

“LCPS Celebrates 158 Years of Combined Service to Students”

Kilmarnock, VA May 6, 2020-- With schools across Virginia closing early and social distancing a constant challenge for educators across the country, Lancaster County Public Schools wants to make sure that they recognize the efforts of four dedicated educators as they say goodbye after a remarkable career with LCPS.

Faith Waddy’s 43 years and Cynthia Bishop’s 37 years at Lancaster Primary School, along with Myra Plain’s 46 years beginning as a teacher at the high school and completing her career as a school counselor at LMS, and Linda Ashburn’s 32 years driving for LCPS demonstrate their love and commitment to the students of Lancaster County.

Mrs. Waddy, a graduate of Virginia Union University, has taught kindergarten through 7th grade. After obtaining her Master’s Degree in Reading from VCU, she has spent the final years of her career as a reading specialist at LPS. Her career includes highlights such as her selection out of 300 teachers to participate in a professional training for teachers held at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. When asked about advice for future teachers, Mrs. Waddy says, “Don’t leave the profession because of a ‘bump in the road’ or because of a negative note from a parent. Sometimes evaluations from administrators don’t go the way you planned. Let those incidents be the fuel you need to continue. Let the classes you take be toward another degree. ”

Retirement for her will consist of supporting her great-grand kids in school and “lending a helping hand where needed while in the school building.”

Cynthia Bishop began her teaching career operating her own private preschool for four years. She spent her 37 years at LPS teaching Kindergarten through 2nd grade and will finish her career with the three year olds, “This program is my passion.” She says to be a successful educator, “you have to love kids and have lots of patience.” To fill her time during retirement, she will spend time traveling with her husband in their travel trailer and spend time with her family.

Mrs. Palin began her career as a Home Economics teacher at LHS. She chuckles as she recalls that time period, “they don’t teach that anymore.” Ten years into teaching she became a school counselor and says to this day she loves, “to see former students that she guided to college and to hear them share their stories of life and success.” To those aspiring educators, “Your hardwork will pay off. Don’t worry; you will see growth and maturity and all will be well worth the struggle.” When asked about her retirement plans, “Wow, it doesn’t seem like 46 years; I will garden and travel...”

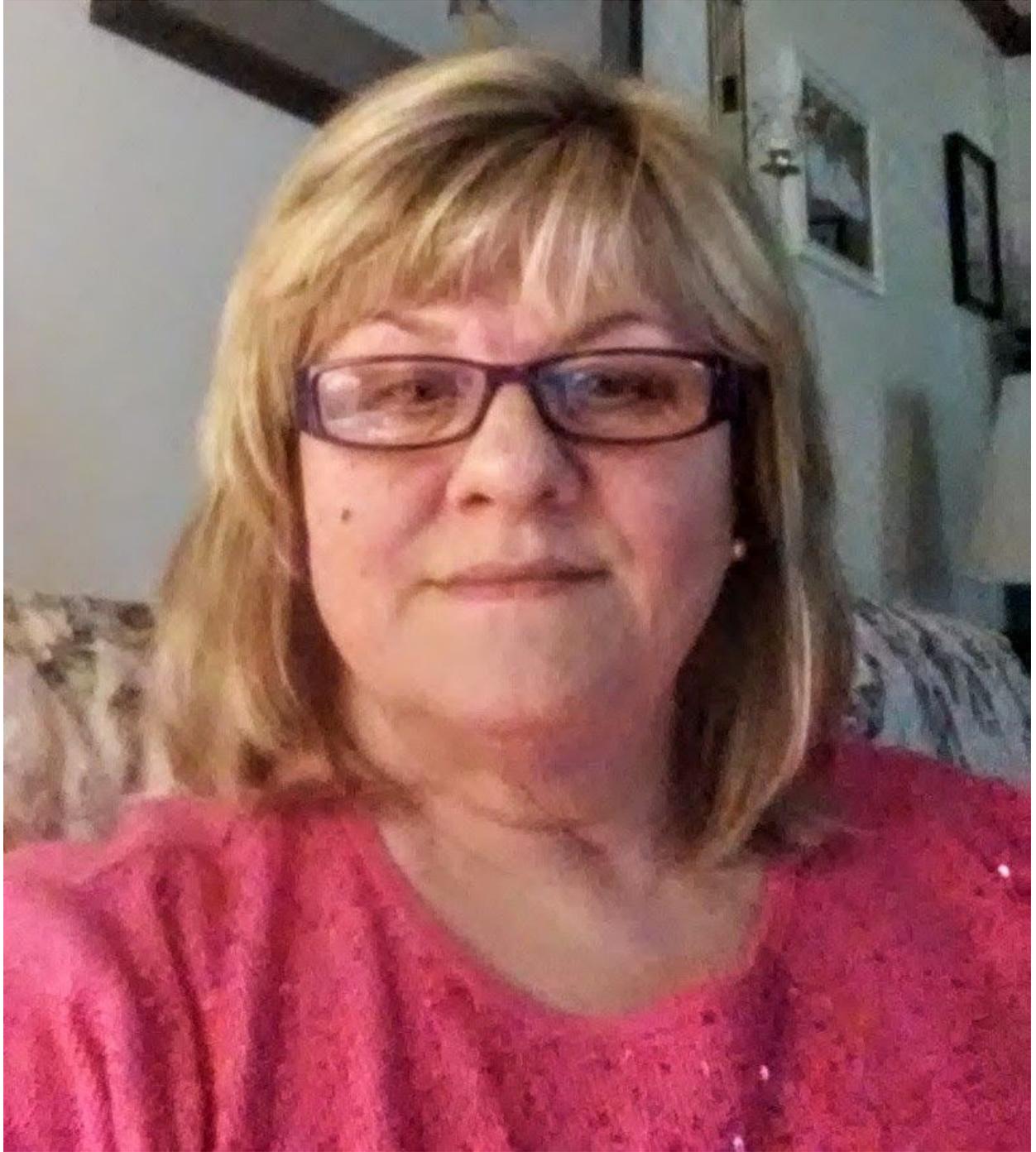
Linda Ashburn spent 32 years ensuring that the students of LCPS made it safely to school, sporting events and field trips. She has driven routes for all ages. She says the best thing about driving kids, “is seeing their innocence, their inquisitive nature and most of all the lessons they have taught me.” She offers this advice to anyone wanting to work with children, “Be kind, loving, be aware that each child is different, and remember to instill right from wrong.”

Her retirement will consist of travel and working in her daughter's business part time.

When asked about the best part of their jobs, they all had the same reaction best summarized by Mrs. Waddy, “When children realize they have learned something new, they show it through their facial expressions. I loved to hear them say, ‘I understand now!’ That’s when the ‘I love you!’ notes would flood my desk.” Relationships are essential to these educators. They are the foundation in which all learning begins. Each retiree reiterated that they will miss their students and the coworkers with whom they all have bonded.

LCPS treasures the time that these faithful employees gave to the service of children, and they understand the loss they surely feel by not being able to say goodbye in the traditional manner at the end of the school year. The administration at LCPS wants them to know they are truly appreciated and will be missed by all.

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Linda Ashburn Transportation



Faith Waddy LPS



Cynthia Bishop LPS



Myra Palin LMS