

# The Composer

The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. for  
Charter Day School, Columbus Charter  
School, Douglass Academy, and  
South Brunswick Charter School



Volume XIII  
Issue 1  
Summer — 2015

## FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Fifteen years, four schools: Our story*
- *Fifteenth Anniversary Employee Appreciation Ball*
- *Fifteenth Anniversary Alumni Picnic*
- *SBC: Permanent campus to open July 2015*
- *CDS awarded 10-year renewal*
- *CDS, CCS highest scoring schools AGAIN*
- *Lt. Governor Dan Forest visits DAC*
- *Viking Cheer wins SIXTH NATIONAL TITLE*
- *CDS Archery wins SIXTH STATE TITLE*
- *Giving Back: Record year of charity contributions*
- *Why do we love our Charter School?*
- *First Annual Shakespeare Week*
- *First Annual History Bowl*
- *FASTAR and the Race of Champions*

## AND MORE!

## Fifteen Years, Four Schools: *Our Story*



*Baker Mitchell greets Dr. Thaddeus Lott, whose work in Houston's public schools inspired Mitchell's North Carolina efforts.*

### By : Baker Mitchell, Founder

Fifteen years ago, I was a retiree with a dream to open a great school. Because it would be a charter school, there was no guarantee that parents would choose to send their students. What if no one showed up?

Would the school be able to compete with the established schools in the area? Would it surpass them?

Three things make a great school: proven quality curricula being taught by skilled, dedicated teachers with a supportive staff.

Our excellent teachers, hardworking assistants, support staff, and administrators now attract nearly 2,000 students from six counties, with many on waiting lists. Our established K-8 schools, Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School, are the top performing schools in their respective counties. These successes created a demand that has led us to create two replicate schools in the past two years. We know our newer schools will follow in the successes of their older siblings.

When our four schools reach capacity, 4,000 families in our area will have made the voluntary choice to send their child to a

school to be served by our focused staff and to receive rigorous, classical curricula unavailable to students in traditional public schools.

As charter schools, we receive no funds to construct or purchase a new school. Our schools receive only a per-pupil stipend of public funds, and even that amount is only 73% of what traditional public school students receive. It is truly remarkable that in two years, we have been able to open two new schools—renovating a spacious historic property for one—and building the other from the ground up. Parents choosing to send their child to the best option in their area has not only allowed, but necessitated this growth.

I am grateful for each of your choices to honor us with the privilege of providing your child's education. Here's to fifteen more years.



1999: Building the bell tower at CDS.



2007: Groundbreaking ceremony for CCS.



2013: DAC prepares for its first day.

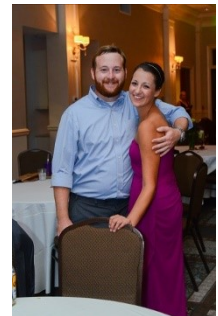


2014: Construction for SBC's permanent 45-acre campus.



# **THANK YOU!** LET'S CELEBRATE.

## RBA HOSTS 15TH ANNIVERSARY AND EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION BALL



On September 5, 2014, more than 300 employees and friends from the RBA network's four schools gathered to celebrate the company's 15th anniversary and to be celebrated, themselves! Trustees, Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrators from Charter Day School, Columbus Charter School, Douglass Academy, and South Brunswick Charter School dressed up (nicely, yes?) for an evening of awards, door prizes, employee anniversary recognition, dinner, and dancing. As the network has doubled from two schools to four within the past two years, the event provided a tremendous bonding opportunity for our family of schools.





# First-ever RBA Alumni Picnic

**Leland**— With nearly 100 alumni in attendance, former teachers, former students, and RBA Founder Baker Mitchell addressed the group. Annie Lafave, was an alumna speaker, who now serves as a Kindergarten Assistant teacher at Charter Day School. RBA also was provided with the following letter from a local high school regarding students they've received from RBA schools:

*“ Roger Bacon students who have continued their education with us, have received scholarships for colleges and universities, have been university teaching scholars, and semi-finalists for prestigious awards such as the Park Scholar program at North Carolina State University. RBA students have also become some of our best varsity athletes, and some of our most talented musicians and artists. RBA students excel here as they work towards their goals of attending the university of their choice. Keep up the good work. Your students are assets to our high school.”*

This May, former CDS student Jonathon Smith hand-delivered an invitation to his graduation from the Columbus College and Career Academy. We encourage all alumni of RBA's K-8 schools to stay in touch by joining the “RBA Alumni” Facebook group.



RBA Founder, Baker Mitchell, addresses Alumni.



Founder, Baker Mitchell, and Coach Jean Lafave catch up with former students.



Lunch like old times.



Yearbooks and news clippings were scattered for reminiscing.



A senior group of alumni c/o 2008



The most recent alumni c/o 2014



Former CDS Student, Jonathon Smith, invites RBA Founder Baker Mitchell to his HS graduation.

## CDS Awarded 10-year Renewal

The State Board of Education (SBE) voted unanimously in a regular meeting this February to grant Leland's Charter Day School its maximum renewal designation of ten years. Ten year renewals are granted to public charter schools who demonstrate stability and quality academic performance, in addition to accountability and integrity in areas of compliance and finance.

All public charter schools must apply for charter renewal on milestone years designated by the SBE. Today's renewal is in follow up to Charter Day's previous ten-year renewal granted in 2005 and is a vote of confidence in the school's continued success. Currently in its 15th year, Charter Day School serves nearly 1,000 public students in grades K-8.

“Today's renewal will see us through our 25th year and confirms that we are thriving in our 15th,” remarked Charter Day's Campus Coordinator, Lisa Edwards.

“This is a great achievement, considering that public charter schools receive limited funding, are subject to more stringent test performance

requirements or face closure, and are dependent upon parents choosing to enroll their children each year,” she explained.

The SBE meeting held more good news for Charter Day School. Following its meeting, the SBE released annual NC School Report Cards. The report cards are a state-level accountability measure to reveal school quality by measuring a school's academic performance and success at meeting student growth targets. The NC School Report Cards provide an “apples to apples” comparison of all public schools in the state.

The reports reveal that each of the highest performing elementary and middle schools in Brunswick and Columbus counties on End-of-Grade tests are public charter schools managed by The Roger Bacon Academy (RBA).

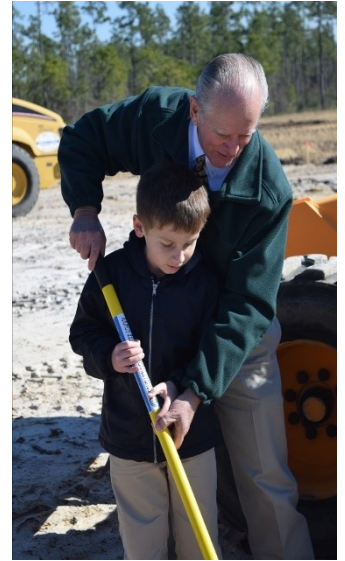
In addition to Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School, the newest members of this family of schools are Douglass Academy in downtown Wilmington, opened in 2013, and South Brunswick Charter School in Southport, opened in 2014.





# South Brunswick Charter:

## *Permanent 45-acre campus to open in July*



**Southport**— More than 120 students, educators, elected officials, and families celebrated the groundbreaking of South Brunswick Charter School. When opened in July 2015, it will have saved Brunswick County taxpayers roughly \$18 million in construction costs.

South Brunswick Charter School is public, open enrollment, and tuition free. Like district public schools, any student can attend the school at no cost.

“Taxpayers save because public charters receive only a per-pupil stipend that is approximately 73% of a district school’s amount, and no added public money for buildings or transportation,” said CDS, Inc. Chairman John Ferrante.

“We, in turn, are free to employ a proven classical curriculum that has, in 15 short years, produced schools that are consistently the highest scoring in their counties on End-of-Grade tests. South Brunswick Charter is a replication of those schools,” he continued.

Regarding long-term taxpayer value, Ferrante explained, “This 600-student capacity K-5 public school not only saves taxpayers millions in construction costs, but will also postpone the need for a pricey publicly-funded elementary school for years to come by alleviating overcrowding in district schools.”

Senator Bill Rabon attended the event, stating that “It’s quite exciting. Charter schools fill a niche in North Carolina that we’ve needed for a very long time. People lose track that these are public schools. These are not private schools that only educate special students. This is great for our area, our state. We’re very excited about today.”

South Brunswick Charter School will begin its second year at its 45-acre permanent campus off Hwy 211 and add a grade level each year until becoming a K-5





# Honoring History: Vietnam Veteran's Panel



**Leland**— Veterans Bill Ebersbach, Harvey Hutcherson, Rossi Nance, and Larry Farmer deepened CDS middle school students' understanding of history by speaking to and conversing with history classes. These men described memorabilia and documentary footage with firsthand knowledge.

We thank them for their service in both defending our country and educating future generations about citizenship. We thank CDS' SRO Officer, Deputy Del Routh, for organizing this worthwhile event.



## Lt. Governor Dan Forest: *"Douglass Academy is truly amazing"*

**Wilmington**— This October, Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest toured Douglass Academy, a K-3 public, tuition-free charter school in downtown Wilmington. Mr. Forest is a key advocate for public charter schools and educational choice in our state.

Mr. Forest said of his visit, "I was very impressed with my tour of Douglass Academy. It is truly amazing, after just a few short years the impact that the teachers and administrators are having on the community and lives of these young children of Southeastern North Carolina. With the classical education Douglass Academy is providing their students, we are witnessing the transformation of education that customizes curriculum to each individual student, while freeing up teachers to do what they love and do best... which is teach. I look forward to following the success of Douglass as they expand over the years."

In his capacities as Lt. Governor and a voting member of the State Board of Education, Dan Forest was instrumental in passing this summer's Common Core Repeal and Replace law, which aims to improve NC public education by creating

innovative, research-based standards.

As Douglass Academy provides an example of such innovation, Lt. Governor Forest visited each classroom to observe its classical curriculum, Mastery Learning practices, and accelerated learning programs.

This same results-driven educational model is employed at Douglass Academy's sister schools, Charter Day School in Leland and Columbus Charter School in Whiteville, which are the highest-scoring schools in their respective counties on End-Of-Grade tests. As Douglass Academy expands to a K-5 by 2017, it expects to achieve similar results in New Hanover County.

Lt. Governor Forest works for teachers, too, by championing the North Carolina Education Endowment, a fund to supplement teacher pay in NC. "I Support Teachers" license plates are currently for sale to help support this endowment at [www.isupportteachers.com](http://www.isupportteachers.com).





# RBA Charters again highest-scoring in Brunswick, Columbus counties

**Leland, Whiteville** – 2013-14 End-of-Grade (EOG) score reports released by the State today reveal both of The Roger Bacon Academy's (RBA) EOG-eligible charter schools were the top scorers in their respective counties. Charter Day School in Leland was Brunswick County's top performer, while Columbus Charter School in Whiteville was the top scorer in Columbus County. The company manages two other public, tuition-free charters that did not take EOG tests in 2013-14, as South Brunswick Charter in Southport only opened this July, and Douglass Academy in Wilmington served grades K-2 in its first year. EOG testing begins in grade 3.

Columbus Charter School in Columbus County was the county's top-scoring school and outscored both state and county averages in every subject area as revealed by the data. Established in 2007, Columbus Charter School currently has 891 students in grades K-8. Their students scored "Proficient" on 61.7% of all tests taken in English, math, and science, which was the highest of all schools in the county. More staggering is their performance compared to the county's— a full 18.2 percentage points higher— than the county's 43.5% proficiency rate, which fell nearly 13 percentage points below the state average.

In Brunswick County, students at Charter Day School also had an average "Proficient" percentage rating higher than the state or either Brunswick or New Hanover County. Established in 2000, Charter Day School currently has 923 students in grades K-8, and their students scored "Proficient" on 72.1% of all tests taken. Again, this number is drastically higher than Brunswick County's proficiency rate, at 17.3 percentage points higher than the county's proficiency rate of 54.8%, again below the state average. Charter Day School also outperformed the neighboring New Hanover County district, and again the state average by 15.8 percentage points.

This year's score report further confirms the consistent success of the charter schools' academics, as it adds another year to the list of county-topping EOG performance. Some say this is the result of charter schools' "cherry-picking" their students, or that their student populations aren't comparable to a traditional public school district's.

Regarding RBA schools, these contentions are grossly false. Charter schools are open enrollment, tuition-free public schools, just as traditional district schools are.



Schools managed by RBA also have diverse student populations. The student demographic makeup of Charter Day and Columbus Charter schools shows that 12% to 15% of the students have special needs, and over 35% are economically disadvantaged. For example, Columbus Charter School, in Whiteville, serves double the percentage of Special Education or Exceptional Children (EC) than do NC traditional public schools when combining the students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) and accommodations under Section 504.

Baker Mitchell, Founder of The Roger Bacon Academy, attributes their high scores to a dedicated trained staff and a rigorous classical curriculum.

"Our charter calls for a traditional classical curriculum, which we believe best prepares our students for the variety of challenges they will face in our rapidly changing society," explained Mitchell.

"Furthermore, public charter schools receive less funding than district schools, so the higher scores from these traditionally taught, but lesser-funded, charter students should be viewed as another advantage of a classical curriculum," he stated.

This funding disparity refers to current financials that show charters receiving 27% less per-pupil funds than district schools. For example, CDS students who outperformed district students on EOGs by 17.3 percentage points received \$7,502 dollars for every \$10,156 received by a Brunswick County District school student.





# SEE THE NUMBERS

## COLUMBUS CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMICS

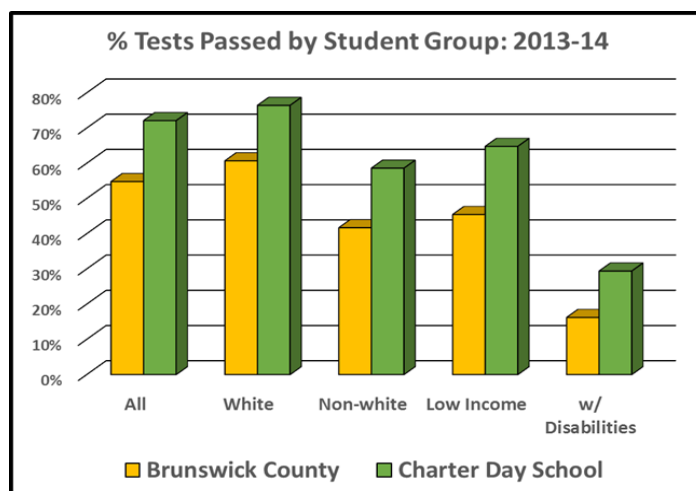
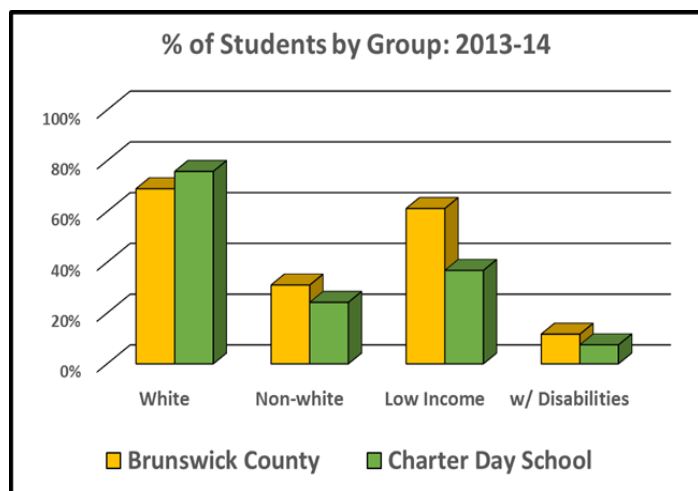
EOG Results 2013-14	Percent of Students Proficient				Percent of Targets Met	Growth Status
	All Subjects	Math	ELA/ Reading	Science	State	
<b>Columbus Charter</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>Met</b>
State	56.3	51.1	56.4	67.7	55.2	N/A
Columbus County	43.5	36.2	45.3	51.3	52.7	N/A

## CHARTER DAY SCHOOL ACADEMICS

EOG Results 2013-14	Percent Proficient				Percent of Targets Met	Growth Status
	All Subjects	Math	ELA/ Reading	Science	State	
<b>Charter Day School</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Exceeds</b>
State	56.3	51.1	56.4	67.7	55.2	N/A
Brunswick County	54.8	46.4	57.6	64.9	71.9	N/A
New Hanover County	64.0	60.0	63.4	76.3	85.2	N/A

**UPDATE 6/4/2015:**  
100% OF DOUGLASS ACADEMY'S FIRST 3RD  
GRADE CLASS PASSES ALL EOGs!

## DEMOGRAPHICS: CHARTER DAY SCHOOL SAMPLE





# RBA Cheer wins 6th National Title!

**Orlando**— This weekend, two Roger Bacon Academy (RBA) cheer squads competing in different divisions each won the top prize at Pop Warner's National Cheer and Dance Championships in Orlando, Florida. These two wins bring the number of RBA Viking National Champion squads to six since 2011. The squads are composed of 100 elementary and middle school students from Charter Day School in Leland and Columbus Charter School in Whiteville.

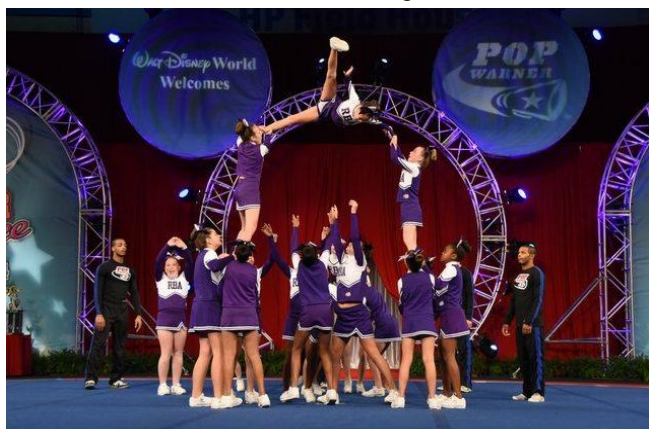
Broadcast on ESPN, the week-long competition saw more than 400 teams from across the nation compete in their respective divisions. RBA had all four of its teams qualify for nationals, with each team securing an award in its division. Two teams, the Midget and PeeWee, won first place National Champion titles in the highest difficulty Level 4 division. The Junior PeeWee squad won the "Spirit of Sport" Award, and the Junior Midget team placed fifth in the Nation, having only been established four months ago in August.

Jean Lafave coaches each RBA squad and has built an impressive career of grooming six National Champion squads in four consecutive years—a record that would likely make a high school football coach a local legend. A volunteer, Lafave credits her successes to the hard work of her cheerleaders and the dedication of their parents, many of whom volunteer as assistant coaches.

One such parent coach, Brett Sharp, attributes the squads' successes to community support— "These successes are the result of great support from parents, the school, and the community. Because of this, our girls expect to succeed in everything they do, and we are proud of their accomplishments on and off the mat."

Head Coach Lafave states, "I am truly blessed for the opportunity to coach these squads. More than national titles, these wins are a deeply-felt example of hard work translating into success for pre-teen and teenage girls. I like to think that the ESPN broadcast and trophies help to ensure that the lesson is remembered for life," Lafave adds.

Parent Adam Butler's experience confirms this, stating that, "It is amazing to see the girls rewarded for all of the hard work they have put in over this season. RBA cheer has helped my daughter to understand what commitment, dedication, and perseverance mean and has brought those lessons back into her school studies. I couldn't be more proud."



# RBA Archery wins 6th State Title!

**Leland**— The dynasty that is Charter Day School archery added a sixth year to its reign with the release of 2015 State Championship results this week. In addition to a sixth title, CDS' champion archery team set a record for their highest-ever score of 3166—a 102 point lead over second place.

Competition is through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) and is considered virtual, as each team competes on their home field with officials reporting results electronically. CDS' A-team scored first place, with its B-team achieving an impressive sixth-place finish. CDS' sister school, Columbus Charter School, shot its way to seventh place in its first competition, having only begun its archery program in August.

CDS also provided some of the top individual archers in the state. Out of 66 sixth grade archers, Levi Lindbert and Liz Boldt became the state's first place male and female archers, respectively. CDS eighth grader Mikaela Whitman secured a first place state ranking out of 29 competitors in her grade level.

This May, CDS archers will join approximately 500 student archery teams from across the country at the national competition held in Louisville, KY.

CDS archery coach and parent, Daryl Lafave states, "I am so proud of our students. You can't fake archery—it's a student, a bow, arrow, and target. This sport hones focus, physical and mental strength. Our archers are skilled at facing challenges under pressure."

Lafave concludes, "Each win makes our school and parents so excited for the future— both our team's and our students'— as involvement in quality athletics programs can provide valuable opportunities for things like scholarships. Last year, a CDS athlete received over \$4,000.00 in scholarships while still in middle school."

In addition to this archery win, CDS cheerleaders recently earned their sixth consecutive national title, and the school itself was again designated Brunswick County's highest-scoring on the most recent End-of-Grade tests.





**700**

TOYS FOR TOTS  
CCS

**1,500 BOOKS**

OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY  
FIRE RELIEF  
CDS, CCS

**\$600**

LOWER CAPE FEAR  
HOSPICE HOUSE  
CCS

**1 TON**

CANNED GOODS  
CCS

**\$300**

NATIONAL ECZEMA ASSOCIATION  
CCS

**\$25,600**

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION  
ALL SCHOOLS

**3,000 LBS**

CANNED GOODS  
CDS

**\$1,100**

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
CDS

**50**

CARE PACKAGES  
FOR TROOPS  
CDS

**475 LBS**

FOOD COLLECTION  
CUB SCOUT PACK 705



# SPORTS



CHEERLEADING AT COLUMBUS CHARTER



CHEERLEADING AT CHARTER DAY



CHEERLEADING AT SOUTH BRUNSWICK



CHEERLEADING AT DOUGLASS ACADEMY



SOFTBALL AT CHARTER DAY



BASKETBALL AT DOUGLASS ACADEMY



ARCHERY AT COLUMBUS CHARTER



ARCHERY AT CHARTER DAY



RUNNING CLUB AT COLUMBUS CHARTER



FOOTBALL AT CHARTER DAY

## POP-WARNER SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Scholar athletes maintain a grade average of 96% or above.  
Scholar athletes from CDS and CCS Pop-Warner programs are:

### 1st Team

Savannah-Grace Jones, Nick Lafave, Isabella Britt, Emily Jenkins, Tulsi Patel, Anna Prince, Kianta Powell, and Abby Lafave.

### 2nd Team

Jadaan Richardson, Lillian Young, Madison Holston, Benjamin Kettlecamp, Andrea Galdeano-Monoz, Jazmin Gomez, Mattie Tharp, Sophia Emmer, Abigail Forrester, Aryana Huskey, Titanna Little, Kayla Zahn

### Honorable Mention

Samantha Wall, Shea Cochard, Alaina Natale, Hailey Gordon, Tyana Shaw



# SCHOLARSHIP & ACHIEVEMENT



## CDS STUDENTS MAKE UNC-P HONORS BAND

LILLIAN SMITH  
PRESLEIGH ENGLISH  
NOAH WALLACE



## CCS CHEERLEADERS EARN \$750 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

ISABELLA BRITT  
\$500.00  
SAVANNAH-GRACE JONES  
\$250.00



## CDS STUDENT STARTS BOOK DRIVE; COLLETS THOUSANDS

MATTHEW KELLY MADE NEWS  
AND A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN HIS  
COMMUNITY BY STARTING A BOOK DRIVE  
FOR BURNED OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY



# FASTAR

## DAC'S FIRST YEAR CCS WINS ALL!



**Lake Waccamaw**— Students from three local charter schools converged at Lake Waccamaw to represent their school in the third annual *FASTAR* Race of Champions, a race-themed academic competition which sees students “race” to complete workbooks of 50 math problems and a reading passage at top speeds of two minutes. “*FASTAR*” stands for Fluent Academic Skills Tournament in Arithmetic and Reading and was developed 11 years ago by The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. (RBA), the Leland-based management company of a network of local public charter schools. This event saw “champions” from each of the three schools compete as a team to bring home the *FASTAR* cup to their campus.

“Champions” are students who earned top finishes in their school-wide *FASTAR* competition last month. Grouped by grade level, K-5 students complete reading and math problems with both speed and accuracy, as incorrect answers result in time penalties. Participating schools were Charter Day School in Leland, Columbus Charter School in Whiteville, and for the first time, Douglass Academy in downtown Wilmington. Fifty-four champion racers contributed to each school’s team score. The results were sensational to those watching and confirming to educators present.

The three schools finished with times spanning a one-second difference. This demonstrates that students at Douglass Academy, a public charter school opened only two years ago, are as fluent in reading and math as students at Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School, the highest scoring elementary schools in Brunswick and Columbus counties, respectively.

As part of the RBA network, the three schools offer an identical classical curriculum and use the Direct Instruction teaching method. RBA spokeswoman Sawyer Batten states that these results are encouraging, but not surprising.

“The RBA network has grown from a demand to replicate its innovative educational program in new areas. Charter Day School opened in 1999 and soon became the top-performing school in Brunswick County. In 2007, we replicated the Charter Day School model in neighboring Columbus County, where Columbus Charter School has also become its county’s top performer. Douglass Academy is the third replication of this program, and just this year, South Brunswick Charter School in Southport became the fourth,” she explained.



“Though we expect each replication will yield the same academic results, Douglass Academy’s equal matching of its established sister schools’ performance so soon is stunning, inspiring, and significant,” she continued.

Douglass Academy parent Marcia Corbett, shared that *FASTAR* has given her daughter Mykhia the gift of recall.

“It has helped Mykhia to learn her math facts by not just counting her fingers, but by memorizing them because in *FASTAR*, you don’t have time to count on your fingers. This will help her in every grade and for her whole life. I am very proud,” she stated.

Despite Douglass Academy’s incredible performance, Whiteville’s Columbus Charter School won the *FASTAR* Cup for the second year in a row, with racers from Charter Day School finishing six one-hundredths of a second behind. Preparations for next year’s races will begin in January, with individual school competitions to follow in April. Each of the tuition-free public charter schools is currently accepting enrollments for the 2015-2016 school year.







**Leland, Whiteville**— For those of you bemoaning the end of The Roger Bacon Academy's first annual Shakespeare Festival, be heartened by these words from The Bard:

*"The golden age is before us, not behind us."*

A great success, Shakespeare Festival will be back next year, bigger and better. Accomplishing this will require near-visionary creativity, however, as in its first year, the event included plays, live animals, and even sword fighting.

Students from Leland's Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School, in Whiteville, returned from Spring Break last week in a carpool succession manned by teachers in ruffs, mustaches, and berets, evoking Shakespeare.

As tuition-free public charter schools, the schools have the freedom to offer a unique classical curriculum that prioritizes history and the arts. Open to any student who enrolls, the schools successfully facilitate their classical curriculum by using age-adapted versions of canonical literature in grades K-8. Shakespeare Week provided students a treat to both reward and inspire their diligence in learning the rigorous material.

On day one, Barnes and Noble representative Marilyn Shackelford introduced students to Shakespeare by presenting biographical information with storytelling, props, and activities. Curriculum Coach Ali Cause-Nance visited classrooms while dressed as the character Miranda from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, where she led readings and student dramatizations of the play's intense opening scene of a boat at sea being ravaged by—as indicated by the work's title—a tempest.

Similarly aptly-named, on day two, fencing instructor Gregory Spahr led middle school students through fencing demonstrations. Representing the Cape Fear Fencing Association, Mr. Spahr provided insight on weaponry and protocol used in Shakespearean duels. Middle schoolers got a chance to "rap" when Penny Kohut, owner of local theater company Bare Bones Performances, exercised students' understanding of meter by having them "rap" sonnets to familiar tunes. Inspired by Shakespeare's love of falconry, Anne Francione of the Cape Fear Raptor Center brought a rescue Falcon named Archie and spoke to students about local birds of prey and ecosystems.

Shakespeare Week concluded with a day of drama. For elementary school, UNCW Shakespearean professor, Dr. Lewis Walker, performed songs from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on his ukulele. He brought along a Master's student who performed soliloquies from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Middle school was treated to performances from UNCW's theater department.

Event organizer and Dean of History and Language Arts, Doug Franks, states, "As a student, Shakespeare was one of the few things I connected with. I became a teacher to help other students find these connections."

"Thanks to the various volunteers and organizations that joined us in this event, nearly 2,000 students in our area were able to connect Shakespeare to something relevant in their own community," he concluded.





# MACO LIGHT LEGEND **5K**

**Leland**— The Maco Light Legend is a familiar ghost story in Brunswick County. The former Wilmington and Manchester Railroad which runs through the back of Charter Day School's campus is the scene of the legendary train wreck which caused ghostly conductor, Joe Baldwin, to perpetually roam the tracks.

Each November, runners course through the woodland campus and historic rail bed at the heart of the Maco Light/ Joe Baldwin legend. The post-race party will feature vendor/sponsor booths, refreshments, entertainment and awards.

This key fundraiser provides funds for CDS' Fitness and Fine Arts programs. As a public charter school, CDS receives only a per-pupil stipend for each of its students. Because of this, the school— Brunswick County's highest scoring—must fund its own facility, programmatic, technology, and extracurricular expenses, among others.

All 5K proceeds are distributed among CDS' Fitness and Fine Arts programs. Stay tuned for next year's event and sponsorship opportunities!



## 1ST ANNUAL CLASSICAL HISTORY BOWL



**Wilmington** — As a complement to our schools' elementary school FASTAR competition for reading and math, this year, we've created an exciting competition for our middle schools that challenges students in history.

Students in grades 6-8 volunteer to compete in a battle of wits spanning world history from 410 AD to present day. To master this impressive span of space and time, students began studying and scrimmaging in November for competition against their sister school in June.

Middle school students from Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School converged on June 5, 2015 at Douglass Academy, where CCS' 6th grade team won its contest, and CDS' 7th and 8th grade teams took first place in their events. CDS was named the overall champion for achieving the highest cumulative score. We look forward to next year's event!



# Baker Mitchell: Charter Schools break the Education Monopoly

**Reprinted from the Fayetteville Observer**— Your children grab their backpacks as they leave for school. You probably bought these at Walmart or Target and remember reading that these companies had gross profit margins of 25 percent and 29 percent. You remember that a company's gpm includes all income before expenditures for operational costs and things like accounting and marketing and R&D, so actual profit is much less than the gpm.

The books in your children's backpacks were most likely published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (gpm 41 percent).

The school is built by a local contractor who typically has a gpm in the 20 percent to 25 percent range. Your county financed the building with municipal bonds handled by a company such as Morgan Stanley, which has a gpm of about 85.6 percent.

The building is heated and cooled by power from Duke Energy (gpm 40 percent) and maintained by materials and supplies from a company such as WW Grainger (gpm 43 percent).

Classroom furniture was likely obtained from a supplier such as Office Depot (gpm 23 percent) or Staples (gpm 26 percent) as were paper, pencils and markers.

The teacher uses an HP (gpm 24 percent) computer using Microsoft (gpm 65 percent) software to show a presentation with an Epson projector from Seiko Epson (gpm 35 percent).

On a field trip, students board a bus purchased through Daimler Finance Corp and manufactured by its subsidiary Thomas-Built Buses (gpm 22 percent), which runs on fuel from Exxon Mobil (gpm 12 percent).

They have lunch, which may have been provided by a contract with McDonald's (gpm 38 percent) or Domino's (gpm 69 percent).

After recess, they return to class and take an assessment by Pearson (gpm 53 percent) before returning home.

Your children's government-managed school received a "D" on the state's report card. You are unhappy with this performance. The government is your school's manager. What are your alternatives? You feel trapped by a monopoly.

You remember your neighbor's comment about her child's public charter school, Leland's Charter Day School. She explained that it was the highest scoring school in the county but received almost a third less money than your children's district school.

Charter Day School achieves these academic and financial results through the management services of an educational management organization with a gpm of 16 percent.

You understand that this EMO provides a lower-cost alternative that produces superior performance. This is certainly a competitive threat to the monopolistic government-run school bureaucracy. You wonder why many in the media are critical of charter schools, often questioning their accountability.



*RBA Founder, Baker Mitchell, and South Brunswick Charter student break ground for the school's permanent campus in January 2015.*

By all data-informed accounts, all charters receive far less taxpayer money, yet many achieve higher test scores.

**Regarding accountability:** In addition to more stringent testing requirements and equal financial oversight to traditional public school districts, your neighbor can withdraw her child from the charter school at any time. If she does so, the school's money stops. You realize that truly informed, vigilant parents who daily see and evaluate the quality of their child's education are the citizens best qualified to hold the school accountable.

You also realize that without tuition-free, open-enrollment charter schools, children would be trapped in a government-run school monopoly with no tuition-free educational choice.

You know that our country's competitive free-enterprise system produces the best backpacks, computers, buses and other products and services for you and your family. And because a charter school managed by an EMO is producing superior academic results at lower cost to the taxpayer, you decide the competitive free-enterprise system can also be the answer to a more effective school system serving our children.



# Douglass Academy Headmaster Jones receives UNCF Outstanding Educator Award

**Brunswick County**— This November, a tri-county chapter of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) named Barbra Jones as the Brunswick County recipient of its Outstanding Educator award. Jones is currently the Headmaster of Douglass Academy, a public charter school in downtown Wilmington.

The award presentation occurred at UNCF's annual Community Banquet and was attended by UNCF State Director Marilyn B. Richards. An event publication describes Ms. Jones' 25 years of experience and leadership in public education.

It states that, "Jones began her career in Houston's storied Wesley Elementary, a school nationally recognized for its exceptional academic performance with a 100% economically disadvantaged population." Jones was then recruited by Houston's 62,000-pupil Aldine Independent School district to fill the position as a Title I teacher for two years before being named an Assistant Principal and then Principal. Jones joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as the Executive Director of the Rodeo Institution of Teacher Excellence in 2009.

In 2011, Ms. Jones relocated to North Carolina to become the Head of New School Development and Community Relations for The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc., an educational management company based in Leland, NC. In 2013, Jones became Headmaster of Douglass Academy, a tuition-free, public charter school in downtown Wilmington.

"I am grateful to have been selected for this award," Jones said. "It demonstrates the ways in which UNCF actively



evaluates and participates in education, down to the community level. I am pleased that they have recognized the work taking place at Douglass Academy as an outstanding educational example."

Eunice King, Chairwoman of Brunswick County's UNCF chapter, commended Jones's ability to engage her community. "Barbra becomes a participant in the lives of her students and their families, creating continuity between school and home. It creates a purposeful environment at her school that we hope this award will encourage others to replicate."

## Teacher of the Year Nominees

Each year, CDS and CCS choose a teacher to represent their schools in the state's Teacher of the Year program. Each school chooses a candidate who is "dedicated and highly skilled, a candidate proven capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn."

The program recognizes teachers at the school, local, regional and statewide levels. After individuals are chosen to represent their respective school as Teacher of the Year, they advance to compete at the local district level and on to state level. We congratulate our 2014-2015 representatives!

### Katie Willard - CDS - 4th Grade



"It was such a joy to be named Charter Day School's Teacher of the Year. I feel honored to be a part of a school that holds such high expectations for their teachers and students.

I was fortunate enough to represent our school at the 2015 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Summit in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was an amazing experience to meet and learn from past and present North Carolina Teachers of the Year. I look forward to using what I have gained this year."

### Patti Allen - CCS - 5th Grade



"When I found out that I was TOY for CCS I was very proud! It's great when your peers recognize all of your hard work.

My favorite thing about being a teacher is working hands-on with my children and being there for that moment when the 'light bulb' comes on and they fully understand a concept that they have been struggling with. My advice to other teachers is to be as flexible as possible!"



# All schools receive prestigious DOL “Gold” Safety Award



*L-R: CDS Campus Coordinator Lisa Edwards, DAC Headmaster Barbra Jones, and CCS Middle School Headmaster Carla Fisher receive awards from NC Commissioner of Labor, Cherie Berry.*

**Wilmington—** The N.C. Department of Labor’s Safety Awards Program recognizes private and public firms throughout the state that achieve and maintain good safety records. The program is designed to stimulate interest in accident prevention and to promote safety in the workplace by providing an incentive to employers and employees to maintain a safe and healthful workplace.

To qualify for an annual safety award, a firm must have had no fatalities during the calendar year at the site or location for which the award was given, and have maintained an incidence rate at least 50 percent below the average for its particular industry group.

We are proud to announce that this year that each school in our network, as well as the RBA office itself, received the highest-designated “gold” award.

## DPI: Columbus Charter to be commended for high-level teacher support

**Whiteville—** Columbus Charter School (CCS) received glowing reviews from the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) this week for the strength of the school’s Beginning Teacher Support Program. The regular compliance review consisted of DPI’s on-site examination of program files, interviews with school staff, and survey results from teachers.

All NC public schools are required to offer a Beginning Teacher Support Program to assist new teachers in completing mandated licensure requirements during their first three years in the classroom. CCS has built upon the basic mandated requirements of this program to create a support system that not only serves the State’s purpose of guiding new teachers through licensure protocol, but that works to actively invest in new teachers.

CCS’ program earned DPI’s highest designation of “Distinguished” in various assessment areas.

At CCS, beginning teachers work closely with a lead teacher from their grade level and are paired a mentor. Beginning teachers are granted release time during which they can observe or meet with their mentor. In return, mentors regularly observe beginning teachers and provide feedback.

Through its management company, The Roger Bacon Academy (RBA), CCS provides a Coaching Department of curriculum specialists to assess, model, and streamline instruction and classroom management procedures during regular classroom visits. Further, regular data meetings assess student performance from

weekly assessments in each subject. This allows teachers to know, in real time, the effectiveness of their instruction, as well as particular problem areas on a class-wide or individual student scale.

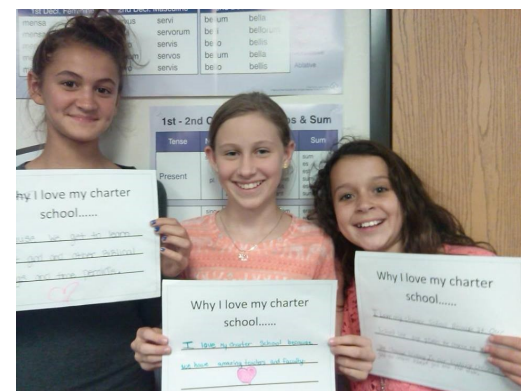
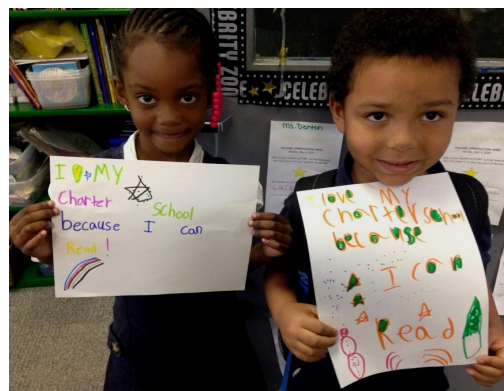
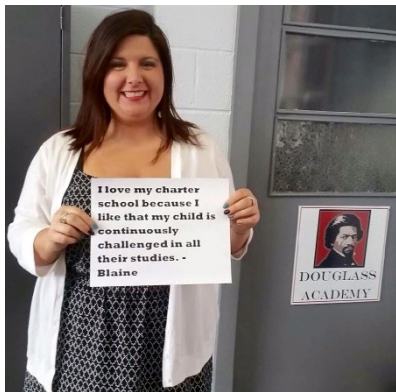
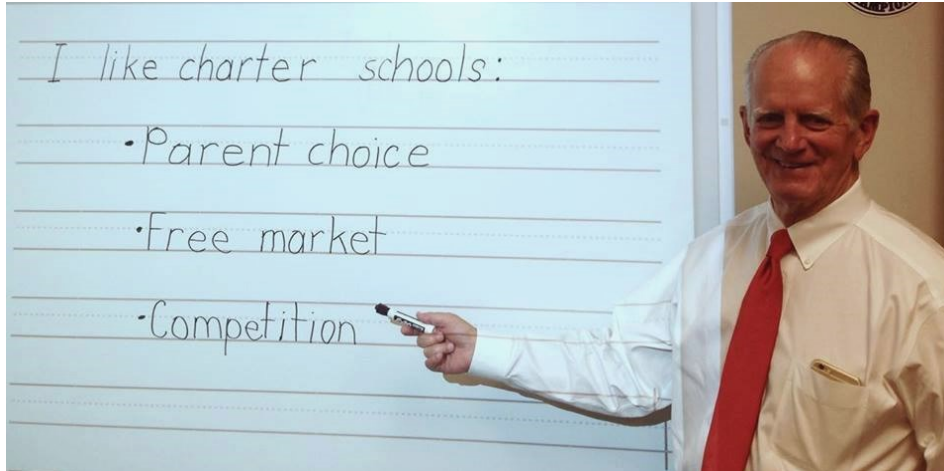
Beginning Teacher Coordinator and 42-year educator Eunice King said of DPI’s commendation, “As a public charter school, CCS has the freedom to offer a dedicated teacher support department in a way that traditional schools do not. Our well-designed support program allows us to invest more in teacher success. As a result, we have greater returns. CCS is consistently its county’s highest scorer on EOG tests.”





# NATIONAL CHARTER

## WHY DO WE LOVE OUR CHARTER SCHOOL?





# SCHOOLS WEEK MAY 3-9

## SYSTEM-WIDE ESSAY CONTESTS WINNERS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER

JAXON LONG  
CDS 8TH GRADE

How does "Excellence Without Excuses" sound to you? That's the promise at Charter Day School, and all students are held to it accordingly. Also enforcing a unique and effective curriculum, as well as a healthy social/learning environment, Charter Day is one of the top schools in Brunswick County.

One thing that makes Charter Day School such an outstanding school is that its location provides a beautiful and idyll setting in nature. Students participate in and complete activities outdoors on a daily basis. Students also have a Health and P.E. class, which are held outside, exposing them to the ecosystems all around. Daily encounters with local animals and vegetation are all part of the healthy, picturesque domain.

Another plus is the idiosyncratic and steady learning curriculum, as well as extracurricular activities and teams. Charter Day School caters to many sports, educational groups, and even a structured political society. Some of these include: Student Government, Football, Basketball, Softball, and Science Olympiad. Their History Bowl teams have taken the win in competition against Columbus Charter School, and our Cheerleading teams have achieved many National Titles. Charter Day's Archery teams are also known as State champions.

Charter Day School is proficient in enforcing discipline and having healthy teacher/student relationships, superior to many other schools. The school has a campus cleanup program, as well as serving lunch detention if needed. Any punishment given to a student is with-reason and productive. Teachers at Charter Day are always happy to lend help to students!

There are many times throughout the day that students are able to put forth their time if they are lacking in a certain subject. All educators at Charter Day School are friendly and knowledgeable.

Some people may argue that Charter Day is not suitable for students as no cafeteria is present on campus. However, the outdoor dining/recreational zone encourages social interaction and growth. Also, please note that if the weather is not permitting (Too cold, hot or raining) students eat inside their class, enjoying the close-knit environment alongside peers.

From eating to education, community to extracurriculars, Charter Day School is one of the most all-around proficient educators in Brunswick County.

They are always reliable in providing a learning environment that helps students grow and exceed all expectations - to achieve "Excellence Without Excuses".

### GRADES 3-5 WINNER

BETSEY KORNEGAY  
CCS 5TH GRADE

There are many reasons why I love Columbus Charter School. At this school we learn Classical Ed., teachers are dedicated, and we have extracurricular activities.

Classical Ed. is fun for me. I love ancient history because I enjoy learning about how we go to where we are now. I like Latin because it's the root of all languages. In addition I like reading novels such as *Black Ships Before Troy*, *The Wanderings of Odysseus*, and *Alexander the Great*. There also is a variety of cultures we learn about such as Greek gods, polytheism (Egyptians) and monotheism (Israelites).

At this school we have dedicated teachers. The teachers are positive and have a 4:1 ration. Teachers are devoted to the student's learning. The Headmaster, Mr. Smith, was in the military and so we honor Veterans Day. In the morning we say the Pledge of Allegiance and the School Pledge.

Extracurricular activities include Fastar, cheerleading, and 3 week breaks. Fastar helps children increase their reading skills and become more fluent with math facts. I compete in Fastar every year. I do cheerleading as well! This gives children the chance to do a sport and stay fit. 3 week breaks are good for me because it lets you and your family take trips. It gives you time to relax.

These are all the things you can do at Columbus Charter School. In conclusion, this is why I love Columbus Charter School and more!

### GRADES K-2 WINNER

VICTOR MOSQUEDA  
SBCS 2ND GRADE

There are three main reasons why I love SBCS is history, math, and health. My first favorite subject is history.

I lik history because I like learning about Robin Hood, King Arthur, and Shakespeare. My second favorite is math. I like math because we do calendars, geometry, and division. My third favorite subject is health. I like health because I like playing out side. I know about my health teacher for a long time, and exercising.

I like history, math, and health because they are cool subjects.

# The Composer

The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. for  
Charter Day School, Columbus Charter School, Douglass Academy,  
and South Brunswick Charter School

## Charter Day School

7055 Bacon's Way  
Leland, NC 28451

[www.charterdayschool.org](http://www.charterdayschool.org)

Phone: 910/655-1214

Fax: 910/655-1549



## Columbus Charter School

35 Bacon's Way  
Whiteville, NC 28472

[www.columbuscharterschool.org](http://www.columbuscharterschool.org)

Phone: 910/641-4042

Fax: 910/641-9014



## Douglass Academy

507 South 6th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

[www.DouglassAcademy.org](http://www.DouglassAcademy.org)

Phone: 910-763-1976

Fax: 910-763-1974



## South Brunswick Charter School

2260 Achievement Avenue SE  
Bolivia, NC 28422

[www.SouthBCS.org](http://www.SouthBCS.org)

Phone: 910-622-5322



**DOUGLASS  
ACADEMY**



## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

**School:** CHARTER DAY SCHOOL  
**Founded:** 2000 with 65 students in grades K-2  
**Currently:** 2015 with 969 students in grades K-8  
**Awards:** 2005 Honor School of Excellence,  
Top 25 K-8 in NC, AYP every year  
**Campus:** 80 wooded acres, 12 minutes west  
of Wilmington off H74

**School:** DOUGLASS ACADEMY  
**Founded:** 2013 with 33 students in grades K-2  
**Currently:** 2015 with 80 students in grades K-3  
**Campus:** The historic Peabody building in  
the heart of downtown Wilmington.

**COLUMBUS CHARTER SCHOOL**  
2007 with 124 students in K-2  
2015 with 950 students in K-8  
2008-9 School of Distinction, High Growth, AYP

150 acre campus, 10 minutes north  
of Whiteville off Old Lumberton Road

**SOUTH BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL**  
2014 established.  
2015 with 90 students in grades K-2  
45 acres, 1 mile south of H211, halfway  
between Shallotte and Southport.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting the safety and education of your child with us. Fifteen years after opening our first school, I still find myself profoundly grateful at the conclusion of each school year—grateful that you have chosen our effective method of education and grateful to have another year of superlative academics on record confirming that your faith is well-placed.

The conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year is a significant one in our history; in addition to it being our 15th year, it marks the continued expansion of our family of schools, as we have opened our fourth. The opportunity to extend our curriculum into new areas is heartening, indeed. The same practices which have consistently made Charter Day School and Columbus Charter School the top-scoring schools in their counties are being implemented at these new schools, and we are confident that they will produce the same results.

Congratulations to our students, staff, and parents on another year of excellence; I look forward to beginning a new year with its opportunities for us all.



Best Regards,

Baker A. Mitchell  
Founder,  
The Roger Bacon Academy

