

# Autumn Hall awards \$2,000 to middle school teachers

By Marimar McNaughton  
Staff Writer

The winners of the Autumn Hall Middle School Excellence in Teaching program were announced at a reception on Tuesday, Sept. 30, held at Arbor Park. The teachers representing New Hanover County’s middle schools were presented with prize checks for their efforts in the classroom, with another 11 teachers receiving honorable mentions for their entries.

A first prize, \$1,000, was awarded to Beth Upton of Roland-Grise Middle School for her motivational and organizational strategies that encourage under-performing students to seek greater challenges, build their confidence and stay on track.

A second prize, \$600, was awarded to Claire Bennett, a pre-algebra and algebra teacher at Cape Fear Academy who teaches math with humor and fun to foster the joy of learning; and a third prize, \$400, was awarded to Gloria Eckerson, DC Virgo Middle School, for redirecting students labeled with behavioral disabilities to achieve measurable



Supplied photo courtesy of Autumn Hall/Jack Upton Raiford Trask, from left, developer, congratulates Beth Upton, of Roland-Grise Middle School, recipient of Autumn Hall’s Excellence in Teaching award.

classroom success.

More than 450 full-time public and private middle school teachers were invited to participate in the award application process. Teachers were asked to write letters explaining their motivation and dedication to young people, their achievements in the classroom, or their stories of a student’s success. The submissions were reviewed by Autumn Hall developer Raiford Trask, development coordinator Lisa Thompson and Deloris Rhodes, presently adjunct professor

with the University of North Carolina Wilmington’s Watson School of Education, and former guidance counselor, middle school principal and assistant superintendent of Pender County Schools.

Trask said he looks forward to building the awards program into an annual community-wide reflection of the challenges, opportunities and achievements in New Hanover County’s middle schools. He said, “As real estate developers, we are naturally eager to see Wilmington continue to thrive.”

## FAMILY AFFAIR



Joca Trecco, from left, Perry Morgan, Patterson Carroll, Preston Carroll and Dawson Newman congregate outside King Neptune restaurant on Thursday, Oct. 2, for Wrightsville Beach School night. A portion of dinner proceeds were donated to the WBS PTA. ~ Allison Breiner

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

2			9			7		
							9	6
	3		4	2				
					4			
1	8					6		7
			3					
				3	6		5	
7	9							
		6			1			8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. Sudoku answers are on page B-14.

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