

# NEWS



June 2017

## Retirements



**Joetta Harris**, special education teacher for grades 7 and higher, is retiring after 40 years of service at Centerville. Her first and only other year of teaching was in Marion, Indiana.

When she considers how things are different now as she ends her fortieth year here, Mrs. Harris thinks of the computer she uses primarily now instead of books. She thinks of Youtube, which she uses to show movies now instead of 16mm films. She thinks of the worksheets that she finds online now that have replaced the mimeograph machines that she used to print copies for her students in the past. Mrs. Harris said she has spent much more time testing students in recent years and less time actually teaching and interacting with students.

After having foot surgery in July, Mrs. Harris plans to continue her volunteer work at Centerville Christian Church and Hope House, a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. She will also continue her work with Relay for Life.

“Beyond that, my plan is to take time to figure out what God has in store for me to do after I finish my teaching career,” she said.

What special memories will she take with her as she leaves?

“I would have to say having the opportunity to work with so many amazing administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff members,” she said. “Also, getting to teach, coach and encourage some fantastic Bulldog students.”

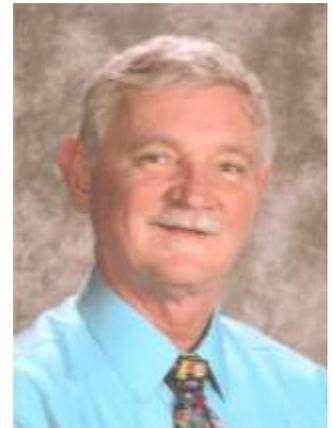
Mrs. Harris is married to Dana Harris.

**Michael Moore** retires after nearly 40 years as a school psychologist, 25 of those years at Centerville-Abington Schools.

“I have been privileged to work at Centerville-Abington Community Schools as school psychologist and special education coordinator,” said Mr. Moore. “I will truly miss working at Centerville with the best students, best teacher, best support staff and best administrators of any corporation anywhere.”

Mr. Moore began his career at Richmond State Hospital in 1979 as a behavioral clinician on the children’s unit, a position he held for 12 years. He is a past president of the Indiana Association of School Psychologists and was an adjunct professor at Ivy Tech and Indiana University East teaching general psychology, life span development and educational psychology. Mr. Moore also served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1971-1973, stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Mr. Moore and his wife of 40 years have two grown children and 11 grandchildren. He plans to move to West Virginia after he retires.



## 2007 I-STAR Award recipients

In the summer of 1984, eight area high schools developed a principals’ forum for exchanging ideas. The principals decided that schools needed a program to honor outstanding educators and students, and they developed the Indiana Student Teacher Achievement Recognition, or I-STAR.

Our 2017 I-STAR Award recipients are **Sophia Neher**, who nominated teacher **Ben Snyder; Bennett Walther**, who nominated **Damon Anderson; and Lizzy Walther**, who selected **Joetta Harris**.

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## Academic teams finish among top teams at state contest

### May contest ends impressive year of competition

Congratulations to the high school math team of **Parker Gray, Preston Lambert, Nancy Nguyen, Kevin Nguyen** and **Coach Matt Lung** for placing fifth and to the science team of **Grace Olive, Emilie Deibel, Preston Lambert** and **Coach Michelle Moore** for placing fourth in the state competition on May 6 at Purdue University. Mrs. Moore said this is a great achievement given that there were 267 teams at the competition.

The teams began studying and practicing in October. The topic this year was the French Revolution so the teams studied materials related to France during that period in history. For example, the English study guide included *A Tale of Two Cities*, and the math and science teams studied French scientists and mathematicians and their areas of contribution. Each team researched and studied until January when the local meets began.

“This year the math team was undefeated at our local meets, and the science team had double the scores of the other teams at some meets,” said Mrs. Moore. The teams competed in an invitational at Blue River Valley School Corporation in February that included nearly 20 teams.

“Both the math and the science team won first place plaques, which is amazing since we compete there against both large and small schools,” said Mrs. Moore. “It is difficult to place at all, let alone get first place.” The interdisciplinary team won fourth place at that competition.

Students completed the regular season with their regional competition at Richmond on April 18. Because there are 22 regionals and only the top seven teams get to advance to the state competition, schools can win their regional but still not qualify for state competition.

“We were very happy to find out the next day that both the math and science teams not only won the regional, but also qualified for the state competition,” said Mrs. Moore. The science team had the highest score in the state, and the math team had the fifth highest score in the state.

## Elementary student science projects earn recognition by school board



Elementary students who placed at the regional or state science competition were recognized by the Centerville-Abington school board on April 26. From left to right: **Elizabeth Nevels**, regional honorable mention and Science Yearbook Award; **Avery Dickerson**, regional first place and Scientific Imagination in Physical Science Award; **Cailin Ballenger**, regional third place and certificate and cash award at state competition for “Best project related to the science and engineering in Tribology” (the study of friction and interacting surfaces in relative motion); **Lillyan Dickerson**, regional honorable mention; **Drake Shadle**, regional first place and Broadcom Masters (top 10% in junior division). Drake also received the following awards

at state competition: Award for Excellence in the Field of Chemistry or Chemical Biology, Naval Science Award from the the Office of Naval Research, and a U.S. Metric Association award for the best use of the International System of Units (SI). **Brady Moore**, far right, received regional honorable mention and Scientific Imagination in Physical Science Award. **Andy Purcell**, left of Brady, received regional first place.

Other students who placed at regional competition, but did not attend the school board meeting, were **Lizzie Parker** and **Kaylyn Wolfal**, honorable mention; **Conner Frazier**, second place; and **Trevor Thornburg**, first place.

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## Family fun

On March 21, Rose Hamilton Elementary School hosted “Hooked on a Book,” a pirate-themed family literacy night. The event was well attended and included a variety of literacy-based activities for families and students to enjoy, including digging for letters in the sand, fishing for sight words, and navigating an obstacle course called “Walk the Plank.” A prop station with an ocean and ship backdrop was available for photographs.

Drama Club sponsor Shannon Nevels and teacher Jessica Anderson coordinated the event, with help from Trisha Elsrod and the Rose Hamilton PTO. Also assisting were Carol Pentecost from Centerville-Center Township Public Library and the Centerville Junior High School Drama Club.

*At right, kindergarten teachers Angela Hoskins, Tisha Short and Jessica Anderson.*

*Left, Peyton Delucio, a student teacher, helps at the family literacy night.*



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## Fifth-graders go camping



*Fifth-graders went on an overnight camping trip at Indiana's Jameson Camp in May. Activities included an obstacle course, hiking and team-building exercises. Students slept in cabins and roasted marshmallows for s'mores over a campfire. Principal Kelly VanWinkle said it was a great opportunity for students who had never been camping.*

*“Many fifth grade math, language arts, and science standards are addressed in the activities students participate in during the trip,” she said. The \$25 cost per camper was paid with donations and funds raised by fifth-grade teachers.*

