

The Chalkboard

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TEACHING FELLOWS

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN ME!



One component of the WCU Teaching Fellows Program is the Penpal Project, which freshman Fellows participate in annually. Freshmen Fellows serve as penpals to fourth-graders from Robbinsville Elementary School in Graham County. The project was aimed at giving the fourth graders the opportunity to improve their writing skills. Over a period of several weeks, Fellows and students took turns writing to one another. Teaching Fellows reached out to students by writing acrostic poems (which uses their names) about themselves. The fourth-graders then responded with their own acrostic poems. Fellows also served as role models, and encouraged the students to stay in school. The project culminated with an invitation to

the fourth-graders to travel to Western's campus on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 to meet their penpals, and to share in a pizza lunch and play games.



PARK CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, freshman Teaching Fellow Austin Davis initiated and led a service project in the local Cullowhee community. A group of eight WCU Teaching Fellows volunteered to assist with the clean-up of the recreational park at Carolina Village, a nearby apartment complex. Fellows who participated painted, washed fences, repaired sport equipment, and assisted with general maintenance.

GHOULIN' AROUND

Western Carolina Teaching Fellows spent some time together at the Annual Halloween Social on October 23, 2009. Fellows met at Ryan's Restaurant in Sylva for dinner. Leadership Council originally planned for the group to visit Ghost Town in

the Sky's House of Terror in Maggie Valley after dinner. Unfortunately, rain canceled the event in Maggie Valley—but WCU Fellows were not easily deterred! Instead, they opted to go to the movies, and watched *Stepfather* at the Quin Theatres.



MADISON AND THE 1,000 PAPER CRANES

Western Teaching Fellows took up another service project during the Fall 2009 semester. This service project was close to Fellows' hearts and close to their location. A student at Cullowhee Valley School is currently suffering from brain cancer. Her

fellow classmates wanted to help the student and her family by easing some of the financial burden of medical bills. The students at Cullowhee Valley were inspired by the book *Sadako and the 1,000 Paper Cranes* and decided to give the student and her family 1,000 origami

cranes made out of one dollar bills. Fellows from Western contributed monetary donations to the project, and some even attended origami workshops to help fold the money raised.



HOLIDAY SOCIAL

It's that time again! As the holidays drew near, Fellows gathered together once again to spend some time relaxing and enjoying each other's company. Fellows met in Killian 104 for a Holiday Social planned by the Social Com-

mittee and Leadership Council. The group enjoyed a plentiful dinner of lasagna, salad, and delicious desserts. Fellows also watched the movie *Elf* on the SmartBoard located in the room.

EL MAESTRO DEL AÑO

Each year Western Carolina Teaching Fellows host the North Carolina State Teacher of the Year. This year Mrs. Jessica Garner was welcomed to campus on October 22, 2009. All cohorts gathered at the Hinds University Center where the seminar was held. Mrs. Garner, a secondary Spanish teacher at Port Ridge High School in Union County, explained to Fellows what being the North Carolina Teacher of the Year means and what she hopes to accomplish during her “reign”. She spoke passionately about the future of education and the role Teaching Fellows play in it.



STATE CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The numbers are in! Western Carolina University and UNC-Asheville Teaching Fellows collected a total of 513 pounds of canned food! The cans collected from our campus will provide 432 meals to local families in need. Collectively, our campus and UNC-Asheville came in sixth place out of all the campuses. The North Carolina Teaching Fellows program collected a total 7,892 pounds of food, which translates into 6,646 meals! Hooray!



Happy Birthday!

November

2-Tiffany Wright
11-Lyneé Fleming
12-Holly Gardner
13-Brandon Wilson
14-Adam Kraciuk
16-Christopher Good-
night
20-Cotter Collins
24- Alysha McCrary
27- Stephanie Grigg

December

2-Meagan Harper
12-Caitlin Self
15-Priscilla Warren
20-Amy Matthews
21-Ashley Nichole
Anderson (freshman)
27-Alecia Page
29-Richard Read

January

5- Phil Harris
6-Adam Ray
8-Blakely Reid
9- Jennie McDuffie
15-Lindsey Robinson
17-Amber Jones
22- Kelsey Eller
22- Anna McClintock
29-Chantel Welch
29-Aaron Fernandez

WANTED!

Have you won any awards lately, or have you been honored in some way, or do you just have news to share with the program?

Any comments or suggestions for the Chalkboard?

Do you have pictures of Teaching Fellows events that you would like to see in the newsletter?

Share them with us!

Email Dana Miller at dbmil-

*Have yourself a Merry
little Christmas...*