

## *Christmas card design winners announced*



Congratulations to the 2017 Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina Christmas Card design competition winners!

**1st place - Lindsay Cole**  
**2nd place - Julie Skipper**  
**3rd place - August Green**

Vice President for Education Dr. Tom Simmons, left, and B&GH President Gary Faircloth, right, presented the framed artwork to the winners during the Thomas Academy assembly on Nov. 17. The winners also received gift cards for their work.

Lindsay's first place design was used in the production of a Christmas card that was mailed out to special friends and supporters of B&GH.

### *Dates to Remember*

Dec. 11 - 15 - Semester Exams  
Dec. 15 - Early Release  
Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 - Winter Break  
Jan. 3 - 2nd Semester Begins  
Jan. 8 - Report Cards

#### *Basketball Schedule*

Dec. 6 at North Brunswick 6 p.m.  
Dec. 7 at West Columbus 6 p.m.  
Dec. 8 Columbus Christian Academy 6 p.m.  
Jan. 4 at Falcon Christian Academy 6 p.m.  
Jan. 5 at Fellowship Christian Academy 7 p.m.

## From the Director's Desk

Dear Thomas Academy Family,

Thank you to everyone who came out to join us on Nov. 28 for the Open House. The conversation was lively and the communication flow continues to grow in both directions.

We are rapidly approaching the semester exams. Our teachers are working hard to make sure that each and every student is getting instruction in the way that works best for him or her.

For many of our students, exam time brings a different level of stress and anxiety. We also have the busyness of the holidays and the kick up of basketball season adding to the swirl of activity.

Please take some time with your child to discuss the upcoming schedule and ask what you can do to provide him or her additional support. And please feel free to reach out to his or her teachers about any concerns they can be addressing in the classroom.

I practice an open door policy for students, staff, and parents. If at any time you have a question or concern, please call me. I can be reached on my cell phone at **910-874-1456** or by email at [geraldine.bradshaw@thomasacademync.org](mailto:geraldine.bradshaw@thomasacademync.org). The best time for a focused conversation is after 6 p.m. as I will be able to give you my full attention; during school hours, my focus is on the children.

Thank you to all involved in giving me the opportunity to grow our children.

Yours in service,

*Geraldine Bradshaw*



*The Thomas Academy educational experience is a partnership between the teachers, students, and parents/guardians.*

*Parental/guardian involvement means participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication regarding student academic learning and school activities.*

### How can you get involved?

- Sign up for the Remind app
- Volunteer to help at the school
- Attend the monthly parent/guardian meeting
- Serve on the Parent Advisory Committee
- Talk with your child about his or her classroom experiences
- Log into Powerschool to check your child's grades
- Reach out to teachers directly with any questions or concerns
- Attend awards ceremonies or events

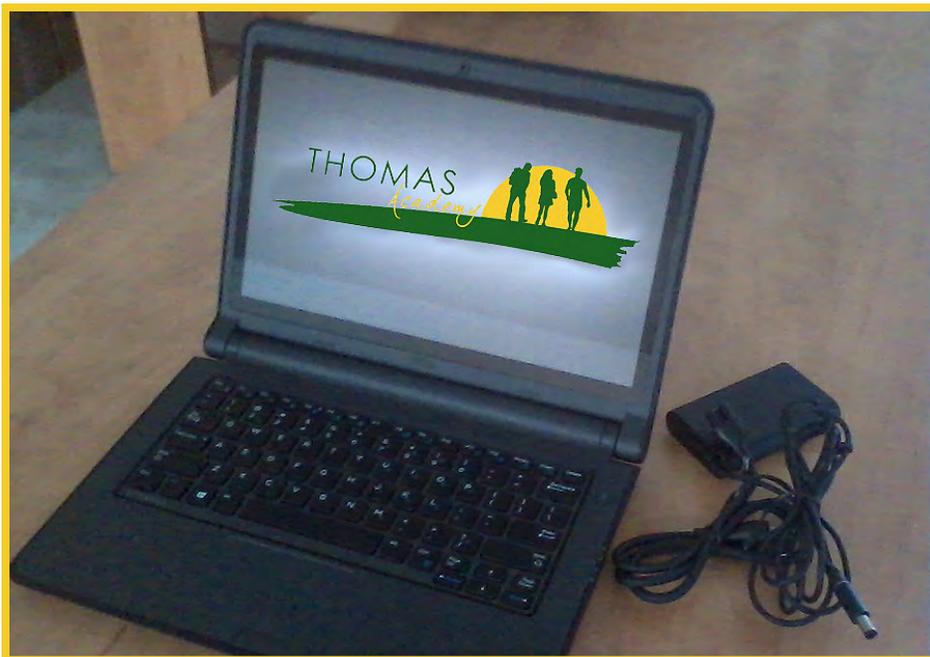
# THOMAS

## Academy



Helping students find Connection, Compassion & Character

**Connection** is the newsletter for Thomas Academy designed to uphold the commitment to connection through communication. It is distributed once a month during the academic year to provide continuing updates on the happenings of the school. To remain connected between issues, visit the website at [www.thomasacademync.org](http://www.thomasacademync.org) and become a fan on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ThomasAcademyNC/](https://www.facebook.com/ThomasAcademyNC/)



## ***Brunswick Plantation provides \$5,000 for Brill Middle School laptops***

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Brunswick Plantation, students at Anthony J. Brill Middle School will soon have laptops for use in the classroom, providing an additional avenue for individualized instruction.

“Our high school students have access to the computer lab on a regular basis,” said Dr. Bradshaw. “These laptops will be assigned to a different middle school teacher each day so that they can plan their lessons around the technology. This will allow for individualized learning within the academic settings to help our students learn through technology.”

The laptops will be held in a special wheeled cabinet to allow for ease of movement throughout the school according to the schedule.

“We are so grateful to Brunswick Plantation for making this a possibility for our students,” Bradshaw said.



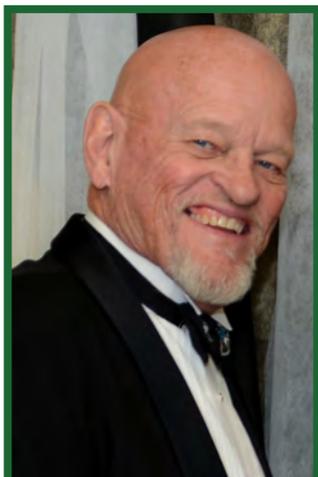
## ***Lake Waccamaw Fire Department visit***

Lake Waccamaw Fire Department representatives brought out some of their equipment during a visit to Thomas Academy during Thanksgiving week.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and take a look at the fire truck and other equipment. There was even a demonstration of how to put on the fire fighter’s equipment.



## ***Doc’s Corner***



***“While others might refer to our students as ‘at-risk,’ I refer to them as ‘at-promise.’ Every single student has the potential to be great if we just find the way to connect them with their greatness.”***

**Dr. Tom Simmons  
Vice President for Education**

***Did you know...***

***Our mission is to provide individualized education in a strength-based approach that addresses students’ unique learning styles, cultivates lifelong learning and promotes the building of character.***

## Students of the Month

The Students of the Month are selected by the faculty. In addition to their performance in the classroom, they are chosen through the demonstration of their commitment to the Thomas Academy motto of Connection, Compassion, & Character.

The December students of the month are:

*Rachael Winger*  
*Middle School Student*

*Christian Reviere*  
*High School Student*

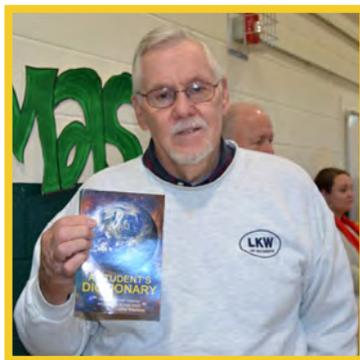


## Whiteville Rotary Club donates dictionaries

The Whiteville Rotary Club presented dictionaries to every Thomas Academy student during the Nov. 17 assembly.

The presentation was part of an ongoing effort by Rotary Clubs to support literacy among public school children.

“Our initial project was to distribute the student dictionaries to every third grader attending public school in Columbus County,” said Rotarian Dr. Jim Brooks. “Once we had those students covered we took a look at our remaining supply. We were pleased to have enough to provide for the students at Thomas Academy.”



*Rotarian Dr. Jim Brooks holds up one of the student dictionaries distributed during the Nov. 17 student assembly.*

## Staff of the Month



*Olivia Dimenstein*  
*High School Math*

Congratulations to Olivia Dimenstein as she guided her students to high scores on the Accuplacer test in math. In addition to her skills in the classroom, Mrs. Dimenstein is providing guidance to our cheerleading squad as they move into the fast paced basketball season.