



Panther Pride

MAY 26, 2009

The mission of the Petal School District is to empower all students with the attitudes, knowledge and life-long learning skills essential to thrive as responsible citizens in an ever-changing global society.

New Superintendent to Begin July 1



Dr. Buchanan is congratulated after being named superintendent at the March school board meeting by School Board President Bruce Magee

Dr. John Buchanan will become the fifth superintendent to serve the Petal School District beginning July 1, 2009. Dr. Buchanan has been a professional educator in the State of Mississippi for 23 years serving as a teacher, coach, high school principal and superintendent. He is a native of Greenville, Mississippi, where he graduated from high school. He attended Mississippi Delta Jr. College, and received his B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from Delta State University and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

Dr. Buchanan has been Superintendent of the Winona School District since 2006. Prior to going to Winona, Buchanan was Principal at Pearl High School for six years.

Dr. Buchanan is a member of Mississippi Association of School Administrators, Mississippi Association of School Superintendents, Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Development, and American Association of School Administrators. In 2003, Buchanan was honored as the Mississippi Congressional 3 Principal of the Year by MDE and also was a state finalist for Mississippi Principal of the Year. Buchanan has served on Dr. Hank Bounds State of Mississippi Superintendent's Advisory board since 2006.

Dr. Buchanan has been married for 26 years to Diana Connell Buchanan and has been an active member of the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs for 10 years and a mentor with Big Sisters/Big Brothers of Mississippi. The Buchanans have two grown sons, Matt and Mark.

Dr. James Hutto Honored for Service

Dr. James Hutto was recently honored at a dinner held at the Thad Cochran Center on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Over 250 family members, friends and colleagues attended the event to honor Dr. Hutto upon his retirement after 39 years

of service in public education in Mississippi. Over \$18,000 was donated in his honor to endow the James R. Hutto Innovative Social Studies Curriculum Enhancement Grant and initiate funding of a capital improvement project in the Petal School District.



New Teacher Receives \$1,000 Award



Renee Evans, Leah Duckworth, Rebecca Montgomery

Mississippi Power, through the Education Foundation, supports teachers and educational programs in many ways. The Foundation's newest initiative began in 2002 with the New Teacher Assistance Grant.

Mississippi Power Education Foundation recognizes up to ten first-year teachers and awards them each a \$1,000 grant. These funds are used to help equip their classrooms with supplies, re-

sources, and materials needed to provide meaningful experiences for their students. Nominations are solicited from superintendents in the school districts located in the Mississippi Power service area.

Leah Duckworth, a teacher at Petal Upper Elementary School is one of the ten recipients for the 2008-2009 awards. Ms. Duckworth is a graduate of Petal High School and Mississippi State University, and is the daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. David Duckworth of Petal. She teaches fifth grade language arts and social studies, and has been very active in school activities such as the Health Advisory Committee, Relay for Life, and New Teacher Academy.

Ms. Rebecca Montgomery of Mississippi Power Education Foundation presented Ms. Duckworth a check for \$1000.00 to use for her classroom, and an engraved clock for her desk.

"teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards"

New National Board Certified Employees

The Petal School District is pleased to announce the addition of five newly Nationally Board Certified Teachers. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards improves teaching and student learning. The NBCTS website states that "National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high

and rigorous standards. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. These teachers prepare America's diverse student population with the skills it

needs to compete in the 21st century workplace." Newly Nationally Board Certified Teachers are: Melanie Hendry, Donielle Stephens, Jessica Burns, Jennifer Wilson, and Jackie McLeod. The Petal School District is proud to have a total of thirty-three employees with National Board Certification.



Brenda Wilkerson, Mitzi Rainey, Carolyn Patterson

PSD Parents of the Year

Parents of the Year for the Petal School District were honored at the April 14th School Board meeting. Each parent was presented with a certificate by School Board President Bruce Magee. The honored parents have enriched the school envi-

ronments by volunteering in classrooms, assisting with fund raisers, serving on committees, and working on other school projects. The Parents of the Year for 2009 are: Stan Budraitis Petal Primary; Mitzi Rainey, Petal Elementary;

Brenda Wilkerson, Petal Upper Elementary; Carolyn Patterson, Petal Middle School. Brenda Wilkerson was also selected as the Petal School District Parent of the Year.

Adrianna Gordon Receives Scholarship



Adrianna with her notification letter

Petal High School is proud to announce that Adrianna Gordon has been awarded The McKelvey Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship in the

amount of \$40,000. The scholarship process is extremely competitive for young entrepreneurs. One of the criteria for the scholarship is that a student must own and operate his/her own business for a year.

Adrianna opened her business "The Uniform Corner" as a result of her senior project which was to write a business plan. This business endeavor enabled her to be eligible to compete for the scholarship. In

addition to operating the business, Adrianna also wrote several essays and went through a very rigorous interview after she was accepted as a finalist for the scholarship.

On March 18, 2009, Adrianna received notification that she had been awarded the McKelvey Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship of \$40,000. She will be flown to St. Louis, Missouri/Grafton, IL this summer to be a part of an entrepreneurial camp where she will be formally awarded the scholarship by the foundation.

Class of 2009 Excels!



The 229 graduates of the Petal High School Class of 2009 have excelled in numerous ways during their high school years. Here are a few of their accomplishments:

- Ten maintained a grade point average of 4.0
- Ninety-seven maintained a 3.0 or higher GPA
- 104 were Mississippi Scholars
- Over \$1.7 million awarded in scholarships to the class members
- Seniors were a part of these overall PHS successes:
 - District Football Champions
 - District Girls Basketball Champions
 - State Runner-up in Baseball
 - Fastpitch Softball Final Four
- All Superior Ratings in State Marching Band Contest
- Only Mississippi band invited to participate in President Obama's Inaugural Parade
- Forensics Team placed in top five in the MS Youth Congress competition

Hat's off to the Class of 2009!

Star Student Named

Clint Moore was named the Star Student for Petal High School for 2009. Clint earned this honor because of his high ACT score and academic record. He was able to choose one of his teachers to be the Star Teacher and he chose Mrs. Lucretia Carpenter. Both of them were honored at the March meeting of the Petal School Board.



Shown Left to right: Star Student Clint Moore, Star Teacher Lucretia Carpenter and Assistant Superintendent Jack Linton.



Petal School District
115 Highway 42
P.O. Drawer 523
Petal, MS 39465
(601) 545-3002



Jessica Burns Named Petal School District Teacher of the Year

Jessica Burns was selected as Petal School District's Teacher of the Year for 2009. Mrs. Burns has nine years of teaching experience and is currently teaching second grade at Petal Primary School. She earned a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree as Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Left to right:
Dr. James
Hutto, Jessica
Burns, Jack
Linton



Jocelyn Buckley Inducted into Hall of Fame

Jocelyn Y. Buckley was inducted in the Petal School District Academic Hall of Fame during the Academic Honors Program for the class of 2009 on Thursday, May 21, 2009. Ms. Buckley is a 1984 graduate of Petal High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from William Carey College in 1987, a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Howard University in 1990, and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Howard University in 1992. She is currently em-

ployed with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, providing environmental compliance support to the LANL Water Stewardship Program. She is also an in-

strument-rated pilot with more than 1500 flight hours and has the pleasure of flying her Piper Cherokee to and from work daily.



**Dr. James Hutto recognizes
Jocelyn Buckley**

The Academic Hall of Fame was established in 1989 to honor graduates who have a demonstrated record of academic and professional achievement. Inductees into the Academic Hall of Fame have been identified as having achieved a significant degree of success in their pursuit of higher education and their chosen field of work.

