Central Man of the Year

Tributes Pour in Honoring Supt. Mike Faulk

Faulk Led Central School System From Its Creation To Great Success

Security Camera Busted Burglarizing Intermediate School

Shenanigans Revealed — Central schools Associate Supt. Sandy Davis admitted this week that she and Supt. Mike Faulk conspired to 'lift' the Central Spirit Stick from the office of Central Intermediate School principal Rhonda Taylor. Taylor released video showing one of the culprits.

Faulk’s heretofore unblemished record is sure to come crashing down when the facts of the case are fully known.

A highly-placed source in the Central Community School Board office revealed Faulk’s crime when asked about the superintendent’s character. The source said she was afraid to report the incident until now for fear of losing her job.

The source, Associate Supt. Sandy Davis, told the Central City News, “Mr. Faulk helped me ‘steal’ the Central Spirit Stick from Central Intermediate School so it could be used at an administrators retreat. The coveted Spirit Stick had been won by the CIS staff at the community pep rally.” Fearing that the Spirit Stick may not come back, principal Rhonda Taylor released video showing one of the culprits.

Faulk Busted Burglarizing Intermediate School

Security Camera Catches Faulk Breaking into CIS To Lift Spirit Stick

CENTRAL - After years of trying unsuccessfully to catch Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk in some kind of wrongdoing, the Central City News has obtained exclusive footage showing Faulk burglarizing Central Intermediate School.

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To Lift Spirit Stick

Breaking into CIS Catches Faulk Security Camera

CENTRAL - With the retirement of Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk coming Dec. 31, many leaders in the Central community are speaking out about Faulk and his record as superintendent. Here are some of their comments:

Dr. Jim Gardner
School Board Member

The things I admire most about Mike Faulk are his ability to remove politics from his decisions concerning Central schools. He always placed the students as his first priority, regardless of outside pressure. Also, his ability to manage the school system’s finances kept us in excellent shape.

Dr. Jason Fountain (left)

Mike Faulk (right) has been named Central’s Man of the Year for 2017 by the Central City News. Faulk is completing 10 years as Superintendent and has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2017. Dr. Jason Fountain (left) will be his successor.

Central’s Man of the Year

Supt. Michael Faulk Made Historic Contribution

Faulk Led Central School System From Its Creation To Great Success

CENTRAL - Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk has been named Central’s Man of the Year for his historic contribution to the success of the Central Community School System. It was the second time Faulk has been recognized with the honor. The award is made annually by the Central City News.

News’ editor Woody Jenkins said Faulk, who will retire Dec. 31, 2017, took what was a good idea — the belief that Central should have its own school system — and turned it into reality. “Mike Faulk is an amazing person. He performs his job at a very high level with total dedication. At the same time, he does it with complete integrity and without playing politics. He hires great people and lets them do their job. Under his leadership, Central went from being part of a system ranked No. 58 in the state to being top in the state, ranked No. 2. The name Mike Faulk should long be remembered and honored in the City of Central.”

Central’s Video Newspaper

Central City News

December 2017 • Vol. 20, No. 12 • 24 Pages • Circulation 15,000 • 50,000 online • www.centralcitynews.us • 225-261-5055

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entral’s Video Newspaper

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Central Christmas Parade Rolls Saturday

Parade to Depart at 10 a.m. from Zoar Baptist Parking Lot

CENTRAL - The Annual Central Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Central Chamber of Commerce will once again be the highlight of local Christmas festivities, but there are many other things going on as well.

It all begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday morning at Zoar Baptist Church at the corner of Hooper and Joor roads and head south on Joor to Lovett. An estimated 4,000 Central residents and visitors are expected to line the parade route.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a fundraiser for Deputy Nick Tullier will be held at Winn Dixie. Jambalaya and BBQ Sausage Po-Boys will be sold for $10. From 5 to 8:30 p.m., the City of Central will host Christmas in Central Square at the intersection of Sullivan and Wax roads. Mayor Jr. Shelton has an array of attractions planned, including music, food, a giant Christmas tree, sleigh rides, and ice skating are planned. Admission is free.
The Only Employee to Get a Kiss

Employee Comes Forward with Tale Of Possible Kiss From Years Ago

Continued from Page One

pal Rhonda Taylor refused to turn it over and had it placed it in a very secure area of the school. Davis said, "I went to the CIS campus af- ter hours in an unsuccessful attempt to lift the Spirit Stick. I enlisted the help of Mr. Faulk. He was more than happy to assist in this little adventure and had just the right keys to get to that Spirit Stick. Little did we know Mrs. Taylor would capture this funny crime on her school surveillance cameras."

Asked about the report, Mrs. Taylor responded, "Yes, someone stole the District Spirit Stick from the CIS of- fice. I went back to the security cam- era and there on the video was none other than our esteemed Superinten- dent sneaking into the office — after hours — and taking the Spirit Stick. Of course, I saved that clip and let ev- eryone know about his 'shenanigans.'" Stealing the Spirit Stick and other school Spirit items has been an ongo- ing prank as Principals/Assistant Principals have been pulling on each other for the past few years.

Sheriff Sid Gautreaux was not available for comment on this inci- dent at press time. However, sources familiar with the case say Faulk may be guilty of several crimes.

Faulk’s problems were complicate- ed by another startling revelation this week when a high-ranking official of Faulk’s administration stepped for- ward to the Central City News with allegations that Faulk may have tried to kiss him in 2013.

This individual, Central’s head football coach and athletic director Sid Edwards, was willing to go “on the record” and tell what he knew.

When asked why he waited until now to come forward, Coach Ed- wards said he feared retribution from the powerful superintendent. So what changed?

Edwards said, "My kids have grad- uated and Faulk’s on his way out. Furthermore, in this climate, I feel I can speak freely." The coach’s story goes back to 2013. Here is his testimony:

"However, there was an incident I will never forget. We were up against West Monroe on the road in the state playoffs in 2013. West Monroe was ranked No. 1 in the state and was one of the best high school football teams in the country. Of course, we were a heavy underdog, given no chance at all of winning. But it was a great foot- ball game, and we won 14-0! People were rushing the field. I felt someone hit me from behind and embraced me with a gigantic bear hug! When I turned around, who was it but of all people Mike Faulk! He was trying to kiss me! I swear I think he was aiming for my lips! Fortunately, I turned quickly and he only got a glancing touch of my cheek. Wow, for a guy who has never shown a lot of emo- tion, he was so excited! The guy was out of control! I believe I can now claim that I’m the only employee of the school system who got a kiss from Mike Faulk?"

Edwards said he told his wife about the incident at the time, and she was shaken.

Dr. Jim Gardner, Member Central School Board

Mike Faulk has meant a lot to me not only as a good friend and col- league, but in the way he works with the school board. He listened to my concerns and his door was always open. He always placed first what was best for the school system. This blended very well with my goals and agenda, and also the agenda of the school board.

Ted McCulley, Central resident

One of my first memories of Mike was of him sitting in the audience with his wife and daughter while other candidates had various people speak on their behalf as to why they should be granted the position of su-

Wildcat Basketball Began this Week

Starter for CHS Quint Guerin

CENTRAL BASKETBALL The Central Wildcats lost to Livoina 44-30

Todd Lasseigne shoots a free throw

Quint Guerin, Todd Lasseigne and Hunter Arnold

Trey Johnson on defense for the Wildcats

Todd Lasseigne a senior player for Central

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What People Admire About Mr. Faulk

Continued from Page One

while other school districts have had to raise taxes or do without in order to operate. Mike has provided the leadership to improve our academia to where we are a top scoring district in the state.

Ted McCulley, Central resident

During the last decade, I have gained immense respect and admiration for Mike Faulk. Many of us would be hard pressed to outwork Mike. I recall calling him one Sunday afternoon about a personal matter and he was in his office preparing for a Monday night school board meeting.

Mike has proven himself, not only as the leader of Central Community School System but also as a community leader.

Mike once asked the school board to allow him to create six new positions in the school system. The school board allowed him only three. Even though he needed six, he found a way to “make do” with three.

I think part of Mike’s legacy will be that he has worked diligently to establish the “community concept” in the school system.

David Prescott, Principal Central High School

I will be forever grateful for the chance he gave me to serve as principal at Central High. He has been a mentor and a friend over the years. I appreciate the fact that he has given me the chance he gave me to serve as principal. Central a virtual unknown. It did not take long to realize that the new superintendent was a workaholic. The board also realized quickly that its superintendent was extremely knowledgeable, fair, even tempered and dependable. His knowledge on the MFP is beyond compare. Very often he is invited to speak at most local and state meetings about the MFP. We jokingly ask him if we really had “to go and listen to him again.” He certainly manages our funds well.

Mike Faulk was indeed the perfect choice to build this school system during its inception.

Roxanne Atkinson, Member Central School Board

The things I like most about Mike Faulk are many. I see him as very kind, always willing to help, listen, and teach. He is also highly intelligent with an amazing work ethic. His hobby was making the Central Community School System the best and he worked hard at that. He is a wonderful husband to Peggy, father to his children, and really enjoys the role of grandfather. During our time working together, he also became my friend, a friendship I value because of his wisdom, compassion, and Godly character.

Coach Sid Edwards, Head Coach and AD, Central School System

Mike Faulk has meant a lot to me over these last 10 years. He has taken care of my two boys unlike anyone else has — in particular Jack. Mike Faulk worked with me and Godly character.

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See FAULK on Page 19
THE CITY OF CENTRAL INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR
Christmas in Central Square
DEC. 2 • 5 PM - 8:30 PM

Snowzilla Jr.  Ice Skating

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Horse & Carriage Rides • Snow Train Rides • Princesses • Carousel Santa and Much More!!!
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2017-2018 CHS Basketball Schedule

| Nov 28 | Livonia | H |
| Dec 6 | Kinsley Touney | H |
| Dec 16 | False River | H |
| Dec 21 | St. Michael | H |
| Feb 2 | Live Oak | B |
| Feb 9 | Zachary | H |
| Feb 13 | Demopolis | H |
| Feb 16 | Walker | H |

Head Coach: Brian Hargreer

Prairieville, Brandon LaGrue, Matthew Edwards, Carl DiLuna

Freshman Games at 5 p.m., JV Games at 6 p.m. and Varsity Games at 7:15 p.m.
For More Information on Claims, Go to

Continued from Previous Page
Central Challenged No. 1 Ranked Rebels

West Monroe Topped Central 51-15

Coin toss with #2 BJ Calhoun, #22 Quint Guerin and #53 Todd Lasseigne

#39 Isaiah Rankins leaves the Rebels behind

Quarterback Sam Kennerson and the Offensive Line waiting for play

Players and cheerleaders sing the Alma Mater

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West Monroe 51 • Central 15
Nov. 10 • 1st Round 5A State Playoffs
Photos by Jolice Provost of Central City News
Faulk Leaves ‘Big Shoes to Fill’

and my schedule in order for Beanie and I to take care of our boys. This is rare stuff that most people would not do, but Mr. Faulk knew what Jack Ryan needed. We will be forever indebted to him for his care for Jack Ryan and Chase

Morris Summers
Central Resident

It must be very difficult to fill the shoes of the man you have set an example for future superintendents. Mr. Faulk has made a good decision. Ten years later, I know that he will not disappoint. Mr. Faulk has taken the responsibility of guiding a new school system with enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence.

Dr. Rhonda Taylor, Principal

Central Intermediate School

My time in the Central Community School System is better because of it. Supt.-Elect Dr. Jason Fountain Mr. Faulk has meant a lot to me because he has taken me under his wing and mentored me throughout my time in the Central Community School System. From my early days at Tanglewood Elementary through my time at Central Middle School and the Central Office, Mr. Faulk has balanced the nuances of autonomy and guidance. He gives lots of room for individuals to work and try new things, and he balances that with guidance when it is needed. Mr. Faulk has provided me the opportunity to grow and learn over the last nine years.

The thing I most admire about Mr. Faulk is his fierce resolve. Once he makes a decision, there is no turning back. He reminds me of the story of early explorers who would “burn the boats” when they reached a new shore. This act would eliminate any notion of retreat, and force the exploration party to move forward. When Mr. Faulk took the helm in 2007, there was no turning back. From day one, Mr. Faulk has proved to be a strong, resolute leader. To whatever heights we may achieve, Mr. Faulk will always be a cornerstone of that success.

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November 30, 2017

Thursday, November 30, 2017 19
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Meet Richard O’Quinn and learn of his work treating concussions.

Watch these two videos to meet Greta Spengler and learn about the benefits of dry needling.

Click here to meet Kara Kinchen Licensed Massage Therapist and learn about her work with massage therapy.

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2017 Shop Small Business Central Christmas Campaign Through Dec. 10
Shop local for a chance to win a $1,500 shopping spree! For a list of participating merchants go to: cityofcentralchamber.com

Drive Thru Light Show Christmas at Blue Bayou Now through Jan. 7 6 to 11:30 p.m.
Come start a new family tradition and drive thru over a mile of custom lights synchronized to music for you to listen to through your own car radio! Tickets are sold at the gate with cash, credit card and debit card for $28 per car.

The Polar Express La. Art & Science Center Every Sat. Now to Dec. 16 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Join us as we light the Chambers Community Christmas Tree at the corner of Hooper Rd and Sullivan Rd. Featuring the CMS Choir, CHS Jazz Band and the Blackwater United Methodist Church Bell Choir. Mayor Shelton will read the Christmas Story for children gathered for the event.

31st Annual Central Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 2 • 10 a.m. Parade will line up at 7 a.m. at Zoor Baptist Church, 11848 Hooper. The route will travel up Joor Rd. to Lovett Rd. on the corner of Joor Rd and Hooper Rd.

2nd Annual Christmas in Central Square Sat., Dec. 2 • 5 to 8:30 p.m.
This year’s Christmas in Central Square is going to be bigger and better with awesome attractions to kick off the official City of Central Christmas light display. Ice Skating, Slide down Snowzilla Jr. Reel Sneaux, Carousel Rides, Polar Express Train Rides, Photos with the Snow Princesses, Games and S’mores by BREC, A live Nativity presented by Life Church. We are cutting down on the lines by offering Horse & Carriage and Horse and Wagon Rides!

Don’t forget! Santa arrives by fire truck to take photos with the kids! We will also have a stage this year with performances by Charles Brooks. The Jazz Vibrophonist and the Jazz Trio performing Christmas carols. We are shutting down the whole square for the big event. Roads will be closed right before the entrance to Central Buffett. Parking will be located in the Walmart parking lot and the parking lot in the shopping center across the street (where the Na-goya, Caliente, Jack in the Box, are located) Shuttles will be running throughout the night to bring people to and from the event. It’s going to be an amazing time with food, family, friends, and fun! We can’t wait to see you there!

Holiday First Sunday La Art & Science Center Sunday, Dec. 3 • 1 to 4 p.m.
Have some time with your friends or family at this special Holiday First Sunday at the Art & Science Museum! Explore the galleries, strike a pose in front of the famous Coca-Cola Holiday Calendar and meet Santa Claus! Free admission to the galleries, $6 reduced admission to planetarium shows.

Holiday Lights Kick Off Supt. Mike Faulk • 4 to 6 p.m. CCS Cafeteria Monday, Dec. 4 The Central community will honor retiring Supt. Mike Faulk with a reception followed by a performance by the CHS Jazz Band and the Blackwater United Methodist Church Bell Choir, Mayor Shelton will read the Christmas story for children gathered for the event.

Family Night, Holiday Lights Baton Rouge General Starting Dec. 7 • 6 to 8 p.m. On Thursday evenings our BRGLights display transforms into a winter wonderland with real snow — 3 tons of it! Grab your gloves and come play. Santa Claus will be there and many activities too! #HeartRadio will have a live remote. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served and more! With special performances by the Broadmoor Baptist Church of Baton Rouge Sanctuary Choir, Baton Rouge Community Center for Visual and Performing Arts Choristers, Baton Rouge Magnet High School Festival Singers. It’s all free! Make sure to tag @BRGLights and use the hashtag #BRGLights on Facebook and Instagram for more chances to win prizes.

Breakfast with Santa Istrouma High School Gym Saturday, Dec. 9 • 8 to 11 a.m. Kids under 11 free. Age 11-18 $3. Adults $5. Come meet Santa and have your photo taken free. Sponsored by the Istrouma Kiwanis Club. All proceeds to benefit Istrouma High School.

Remembering Our Children Candlelight Service St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Sunday, Dec. 10 • 6 p.m. The Kids in Ministry Annual Christmas Party St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Saturday, Dec. 16 • 2 to 4 p.m. The Kids in Ministry Annual Christmas Party will be held Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the St. Francis Room.

KIDS CRIBS

Nightly Specials at Colonel’s Corner Bistro
SUNDAY NEW HOURS 11am - 7 pm
Kids 12 & Under Eat Free & Kids Karaoke 2 - 5 pm • Saints Game Specials MONDAY 11am - 9pm Kids 12 & Under Eat Free 5 - 9 pm • Twinkle the Clown 5 - 8pm TUESDAY 11 am - 9 pm Kid 12 & Under Eat Free 5 - 9 pm • Drink Specials WEDNESDAY 11am - Till • Kitchen Closes at 9pm Steak Night • Live Music 6-9 THURSDAY 11am - Till • Kitchen Closes at 9pm All You Can Eat Wings FRIDAY 11am - Till • Kitchen Closes at 9pm Couples Night • Free App w/ 2 Entrees SATURDAY 11am - 9pm $5 Burger & Fries • 1/2 Priced Appetizers • 2 FOR 1 Wells • $1 Draft • $11 Bucket

Colonel’s Corner at Central Square is all set for the holidays.
Central Volleyball Coach Could Win $25,000

Beautiful Video Documents Work Of Central Coach Since 2016 Flood

CENTRAL — Central High volleyball coach Michele LeBouef is one of five finalists in the nation in the running to receive a grant for $25,000 in recognition of her work with the volleyball especially in the aftermath of last year’s flood. The contest sponsored by Quicken Loans includes a beautiful video telling the story of each contestant. The public has until Dec. 8 to cast their votes at milesplit.com/articles/228259-vote-now-the-2017-hometown-heroes-award-presented-by-quicken-loans.

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS Central Drug Store is not associated with the new pharmacy advertised on Sullivan Rd. To prevent confusion in the future, be sure to tell your medical providers that you use CENTRAL DRUG STORE on HOOPER RD.

We offer a variety of vaccinations including, but not limited to:
Gardasil (HPV) • Menactra (Meningitis)
Pneumovax 23 (Pneumonia) • Prevnar (Pneumonia)
Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) • Zostavax (Shingles)

Vaccinations Given Mon-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  No Appointment Needed
and on Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

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Vaccinations Given Mon-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  No Appointment Needed
and on Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

If a vaccine is not listed, please call to see if we can order it!
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To Watch the video of Coach LeBouef, download the QR code reader and point your phone at this box to right.

Fax resume to
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CENTRAL VOLLEYBALL COACH Michele LeBouef is in the running to win $25,000 as one of America’s Hometown Heroes sponsored by Quicken Loans, if enough people vote for her online at milesplit.com/articles/228259-vote-now-the-2017-hometown-heroes-award-presented-by-quicken-loans. She is being recognized for her work as a coach especially during the flood last year.

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that I cannot remember a time when he lost his temper or seemed irritated. I remember vividly his telling the board that we should remain calm, always do the right thing because the cream will always rise to the top. He doesn’t love golf or fishing or hunting. He loves his God, his family, his job, and the Central Community School System profited from that love.

Roxanne Atkinson, Member
Central School Board

I did not know Mike well before I was elected to the school board. I saw him then as reserved and business like. However, on the night I won, I saw a completely different side to him. The rest of the elected school board and Mr. Faulk showed up at my house after I just won. I was so excited!!! He was the first one I saw on my front porch. I ran out to greet him and I remember hugging him and jumping up and down with him, saying something like, “I’m so excited!!” and he just looked at me and laughed out loud. I then realized I had maybe been a little too enthusiastic, but he just hugged me back and said, “Enjoy this moment. We will have plenty of time to work later.” We then went inside, and he led us all in a prayer for our school board, our teachers, staff, our families and our students. His prayer that night showed me that not only was he a leader with integrity, knowledge and courage but that God was his source for it all.

Morris Summers, Central resident
Mr. Faulk and I share a private joke. At least, it was private until today! While having dinner with a large party of friends, I inadvertently claimed his dinner order and ate it! (To those who know me well, I’m always hungry.) Afterwards, he laughed and informed me that I had eaten his meal! If we are having dinner, he reminds me to this day to be there and check my order!

Rhonda Taylor, Principal
Central Intermediate School

At the beginning of the Central School District, Mr. Faulk was continuously visiting our schools and walking the halls. I told him I needed to have a signal so that when he drove up in the parking lot I could let the staff know he was coming in to visit. I gave him the name “Black Faulk Down” from the movie Black Hawk Down. We would jokingly announce on the intercom “Black Faulk Down” to let everyone know he was coming. We have laughed about that for all these years.

One of our students told his teacher, “There is a man out there in the hall. He is always walking around here. Maybe we need to check on him.” His teacher assured him that Mr. Faulk was ok to be in the building. He is the Superintendent. I will miss working with this great man. He is truly a GIANT in his field and in his community.

Supt.-elect Jason Fountain

My favorite story about Mr. Faulk: When we had our first child, Ainsley, the staff at CMS/TEES held a baby shower for us. When we were going through the gifts, we saw a pack of diapers and it had written on it was “gpa Faulk.” So, from that day until now, anytime the kids are around Mr. Faulk, we refer to him as Grandpa Faulk. It just goes back to the love that Mr. Faulk has for family and his staff. That has always been a special story that I share about Mr. Faulk.

Associate Supt. Sandy Davis

Mr. Faulk is impec ciable work ethic. He is to be admired for the countless hours of commitment to fulfilling the job of superintendent. His dedication of time and effort goes way beyond a normal work day. For the countless hours of commitment to not just doing his job, but doing what it takes to do it so well.

Russell Starns, Past President
Central School Board

One of the things I most enjoyed was standing on the sidelines with Supt. Faulk during Central football games. He is a former football coach and knows the game very well. We always had a good time talking about the game.

Laurie Gehling, Principal
Bellingrath Hills Elementary

For the past 11 years, Mr. Faulk has shared his heritage to bring the Cajun Night Before Christmas to life. Every year he takes time out of his busy schedule to send the story to our students. Cajun accent and all!! It’s difficult to tell who enjoys the experiences more, Mr. Faulk, the children, or the parents. Even though he’s retiring, Mr. Faulk has promised to return each standing on the sidelines as an art of storytelling with us. The students and faculty of Bellingrath Hills Elementary want to send Mr. Faulk our best wishes and this Cajun blessing “May there always be crawfish in your nets and gumbo in your pot.”