year Oxford Middle School will honor Conner in their annual “Pennies for Patients” drive for blood cancer research. Conner’s positive attitude is an inspiration to us all at Oxford Middle School. Conner said, “I am very excited and happy that Governor Riley signed and approved this proclamation for childhood cancer awareness.” Let’s join OMS in their support of Connor by participating in their “Pennies for Patients” drive.

“Fighting for a Cure”

“Oxford City Schools and Oxford Fire Department Join Together in Fighting for a Cure” – a cure for breast cancer. Imagine life without breast cancer—where your mother, daughter, sister or friend doesn’t have to worry if she will be the one-in-eight women diagnosed with the disease. Susan G. Komen for the Cure® is the global leader of the breast cancer movement, having invested nearly 1.5 billion dollars since 1982. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® foundation is a network of breast cancer survivors and activists working together to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cures. This October, the Oxford City Schools and Oxford Fire Department joined in the fight to end breast cancer. Together, they raised $4,500.00 for this worthy cause. To celebrate, on October 19, the fire department, along with Sparky the Fire Dog, visited each Oxford City School to show their thanks for helping in this fight.
Mr. Morrison’s Enrichment class at Oxford Middle School participated in a mock stock market project. Jackson Dean, Plant Project Leader at Honda for the 2011 Honda Odyssey, discussed background information about Honda, the progression of development of the Odyssey, and how sales of the Odyssey over the past 2 years mirrored the stock performance of Honda Motor Company. Mr. Dean is the father of Jackson Dean, a student in Morrison’s class. The stock market project introduced students to the basic operation of the stock market, procedures of investment, and portfolio development. Students researched and identified sectors of the economy: financial, perishable goods, automotive, apparel, etc., that interested them and then developed their stock portfolios. Based upon common company interest, students were placed into portfolio groups. Students chose a portfolio name and manager. Each group was allocated $200,000 to purchase five selected stocks. Some groups divided their stocks equally based on percentage, while others chose to divide their shares based on share price. The teams monitored increases or decreases in equity and researched company news to determine the effect on share prices. Students charted their portfolio performance and monitored the individual companies to determine daily team winners. The portfolio teams were allowed to use their equity to purchase additional stocks. At the conclusion of the project, the team with the most equity won. This semester’s winner was Team OMS Yellow Jackets with a 19% return on their original investment.

Brooke Vingers, a senior at Oxford High School, was offered a full athletic scholarship on December 2 to play volleyball for the Bay Minette Sun Chiefs. Coach Ritchie Dulaney, Bay Minette’s coach, has been very impressed with Brooke’s work ethic, talent, and leadership. She stated, “We are excited to have Brooke on our team.” Brooke has been a student at Oxford for 12 years where she has played various sports for the Yellow Jackets. Since her 9th grade year, she has competed on the varsity volleyball and softball teams. Brooke was a captain of the volleyball team, both her junior and senior years, where she played as a setter and defensive specialist. Brooke also serves on various community service organizations at OHS. She is a member of Gancel, Mu Alpha Theta, and HOSA—presently serving as secretary of HOSA. Brooke is looking forward to extending her education and volleyball career by playing at the collegiate level.
Future chemists are in training in Ms. Nelson’s third grade class at Coldwater Elementary. Using the AMSTI Chemistry unit, students realize that chemicals are all around us and learn that everything is made of chemicals. Students are introduced to general chemistry: physical and chemical properties, solubility, filtration, evaporation, crystallization, acids, bases, and neutrals. They work together to solve the mystery of five unknown solids: sugar, alum, talc, baking soda, and corn starch through exploration and critical thinking. The students love Science and have a BLAST studying chemicals!

Research on Learning

Ms. Amelia Odom, Oxford Middle School Reading Interventionist, was one of only fourteen participants from the nation and the only recipient from the southeastern region of the United States that was selected through an arduous application process to attend the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KU/CRL) professional development institute. Individual applicants were required to have completed a minimum of two years of successful instruction of specific strategies selected from the Seamless Instruction Model (SIM®) curriculum. Careful documentation of student progress and pacing within each of the strategies had to be submitted. Additionally, Ms. Odom provided a videotaped teaching segment as proof of her instructional skills in modeling strategies for students, teachers, and administrators. All application submissions were thoroughly evaluated by KU/CRL staff members.

Over the summer, Ms. Odom, traveled to Kansas to attend the week-long professional development institute conducted by the top two KU/CRL professional developers. During the week, participants in the institute were required to prepare and deliver specific original presentations. Presentations were assigned one day and delivered the following day. These presentations were critiqued by fellow participants as well as the two KU/CRL professional developers. Course content also included research and development of the SIM® Learning Strategies as well as individual feedback regarding the materials submitted and evaluated as part of the application process.

When asked to summarize her experience, Ms. Odom said, “Without a doubt, this was the best professional development I have attended over the course of my career. The material was as exciting and engaging on Friday afternoon at 2 o’clock as it had been at 8:30 on Monday morning. The things I learned effect my daily instruction at OMS. It was an intense week, but I came back from Kansas a better teacher!” Thanks to Ms. Odom’s dedication and commitment to teaching, her students are learning strategies to become better readers.
Coffee with a Smile

If you would like service with a smile along with a delicious cup of coffee, then you need to visit the "BIG O" Coffee Shop. The "BIG O" Coffee Shop opened for business in November as part of Oxford High School’s Occupational and Pre-Vocational students’ transition program. Students filled out job applications, participated in the interview process, and were selected to work in the coffee shop. Yes, students arrive prior to the beginning of morning classes because there is work to do. They must prepare the coffee, as well as, smoothies and cookies for their customers - OHS faculty and students. Oxford High School teacher, Karen Maxwell, stated, “Having this student-run coffee shop allows our students first-hand experiences of the business and financial aspects of running a business. Working in the coffee shop also provides our students with real life experiences and opportunities that they will need to become active participants in our community.”

“All State Show Choir”
Connor McCall and Judge Stringer were selected from over 700 applicants to be members of the 2011 Alabama All State Show Choir. The students had to learn a set of music, audition vocally, and complete a dance audition. Students from all over the state of Alabama audition for membership in this prestigious group each year and only 60 are selected to perform. They will attend a 3-day camp in January and perform on the concert program for the Alabama Music Educators Association convention. They will also perform at Samford University in March as part of the Alabama All State Choir Festival. Congratulations!

“Grandparents’ Day”
“What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.”

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“Aluminum Can Bowl”

Oxford City School students and faculty members participated in the annual “Aluminum Can Bowl”-aka “Canned Food Drive” to benefit several area charitable organizations. Students texted and updated their Facebook statuses for friends “not to forget their canned goods.” Teachers pledged to double their students’ efforts. Elementary school teachers even used this benevolent cause as a lesson in counting. How?...Cans were first placed in rows of 10s and then into groups of 100. An athletic competition ensued at OHS with the teachers and students participating in a basketball game to raise money to purchase canned goods. Overall over 8,000 non-perishable items were collected for the Service Center of the Calhoun Baptist Association, Renovation Ministries, and the Salvation Army. You may have thought the “Iron Bowl” game was summit of bowl games, but not in Oxford City Schools. The “Aluminum Can Bowl” score was too close to call. The consensus is that it ended in a tie. You may still hear the students yelling, “Roll Tide” and “War Eagle,” but most importantly, you can see their hearts sharing the gift of love!

Teachers Become Certified Language Therapists

Reading coaches, intervention teachers, and special education teachers in Oxford City Schools received rigorous training this summer for a Multisensory approach to corrective reading. Nancy Coffman, the Associate Director of Outreach for the Shelton School in Texas, provided professional development and training for the teachers. Using this program, teachers administer multisensory research-based instruction to students that addresses phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Students receive this intense instruction for approximately two years. The teacher level certification for this program includes one week of training during the summer for two years, ongoing training throughout the school year, graduate level coursework, and lesson demonstrations. Sara Brewer, Marilyn Burke, Jenny Edwards, Debra Hyatt, Kristi McCormick, Melody Bennett, Kim Wagner, Lisa Chesnut, and Kelly Whaley have completed the Multisensory Language Education (MSLE) Teacher Certification training and are fulfilling the requirements to become Certified Multisensory Language Therapists. A new cohort of teachers began training during summer 2010 and will complete the training certification in 2012. These teachers are: Debbi Clonts, Leigh Ann McCullough, Berri Hale, Nancy Morales, Amy Johnson, Terra Good, Ashley Smith, Kelly Looney, Krystal Landers, Courtney Gurley, Dwight McDonald, and Veronica May. Thanks for your commitment to our students by enhancing your professional growth!
“Black-Out” Drugs

“Each One Reach One for A Drug Free Community”
Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities, schools, and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education. All are encouraged to make a personal commitment to live drug free lives and “reach one” for a drug free community with the ultimate goal being the creation of drug free America.

Students designed posters, gave testimonials, and participated in presentations promoting a drug free life. Various events were planned for the week to support this cause: “Walk Against Drugs”—parents were invited to join students in P.E. as together they “Walked Against Drugs”, “Black-Out” Drugs pep rally—the gym was illuminated with cheers, dances, and skits as students, teachers, and parents waved their glow sticks and bracelets as a commitment to “Black-Out” Drugs.
In recognition of Career Technical Education Week, the Career Technical Advisory Board convened to take note as Dr. Goodwin and Mr. Roy Bennett presented “What is College and Career Ready?”. Thanks to the numerous contributions and valuable partnerships of these business owners and community leaders, our Career Tech students are better prepared to enter the 21st Century workforce.

Scholar Athlete

Logan McCall recently received the Regions Scholar Athlete of the Week Award. This award honors both male and female high school seniors who excel in academics, athletics and student leadership. They are recognized for exhibiting excellence in the classroom, on the playing field, and within their communities. Logan certainly represents Oxford High School and her community as #1!

**Student Sport(s) and Year(s) Played:** Logan has played both Varsity Softball and Varsity Volleyball for four years.

**Academic Highlights/Awards/Recognition:** Logan is currently the highest ranked student academically in her senior class. She is a member of the National Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta; GANCEL; and, Key Club. She is an accelerated college student and has already earned 17 credit hours through her dual enrollment courses through Jacksonville State University and through Oxford High School’s Advanced Placement program.

**Community Involvement:** Logan has volunteered with the American Cancer Society and has participated in Calhoun County’s "Relay for Life" for the last three years. In addition, she tutors younger students in math and volunteers her time in the community with organizations who provide support for needy children. Logan also has participated in the Woodstock Run for three years.

**School plans to attend:** Logan plans to attend a four-year university to pursue pre-medicine. She has made application to the University of Alabama, Auburn University, and Harvard University.

**Student’s planned course of study:** She will pursue a medical degree in neurology.
AAESA District V Meeting

District V Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) hosted their fall luncheon on October 21, 2010, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oxford. This meeting was organized by the leadership of the officers of District V which includes Vice President Debora Nelson, principal-Oxford Elementary, Secretary Shannon Stanley, principal-C.E. Hanna, and Treasurer Amy Copeland, principal-DeArmanville Elementary. This group is committed to building a strong collaborative network of elementary administrators who share successes and challenges. The guest speaker at the fall meeting was Dr. Tommy Bice, Alabama Deputy State Superintendent. There were over forty administrators in attendance. Special guests were Dr. Jeff Goodwin as well as the other four superintendents from Calhoun County. Once again, our administrators demonstrate their state-leadership in education!

Dr. Tommy Bice (R) is honored guest.

Jacket Sing-sations

The Jacket Sing-sations attended the AMEA elementary music festival at Samford University. The students performed with over 400 children from the state of Alabama, under the direction of guest conductor, Cristi Miller. Students from Coldwater and DeArmanville were chosen to perform a special scarf dance during one of the songs, “Hava Nashira.” Many of our Jacket Sing-sations participated in the Jacksonville State University honor choir on October 30th. The children’s choir was under the direction of Mr. Vincent Oakes, director of the Chattanooga Boys Choir. One of our very own, Alex Byrne, was chosen to perform with a small ensemble during the closing song. Oxford City Schools sings the praises of our elite elementary choir, the Jacket Sing-sations.

Bus Safety

Everyday, school buses in Alabama provide transportation for 376,650 public school students and their safety is paramount. Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, proclaimed October 18 – October 22, 2010, as School Bus Safety Week in the State of Alabama. We applaud Oxford City Schools’ bus drivers for their commitment and dedication to ensure our children are transported safely. Thank you!
BAE Systems Inc. has become a “Strategic Partner” of Oxford High School’s Robotics program through its financial and mentorship commitment in an effort to foster competition among high school students and their team-assembled robots. Mr. Bruce Barnett, BAE Systems engineer and Robotics mentor, presented Robert Howell, OHS Engineering teacher/Robotics advisor, with a check in the amount of $10,000. In its second year of implementation, Oxford High School’s Robotics team, “Team Omega,” will design, build and program a robot for competitions-with the goal of competing in the World Championship. Robotics competition’s mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, technology, and math skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

“Breakfast with Santa”

Oxford High School cafeteria was transformed into CandyLand as the Oxford City Schools Education Foundation hosted its second annual “Breakfast with Santa.” The children enjoyed breakfast with jolly Ole St. Nick along with many of his friends (OHS Key Club members): Rudolph, Frosty, Christmas Angel, Gingerbread Man, Santa Grinch, King Kandy, Princess Frostline, Mr. Mint, and Ms. Lolly. Parents and children entered to the joyful chorus of the Jacket Sing-sations and were graciously served an IHOP breakfast by Santa’s elves (OMS students). The children sat mesmerized as “The Parade of the Toy Soldiers” was performed by the OHS Golden Girls and Mrs. Claus read Mooseltoe. The memorable morning ended with all singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” and Santa giving each child a wonderful gift for learning – a book.
STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Oxford City Board of Education that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.

Read to Succeed!

For students in elementary school, literacy is a key to lifelong learning and opportunities for success. Recognizing this fact, Ms. Caulder and Ms. Ray, CES teachers, implemented the “Literacy Backpack” program. Now, English Language Learners at Coldwater Elementary School will be able to read at home with their families, even if their parents speak another language. Funds were provided to purchase backpacks, books on tape or CD, and portable players. Items are checked out on a weekly basis from the school’s library. ELL students are encouraged to read at home with family members. TOGETHER our goal is to "READ to SUCCEED"!

HOSA Blood Drive

On October 5, 2010, the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization from Oxford High School hosted a blood drive in conjunction with The American Red Cross. The event was held in the sports arena and operated from 7:30 am-1:00 pm. A goal of 72 units of donated blood was established before the set date, and 91 units of blood were collected. A few students had the opportunity to experience the new ALYX machine that removes twice the amount of blood, but returns the extra fluids back to the body. Thanks to the HOSA club and all of those who came out to support this worthy cause.

Honor Choir

From over 3000 applicants, 3 young men from the Oxford High School Choirs were selected to be part of the 2011 American Choral Directors Association National Honor Choir. They are Will Austin, Xavier Johnson, and Mitch Lawhon. These students had to submit a professionally recorded CD for their audition, in which they sang a solo, vocalized to the highest and lowest points of their range, and sang, “My Country Tis of Thee” in a specified key. The recordings were submitted to a national selection committee for review, and we were notified on November 4th of their selection. These students will be traveling to Chicago on March 8-13 for a four-day schedule of rehearsals with students from all across America, culminating in a final concert at the ACDA National Convention.