RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: January 4, 2012 – It doesn’t happen often, but this time The Roger Bacon Academy cheerleaders received a cheer instead of giving one. And it came from two of the largest platforms in North Carolina: the NC House of Representatives and the NC Senate.

Representative Susi Hamilton invited The Roger Bacon Academy Pop Warner National Championship Cheerleading Squad and their coaches to be recognized by the NC General Assembly when they reconvened in Raleigh at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4th, 2012. All 23 members of the squad, coaches, parents, and RBA staff went to Raleigh on Wednesday morning. The team sat in the visitor’s gallery and were recognized at the beginning of the House of Representatives session. Speaker of the House Thom Tillis introduced the team, coaches, and Superintendent Mark Cramer which prompted the first standing ovation. Representative Susi Hamilton continued the acknowledgement and read a statement praising the team. After her remarks the House gave the students another standing ovation.

The cheer squad was also asked to be recognized in the NC Senate by Senator Bill Rabon. The group was ushered over to the Senate gallery where Lt. Governor Walter Dalton stopped the session to recognize the national champions from Leland. He then turned the floor over to Senator Rabon who also read a statement honoring the RBA Cheer Squad. The team was again cheered by the entire Senate floor.

The girls were thrilled to be honored on both stages and learned a little about how state government works as well. “We are so proud of our cheerleaders and their extraordinary accomplishment” said Mark Cramer Superintendent. “And we are honored and thankful that our distinguished legislators invited these young girls to stand before them and be praised for their awards,” he continued.

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The Statement Read on Both the NC House and Senate Floors Honoring RBA Cheer Squad

"WE HEREBY EXTEND OUR MOST HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMENDATION TO MEMBERS OF THE ROGER BACON ACADEMY JUNIOR PEE WEE CHEERLEADING SQUAD.

ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2011 IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA, THESE NINE, TEN, AND ELEVEN YEAR-OLD STUDENTS FROM CHARITER DAY SCHOOL IN LELAND WON FIRST PLACE IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POP WARNER CHEER COMPETITION.

IN ADDITION TO WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THEIR DIVISION, THE ROGER BACON ACADEMY SQUAD ALSO WON THE COVETED "SPIRIT OF SPORT" AWARD – AN AWARD ON WHICH ALL THE COMPETING TEAMS VOTE FOR THE ONE TEAM THAT BEST EXEMPLIFIES SPORTSMANSHIP IN ITS HIGHEST FORM.

THE NATIONAL RECOGNITION GAINED BY THESE YOUNG GIRLS FROM LELAND SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US THAT WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, HONED WORK ETHIC, AND TIRELESS DEDICATION THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE CHEER SQUADS AT THE ROGER BACON ACADEMY HAVE NO TRYOUTS AND ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS AT CHARITER DAY SCHOOL WITH A ‘C’ OR BETTER GRADE AVERAGE. EVERY STUDENT WILLING TO WORK HARD AND COMMIT TO THE TEAM’S GOALS WILL BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHEER SQUAD.

ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THAT THIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM IS TOTALLY SELF-SUPPORTING WITH ALL VOLUNTEER COACHING AND ALL EXPENSES FOR MATS, EQUIPMENT, AND TRAVEL BEING PAID FOR BY BAKE SALES AND OTHER TEAM FUND RAISERS. NO TAXPAYER FUNDS GO TOWARD THIS WINNING TEAM OF CHARITER SCHOOL STUDENTS.

SO LET US APPLAUD THESE STUDENTS AND THEIR VOLUNTEER COACHES FROM THE ROGER BACON ACADEMY – CHARITER DAY SCHOOL IN LELAND, NORTH CAROLINA FOR SETTING AN EXAMPLE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS THAT LIES WITHIN EACH OF US.

AGAIN, OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENT."

Videos of the Presentations can be found on our You Tube channel at www.youtube.com/therogerbaconacademy
RBA Makes Some Noise at the MLK Parade

RBA Cheerleaders and football players marched in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Wilmington!

The National Champion cheer squad lead the group of RBA athletes down Castle Street at the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade held on Monday, January 17th in Wilmington. RBA cheerleaders, football players and archers marched, cheered, waved and passed out candy with information about our schools to those who attended.
FASTAR Races on Both Campuses!

Everyone loves a good race, and this is especially true for elementary students and their parents. The Roger Bacon Academy’s annual FASTAR event isn’t about racing cars or bikes - FASTAR is a race of academic skills. Held annually, nearly 400 charter school student-racers test the speed of their reading and math skills. The students must practice math and reading proficiencies to qualify for the FASTAR race day. When they qualify, they compete for trophies and gold medals while their classmates, parents and supporters cheer them on to the finish line!

“This annual event has captivated our students and parents,” said Superintendent Mark Cramer. “Our students practice their academic skills in a very fun and competitive environment,” Cramer added.

FASTAR stands for Fluent Academic Skills Tournament for Arithmetic and Reading. Modeled upon auto racing, this extra-curricular competition will take place on March 6, 2012 at Charter Day School in Leland and on March 8, 2012 at Columbus Charter School in Whiteville both beginning at 9 a.m.

Race coordinator, Jesse Smith, has seen FASTAR make incredible differences in students’ academic lives. “FASTAR has changed many students’ skill levels to grow in areas where they would not have been previously challenged. The competition drives each student to become better in math and reading: and the results are better overall academic growth.”

Elementary students practice throughout the school year to increase fluency and become nearly automatic in reading and in math facts. FASTAR offers a fun and rewarding experience for students in setting higher performance goals. When a student becomes fluent in a skill, they benefit in numerous ways: increased endurance, longer retention, broader application, and faster problem solving with better immunity from distractions.

“It doesn’t matter how smart you are,” explains school founder Baker Mitchell who devised the competition, “the winners are those who practice the most and are most devoted to honing their skills.”

The FASTAR race series consists of four race courses geared towards specific grade levels from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. The current race courses include: the Charter Day 140 for grade K, the Teach Well 220 for 1st and 2nd, the Booster Club 350 for 3rd and 4th, and the Bacon 400 for 5th grade. Each race has a course layout with several straight-aways. For example, the Booster Club 350 consists of a 260-word reading passage that leads into three turns of math facts arranged in 30 problems each for addition, subtraction, and multiplication. The racers all begin together when the green flag drops and must cover all items in order. The first racer to finish all items in the entire course with the fewest errors gets the black-and-white checkered flag.
The Charter Day School has a new Middle School Deputy Headmaster, Eric Irizarry. Eric who was previously Assistant to the Headmaster in the elementary school is a familiar face on campus and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his new position. Eric took over the Middle School in February and hit the ground running by continuing existing programs and building relationships with staff, students, and parents already. Active in the community as well, Eric will make a great leader in our Middle School. To get a hold of Eric please call 910-655-5455 or email him at eric@rogerbacon.net.

Dr. Miller, who received his doctorate degree just prior to leaving, posted this letter:

Dear parents and students of Charter Day Middle School,

In December of 2008, my family and I were offered a life changing opportunity to lead the middle school at Charter Day School. Over the past three years, numerous school improvement initiatives have been added to the school’s curriculum, structure, and daily schedule. I could not be more proud of the efforts of our dedicated staff members, and our diligent learners’ achievements.

Recently, my family and I were offered an additional life changing opportunity. This opportunity is a chance to work for the North Carolina Office of Charter Schools as a consultant for charter schools in the eastern region of the state. My family and I accepted this challenge and will be relocating to Raleigh, North Carolina, my last day here as director will be January 31st. The new Director will be Mr. Eric Irizarry. Mr. Irizarry has been the Assistant Headmaster of Charter Day School for the past 3 years and has worked with the middle school closely. He and I have been working side by side over the past week to ensure a smooth transition.

Being a member of the Charter Day School family has been the most rewarding and educational experience in my 12 years in education. I would like to personally thank the students, teachers, staff members, and stakeholders for their belief in our school’s vision. As I told the students this past Tuesday, that if I am at all successful in the future it will be because of my time here at Charter Day School. I wish them all the success in the world.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Thomas William Miller
What’s Cool in Our Schools!

Middle School fundraiser for Comfort Socks

During the days of February 1st through February 14th, the CDS eighth grade "Big Picture" program partnered with the non-profit organization Comfort Socks. Students from the class promoted this cause by sharing information to all students, staff, and supporters at Charter Day School. The students collected nearly 500 socks to be delivered to homeless shelters in the area and the region!

School Custodian Judy Smith Honored

Friday morning January 20th, the entire CDS elementary school honored custodian Judy Smith for her hard work and great attitude! She was presented in front of the entire elementary assembly with a huge card signed by faculty, staff and students. Thanks to 5th grader Jaxon Long for coming up with the idea.

CCS students complete DARE Course

Our 5th grade students completed the DARE course this quarter and received their certificates and T-shirts. Thank you Sheriff Batten, Captain Worley, and Deputy Barnes for doing the program at our school and showing the county what great children we have. Awesome job CCS 5th graders for writing terrific essays!

CCS Kindergarten class— “I CAN READ”

Congratulations are in order for the entire Kindergarten team. Headmaster Steve Smith said, “It was awesome looking at all the little faces as they received their ‘I can read’ certificates. Thank you to the children, and all eight of the teachers and teacher assistants for all their hard work!”
Baker Mitchell, Founder of The Roger Bacon Academy, was invited to join 50-60 other attendees from across the country to participate in Hillsdale College’s Charter School Seminar: “What Makes Classical Education Different?”

Hillsdale College, located in Michigan and founded in 1844, is widely known for its uniqueness in that it accepts no federal funding for any of its activities.

The three-day conference features such topics as “Undoing Dewey,” “Why Shakespeare Matters,” “Classical Math: Euclid, Pythagoras, and Newton,” and “Psychology and the Assault on Moral Education in Public Schools.” Other topics range from progressivism in teacher certification requirements to school culture and grammar as the first liberal art.

The conference for charter school leaders will be held June 24-27 at Hillsdale’s Dow Conference Center in Michigan and all expenses will be borne by The Barney Charter School Initiative, a new project funded by the Barney Family Foundation and other national donors.

“I have long been an admirer of Hillsdale College, and I am honored to have been selected to attend this conference,” Mitchell said. “I look forward to bringing back many ideas to help our schools accomplish their mission of achieving excellence through classical subjects and methods,” he added.