

# STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

## Collaborative Community Based Instruction

Classes from Huntington, Warner Robins Middle, and Northside Middle Schools participated in a collaborative, Community-Based Instruction (CBI) trip, Friday November 22, 2019 at Rozier Park. The objective of the CBI trip was to practice previously taught social and peer interaction skills with peers outside of their schools. The students participated in games, sports, and other activities. Teachers and parents grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for the students. The classes worked on their IEP goals collaboratively. The teachers from all three schools are working together to plan other CBI opportunities for their students.







## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month we are highlighting a dedicated and caring teacher from Hilltop Elementary. Meet Ms. Valerie Barnwell! Ms. Barnwell has been teaching students diagnosed with severe and profound intellectual disabilities for six years. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Middle Georgia State University and a Master's degree from Georgia College and State University. Last school year, Ms. Barnwell also completed the Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsement to allow her to mentor other teachers. Ms. Barnwell's love and dedication to her students is apparent when you visit her classroom. She individualizes activities to meet their cognitive and physical needs. She incorporates preferred items into instruction in order to engage her students. She often refers to her students as, "the most amazing kids ever." When asked why she loved teaching, she stated "I love teaching because my work has a true purpose. I strive each day to be the teacher that helps my students to see all of their abilities." When she is not teaching, Ms. Barnwell is spending time with her family and two dogs.



## FOUNDATIONS *for* LITERACY



On December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Houston County Student Services Department, in partnership with The Georgia Department of Education Language and Literacy Initiative, provided Foundations for Literacy professional learning. Foundations for Literacy is a one-of-a-kind, evidence-based intervention, designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten-aged children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). Classroom teachers typically implement Foundations for Literacy four hours per week. Targeted learning objectives included: vocabulary, narrative skills, alphabetic knowledge, phonological awareness, reading decodable words, and reading short connected text. Each instructional lesson includes strategies for differentiating instruction while incorporating multi-sensory, age-appropriate activities. Teachers will begin implementing the Foundations for Literacy program in January 2020.





# Holiday MEALS

Each year, we look forward to holiday meals in cafeterias. This is a chance for our staff to pull out family recipes for turkey, dressing, including all the casseroles and trimmings that go with it. Our staff loves having the opportunity to share these pieces of home with their students and the families that join us on these days. This is particularly sweet for those who may not get a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, we served nearly 15,000 pounds of turkey and approximately 1,100 pans of dressing! That is 40,000 meals worth of food served on just these two days. These meals are our way of saying, from our family to yours, "Happy Holidays!"





# 62<sup>ND</sup> Annual Rockin' Robins

## Christmas Parade



PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) has been gaining awareness in the community by partnering with several local businesses. To gain more awareness in the community and spotlight various students that demonstrate positivity on their campuses, PBIS participated in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rockin' Robins Christmas Parade. Students and teachers



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from various Houston County schools walked along the parade route holding their respective school matrices and passed out candy to spectators. Cheerleaders from Bonaire Middle, Mossy Creek Middle, and Thomson Middle Schools cheered along the way. Paw Patrol characters rode on the float, which was a surprise and a big hit for the parade watchers.



# HELPING



# HANDS



Roots Turf and Ornamental donated \$500 to the School Social Services Department. These funds will be used to help families within our community who have been displaced and in need of emergency items such as shelter, clothing, food, hygiene products and more.





# OPERATION SANTA



The Houston County School Social Services Department was able to deliver Christmas cheer to over 130 students. The School Social Workers teamed up with several community partners to provide Christmas through the Operation Santa program. This program is funded primarily through a generous donation from our local Optimist Club each year. The Operation Santa program began in 2004 and has become increasingly successful each year.