

# Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Surrounding students with a community of support,  
empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



Communities  
In Schools

Brunswick County

## CIS News: Winter 2018

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**Wishing you  
Happy Holidays  
from CIS!**



### CIS administrative office finds a home for the holidays

The CIS administrative office received extensive damage from Hurricane Florence with the entire building ruled unsafe due to structural damage. After weeks of working remotely and searching for new office space, we are happy to report that the new CIS administrative office will be located at 3148 George II Highway, Unit 2 in Boiling Spring Lakes. After an ongoing search and a request through all Brunswick County Chambers of Commerce for donations of office equipment and supplies, the new space is being cleaned, painted, and getting ready to open. The CIS administration team is hoping to open the new office in December.

The new space is equipped with individual offices, a conference room, small kitchen area, and bathroom with an exterior offering of 22 parking spaces and a rear alleyway for deliveries. We are thankful for all of the businesses, community organizations, individuals, and neighbors that helped us with kindness and generosity donating office equipment and supplies for our new space. The new CIS office phone number is (910) 351-8007. Office hours will be Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Reading Buddies make all the difference

Some students look forward to playing sports or video games afterschool. But the CIS Reading Buddy program at Supply Elementary School has students ready for the end of the day for a different reason. Kylan, Kaden, Kennedy, and PJ are students that have been bitten with the Reading Buddy bug and can't wait to spend time with their mentors afterschool.



*Diana and student.*

Reading Buddy sessions are filled with adult volunteers helping with homework, Math and English/Spelling flash card work, and students reading aloud to volunteers. The students all say they love the program and wouldn't know what they would do without CIS and Reading Buddies! Kaden said, "It helps me with schoolwork. I didn't understand or like STEM stuff, now I like the STEM projects and Math is one of my favorite subjects!" PJ chimed in, "CIS is educational and good for students to get help learning many different subjects." Kennedy said while Math is her favorite, Reading is a close second. Her favorite part of Reading Buddies is "getting to read with an adult to listen and they help you." CIS Reading Buddies helps students improve reading, improve grades, and instills a love of reading.

Diana Fotinatos is one of the dedicated volunteers in the CIS Reading Buddy program. She has worked for four years with Supply Elementary 2nd – 5th grade students. Every Tuesday she can be found going over multiplication tables, flashcards, and serving as a reading partner. CIS Reading Buddies program assists struggling students and helps them complete homework afterschool when the most help is needed. Diana said that she is inspired to give back to students because of the past work done by her dog "Cosmo", a Cockapoo who spent years volunteering as a therapy dog. The "Tail Wagging Tutor", regularly volunteered with nursing home residents and school students in libraries. Diana gives back in his honor to help students improve and give back to her community. "When I see a child that was struggling with English to then go up a grade in reading, makes it all worth it!" exclaimed Diana.



#### CIS Board Spotlight

**Tyler Wittkofsky**

Meet Tyler Wittkofsky, CIS Board of Directors member currently serving his second year on the CIS Board. Tyler is the Public Information Officer for H2GO and has enjoyed a strong career in marketing and public relations in the Brunswick County area.

As a CIS Board Member, Tyler serves on the resource development and community engagement committees where he feels his skill sets are best suited. He is actively involved in the planning of events, fundraisers, and new ways to promote CIS. "I have enjoyed giving back to CIS and helping Brunswick County students over the last two years. Being a former scholarship recipient and participant in the CIS/Brunswick County Teen Court program, it feels great to be able to give back. I learn so much from Bonnie, Todd, Mallory, and the rest of the CIS staff almost daily," says Tyler of his time volunteering with CIS.

When not serving on the CIS Board, he enjoys coaching youth baseball, hunting, fishing, reading, and spending time with his fiancé, Grace, and German Shepard mix, Dutch.

# Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

## Volunteer with CIS Peer Court and be the change in student lives

Do you have a few spare hours, one to two days per month? Do you want to make a difference in your community and the lives of local students? CIS needs compassionate people as volunteers that will change student lives in Brunswick County. Volunteers give back tirelessly to the community through CIS and help students in Brunswick County stay in school. Through CIS programs, volunteers help fulfill the CIS mission “to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life”.

CIS provides the Action for Success Dropout Prevention Program in Cedar Grove Middle School, Leland Middle School, Shallotte Middle School, South Brunswick Middle School, Waccamaw School serving K-8, and Supply Elementary School incorporating community volunteers working with CIS Success Coaches to support students. CIS also provides Parenting Education Programs, 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) afterschool program, Teen and Peer Court, with a major focus on dropout prevention.

Partnerships with Brunswick County Schools, the Brunswick County District Attorney’s Office, compassionate volunteers and community partners, help these programs serve over 4,000 students and families each year.



*CIS Peer Court in session.*

Currently, volunteers are especially needed in the CIS Peer Court program at Cedar Grove Middle School and Supply Elementary School. Peer Court is a CIS program provided in every Brunswick County middle school, Waccamaw School and Supply Elementary. Peer Court is an alternative system of justice, which offers first-time juvenile offenders ages 6-17 an opportunity to admit responsibility for their misdemeanor offenses and receive constructive sentencing from their peers.

Peer Court provides a “hands on” educational experience for student volunteers in an effort to help them better understand the justice system. Students volunteer and train to serve as attorneys, jurors, bailiffs, and clerks in court cases involving first-time juvenile offenders. Peer Court gives student defendants a “second chance” and the opportunity to avoid a juvenile court record if they participate in Peer Court and successfully complete all sentencing requirements. Without needed adult volunteer support, the Peer Court programs at Cedar Grove Middle School and Supply Elementary School will not be able to continue.

CIS spoke to Tracy Coston, Principal at Supply Elementary, about the Peer Court program and what it means for students. “We are excited to have the opportunity to bring Peer Court to our students at Supply Elementary. I am overjoyed that our students at Supply will be able to gain confidence through Peer Court that will lead them into future career choices and other endeavors.” Principal Justin Hayes at Cedar Grove Middle School shared how the CIS Peer Court program impacts his students. “Peer Court does a great job bringing in community volunteers to engage in conversation and work with our at-risk students at Cedar Grove. Peer Court also allows student volunteers, who are interested in the judicial system, the opportunity to participate in a modified court proceeding that will further their excitement. I am glad CIS Peer Court is a part of Cedar Grove Middle School,” said Principal Hayes.

Peer Court cases are heard one afternoon each month at school, immediately following the regular school day. As a new school semester is starting soon, please give of your time to help change a student’s life in Brunswick County. Adult volunteers are needed right away to keep this program operating successfully at Cedar Grove Middle and Supply Elementary. Thank you for your continued support of and investment in the success of Brunswick County students!

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## CIS Parenting Education going strong



*Incredible Years parenting class.*

CIS Incredible Years Parenting Program (IY) is taking place in Southport, Shallotte, and Bolivia. The Southport program is at Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash St.; Shallotte’s classes are held at Shallotte Presbyterian Church, 5070 Main Street; and the Bolivia class is held at Hope Harbor Home. The first few class sessions focus on positive things parents can do to receive positive behaviors from children, then later sessions move on to techniques to decrease children’s negative behaviors.

The IY program has 13 participants in current classes! One participant said IY allowed Special Time with her daughter, and her daughter would even help with chores after Special Time without being asked. Another participant said, “I really appreciate the way that we are able to be open in any discussions about the material being covered relative to our interactions with our respective families and get support from each other.” New classes will begin February 4, in Leland, February 5 in Shallotte, and at Jessie Mae Monroe School in the spring. To register for upcoming classes, contact Margaret Roseman, CIS Parenting Education Director, at 910-253-5327, extension 1435. All classes are **FREE**.

# Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

## Volunteer Spotlight



Regina Calla, CIS Reading Mentor at Leland Middle School

**1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS.** I volunteer as a CIS math tutor and monthly Peer Court volunteer at LMS.

**2. What is your favorite thing about CIS?** CIS allows me to meet new students and support them through tutoring or donating

clothing and food to families in need.

**3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County?** My husband and I love the beaches! We also ride bikes and take walks in our beautiful county.

**4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County?** North Brunswick Kiwanis introduced me to CIS, and I am always thrilled to see students gain confidence and improve in the program.

**5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer.** A struggling student didn't have many friends. She opened up and told me how tough it was. Through building trust and tutoring sessions she became more confident, started dressing nicer, made friends, and smiled more.



Helen Odom, Sunset Beach CIS Thrift Shop volunteer

**1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS.** I volunteer regularly with Sunset Beach thrift shop and many organizations including my church.

**2. What is your favorite thing about CIS?** The special ladies that I work with in the thrift shop; and knowing there is a huge need for students in Brunswick County and I can make a difference in their lives.

**3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County?** Enjoying dinner out with friends before going to a concert at Brunswick Community College!

**4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County?** I am a retired school teacher and with so much need in our county, it truly takes a village to raise a child.

**5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer.** I heard about CIS when I moved to the area. I visited the Sunset Beach shop and was treated so well that I had to get involved. Knowing that I, as one person, can make a difference. Sharing is caring!

## Get Social with CIS of Brunswick County

When CIS supporters tap into their own personal networks on social media and share CIS posts, it reaches out to a large group of people that would be difficult for CIS to reach on our own.

We encourage our supporters to share posts they've read or actions taken with CIS (a donation, a ticket purchase to an event, attendance at an event, a personal experience, etc.). By sharing with your network of friends, they are heavily invested in what you share. The share is authentic and can create interest in your network to take action themselves, whether it's taking a look at the CIS website, or Facebook page, making a donation, or even sharing the original share with their personal network, and expanding the reach even further.

Tapping into the power of social sharing and encouraging friends to share actions they take with CIS, those shares will spread in an authentic way leading to more awareness, supporters, and donations. Click the icons below to access our social media channels and interact with us daily. Get social and stay connected with timely information from CIS of Brunswick County!



facebook  
CIS page



facebook  
CIS Thrift Shops



CIS Twitter



CIS Instagram

## Wishing you a joyous holiday season of friends, family and blessings!



Please consider CIS in your end of the year giving. Your tax deductible donation is truly appreciated and will support CIS as we continue to provide services for Brunswick County students.

For current CIS of Brunswick County happenings, visit [www.cisbrunswick.org](http://www.cisbrunswick.org)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at [tbane@cisbrunswick.org](mailto:tbane@cisbrunswick.org)