



# The Eaglette

Issue 2 Volume 2

SCHS School Newspaper



October 2019

## And SCHS 2019 Teacher of the Year is.....



### LAUREN BALES

#### *Describe your educational teaching matriculation background*

As a proud South Cobb High School class of 2010 alum, I love supporting the needs of my students via culturally relevant practices. I have a wide variety of students within and outside of my classroom environment; therefore, I believe it is essential to cultivate a positive rapport with students within South Cobb's community.

After completing my Master's degree program I became certified as a Secondary English educator and received a Teaching English Language Learners (TELL) endorsement certification. As a student teacher at Urban Science Academy (USA) in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, I assisted my Cooperating Teacher in twelfth grade Humanities IV, full inclusion classrooms.

This allowed me to develop various techniques enabling me to work with students of varying abilities. While currently teaching inclusion classes, it is essential to scaffold information while still ensuring a rigorous academic environment. For that reason, I have created lesson plans that strengthen cognitive and critical thinking skills for diverse learners through a Universal Developmental Learning (UDL) approach, thanks to Cobb County's Fall 2018 Workshop: Best Practices for EL using Strategies for Text-Dependent Questions and Leveled Question Stems. This opportunity provided more support in my ability to facilitate Saturday morning workshops with students at South Cobb, in preparation for the End of Course Milestone Assessment.

As a proud member of the American Literature Team at South Cobb High School, I teach my students the importance of confidence in everything they do. As a fifth-year teacher I continue to embrace new theory and implement it into my practice in order to motivate students, myself, and colleagues. I take pride in what I do and am very passionate about the career path I have chosen. Each day is filled with infinite possibilities of overcoming challenges and enriching our future leaders with useful tools that will enhance their skills within their future endeavors.

#### *What led you to become a teacher? Where did you attend?*

##### **Boston College Lynch School of Education**

Chestnut Hill, MA

Master of Education: Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary English  
June 2015

##### **Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL**

Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, English

May 2014

Education is an essential aspect of one's life. As a child my imaginary classroom embodied style and grace, due to the substantial impact my grandmothers and aunt instilled within me as educators. Impeccably, I knew their angelic, elegant, empowering, and matriarchal influences would mold me into a millennial transformative educator; ready to serve my community. My late maternal grandmother's legacy is rooted within after meeting adults who were touched and inspired by her ability to influence them when she taught them in her second-grade elementary classes.

*Continued on page 2*

### TOTY 2019 *cont.*

To be informed by her ability to comfort and enhance adults growing and evolving during pivotal moments within their lives touched me to want to provide more than an educational platform for students, but a support system of life and communication skills. Furthermore, my paternal grandmother's ability to share stories of supporting students who needed positive affirmations and methods to enhance their reading skills, still motivates me to continue to provide research-based methods on reading strategies, while stimulating confidence for students who feel discouraged when they are not reading on grade level. As an American Literature educator, my aunt's co-authorship of her children's book *Courage*, and her exhilarating teacher persona, provided me with the ability to apply innovative strategies that would attract all learning styles within my classroom. Familial ties to education motivate me to strive to excel within my classroom, school environment and community.

I believe wholeheartedly I have the capacity to nurture, uplift, and support future leaders of our society, nation, and world, due to my familial support and passion. Gifted with outdated textbooks from my grandmothers, and a foldable chalk and blackboard as a Christmas present, I knew I had a passion for education. As an eight-year-old, planning lessons for stuffed animals, my parents supported me with teaching supplies and worksheets; therefore, I knew the solidity of my foundation would one day provide me with the ability to support the needs of actual students in a variety of different ways. The dynamics of my environment overall, provided me with the opportunity to persevere and embark on a phenomenal journey of integrity, grit, hardship, achievements, and resiliency.

In order to achieve goals as an educator, I believe wholeheartedly that one must cultivate a strong rapport with students, parents, colleagues, administrators, faculty, staff, and the school's community, to develop cognitive skills for a child.

My greatest contribution to my students is providing my authentic self and charisma. While exhibiting genuine concern for my students, in partnership with my Cobb Collaborative Community, since fall semester 2016, we have increased South Cobb High School's End of Course Milestone Assessment scores by 20% for American Literature. Moreover, this has tremendously impacted our school, district, and state data. I take pride in contributing to my students' success, due to collaborating common assessments and trending data with colleagues on my data team. As a result of implementing culturally relevant support and authenticity, students tend to perform and achieve academic goals that provide personal and academic success in their school's learning environment, and community.

#### ***Grade level and subject, you teach at SCHS. Why do you enjoy doing what you do?***

11th Grade- American Literature  
My philosophy as an English Language Arts teacher is to provide culturally relevant materials and an open space learning environment for all, with the intent to reach the diverse groups of students. The purpose of this approach is to promote student voice and empowerment for my students, which I enjoy the most. As I continue my journey as an educator, I am reinforcing the importance of sourcing documents and providing students with the knowledge corroborating multiple sources in order to understand different eras of Literary works within a unit plan, daily activity, or other assignments.

This allows students to advance within their scholastics while understanding the dynamics of how English can impact one's life. I have implemented the theory of a growth mindset from psychologist Carol Dweck. As a transformative educator I believe it is essential for educators to mentor and empower students to embrace the process of progress within everything they do. Any goal is achievable through direct nurture, guidance, and understanding.

#### ***What inspires you to continue?***

- Having the opportunity to promote equality for all learners by incorporating different lessons that focus on current events going on today and understanding the context of social justice within different environments discussed within our curriculum.
- Supporting students as they build self-advocacy skills and critical thinking skills in order to succeed and navigate through their community and society.

#### ***Are you a sponsor for anything at SCHS? What? How long?***

- SCHS Head Cheerleading Coach  
May 2017-Present
- SCHS Student Government Advisor  
August 2016-2019
- SCHS- Shop With An Eagle  
Coordinator October 2016-Present
- SCHS-Eagle Pride Committee  
August 2016-Present
- SCHS-Freshman and JV  
Cheerleading Coach August 2015-May 2017

#### ***If you had to say one thing inspiring to the students what would you say?***

As Booker T. Washington stated, "I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which one has had to overcome while trying to succeed."

- Life is filled with several adversities, never allow those moments of hardship stop you in accomplishing any and every goal you would want to achieve in life.

Alone...

The tears start to fall like rain falling from the sky  
The thunder starts and lighting strikes  
The rain getting heavier every step I take  
It starts to get cold; I sit on a bench staring at the rain pouring down,  
Tears drop...mixing with the rain.  
I was lonely and miserable.  
Staring into the dark, I couldn't see anything.....  
until I saw this light  
I followed it ....  
Each step I took it was brighter and brighter.....  
A smile spread across my face and I knew I wasn't lonely anymore  
because of you.

by Daniel Martinez

Me

I hear what you say  
I see how you stare  
But I don't care  
People always have something to say  
I just laugh it off anyway  
I am different  
Not like the rest  
Your words don't hurt me  
If were being honest  
Nothing really does  
I am like a bullet proof vest  
You don't get me when you shoot  
Trying to hurt me is like talking to a wall  
You're like glass and I'm like stone  
People always say  
Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me  
I think that's true for me  
Maybe not to you though

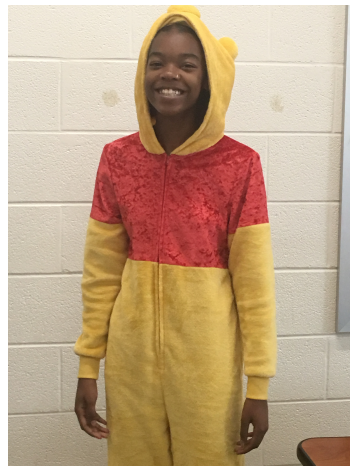
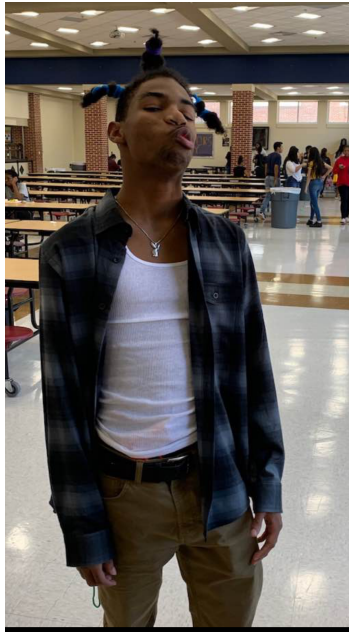
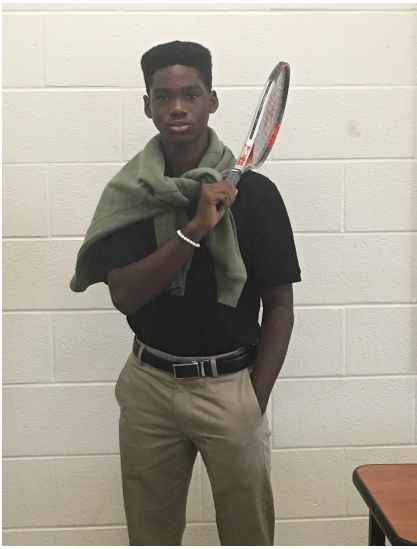
by Nicole Long

"ME"

EVERYBODY WANTS TO HEAR A REAL VERSION OF LIFE  
BUT THEN GET SO SENSITIVE  
WHEN I SAY SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT RAW  
I'LL TELL THEM MY THOUGHTS AND THEY WILL CALL IT NEGATIVE  
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE MY HEART IS  
I STAND OUT CAUSE I WEAR MY GARBAGE  
I WORK MY HARDEST  
AND EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE MIRROR I DON'T FORGET ABOUT WHERE I STARTED  
ANGER BUILDING UP I LET IT ALL GO  
THEY BE SLEEPING ON ME, TIME TO LET THEM ALL KNOW  
I SEE SAYING THAT YOU'RE REAL, BUT IT'S ALL SHOW  
I USED TO REALLY LIKE MUSIC, WERE IT ALL GO  
I DON'T CARE 'BOUT THESE SOCIALS  
MY TIME, I JUST STAY LOW  
I TOLD MYSELF "YES"  
EVEN WHEN THEY ALL SAID "NO"  
NO PASSION IN MUSIC, LIKE LOOK WHAT THEY PLAY THOUGH  
JUST CAUSE I'M CHRISTIAN YOU THINK I GOT HALO'S.  
TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW 'BOUT THE YOUNG KID FROM THE BAY  
TRYNA PULL ME, I ELEVATE  
WORKING AS A WAITER, JUST SO I CAN FILL A PLATE  
ONLY TIME I'M ON A COURT, IS WHEN I WANNA FADE AWAY  
GOTTA BE BRAVE IF YOU REALLY WANNA LIVE  
I'VE BEEN GETTING WISER, BUT MY HEART IS STILL LIKE A KID  
GOTTA GIVE ME TALENT, NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE A FLIP  
I DO THIS CAUSE I NEED TO, I DON'T CARE ABOUT A LIST  
SITTING IN A CLASSROOM, WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?

ROBERT PEREIRA





# CHARACTER DAY!



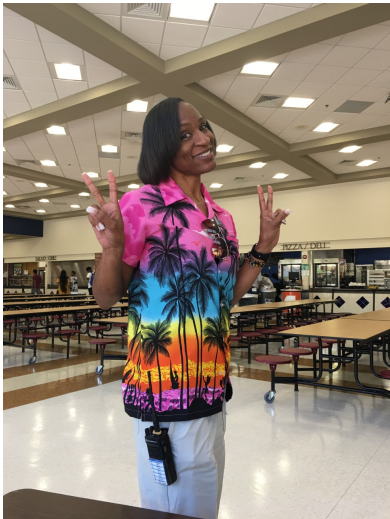
*Check out the Administration...*





**Are Fanny Packs really making a comeback?????**

# TOURIST DAY!



**FAMU**  
**was well**  
**represented.....**



# College Spirit!



The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.



**American  
Red Cross**



## **South Cobb High School**

1920 Clay Road  
Austell, Ga – Old Gym

**Tues., Oct. 22nd**  
**3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Auxiliary Gym**

For more info or to make an appointment contact  
Mrs. L. Gipson in room A203  
[Lisa.gipson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Lisa.gipson@cobbk12.org)

**Donors must  
be at least 16  
years old!**

**All donors will  
receive a free Regal  
Movie Theater  
Ticket**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

# NEED HOMEWORK HELP?



# TUTOR ATL

**\*FREE\***

**ONLINE TUTORING ASSISTANCE 4-11PM**



- **Go to TutorATL.org**
- **Cobb students: Use your  
Cobb County Public Library  
PASS account**
- **Login: student number**
- **Password: birthday (2-digit  
month and 2-digit day)**



**Cobb County  
Public Library**



**tutor  
com**  
A Service of The Princeton Review



One-on-one, on-demand homework help for K-12 students  
Online tutors available daily, including bilingual Spanish tutors  
Math help, essay writing assistance, SAT prep, and much more!