

# The Composer

The Roger Bacon Academy, for  
Charter Day School & Columbus Charter School

## Parents Welcome Opening of Columbus Charter School

**Whiteville**— After a year of preparation, Headmaster Steve Smith and his staff received six classrooms of new students on Monday, August 6.

The students in K, 1, and 2 were greeted and escorted to their rooms by staff members and parents, and by 8:15 AM they had learned how to line up for the pledge ceremony that will start their school day for the next eight years.

Attired in their khaki and green uniforms, the children recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the school pledge, receive announcements of birthdays and other school news and then return to their classrooms to begin the day's academic work.



The first day of school!

Volume IV, Issue 4

Fall 2007  
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Recess: A Good Thing!



Morning pledge



Already at work!

### Special Thanks To:

Mr. Mike Burdett, Plumbing  
Mr. Craig Berdeau, Fencing  
Mr. Drew Cox, NCDOT  
Mr. Monte Herring, Brunswick Electric  
Mr. Anthony Jolly, Electrician  
Mr. Chris Lee, Water and Septic

### Special Thanks To:

Mr. Rodney Lee, Brunswick Electric  
Mr. Ray Reeves, Columbus County  
Mr. John Thompson, Trigon  
Mr. John Thompson, Paving  
Mr. Adam Williams, Fencing



# Annual Teacher Banquet Sets Record Attendance

Nearly 160 teachers and staff with their spouses attended the 7th annual banquet.

**Leland:** This year the annual School Banquet for the Brunswick campus staff was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Riverfront Hilton in historic downtown Wilmington.

Sponsored in full by a generous contribution by Coastal Habitat Conservancy, the banquet began with a meet-and-greet hour followed by a meal featuring a mushroom-stuffed breast of chicken in a pastry shell with saffron rice and green beans. Strawberry glazed cheese cake was the dessert.

Superintendent Mark Cramer then awarded five-year pins to Debra Barnes—Lead K Teacher, Amy Britt—Lead 2nd Teacher, Amy Brooks—Receptionist, Eunice King—ILT Coordinator and Mentor, Daryl LaFave—Art Teacher, and Bob Wingett—2nd grade Teacher.

“On behalf of the students and their parents, I want to express the appreciation we all have for your efforts and dedication to the children,” Mr. Cramer said.

Next, Mr. Cramer announced our first ‘Teacher of the Year’ winner and awarded this plaque to 3rd grade teacher Heather Whitley. Ms. Whitley’s portfolio will be forwarded to the state competition for charter school teacher of the year. In addition to her plaque, Heather gets the only assigned parking space on campus, just across from the administration building.

Then Mr. Cramer handed out the supplement checks to all of the teachers and staff of the elementary school, the middle school, and the ad-



Teacher of the Year Ms. Heather Whitley and Mr. Cramer



Charter Day School Elementary Teacher and Assistants



**The Roger Bacon Academy Administrative and Support Staff**

ministrative support staff.

Also attending the banquet were Mr. Steve Smith and his wife Lois. Mr. Smith is Headmaster of Columbus Charter School.

“I am looking forward to successfully completing a great first year and to having our first staff banquet in Whiteville,” Mr. Smith said.

As in years past, entertainment was by Chris and Melodee Walters of PARTY GRAS who kicked off the night’s dancing with the electric slide that had the entire ballroom filled with agile sliders. Next, the locomotion train was ably pulled by Ms. Butcher. Later, the Soul Train was reported to have left the station in grand style with Conductor Manning, but this reporter had unfortunately retired for the evening.

Festivities lasted late into the evening and a good time was had by all. A special thanks to Carly Batchelor and Karen Martin and their crew for the beautiful decorations, balloons, and table arrangements.



**Five-year pins: LaFave, Wingett, King, Britt, and Barnes; (Amy Brooks not pictured)**



**Middle School Staff**



# Columbus Students Raise \$11,300

CC S students raised over \$11,000 to purchase library books for their classrooms.



Columbus Charter School students at the book sale.

**Whiteville**—In their first major fund raiser named “Reach for the Stars,” Columbus Charter School students raised over \$11,000 for the purchase of additional library books.

“I don’t want our students to become full-time sales people, so I have a policy of a maximum of one fund-raiser for each quarter,” said Headmaster Steve Smith. “But these events are valuable for building school spirit and community awareness as well as a source for purchasing extra items for the school,” he added.

Students receiving medals for being the top readers in each class were: Haydn Andrews-KA; Jazmin Faison- KB; Jacob Bullard, Raven Daugherty, Hannah Hewitt, and Gabriel Barber all tied for KC; Madeleine Shaw and Kasey James tied for 1A; Gabrielle Tedder-2A; and Joey Kurtyka-2B.

Winning readers are pictured from left to right: Hayden Andrews, Jazmin Faison, Gabriel Barber, Jake Bullard, Raven Daugherty, Hannah Hewitt, Kasey James, Madeleine Shaw, Gabrielle Tedder, Joey Kurtyka



**Leland**—On August 4 at the annual Leland classic car show, one of our Trustees—Reverend Artie Odom—brought his recently finished 1969 Chevrolet Camaro with its High Performance 502 engine to its first show.

Its gleaming red mirror-like finish was a hit with many spectators and with his 7th grade daughter Christina, who is in her third year at Charter Day. Christina is an accomplished violinist and enjoys the music program perhaps a bit more than waxing Dad’s car.

“She enjoys riding in it on every opportunity,” said Rev. Odom. “I only take it out on sunny days when there is not much traffic,” he added.

Rev. Odom bought his car two years ago and has spent many hours rebuilding the engine and interior.

Rev. Odom has served on the school’s board for more than two years.

“The uniforms and the positive behavior support lay the foundations for a fine school. We train the teachers to complement the students whenever warranted for their good behavior, and the students naturally reciprocate by showing true respect for the staff,” said Rev. Odom who is pastor of the 600 member St. Stevens Church.

## A Trustee In The Fast Lane



Rev. Artie Odom and daughter Chistina with his show-quality 1969 Chevy Camaro.

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## Celebrate the Season with Music

The Department of Performing Arts will present their Annual Concert on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 PM at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

**Williamson Auditorium**— Once again, the Department of Performing Arts will present a holiday concert features traditional songs of the Christmas Season.

The concert will feature the 3rd Grade Recorder Chorus, the 4th grade Recorder Choir, and the 4-5 Chorus of the Elementary School. From the Middle School, the concert will feature the 6th grade Band, the 7-8 Grade Band, and the Middle School Chorus.

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Odell Williamson Auditorium  
Thursday Evening at 7 PM  
November 29, 2007  
Free Admission

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**The Roger Bacon Chorus in Concert**

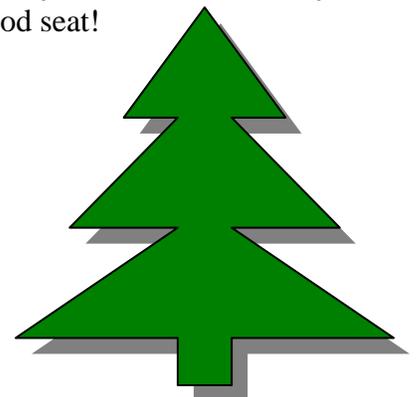
Music Director Thurman Lucas promises a great occasion for all to enjoy the many talented students that participate in the school's music programs.

Last year nearly a thousand parents, grandparents, and friends enjoyed the program and festivities put on by Mr. Lucas and his students.

We hope to see you all there again this year, but you may want to come early to be assured of a good seat!

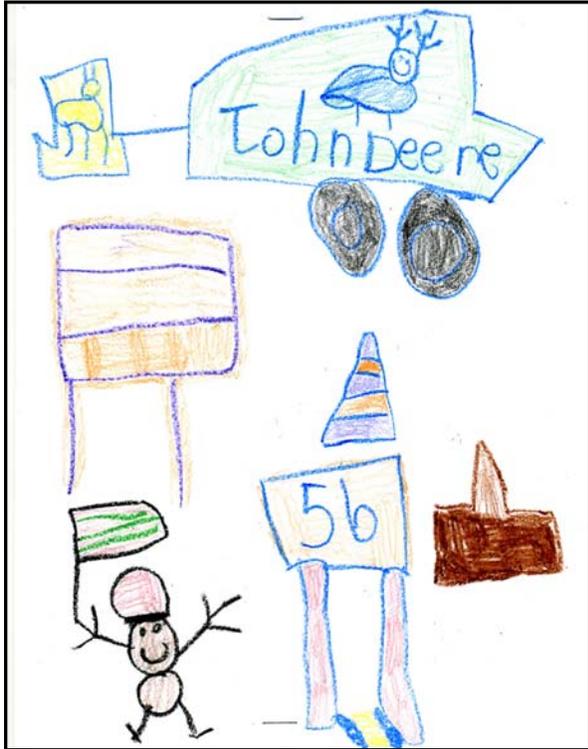


**Mr. Lucas with Middle School Chorus**



# The Arts at Columbus Charter

CC S students score big in Area Arts Competitions.



Wesley Ward, Age 5

**Tabor City**—In a recent area event, Columbus Charter Students made outstanding contributions at the Tabor City Yam Festival.

The following students won ribbons for their artwork at Festival: Kindergarten-Kirsten Starkloff, Logan Hooks, Sealey Scott, Leah Nance, Emma Anne Lay; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Jeremy Hatcher, Charlotte Gore, and Graison Small.

**Whiteville**— In another art competition sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, a number of CCS students are hoping to please the judges with their work.

The event is the “2007 Work Zone Safety Poster Contest,” and winners may get their work incorporated into posters and public relations campaigns for DOT’s work zone awareness efforts.

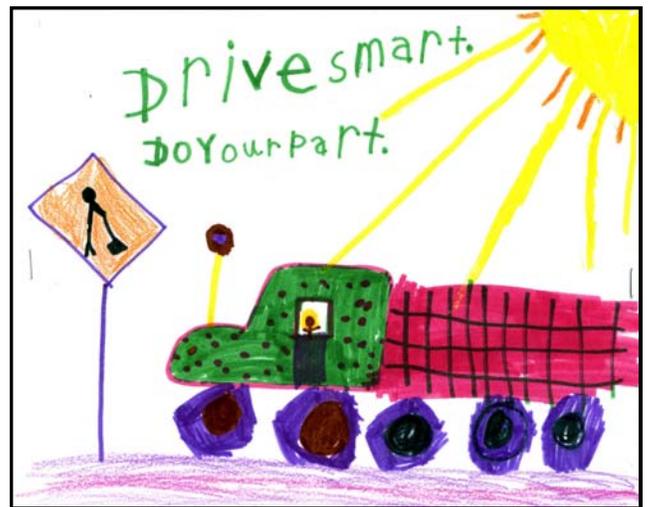
According to DOT guidelines, entries should involve some aspect of a work zone such as signs, equipment, workmen, or how we can all help make work zones safer.

First, second, and third place winners in each age group will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 for their efforts.

A few of the many fine entries are pictured here, and we wish everyone good luck with their art.



Reid Packer, Age 6



Sealey Scott, Age 5



# Five RBA Vikings teams complete successful seasons.

**Leland:** It is growing colder, the leaves are falling, and yet another Pop Warner football season has come to a close. It has been a fantastic year for the Coastal Pop Warner Vikings, a youth sports program targeting the Roger Bacon Academy student body. Our third season has been our most successful ever. We have experienced huge growth this year.

Growth can be measured in many ways, but the numbers alone are a sure sign that students are getting more involved in what has often been called Americas' favorite game. There were only about a dozen students in our entire school population involved in Pop Warner sports before we approached the school about centering a program here. In the 2005 inaugural season we enlisted 166 kids in football and cheerleading, and the number was well over 200 this year with athletes ranging in age from five to fifteen.

The football program is growing stronger each year, as the players begin to close the gap on the huge learning curve that naturally goes along with a start up program where they play against much more experienced teams. We are still working out the kinks in the flag program, mostly 5 and 6 year olds. We're learning a little bit each year, and we see this as a great start for kids interested in learning how to play ball.

The Mighty Mite team, headed up by RBA parent John Schwartz, was our most



successful team ever. They had a 6-2 record, winning many games by more than 20 points. Coach Schwartz commented on this super season, "At the Mighty Mite level of football it isn't about winning or losing, it's about watching these boys grow, learn and have fun. All of the coaches had the best interest of the boys in mind. I consider myself blessed to have great kids and great coaches. I look forward to next year!"

The Junior Pee Wee's began the season smoking hot, with a 5-0 start. They hit a rough patch dropping 3 in a row to the league's toughest opponents at the end of the season. This coincided with RBA's fall break, a notoriously difficult time for our teams trying to maintain a regular practice and game schedule.

The Midget level team, comprised mostly of middle school kids, was swimming in the deepest pool yet. Their backs were against the wall - facing opponents with five to seven years of football experience, and battling teams from the powerful Consolidated Football Federation, a Raleigh based organization established in the 1970's. This team of mostly first and second year players turned many heads with only a few wins but they were always determined, entering every game with confidence and enthusiasm. The league President and the Commissioner, as well as opposing coaches, were impressed with these guys and constantly praised their determination.

The players found success in football measured by the joy of the game and their own personal improvement. Daniel Malpass, a three year Viking from RBA's 7<sup>th</sup> grade stated, "We've improved a lot. We started out fighting with each other, but we learned how to work together." These thoughts were echoed by

RBA stand-out quarterback Sam Locklear, sometimes called "the beast" by his teammates. "I had fun playing football, I enjoyed the challenge of meeting up with and playing against strangers. I also learned to get along with people I don't normally get along with," he said.

Now, as the pads are being packed up, and the helmets hung in storage, we can look back at a season of growth. There may be no other sport as physically, emotionally, and mentally demanding as football. I salute all of the boys with the courage and commitment to endure this season, and I sincerely hope the Viking organization was successful in building these young athletes in body, mind, and spirit. Thanks to all the dedicated parents and volunteers for their tireless dedication to our program. Remember to thank Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Cramer for supporting us; without their help, it would not exist. **GO VIKINGS!**

By Coach Daryl La Fave



**Get into the Backfield and Make their Day!**



**Speed on Offense Leads to Victories!**

# The Composer

The Roger Bacon Academy, for  
Charter Day School & Columbus Charter School

Charter Day School  
7055 Bacon's Way  
Leland, NC 28451

Phone: 910/655-1214  
Fax: 910/655-1549

Columbus Charter School  
35 Bacon's Way  
Whiteville, NC 28472

Phone: 910/641-4042  
Fax: 910/641-9014

To:

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## General School Information

<b>School:</b>	<b>Charter Day School</b>	<b>Columbus Charter School</b>
<b>Founded:</b>	2000 with 65 students in grades K-2	2007 with 124 students in K-2
<b>Currently:</b>	2007 with 744 in grades K-8	2007 with 138 students in K-2
<b>Awards:</b>	2005 Honor School of Excellence, Top 25 K-8 in NC, AYP	
<b>Campus:</b>	50 wooded acres, 12 minutes west of Wilmington off H74	100 acre campus, 10 minutes north of Whiteville off Old Lumberton Road

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### Superintendent's Letter

We are excited to see the progress being made at Columbus Char-



ter School. A great student body and enthusiastic parents have made this year's opening a huge success. Headmaster Smith and his staff have done a super job in getting the new facility up and running smoothly. Enquiries for next year have already begun to come in.

As some of you know, a group of Duplin County parents had asked that we apply to open a charter school for their county, which we did. Unfortunately there were three applicants and only two slots, because of the 100-school limit in the state. Pressure from the competing applications from overcrowded Wake and Guilford Counties won out over the academic needs of rural Duplin. We were disappointed but will reapply when the next opening

occurs.

I am excited to announce that our new 72-passenger activity bus for field trips has been delivered, and we are going through testing and hope to be able to start using it soon. We already have a number of personnel trained and certified to drive, and the Booster Club has to be proud of this major contribution to our school.

On a personal note, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Parson family for their most generous contribution towards the bus. We're sorry they had to move back to Chapel Hill, but there will always be a spot in our hearts for them here.

Sincerely,

Mark Cramer, Superintendent