

Community Support

Annual Report 2006



LAKE WALES
CHARTER SCHOOLS

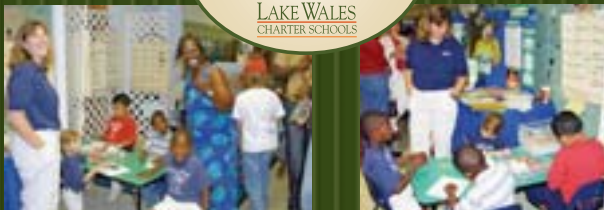


Great Community Support



The Lake Wales High School Alumni Association held a fully attended banquet during Homecoming Week to honor and induct the first four members of the Teachers Hall of Fame (above).

The Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation and eleven local restaurants sponsored the first Charter Schools EXPO at the high school showcasing the achievements of all five charter schools to the community (below).



LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Board of Trustees



Jennifer Barrow



Gail Crum



Robin Gibson



Clinton Horne



Terrye Howell



Joyce M. Otte



David Ullman

We are a "Great Town Creating Great Schools!"



Dr. Clint Wright

This year's annual report is an expression of gratitude to the Lake Wales community. When it comes right down to it, what distinguishes the Lake Wales Charter School System

from most public schools is the support and commitment of the community.

The inspiration for the charter schools was the outstanding achievements of our schools years ago when the community had its own school system. The results of a survey taken in 2002 showed that the community was ready to once again take responsibility for the quality of its schools. The charter system was planned and implemented in 2003 by a Chamber of

Commerce-sponsored Steering Committee and Subcommittees composed of the community's school personnel and civic leaders.

Ever since the charter schools were opened in August of 2004, virtually every segment of the community has contributed to a successful beginning:

- Three local banks advanced start-up funds that were personally guaranteed by local businesses and civic leaders.
- Florida's Natural provided financial support and the services for printing of applications for all five charter schools.
- First Presbyterian Church has, for three years, provided the facilities for our Even Start Program.

- First Baptist Church hosted the charter system's first annual opening ceremonies and school events in its dining hall and sanctuary.
- The City of Lake Wales will be conveying the historic City Hall to Polk Community College for use as a branch campus.
- Polk Community College will be expending millions of dollars to renovate the historic City Hall to provide dual enrollment and college opportunities for Lake Wales students and community.
- The Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation has launched a \$1 million Great Schools Campaign to supplement public funding of the charter schools. All sixteen of the Board's directors have contributed to and are working for the success of the campaign.
- Many school personnel, community members, and local businesses have contributed toward the \$1 million goal which wraps up on December 31, 2006. Goal attainment is within reach.
- Community leaders and local restaurants organized the first Charter Schools EXPO to showcase the achievements of each of the five charter schools.
- As shown on the cover, Historic Bok Sanctuary hosted the graduation ceremonies for the class of 2006. Bok Sanctuary is also providing curriculum support for the Edward W. Bok Academy.
- Warner Southern College is working with the Charter System to provide a campus site for the Edward W. Bok Academy.



Administrators of the Lake Wales Charter Schools, from left, top row: Steven Whitaker, Damien Moses, Ken Henson; middle row: Gail Quam, Debra Stinson, Clark Berry, Donna Dunson; bottom row: Eugene Kendrick, Elizabeth Tyler, Debbie Hunt, Beverly Lynne, Chris Reams.

- Lake Wales High School alumni have formed an Alumni Association to foster and enhance friendships among the school's alumni and to support and strengthen the school's mission for the benefit of its current students.
- The Charter Schools have combined with the City of Lake Wales, Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce, Lake Wales Medical Center, and the Lake Wales Ministerial Association to form the Lake Wales Vision Group to collectively advance community improvement.
- Volunteers from 20 community organizations are participating in the charter system sponsored Governor's Family Literacy Program.

As we look across the country, we read and hear of successful case studies demonstrating that one of the most important components for quality schools is community buy-in and support. We agree.

Our schools have come a long way in two years. The successes have been accomplished because of the tremendous support of our administrators, teachers, parents and our community leaders.

To the community of Lake Wales – the Charter System is forever grateful. To our educational family we are proud to be a system where our teachers believe and our children achieve.

Dr. Clint Wright
Superintendent

Joyce M. Otte
Chair, Board of Trustees



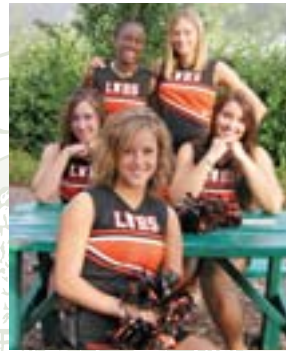
LAKE WALES HIGH SCHOOL

Clark Berry, *Principal*

Debra Stinson, *Assistant Principal*

Eugene Kendrick, *Assistant Principal*

Chris Reams, *Assistant Principal*



Student Demographics

Enrollment – 1382

Male – 706

Female – 676

Minority – 44%

Economically Disadvantaged
(free/reduced lunch) – 48%

LEP (Limited English
Proficient) – 2.6%

Home of the Highlanders

One Highlander Way

Lake Wales, Florida 33853

(863) 678-4222

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Lake Wales High School is to inspire and challenge all learners to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive environment where we teach the skills needed to succeed as responsible citizens in a changing society.

Lake Wales High School continues to identify the educational strengths and needs of our students. The school family provides a positive educational environment that fosters a continuous desire to learn.

Classroom instruction models have been developed to reflect “best practices” according to the academic research on student learning and instructional technologies. To facilitate more student interaction and the use and understanding of our technological world, Lake Wales High School has installed 26 Promethean Boards to enhance instruction across the curriculum. Students in all subjects are experiencing the benefit of this interactive learning tool.

In addition to the Promethean Boards, Lake Wales High School has acquired 400 licenses for the Read 180 program that allows our reading teachers to customize and differentiate instruction for the students’ individual needs. Public and private funds have been combined to greatly enhance the technology available for use in the science courses.

Student needs are the primary focus for curriculum development and staff training. Through collaborative training sessions, the staff has developed an Instructional Focus Calendar that allows for all teachers to instruct, evaluate, and remediate students on critical skills in reading and math. Saturday Academies have been provided for students who

would like to enhance their skills in preparation for the FCAT, SAT and ACT.

Staff development has also focused on Advanced Placement courses and the creation of a Pre-AP program of study to prepare a growing number of students for advanced course work. Lake Wales High School strives to provide the educational opportunities for our diverse student population to achieve success both academically and socially.





DALE R. FAIR BABSON PARK ELEMENTARY



Ken Henson, *Principal*
Elizabeth Tyler, *Assistant Principal*



Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary School

continues to thrive as a charter school. The focus on community, family, and lifelong learning has become the building blocks for student success and high achievement.

Community and family events were prevalent during the 2005-2006 school year. New to the list of events was All Pro Dad's Night which brought dads and kids together at school for fun, food, and prizes. The focus of All Pro Dad's Night is to provide an opportunity for fathers to spend quality time with their children while discovering other ways to become an "All Pro Dad."

The Old Fashioned Picnic gave our parents an opportunity to enjoy a picnic-style lunch with their children at school. We grilled hot dogs and listened to musical entertainment outdoors.

The Fall Carnival is a long-standing community event that provides an afternoon of fun and games. This event continues to be one of the highlights of the year for not only the students and families but for the extended community as well.

The "Bring Your Parent to School Day" is a program that started just a few years ago. Parents are invited to "come back to school" for one day and see just what has stayed the same and what has changed. Parents participate in lessons and activities side-by-side with their child.

The school held its first ever Student Art Show during the 2005-2006 school year. This event brought parents to the school to view the wonderful art work students had created during the school year.

These events and others, such as Breakfast with Santa, PTA Parent Workshops, Media Center and Computer Lab nights, and other parent involvement programs continue to be critical components of the foundation being built for each child at Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary School.

Student Demographics

Enrollment – 449 students

Male – 230

Female – 219

Minority – 29%

Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 55.7%

LEP (Limited English Proficient) – .9%

Home of the Gnats

815 North Scenic Highway

Babson Park, Florida 33827

(863) 678-4664



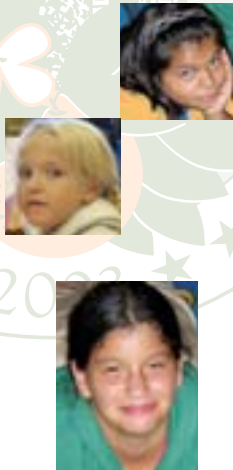
HILLCREST ELEMENTARY

Damien Moses, *Principal*
 Debbie Hunt, *Assistant Principal*



Student Demographics

Enrollment – 612
Male – 314
Female – 298
Minority – 46%
Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 74%
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 9%
Home of the Hawks
1051 State Road 60
Lake Wales, Florida 33853
(863) 678-4216



In its 51st year, Hillcrest was proud to be a Five Star School again! We hold true to our mission toward each child's success. For our staff, also, we uphold high standards. Instructors are adept at teaching the academics in a manner that integrates the basics of math, reading, writing, and science into the arts.

Through the course of the year, school-wide multicultural themes are threaded through the academics and arts. Students are immersed in cultures as they learn reading, writing, math, and science. Last year's themes were Egypt, Germany, Italy, and the Caribbean.

Our teachers use research-based strategies to enrich their lessons. Some programs used school-wide are Kagan Cooperative Learning, Thinking Maps, Accelerated Reader, FCAT Explorer, Compass, and Leapfrog.

The Reading Coach coordinates the reading program and works with teachers as they analyze student test data and use it to plan for instruction.

The Math Resource teacher shows the classroom teacher the most effective math strategies to use with their students. Weekly, the Science Lab



Instructor actively engages students in "hands-on" learning.

Hillcrest students take part in a variety of visual and performing arts classes. Fourth and fifth graders choose from these, an "arts major" and attend these classes daily for more time to study and hone the skills of their special interest.

Our parents and community are very important to us. At the beginning of the year, parents sign a compact agreeing to support the teachers' effort to best educate their children. The teachers meet with parents regularly to report on the students' progress.

In the community, we take part in Change for Heart, Lake Wales Clean-up, Care Center Food Drive, Jump-Rope for Heart, Veterans' Day and Christmas Parade, Rotary Camp, Relay for Life, and Art Center activities. Our Performing Arts groups often perform at local community events.

MISSION STATEMENT
Hillcrest Hawks will learn, create, perform, communicate, cooperate, explore and soar to their highest potential in an encouraging, enriching environment. Hawks will leave the nest seeking the adventure of life long learning.



JANIE HOWARD WILSON ELEMENTARY

Beverly Lynne, *Principal*
 Steven Whitaker, *Assistant Principal*



Dedicated in 1964,

Janie Howard Wilson was named after a prominent educator in the Lake Wales community. Our vision for the school reflects that of our namesake – to become a highly respected school with academic excellence being the norm.

Last year, our staff and students worked diligently to improve our school grade to an A. The high learning gains our students made were recognized by the state. We all take pride in being a Five Star School for the past nine out of ten years.

We are also proud that one of our teachers was recognized as first runner up for Teacher of the Year by the Polk County Charter Schools Association.

Janie Howard Wilson is special in that it is located adjacent to 86 acres of Florida scrub – Grassy Lake Preserve. Because of this proximity, our staff and students have been able to work with the Nature Conservancy and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to map and establish trails and identify endangered plants and animals. Progress Energy also has provided resources for this project.

Two Science Lab Teachers have brought the world of science to our students through hands-on activities that enable them to connect their learning to the real world.

As a Reading First school we receive financial and professional support through the district. Our Reading Coach models for K-3 teachers the most effective research-based reading strategies.

All classroom teachers provide data-driven instruction that is differentiated for each student.

All staff holds firm to the belief that early interventions provide the most effective results.

Our K-Week summer program and the Kindergarten Support program offer extra

help for students most challenged by the structure of the traditional Kindergarten.

With the support of our dedicated staff, Janie Howard Wilson students will be prepared both academically and socially for their future.

Student Demographics

Enrollment – 617

Male – 321

Female – 296

Minority – 57.4%

Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 84%

LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 7.6

Home of the Silver Streaks

306 Florida Avenue

Lake Wales, Florida 33853

(863) 678-4211

MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of Janie Howard Wilson Elementary is to provide a safe and caring environment where all students can be prepared academically and socially for our future society.
 “Learning for all – whatever it takes.”*



POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY

Donna Dunson, *Principal*
 Gail Quam, *Assistant Principal*



Student Demographics

Enrollment – 573
Male – 303
Female – 270
Minority – 55.5%
Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) – 82.7%
LEP (Limited English Proficient) – 13.8%
Home of the Cardinals
110 East Polk Avenue
Lake Wales, Florida 33853
(863) 678-4244

Our success requires

that all staff believe it is possible to change the lives of children. This belief drives our decisions, whether related to academics, behavior, or wellness.

Polk Avenue earned a “B” for 2005-2006. This year, our highly-qualified teachers will use special math and reading programs to push student math and reading gains higher. As last year’s writing scores soared, we will continue the same methods of intensive instruction for students most in need.

Our ever-increasing Hispanic population is important to us in that it helps prepare our students for the multicultural future. Our bi-lingual teachers work with these children to help them become more proficient in English.

We value the use of technology at The Avenue. The classroom use of Promethean Boards has increased student engagement tremendously. Leap Frog products are loaned to students for home use to encourage parent involvement with the children’s learning.

The Avenue’s Organic Farm project teaches our students responsibility as it cultivates a



concern for the environment and others. Students will sell vegetables and sunflowers from the fall garden.

Our Science Lab instructor was the recipient of the 2006 Florida Science Teacher-of-the-Year Award. She will be considered nationally for a comparable award. The Hydrogen Project sponsored by Progress Energy took place in the spring. Our students learned about the future of hydrogen and were honored at a Hydrogen and Solar Conference in Orlando. Progress Energy continues to be a great partner for Polk Avenue.

Our boys’ and girls’ track team won the city meet last spring. The success of this is due, in part, to our Lap Program which prepares our students well. Physical fitness is an important part of the students’ day at The Avenue.

Our Karate instructor teaches students the amazing connection between mind, body, and spirit. The top Sho Rai Kai students competed in five tournaments taking numerous gold medals. (Sho Rai Kai means “House of Peace and Manners.”)



MISSION STATEMENT

Polk Avenue is committed to each child reaching his/her full potential through a challenging integrated program that provides a global perspective in warm and caring environment.



Statement of Net Assets

For the year ended, June 30, 2006

	DALE R. FAIR BABSON PARK ELEMENTARY	HILLCREST ELEMENTARY	JANIE HOWARD WILSON ELEMENTARY	LAKE WALES HIGH SCHOOL	POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY	TOTAL
ASSETS						
Accounts receivable	\$ 31,108	\$ 137,962	\$ 97,363	\$ 76,184	\$ 69,341	\$ 411,958
Prepaid expenses	22	498	22	1,012	22	1,576
Due from central administrative office	(529,499)	181,339	284,563	1,354,152	42,480	1,333,025
Capital assets:						
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	199,056	140,309	199,820	547,567	117,234	1,203,986
Less accumulated depreciation	(42,261)	(29,439)	(36,159)	(112,274)	(21,355)	(241,488)
Total capital assets, net	156,795	110,870	163,661	435,293	95,879	962,498
Total assets	\$ (341,574)	\$ 430,669	\$ 545,609	\$ 1,866,641	\$ 207,722	\$ 2,709,067
LIABILITIES						
Accounts receivable and accrued expenses	\$ 165,243	\$ 186,431	\$ 206,209	\$ 365,464	\$ 194,435	\$ 1,117,782
Deferred revenue	33,964	649	21,285	29,753	45,812	131,463
Compensated absences payable	90,171	74,073	80,294	195,360	73,499	513,397
Total liabilities	\$ 289,378	\$ 261,153	\$ 307,788	\$ 590,577	\$ 313,746	\$ 1,762,642
NET ASSETS						
Invested in capital assets	\$ 156,795	\$ 110,870	\$ 163,661	\$ 435,293	\$ 95,879	\$ 962,498
Restricted for capital outlay	—	—	—	156,897	—	156,897
Unrestricted	(787,747)	58,646	74,160	683,874	(201,903)	(172,970)
Total net assets	(630,952)	169,516	237,821	1,276,064	(106,024)	946,425
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ (341,574)	\$ 430,669	\$ 545,609	\$ 1,866,641	\$ 207,722	\$ 2,709,067

About the finances...

Disciplined budget actions by the Board of Trustees and the administration paid financial dividends, creating a financial reserve for the System at the end of its second year of operation.

Looking ahead to the third year, fiscal year 2006-07, the Lake Wales Charter Schools foresee continued growth in student enrollment, resulting in additional revenue and expense obligations. Continued budget discipline should see an

increase in the System's financial reserve. The System has never had to draw on its line of credit, has no outstanding debt obligations, has been commended by its independent auditors, and is now preparing for the addition of the Edward W. Bok Academy Middle School as part of the Lake Wales Charter School System.

Brian Fisher, Chief Financial Officer



Statement of Governmental Activities

For the year ended, June 30, 2006

	<u>DALE R. FAIR BABSON PARK ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>HILLCREST ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>JANIE HOWARD WILSON ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>LAKE WALES HIGH SCHOOL</u>	<u>POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>GENERAL REVENUES</u>						
Federal sources	\$ 206,167	\$ 240,028	\$ 236,146	\$ 370,803	\$ 233,806	\$ 1,286,950
State and local sources	2,393,109	3,226,414	3,227,469	7,880,984	3,159,194	19,887,170
Contributions and other revenue	464,175	310,982	185,898	407,200	436,341	1,804,596
Total general revenues	3,063,451	3,777,424	3,649,513	8,658,987	3,829,341	22,978,716
<u>GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES</u>						
Instruction	2,124,346	2,187,072	2,053,664	4,466,553	2,164,863	12,996,498
Pupil personnel services	83,384	133,586	198,572	303,571	187,501	906,614
Instructional media	106,331	80,807	88,673	151,996	49,496	477,303
Instruction and curriculum development	133,254	150,144	187,915	132,750	157,593	761,656
Instructional staff training	325	24,486	64,687	12,115	41,524	143,127
Board of Education	10,500	11,500	12,000	13,000	10,000	57,000
School administration	403,090	398,593	386,750	1,985,937	414,648	3,589,837
Fiscal services	120,806	132,355	134,563	145,714	137,642	671,100
Central services	—	—	—	1,598	—	1,598
Transportation	41,888	47,277	88,799	125,798	32,227	335,989
Operation of plant	192,497	267,096	254,393	818,406	263,746	1,796,138
Maintenance of plant	—	—	—	35,748	—	35,748
Capital outlay	—	—	—	23,712	8,896	232,608
Total primary government	3,217,240	3,432,916	3,470,036	8,416,898	3,468,136	22,005,226
Change in net assets, '05-'06	(153,789)	344,508	179,477	242,089	361,205	973,490
Net assets forward from '04-'05	(477,163)	(174,992)	58,344	1,033,975	(467,229)	(27,065)
Net assets at end of year	\$ (630,952)	\$ 169,516	\$ 237,821	\$ 1,276,064	\$ (106,024)	\$ 946,425



THE 2006 HONOR ROLL

We express our deepest gratitude to the donors listed below who have contributed or pledged to the “Great Schools” campaign on or before October 30, 2006. Next year’s Annual Report will show all contributors through the end of the campaign on December 31, 2006.

Valedictorian (\$50,000 or more)

Anonymous
Children’s Foundation
Lawrence C. Updike
Robin and Jean Gibson
Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative

Suma Cum Laude (\$25,000-\$34,999)

David and June Ullman

Magna Cum Laude (\$15,000-\$24,999)

Herndon Charitable Foundation
Jahna Foundation

Cum Laude (\$10,000-\$14,999)

Pat and Nancy Cain
Paul and Carol Collins
Lake Ashton RV Community

Dean’s List (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Samuel D. Updike
The John and Martha Carter Foundation
Mountain Lake Community Service
Verizon Foundation

Honors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous
Darrell and Pat Brewer
Becky and Ron Johnson
Doug and Dena Elmore
Beth and Ronald Ford
Eusebio G. and Violeta B. Salud
Debbie and Ellis Hunt, Jr.
Clinton and Evelyn Horne
Albert Hawkins
Thomas Baynes, Jr.
Scott and Lisa Herndon
Virginia Lassiter
Michael and Jill Smeal
Lake Wales Alumni Association
Martha Wetzel
Ed Williamson
Tom and Bonnie Williamson

Scholars (to \$999)

Mark and Theresa C. Parlier
Carleen and Clyde Boyer
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Verna Echols
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Bunting, Tripp & Ingley, LLP
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Tony and Joyce Otte
Ron and Sue Medders
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Diane Johnson
Deming Cowles in memory of
Mary L. B. Cowles
Clark Berry
Chris A. Reams
William Dickinson
D. Andrew and Karen Hunt
Bunny Wetzel

Verna Echols in memory of

Albert Kirkland
Elizabeth and Cole Tyler
Karla Abukhodeir
Jerry and Lori Miller
Lam and Thuy Nguyen
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Jim and Jean Christenson
Coconato, Vinnie and Dee
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Baxter Troutman
Lee and Nancy Turnquist
Mary Updike
Danny and Jennifer Wallace
Michael Yungman

Charter Schools Foundation Winds Up \$1 Million “Great Schools” Campaign

The Board of Trustees of the Lake Wales Charter Schools took steps to create its own Foundation for the purpose of enhancing the quality of education in the charter schools. The Board of Trustees will continue to operate the schools with funds coming from local, state and federal sources. The Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation is a separate and distinct entity created for the sole purpose of raising funds to enhance the efforts of the Board of Trustees. None of the Foundation funds will be used for basic operations.

The Foundation announced the launching of a \$1 million “Great Schools” campaign in January 2006. Funds raised in the campaign are used for special programs, such as Kindergarten Support, and for science lab and classroom equipment, including laptops for students and Promethean Boards. Funds may be used for teacher training, program support, implementation of international baccalaureate programs, stipends for nationally certified teachers, department and grade chairmen and master teachers. The funds will also be used to help the schools achieve their number one goal – to attract and retain outstanding teachers.

The campaign has been led by members of the Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation Board. The Board is chaired by Robin Gibson; members are David Ullman, Pat Brewer, Pat Cain, Carol Collins, Doug Elmore, Horace Herndon, Clinton Horne, Andy Hunt, Becky Johnson, Jerry Miller, Joyce Otte, Violeta Salud, Larry Updike, MaryLee Hollis, and Keith Wadsworth. Board members have been generous with their time and support, and all have contributed to the campaign. As of press time in November 2006, the “Great Schools” campaign was on track to meet and exceed its \$1 million goal by December 31, 2006.





CONTACT INFORMATION

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863-679-6560 • lwcharterschools.com

Published by the
Lake Wales Charter School
Foundation, Inc.
at no expense to the
Charter Schools.

DESIGN
Clark/Nikdel/Powell

PHOTOGRAPHY
Cindy Turner
Rick Pezzimenti
Scott Wheeler

PRINTING
Cromer Printing

INSPIRATION
Students of
Lake Wales Charter Schools