

Polk County Public Schools



Produced by the Department of Community Relations
Maximizing Outreach. Optimizing Partnerships. Promoting Excellence.

e-News

January 31, 2012

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Polk County Public Schools, Polk County RSVP, Polk County AmeriCorps Reads Partner for MLK Day of Service Project-“Dream Big”

During the week of January 9-13, 2012, Polk County Public Schools, Polk County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Polk County AmeriCorps Reads joined in collaboration for the MLK Day of National Service. Volunteers, coordinated by Polk County RSVP, read the book “Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Robin Hill School” by Margaret McNamara to Kindergarten students in six Title 1 Elementary Schools in Polk County. [Click here](#) to read more.



Bartow IB Student Awarded Leaders 4 Life Fellowship

Bartow International Baccalaureate Senior Vanessa Colchado was recently recognized as one of five statewide recipients of the \$40,000 Take Stock in Children’s Leaders 4 Life Fellowship. Ms. Colchado was notified of her selection in December and travelled to Tallahassee, FL Jan. 11 for a special reception during the Take Stock in Children’s annual State Leadership Conference. The Leaders 4 Life

Awards Program

- Polk County Public Schools Hall of Fame Nominations

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Watch Polk County School Board Television on Bright House Networks (Channel 614), Comcast (Channel 7) and Verizon FiOS (Channel 45) for educational programming, school district news and events. A program schedule and other information about the school district's channel is available by clicking the icon below.



Links & Information:

[Polk County Schools homepage](#)

[Department of Community Relations](#)

This monthly Web publication is designed to keep opinion leaders informed of public school information and news. It is also meant to be a monthly communications vehicle to alert you of outstanding things being done in your communities by schools, students and school district staff. Please forward and share this Web publication with other stakeholders in public schools. To add, change or remove names from this distribution list, please send your request to: goodnews@polk-fl.net

Fellowship will provide Colchado a \$40,000 scholarship that is split over four years of college. To read more about this accomplishment, [click here](#).



KHS CFAA Robotics Team Receives *FIRST* Sponsorship from jcpenny

FIRST[®] team # 4223 at The Central Florida Aerospace Academy at Kathleen High School is one of 900 high school teams being sponsored this year by jcpenny. *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a not-for-profit organization founded by Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology by engaging students in innovative robotics competitions. The EngineeringAstroAvionicCyberSleuths is a Rookie team that will spend six intense weeks designing and building an original robot for the *FIRST* Regional Competition scheduled for March 8-10, 2012 in Orlando. [Click here](#) for more information.



Bartow Middle School Wins State FFA Event

Florida Future Farmers of America (FFA) recently named Bartow Middle School (BMS) state winner in the 2011 Food Science & Technology Career Development Event (CDE) held December 3, 2011 at the University of Florida. The 2011 BMS team members are: Emily Grant, Katy Locke, Devin Dve, and Rebecca Ruffi. In

individual competition, Devin Dye placed 2nd place and Rebecca Ruffi placed 3rd. Fourteen middle schools competed in the event. Held annually, the competition is designed to stimulate learning activities in the food science and technology areas.



Teacher of the Year, School-Related Employee of the Year Awards Program

The following school district employees have been named Teacher of the Year and School-Related Employee of the Year at their respective schools and are candidates for the county wide honor. The Polk County Public Schools Teacher of the Year and School-Related Employee of the Year awards program will be held at the Lakeland Center February 23, 2012. The top teacher and school-related employee for Polk County will be announced during the program. For the third year in a row, this invitation-only event will be broadcast live over a variety of cable and fiber optic television channels and websites. They are: Polk County School Board Television (Bright House Networks channel 614, Comcast channel 7, Verizon FiOS channel 45), PGTv, the county commission channel (Bright House channel 622, Comcast channel 5, Verizon FiOS channel 20), the school district's www.polk-fl.net website and the county commission's www.polk-county.net. For a full list of nominees, [click here](#).

**Watch the 2012
Teacher & School-Related
Employee of the Year Event**

February 23
@ 7:30 pm **LIVE**



PCSBtv Bright House Ch. 614 . Comcast Cable Ch. 7 . Verizon FiOS Ch. 45
to watch live or for more information
visit www.polk-fl.net

Click on the graphic below for more information about making a nomination for the Polk County Public Schools Hall of Fame.



The 2011 Polk County Public Schools Hall of Fame Inductees

Polk County Public Schools
Hall of Fame
Seeks Nominations

Call 863-534-0698
for more info. or to submit a nomination