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### Inside this Issue:

Southwest Earns National Recognition	2
SHS Student To Attend National Competition	2
SHS Band Sponsorships	2
Lunch Menu	3
Events Calendar	3
AJHS Science Teacher Named State Finalist	4
Searcy Board Member Receives State Award	4
National Merit Semi-Finalists Offers	4
Searcy Art Students	4

### Dates to Remember

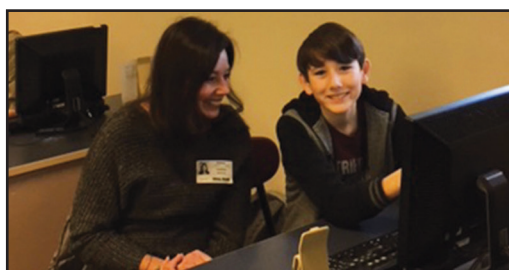
- **January 8**  
School Resumes for Second Semester
- **January 11**  
Report Cards Sent Home
- **January 15**  
MLK Day/No School
- **January 24**  
Regular School Board Meeting

# UPDATE

Volume 31, Number 5

January 2018

## AJHS Celebrates Computer Science Week



As part of Computer Science week, Ahlf Junior High School seventh grade students invited their parents to attend class with them on December 8th. During parent day, a short presentation was given that showed the various concepts that the students had learned, including counting in binary, coding simple pictures, adding a user interface to allow user input, using random numbers, defining and assigning variables, creating IF statements, and designing various app screens. Students were working on designing and coding a "chaser" game which includes keeping score and losing lives, with results for each action. Mrs. Cheryl Greene facilitated the parent day in her classroom. This interesting activity allowed for family engagement and an opportunity for students to showcase what they are working on in their classes.

## Searcy FFA Team and Instructor Receive Recognitions

Searcy High School FFA students competed in the Red-White Sub-Area Leadership Development event held at Arkansas State University—Searcy on December 7th and two FFA members took home awards that will allow them to compete in the district contest this spring. Will Wesson earned a first place award in the Discussion Meet contest where he participated in an open forum discussion with other high school students. The students discussed topics such as how

organizations like Farm Bureau, Arkansas FFA Alumni Association, and others play vital roles to ensure the viability of quality agricultural education programs within high schools. Katie Long placed second in the Prepared Public Speaking competition. She was required to present a 6-8 minute speech over a selected topic relating to agriculture, and she chose to discuss the issue of river pollution due to swine operations along the Buffalo River. Additionally, FFA instructor

Addison Safley has been recognized for his contributions to the White County Master Gardeners. He was named as a co-recipient of the "2017 Friend of the Master Gardeners." Safley has partnered with the organization to grow plants in the SHS greenhouse and invited Master Gardeners to work with students through experiential gardening. Congratulations to the Searcy FFA and Mr. Addison Safley!



# Southwest Middle School Nominated for a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools™ Award

Southwest Middle School has been nominated for a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools award for the 2017-2018 school year by the Flippen Group. Two years ago, school administrators began an initiative to transform the campus into an emotionally safe and relationally connected place for students, staff, and parents to come together with a love for learning.

After researching programs used by many of the nation's most successful schools, Southwest Middle School chose to join hands with the Flippen Group to bring Capturing Kids' Hearts™ to its campus. Teachers and staff have continued to learn the processes needed to connect students with their peers and adults on campus and to create classrooms where students are excited to learn every day. As a result of implementing Capturing Kids' Hearts, the school has experienced a more positive, energetic atmosphere on the middle school campus.

Over the next several months, a Flippen Group site team will visit Southwest Middle School to observe the progress taking place and decide whether the campus qualifies to become a recipient of this year's Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools award.

Since 1990, campuses across the country have experienced amazing outcomes with Capturing Kids' Hearts tools and processes, creating the socio-emotional safety conducive to learning. Flippen Group provides edu-

cators the skills they need to change the trajectory of students' lives. Openness replaces defensiveness. Judging and feelings of being judged are replaced with acceptance and real connectedness to the school. "Discipline problems nearly non-existent," and "Academic achievement constantly improving," are common feedback following Capturing Kids' Hearts implementation.

Through the National Showcase Schools awards, Flippen Group seeks to recognize and celebrate schools that go the extra mile each day, building an environment where students and staff feel safe and connected. Flippen Group believes the unsung heroes who produce exemplary outcomes in schools and pave the way for other schools to follow need and deserve recognition for a job well done.

Capturing Kids' Hearts campuses across the country are considered for this award based on the following criteria: 1) nomination based on observation, 2) level of implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts processes by all staff as measured by online surveys, and 3) data demonstrating that Capturing Kids' Hearts has made a significant improvement in attendance, discipline, climate/culture, or academics.

Since the nomination period is now closed, Flippen Group teams will begin conducting site visits to nominated campuses to gather additional quantitative and qualitative data and interview students, teachers, adminis-

trators, and parents. They will compile a matrix of key measurements from the campus observation. Finally, they will conduct an additional survey to collect feedback regarding the perceived climate and culture of the campus and its conduciveness to learning. Following the site visit, the selection team will review all accumulated data and select the campuses to be this year's recipients of the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools awards.

The Flippen Group is proud to recognize the outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of our children. As they identify these outstanding schools, campus leaders, and teachers each year, please join in celebrating some of the most skilled and effective educators in the country!



## SHS Business Student Chosen to Attend Microsoft U.S. National Championship

Freshman Bethany Ellis earned the highest score in Arkansas in the MOS Word 2016 Championship and was notified that she is a contender for the national championship, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia in June of 2018. She will compete against representatives from states across the country to represent the U.S. in the MOS World Championship. Bethany is the daughter of Travis and Kelly Ellis, and Ms. Vicki Mosley is the SHS business instructor who assisted in entering Bethany into the state competition. Congratulations to Bethany for her representation of Arkansas and especially Searcy High School!

## SHS Band Thanks Sponsors

Searcy High School Band would like to thank community sponsors who have donated to the Washington D. C. Memorial Day Parade fundraising effort. SHS Band is grateful for the donations given to date. To contribute to the SHS Band representing Arkansas in the 2018 National Memorial Day Parade, donations may be sent to the Searcy High School Band, 801 North Ella Street, Searcy, AR 72143. Thank you Sponsors!!

**Sowell's Furniture  
Riverwind Bank  
Bowden Photography  
Sonic  
Storage West  
Johnny Brock Excavating  
East Park Autoplex  
First Security Bank  
Harding University  
REMAX Advantage  
Searcy Family Dental  
Sage Music Service  
Dr. Jayton Lim and Dr. Annie Luy  
Scarbrough Dentistry Inc.  
Flippin-Westfall Eye Care Center**

**Kona Ice of Central Arkansas  
Walmart Distribution Center  
#6018  
Stephenson Oil Company, Inc.  
Bill and Jane Shands  
Ideal Office Machines  
Ridout Lumber Company  
Danny and Sherri Short  
Arkansas Veterans Coalition  
Chapter 49 SFA  
Ruth Ann Fuller  
National Guard Association  
of Arkansas  
Searcy Band Parents  
Ernie and Lanell Luzzi**

# Lunch Menu

1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (New Year's Day)	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	4 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
8 <b>Breaded Steak Fingers OR Teriyaki Chicken w/Asian Rice</b> Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Seasoned Green Beans Texas Toast Fruit Cocktail "Dragon Punch" / Milk	9 <b>"Marco's" Pepperoni Pizza</b> Green Salad with Dressing Seasoned Whole Kernel Corn Raisins Milk	10 <b>Grilled Cheese Sandwich* OR Spaghetti with Meatballs/Dinner Roll</b> Fresh Baby Carrots Baked Beans Pineapple Chunks / Milk <b>*SHS/AJHS: Turk./Cheese Panini</b>	11 <b>Popcorn Chicken with Sauce OR Pepperoni &amp; Cheese Croissant Sandwich</b> Sweet Potato Crunch Seasoned Black-eyed Peas Bread Stick Applesauce / Milk	12 <b>Chili with Beef &amp; Beans &amp; Mini Saltine Crackers OR Mini Corn Dogs w/Mustard</b> "Smiles" Potato Shapes/Ketchup Creamy Coleslaw Fresh Grapes Brownie / Milk
15 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (MLK Day / Makeup Day)	16 <b>"Breakfast for Lunch"</b> Scrambled Eggs Biscuit w/Cream Gravy/Jelly Sausage Patty Tator Tots with Ketchup Bell Pepper Strips Juice / Milk	17 <b>Personal Cheese Pizza OR Taco Soup with Cheese-Filled Bread Stick</b> Green Salad with Dressing Glazed Carrots Fruit Cocktail M & M Cookie / Milk	18 <b>Chicken Sticks with Sauce OR Baked Ham</b> Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes Seasoned Green Peas Hot Roll "Sidekicks" Frozen Juice Cup Milk	19 <b>Corn Dog with Mustard OR Mostaccioli Pasta with Meat Sauce &amp; Garlic Bread Stick</b> Seasoned Whole Kernel Corn Seasoned Green Beans Granny Smith Apple Slices with Caramel Dip / Milk
22 <b>Cheeseburger OR Pizza Cheese Crunchers</b> Lettuce / Tomato / Pickles Onion Rings with Ketchup Baked Beans Seasonal Fresh Fruit Milk	23 <b>Chicken Tenders with Sauce</b> Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Broccoli with Cheese Sauce Fresh Orange Quarters Hot Roll (school-made) Milk	24 <b>Max Cheese Sticks OR Stromboli</b> Marinara Sauce Cheesy Roasted Squash Medley Fruit Juice Punch "Chortles" Mini Grahams Milk	25 <b>Breaded Chicken Sandwich OR Chicken Spaghetti with Bread Stick</b> Lettuce/Tomato/Pickles Tator Tots with Ketchup Seasoned Green Beans Peaches / "Celebrate" Cupcake Milk	26 <b>BBQ Chicken Drumstick OR Tangerine Chicken</b> Macaroni & Cheese Asian Rice / Celery Sticks Baked Sweet Potato with Cinnamon & Brown Sugar Roll / Pineapple Chunks Milk
29 <b>Garlic/Cheese French Bread Pizza OR Bean &amp; Cheese Burrito w/Salsa</b> Green Salad w/Dressing Seasoned Whole Kernel Corn "SideKicks" Smooth Frozen Juice Cup /Milk	30 <b>Taco Salad with Cheese</b> Lettuce & Salsa Seasoned Pinto Beans Fruit Juice Punch Cinnamon Roll Milk	31 <b>Chicken Noodle Soup with Cheese-Filled Pretzel Stick OR Chicken Nuggets w/Sauce &amp; Dinner Roll</b> Baked Potato w/Margarine & Sour Cream Fresh Cherry Tomatoes Peaches / Milk		

NOTE: Additional foods may be offered to meet calorie needs for specific ages. See <http://searcyschools.nutrislice.com> for school-specific menus and nutrition information. ALL grain foods are >50% whole grain to meet USDA regulations. For more information or questions, contact Child Nutrition Director, Charlotte Davis, RD, LD at (501) 268-3517 or [cdavis@searcyschools.org](mailto:cdavis@searcyschools.org). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## January Events Calendar

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				4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th vs. Beebe	7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions vs. Beebe																																																																																												
			<b>Christmas Holiday – NO SCHOOL</b>																																																																																														
7	8 <b>School Resumes</b> 4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th @ Greenbrier	9 4 pm Basketball: 7th @ Cabot South 4 pm Basketball: 9th @ Morrilton 6 pm Wrestling: SHS vs. Catholic/Central 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions @ Morrilton	10	11 Report Cards Sent Home 8:30 am Westside: Class Pictures 4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th vs. Vilonia 5 pm Basketball: 7th @ Vilonia	12 Westside: Honor Roll Assembly 8:30 am (2nd); 9:30 am (1st); 10:20 am (3rd) Deener: Honors Assembly 10 am (1st); 1:15 pm (2nd); 2 pm (3rd) 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions vs. Greenbrier	13 Band: Sr. High All-Region Tryouts																																																																																											
14	15 All day MLK Day/ Makeup Day	16 4 pm Basketball: 7th @ Cabot North 5 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th @ Russellville 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions @ Vilonia	17 4 pm Basketball: 7th vs. Pulaski Academy (A only) 6 pm Wrestling: SHS @ PA/ Beebe/LR Christian	18 McRae: 2nd Quarter Honors Assembly 4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th @ Clarksville 6 pm Wrestling: SHS vs. NLR/Hall	19 Deener: Class Pictures SWMS: Honors Assemblies 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions @ Batesville	20 Choir HSU All-State Workshop Wrestling: Hornet Duals																																																																																											
21	22 4 pm Basketball: 7th vs. Wynne	23 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions vs. Mt. Home	24 4 pm Basketball: 7th vs. Beebe (A only) 5:15 pm Regular School Board Meeting Superintendent's Office	25 4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th vs. Little Rock Christian 6 pm Wrestling: SHS vs. Jonesboro/Mt. Home (Sr. Night)	26	27 Choir: Harding All-State Workshop Wrestling: Central Conference Duals																																																																																											
28	29 4:30 pm Basketball: 8th & 9th vs. Morrilton	30 8 am Westside: K Cap and Gown Pictures 4 pm Basketball: 7th @ Batesville 7 pm Basketball: SHS Lions @ Beebe	31		<div> <div>DECEMBER 2017</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>FEBRUARY 2017</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
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## Board of Education

**President - Dr. Brent Blakely**

**Vice President - Jimmy Simpson**

**Secretary - Philip Williams**

**Member - Dr. Michael Liles**

**Member - Linda Benson**

**Superintendent - Diane Barrett**



Concerns regarding UPDATE may be addressed to Betsy Bailey, Editor at [bbailey@searcyschools.org](mailto:bbailey@searcyschools.org)



Representatives from the University of Arkansas presented scholarship offers to the Searcy High School National Merit Semi-finalists during the month of December. Searcy High School national merit semi-finalists are Gracen Watson, Margaret Lim, Anna-Catherine King, Michael Kidd, and Lauren Bowles.

## SHS Students Learn Sculpting

Gracie McConnell a senior Art IV student is pictured working on her sculpture of a fictitious dinosaur coming out of its egg.



## AJHS Science Teacher Recognized

Ahlf Junior High School science teacher Kyla Gentry was recognized at the Arkansas State Board of Education board meeting in December for being named one of the state finalists in the Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teach-



ing competition. Gentry was presented her award by Commissioner Johnny Key and the Arkansas State Board of Education. Congratulations, Ms. Gentry!

## Searcy Board Member Earns State Award

Searcy School District Board of Education member Philip Williams was awarded by the Arkansas School Boards Association for his hours of continuing education. Williams earned the Pinnacle Award at the ASBA's annual conference. The Pinnacle Award recognizes individuals who have attained at least 200 hours of board member training. Congratulations, Mr. Williams, on this outstanding achievement, and we thank you for your service to the students and staff of Searcy School District!

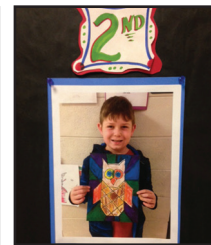


## Searcy Art Students

*Students in art classes in the Searcy Public Schools are always creating.*

### Deener December Artists

Kindergarten: Michael Singleton; 1st Grade: Gabriella Nguyen; 2nd Grade: Logan Lindsey; 3rd: Elisabeth Bogan.



## Westside Students Use Technology to Create



In 3rd-grade art classes, primary and secondary colors were reviewed along with a quick introduction to the Abstract Expressionist, Jackson Pollock. Pollock is known for his colorful splatter type paintings often called "Action Paintings." The students loved using their Chromebooks to maneuver these robotics spheres across the canvas, splashing through primary paint to create secondary colors. It was exciting to see the students' faces as they used technology to collaboratively create their own splashy art inspired by this famous artist.