



Quarterly Newsletter

January, February & March 2023



Lawtey Elementary

On January 20th, Lawtey hosted their school spelling bee. All of the fifth graders participated. The top 3 and alternate are pictured here. Adam (he had to leave before the photo was taken), and Cheryl (BCEF members), served as judges and Troy Appling was the pronouncer. Also pictured is Lawtey Elementary Principal, Terri O'Quinn and Debbie Parmenter. 5th grade teacher and Bee "trainer." Students (L-R) Kinsley Hendricks (3rd place), Jame Gallion, (Alternate), Dawson Sullivan (runner-up) and Anniston Morrell (winner)

Cheryl applied for another Florida Prepaid Grant through the CFEF and received a \$1,000 grant, with 2 additional bonuses of \$250 each for our TOY event and \$250 for the Kindergarten Roundup for the 2023-24 school year. (Total \$1,500) In February, Florida Prepaid gave \$50 Amazon cards to families that signed up for the program. Thanks to Lila for making sure letters went out to all parents and teachers prior to February, and Brenda Thornton, for getting the advertising out on our Facebook page.



BCEF receives another Florida Prepaid Grant for 2023

Florida Kid Care



BCEF completed their Final Report for our Florida Kid Care grant for \$2,000 that was due on January 3rd 2023. Thanks to all of our members that helped with the various promotions at the schools and the BHS football game. Florida Kid Care was very happy with our participation.

BCEF 2023 Chamber Fundraiser's Changes = The BEST EVER Results!!

February 4, 2023



←
Does Will look like a Giant?....or is it the angle of the photo or just because he is standing next to Jeff?? LOL!!



Chamber Event (continued)

Thanks to the City of Starke for the Dodge Charger, the BC Sheriff Department for the Honda Rancher, and Carrie Crews for the stay at her cabin, Blissful Bear . We also appreciate Community State Bank's donation of \$500 as our game sponsor, and Will Hartley and Gordon Smith agreeing to be auctioned off by Jeff Johnson to wash cars. Thanks to for the donations for our gift pull, Bob Milner for the TV donation and all the restaurant donations for our Dine Around Baskets, and those that purchased gifts and playing cards for our drawing. Thanks to our members that helped with decorating, setting up our area and getting all the props needed for our room. BCEF cleared \$28,764.28 which will help us with our yearly matching grant we receive each year.

Auction Results: Lisa Gault won the Cabin package! The winner of the ATV bought his ticket from Lisa, and her son, Dylan won the car. Lisa's comment..."I think I will go and purchase a lottery ticket tonight....."



District Spelling Bee

February 16, 2023





More info on the



7th grader, Nicolas Salazar is the Winner and 5th grader Amelia Cooper is runner up for the 2023 District BEE.

Eleven of the qualifying students participated in the 2023 District Spelling Bee. After 15 rounds, which was our longest Bee ever, Nicolas Salazar from Bradford Middle School was the winner and Amelia Cooper, from Starke Elementary was the runner up. In six rounds, the last two spellers went back and forth, until Nicolas spelled “affluent” and then spelled “stamina.” A fitting last word for the 15th round. Nicolas competed in the State competition, but we don’t have an update on how he did. Thanks to everyone that got everything together and set up/cleaned up for the event. Thanks to our judges, greeters, teachers that coordinated the school bees and to Troy Applying for being our pronouncer every year and to Cliff Smelley for the photos!

BCEF opens our “Tools for Schools” – January 3, 2023



On January 3rd, 2023, the BCEF’s Tools for Schools held a “soft opening.”

Walmart employees joined us. Pictured: Sandra Raines from Ocala, Katrina Porter, BJ Green, Manager Matthew Taylor and Jera Fitts from Starke. They were impressed with the store set up and promised to continue their support. Only two teachers from Starke Elementary came by to grab some supplies, and they were thrilled with what that got!!



Thank you



BCEF Tools for Schools Shop's Grand Opening - March 3, 2023

Unlike our "soft opening" on January 3rd, the Grant Opening was SUPER BUSY!! There was a steady stream of visitors between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m....or maybe a little later. Here's a total of our visitors: HIPPPY program 2, Rainbow Center 3, Lawtey Elementary 2, Southside Elementary 38, Starke Elementary 27, BMS 7, BHS 1 and NFTC 2. When we have our next opening we will emphasize that shopping is for Teachers Only. Lila and Cheryl were the only BCEF members that were helping that day, and we couldn't have done it without the couple of other school personnel that helped. There was a waiting line and a long and busy day. Our visitors were so appreciative and happy with their supplies. Our goal is to be able to take an inventory of supplies after the school year ends, so we will be better prepared for next year.

BCEF Donates \$500 to the North Florida Technical College for the FFA Program

BCEF donated \$500 for the FFA program to provide "add-ons" for the students showing their pigs and cows during the Fair in March 2023. Although we haven't done this in the past, we wanted to show our support for the students that were participating, along with our appreciation to the North Florida Technical College for helping us with the pickup and delivery of our poinsettia sale in December and our Hydrangea sale in May. The trucking school and drivers have truly been a blessing to BCEF and our fundraising efforts. THANK YOU!!

UPDATE

Florida Power & Light Company - Drones in Schools



We have two science teachers, Raymond Pandley and a female teacher(sorry, I don't have her name), at the Bradford Middle School, who have completed the Drone training. The drones were delivered directly to BMS. The agreement is that the school will start an afterschool program or utilize the drones in their science programs. At this time we are not aware of their future plans for the 2023-24 school year. If the school decides not to do the program, there are no other obligations from BCEF. However, if that do a program and they need more drones and FPL will provide them more drones in the future, if we share what we are doing and ask for more support..

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

Easter Cake Auction for April 9th was another Great Success!



BCEF hosted their annual Easter Cake Auction, again this year. Thanks to our Bakers and Bidders for another great fundraiser for supporting education in our schools!! Sylvia Tatum paid \$250 for Sylvia Reddish's Italian Crème Cake. Missy Davis made several cakes. Her bunny cake went for \$200 from Kay Waters, her Italian Crème Cake was purchased by Nikki Cooper for \$125, her Snack Attack Chocolate Cake went for \$80 by Karen Carver, while Nathan Thornton paid \$200 for her Blueberry Lemon Cake. Missy also baked an Apple Spice Cake that Chrissy Thompson purchased for \$125, along with a Ferrero Roche Cake for another \$125. Missy has more cakes she baked that included a Maple Butter Pecan Cake was purchased by Cathy Spencer for \$175, Tuxedo Cake brought \$150 from Joann Denmark, the Orange Cream Cake was another cake for Chrissy Thompson for \$100 and a Chocolate Banana Swirl Cake was bargain for \$50 from Becky Thomassen. Donnie Thornton made his Carrot Cake that was a second purchase for Cathy Spencer for \$200 for a total of \$1,780. Thanks to all of our members for their donation to help with this project.

BCEF 's \$5,000 Grant from AT&T

The 8th graders enjoyed a visit to the Cade Museum earlier this year and two visits from Cade to their school classroom. Karen Clarke, our Assistant Superintendent worked with the school and Cade Museum to get trips and visits scheduled. We are in the process of students taking an online assessment and sending in our final report. The school has been reimbursed for the funds that were spent. This was a great opportunity for the 8th graders to be exposed to the STEM program! Thanks to Karen for all of help!!





St. Patrick's Day Car Wash
brings BCEF \$725
Thanks to Will Hartley and Gordon Smith!



People came by to get their car washed...BUT when they were told the price was a minimum of \$325 for a wash, they changed their minds!!

The event was moved up and to a new location due to a funeral scheduled that Gordon had to attend. Will and Gordon went all out with their Leprechaun outfits, and really worked hard and took the tasks of getting the vehicles clean very seriously!! Thanks to Lila for the balloons and flagging off the area, Chrissy for the hoses and nozzles, and Cheryl for getting the car cleaning supplies. Thanks to Will and Amy Oody for bidding on their services. We'll have to do another "bid for services" again next year!

BCEF is awarded a Clay Electric Grant for \$20,000



Cheryl has been busy applying for Operation Roundup grants this year. Through Altrusa, they received a grant for \$10,000 for the UFLI program for K-2nd graders that focuses on literacy January. Then, through Kiwanis, they received another \$10,000 grant for Math Manipulatives and Science Consumables in February. Because BCEF had received a grant last year, the final report was submitted in November, and we had to wait until February, (one year from the time we received the last one), to apply again. Clay Electric did not meet in March because a quorum wasn't available to meet, so they met in April. It was worth the wait!! We received notice that we were awarded the full \$20,000 for our Book Sets for K-12th grade. Clay Electric increased their maximum funding to \$20,000 in November of 2022. This project will allow students to read and study the same book in a classroom setting. The books will also have an emphasis on History and Civics. Civics is an area that Governor DeSantis has been proactive about, and we hope to get the High School to form a competitive team for this area in the future. Funding should be received in May, and we have a year to complete the project. A special thank you to our Assistant Superintendent, Karen Clark for coming up with this excellent suggestions for these projects!!

Other News and Upcoming Events

- **Adult Spelling Bee** was CANCELLED due to lack of teams to participate.
- **Golden B Awards – Sponsored by BCEF** – Friday, April 28th at 9 a.m. in the BHS Auditorium, followed by a reception in the Library.
- **TOY/SRE Dessert Event –Sponsored by BCEF** – Tuesday, May 2nd from 3-5 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
- **Senior Awards – May 16th** = BHS Auditorium – 6 p.m.
- **Baccalaureate Ceremony** – BHS Auditorium – 6 p.m.
- **Graduation – May 19th** – David Hurst Stadium – 8 p.m.
- **Last Day of School** – May 26th