



# Good News Report October 19, 2020

Transylvania County Schools  
Communications/  
Community Relations

# October is National Principals' Month

The National Association of Secondary Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary Principals (NAESP) have declared October 2020 as National Principals' Month. The North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals Association (NCPAPA) supports this effort and recognizes all NC principals for the essential role they play in leading schools in our state. Principals are among the hardest working, yet often least recognized individuals in education. They set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. This year will be unique and challenging as school leaders strive to return some sense of normalcy for students and educators amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Our gratitude to the Transylvania County Schools principals for all they do:



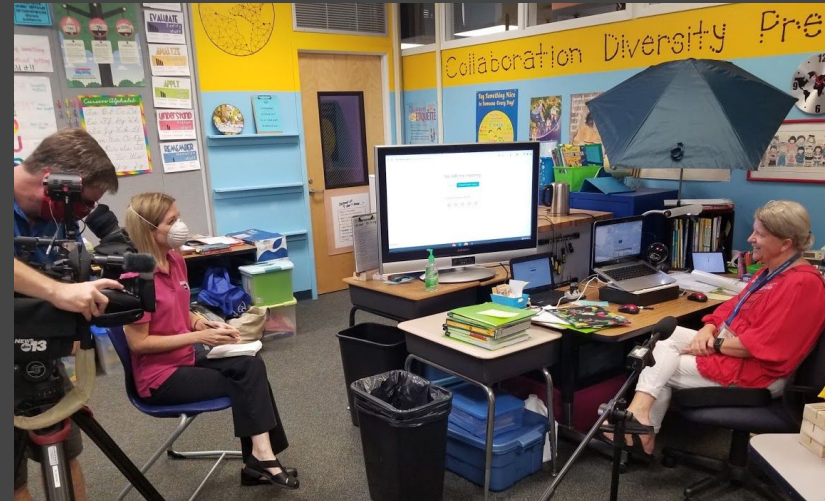
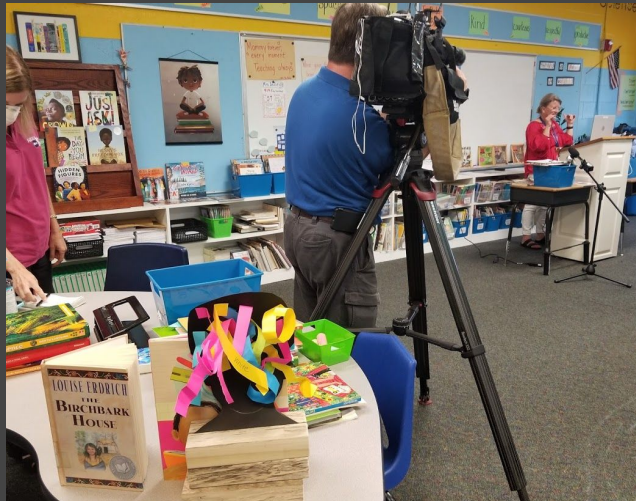
# Bright Ideas Grants

Congratulations to teachers Laura Sullivan (RES/TCH) and Justin Ausburn (BMS) for being awarded Bright Ideas Grants from Haywood EMC. Haywood EMC is one of North Carolina's 27 electric cooperatives that sponsor the Bright Ideas grant program. The program strives to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K-12 that would not otherwise be funded. Mr. Ausburn will purchase a CNC router worth about \$1600 for the CTE workshop, and Mrs. Sullivan will continue an important subscription to 'Quaver Music' with a grant for \$1680. Congratulations to all our forward-thinking teachers, and thank you to Haywood EMC and the Bright Ideas Grant program!



# WLOS “Thanks To Teachers”

Congratulations to Jeanne DeJong, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Brevard Elementary School, who was featured in a “Thanks to Teachers” segment on WLOS in September. DeJong, who has taught at BES for 20 years, chose to teach virtually this year because she has a new grandbaby and wanted to be as socially distanced as possible. She says finding the right mix of structure and creativity is key to making virtual learning work and keeping her students engaged and learning. She’s enjoying getting to know her students online, and her students are looking forward to one day being able to greet her in person!



# Outdoor Seating Donated to Elementary Schools

The Wild Child Workshop in Durham, NC has recently donated 60 outdoor seats to our four elementary schools. The Wild Child Workshop creates wood products for outdoor learning environments, playgrounds, nature play areas, museums, child care centers, and parks. The donated seats are cut from locust wood, which naturally repels insects and rot, making it the perfect material for harsh outdoor conditions. Our thanks to the Wild Child Workshop for their generous donation.



# Tobacco Treatment Specialist

The C.A.R.E. Coalition and Healthy Communities, both part of Transylvania Public Health, have partnered with Blue Ridge Community College to provide a tobacco treatment specialist in Transylvania County Schools. Ms. Bailey Varley, also the BRCC Career Coach, has been trained to support students on their journey to quit nicotine—cigarettes, chewing tobacco, or vaping devices. The attached document and sample flyer provide more information about this program. Our thanks to the C.A.R.E. Coalition, Healthy Communities, Transylvania Public Health, and Blue Ridge Community College for providing this important service for our students.



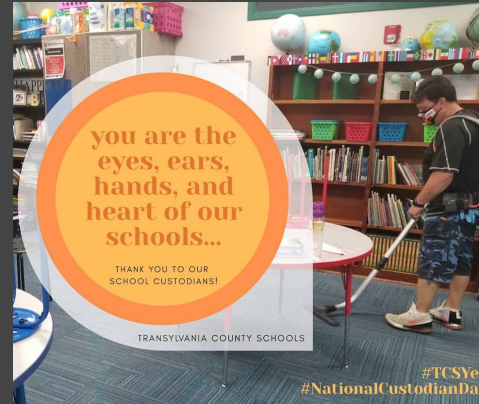
## Our Vision

A healthy, vibrant Transylvania County,  
free of underage drinking and substance  
abuse.



# National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day

On October 2, National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day encourages appreciation to the hard-working men and women who keep our schools and workplaces clean, well maintained, and running smoothly. They often operate behind the scenes, but their efforts contribute to critical first impressions and a safer, healthier work and learning environment—which is more important than ever before due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you know a custodial worker, THANK THEM TODAY!



# National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week, October 12-16, 2020, is an annual celebration of the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. The COVID-19 pandemic has without a doubt shown just how incredibly important school meals are for children and their families. The National School Lunch Program serves nearly 30 million children every school day. Please join us in celebrating the hard-working School Nutrition staff for all they do to feed the students of Transylvania County Schools.





# National School Bus Safety Week

School districts throughout the country will observe National School Bus Safety Week during October 19-23, 2020. This year's theme is "Red Lights Mean STOP!" Although school buses are considered to be the safest motor vehicles on the road, accidents do happen, and most accidents occur when a vehicle illegally passes a stopped school bus. School Bus Safety Week spreads awareness and offers a reminder to parents, students, and motorists to adhere to all safety procedures and bus-stopping laws.



# National Bullying Prevention Month

Every October, schools and organizations across the country observe National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal is to encourage schools, communities and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on children of all ages. Activities throughout the month will be designed around various themes. The week of October 5<sup>th</sup> is “Make Friends with Someone You Don’t Know at School” and “Challenge Others to Be Kind.” The week of October 12<sup>th</sup> is “Stand Up for Others Week.” The week of October 19<sup>th</sup> is “Week of Inclusion,” and the week of October 26<sup>th</sup> is “Start Conversations Among Your Peers.”

## What you should know about COVID-19 and CYBERBULLYING

Parents

**Cyberbullying is using a form of technology**—such as the internet, cell phones, or virtual classrooms—**to intentionally hurt or harm someone else.**



### CYBERBULLYING & COVID-19

- Youth are spending more time online for school, connecting with peers, and socially interacting with friends
- Kids are still adjusting to learning and interacting with their peers virtually
- Many young people may be feeling new and uncertain emotions due to the pandemic, such as anxiety, anger, fear, isolation, or stress
- This unprecedented period, as well as more time spent online, have the potential to cause an increase in cyberbullying behavior

 **PACER's  
National Bullying Prevention Center.**  
Create a World Without Bullying | PACER.org/bullying

### REMEMBER: CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUTH ARE IMPORTANT



- Start talking about online behavior as soon as they start using technology and return to the conversation as their technology use evolves
- Your child may not recognize that hurtful online behavior can be cyberbullying, especially in new settings like virtual classrooms
- Discuss what cyberbullying is and steps to take if they experience or witness it

### IF YOUR CHILD IS BULLIED ONLINE, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



- Be supportive of your child; you might be the first person they've told
- Let them know you are there to help
- Document the situation and keep a detailed record with screenshots and saved texts
- If the cyberbullying is happening:
  - In your child's distance learning classroom or with peers: Inform your child's school. Most schools include cyberbullying in their bullying prevention policy.
  - On a social networking site: Check the safety page for ways to report and block
- The most important message to give your child is that they aren't alone and that, together, you can find a solution

# National Red Ribbon Week

The National Red Ribbon Campaign has a new theme for 2020, “Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free.” This theme will be highlighted during Red Ribbon Week, the nation’s oldest and largest drug-abuse prevention campaign, which takes place annually from October 23-31. Red Ribbon Week activities encourage children, families, and communities to live healthy, happy, and drug-free lives and serves as a reminder that we are all empowered with shaping the communities around us through positivity, bravery, and strength.



# American Education Week

November 16-20, 2020 is American Education Week, a time to celebrate public education and the individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every student receives a quality education. Each year the board recognizes the observance by adopting a proclamation designating American Education Week in Transylvania County (see attached). In addition, all current and retired school system employees are invited to a free Thanksgiving lunch as guests of the board on a designated day in November. This year's Thanksgiving lunch is planned for Thursday, November 19.



**AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 2020**

**November 16-20**

 **#aew2020** | **[www.nea.org/aew](http://www.nea.org/aew)**

**Thank you Brevard Elementary School for  
this month's artwork in the Board Room.**

**Thank you as always to the Transylvania County  
Sheriff's Office and our SRO this evening.**



# Stay Up To Date



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[bit.ly/TCSYesRadio](https://bit.ly/TCSYesRadio)



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[tcsnc.org/bondprojects](https://tcsnc.org/bondprojects)



Re-Entry Information: [tcsnc.org/coronavirus](https://tcsnc.org/coronavirus)