

New Hunter Hills principal offers 'solid commitment'

BY TARA KAPROWY
STAFF WRITER

There is a new leader at the helm of Hunter Hills Elementary, one who intends to involve the community in education and tighten the bonds between administration, parents and staff. Brian Bond, who was hired as assistant principal at the school less than a month ago, was promoted last week.

"While I was assistant principal, it gave me a chance to get to know the children, parents and school, and I started to fall in love with it," he said of his reasons for applying for the principalship.

Hunter Hills, which has 630

students and the highest free and reduced lunch rates in the district, has a long history of frequent principal turnover. Bond, who is also pastor of Victory Baptist Church, said he plans to put a stop to that pattern.

"I wanted to be able to provide that solid commitment," he said.

Before accepting the position at Hunter Hills, Bond taught fifth grade at Colony for four years. Before that, he taught at an elementary school in Jackson County for 10 years.

As for his plan of action, Bond said the first thing he intends to do is hold a commu-

nity meeting with church leaders "and say we've got some needs," he said. He also plans to meet with retired teachers, business leaders and community leaders to get more involvement in the school.

"For a long time, Hunter Hills has stood by itself," he said. "It's going to take everyone to pull together to change the culture and see it succeed."

Bond also hopes to improve school attendance, which was the third lowest in the district last year. The goal has been named "The Drive for 95," which targets getting 95 percent attendance each day. He said during the last nine days of

school, the goal has been reached eight of them.

Bond said he's already impressed with the dedication of his staff.

"They're really worked hard to start the year," he said.

He plans to lean on and encourage them to improve test scores.

"Our goal is to get scores up to district level and then we'll go beyond," he said.

Bond is married to wife Brooke and has two children, Landon and Parker.



PHOTO BY TARA KAPROWY
Brian Bond has been named new principal of Hunter Hills Elementary.

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ACCESS

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tobacco use, there are systems in place to address the problem.

Adding physician assistants and nurse practitioners to the medical community is one of those. In 1988, there were just 49 PAs and 796 nurse practitioners practicing in Kentucky. In 2009, there were 3,613 nurse practitioners licensed in Kentucky and another 917 physician assistants.

Dr. James Norton, administrator of the University of Kentucky's Area Health Education Center in Lexington, said these medical professionals, who are also called physician extenders, are increasing access.

"Having physician assistants and nurse practitioners has considerably increased the number of access points," he said. "If you have a physician that has two physician assistants, you have three people who can see patients, rather than just one person. It's pretty much the math."

Teresa Renner, a nurse practitioner who practices at the London Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine Clinic, agreed.

"A lot of the time, the physicians are so booked up, they can't see any more patients," she said. "I'm here as an extra provider. I'm willing to work. A lot of us nurse practitioners are willing to work late hours outside of your 9 to 5 schedule, where a lot of the physicians are not."

The work of physician extenders varies greatly. Before Kraftick became a cardiovascular surgery PA, she worked in an internal medicine practice.

"I basically did everything he did," she said of her attending physician. "I diagnosed, I treated. He did not necessarily follow behind me for everything I did."

Kraftick did and does receive supervision, however, and her attending physician is required to sign off on her charts. As a PA, she also cannot practice without the over-

sight of a physician.

That is not the case with nurse practitioners, however, who, like Wendy Fletcher of Morehead, can practice independently.

"We diagnose and treat all kinds of health problems," Fletcher said. "We do all sorts of acute care management, as well as treat chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension."

In Kentucky, physician extenders are limited when it comes to prescribing drugs. A physician assistant is not allowed to prescribe narcotics. A nurse practitioner must have collaborative agreements for controlled substances, such as narcotics, and for non-controlled substances like blood pressure medication.

"It basically means there is a physician aware that we are writing prescriptions," Fletcher said. That, too, may change.

In 18 states nationwide, Fletcher said nurse practitioners are "completely independent in every way."

In their patient visits, Fletcher and Kraftick contend physician extenders spend more time with patients than physicians typically do.

"As a general rule, I do think nurse practitioners are pretty famous for (that)," Fletcher said, adding those visits focus heavily on prevention.

While that may be the case, physician assistants and nurse practitioners are not as extensively trained as doctors. At the University of

FAST FACT:

In 1988, there were just 49 physician assistants and 796 nurse practitioners practicing in Kentucky. In 2009, there were 2,223 nurse practitioners licensed in Kentucky and another 917 physician assistants.

Cumberland's physician assistant program, which opened in January, students must have a bachelor's degree in order to apply. Once accepted, the master's degree program is two years.

The requirements are similar for nurse practitioners, though as of 2015, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing will strongly recommend that new nurse practitioners be educated at the practice doctorate, as opposed to the master's, level — a process that will take seven years.

Providing a wide variety of care without the same degree of education has some physicians questioning what the prevalence of nurse practitioners and physician assistants will mean for the quality of health care.

But Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a retired ear, nose and throat specialist in Somerset, is not one of them.

"Right now, I think it's working very well for the system," he said. "There is a shortage of primary care physicians across the nation and it's especially prevalent in rural areas. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners are picking up the slack in primary care, though they do not alleviate the access issues to specialists in rural areas, which continues to be a problem."

Kavanagh added he does not worry about the fact that a physician extender's education is less extensive than a physician's.

Kavanagh said of physicians "I think you're trained in what you do, though certainly they should practice in the scope of their training," he said, adding the same true for physicians. "I was an ear, nose and throat doctor and I wouldn't think of treating someone for a heart attack."

Regardless of how physicians feel, it seems clear physician extenders are here to stay. In fact, the demand is what prompted the University of the

Cumberlands to start its PA program, which already has 28 students.

"Kentucky is losing a lot of primary care docs," said Kathleen Flynn, clinical coordinator and associate professor at the University of the

Cumberlands department of physician assistant studies. "It's our hope and one of the goals of the profession to put physician assistants in under-

served areas where there is not enough doctors ... It seems like with the demands of the future, in order to meet them, they're going to need physician extenders."

Staff writer Tara Kaprowy can be reached by e-mail at tkaprowy@sentinel-echo.com.

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Symbol	Description	Flags	Price	Change	Bid	Ask	Volume	52 wk H-L
AM	AMER GREET A	CL USD	19.13	-0.42	19.13	19.15	258,690	13.20-26.21
T	AT&T	CL USD	26.49	+0.04	26.48	26.50	27,287,160	23.78-28.73
BAC	BANK OF AMERICA	CL USD	12.87	0	12.87	12.88	113,825,432	12.75-19.86
BBT	BBAT CORP	CL USD	22.62	-0.49	22.62	22.63	5,263,747	22.90-35.72
BNY	BRISTOL MYERS SQ	CL USD	26.48	+0.04	26.45	26.48	12,070,571	21.54-27.07
CAT	CATERPILLAR INC	CL USD	66.84	-2.02	66.84	66.86	8,851,876	43.19-72.83
CVX	CHEVRON	CL USD	75.05	0	75.05	75.07	7,168,663	66.83-83.41
CLX	CLOROX CO	CL USD	64.30	-0.12	64.30	64.33	721,114	56.36-66.44
KC	COCACOLA CO	CL USD	55.60	+0.30	55.60	55.61	7,603,999	48.38-59.45
CTBI	COMMUNITY TST	CL USD	25.10	-0.59	25.10	25.15	34,329	22.15-31.56
CBRL	CRACKER BAREL OLD	CL USD	45.17	-0.77	45.17	45.22	140,428	27.91-53.43
CSCX	CSX CORP	CL USD	48.64	-1.15	48.64	48.67	3,323,663	40.67-62.00
DELL	DELL INC	CL USD	11.94	-0.13	11.92	11.93	22,138,420	11.72-17.52
DUK	DUKE ENERGY	CL USD	17.06	0	17.06	17.08	4,462,951	15.04-17.94
DIGS	DELTA NATURAL	CL USD	29.26	-0.16	29.25	29.29	3,938	24.00-31.61
EMR	EMERSON ELECTRIC	CL USD	47.10	+0.42	47.10	47.12	4,610,185	35.88-53.73
YOMI	EXXON MOBIL	CL USD	59.50	+0.61	59.49	59.52	21,303,600	55.94-76.54
FLO	FLOWERS FOODS	CL USD	25.79	-0.03	25.79	25.80	409,445	21.90-27.58
F	FORD MOTOR CO	CL USD	11.61	-0.16	11.60	11.61	41,882,560	6.61-14.57
GE	GENERAL ELECTRIC	CL USD	14.89	-0.14	14.89	14.90	55,392,936	13.03-19.70
HD	HOME DEPOT INC	CL USD	27.83	-0.34	27.81	27.83	11,420,678	24.47-37.03
INTC	INTEL CORP	CL USD	18.70	-0.21	18.69	18.70	71,787,040	18.31-24.37
IBM	INTL BUS MACHINE	CL USD	126.47	-1.03	126.47	126.51	4,028,617	115.15-134.25
JRCC	JAMES RIVER CDAL	CL USD	16.55	-0.21	16.54	16.55	535,393	14.44-23.10
JULI	JOHNSON JOHNSON	CL USD	58.87	+0.13	58.85	58.87	8,542,735	56.86-66.20
HR	KROGER CO	CL USD	20.91	-0.22	20.91	20.92	6,005,447	19.08-24.80
LOW	LOWES COMPANIES	CL USD	20.23	-0.41	20.23	20.24	20,856,890	19.15-28.54
MOD	MCDONALDS CORP	USD	73.34	+0.26	73.15	73.54	5,008,908	53.88-73.82
DIS	WALT DISNEY CO	CL USD	32.93	-0.12	32.92	32.93	8,032,384	25.00-38.00
MKX	MERCK & CO	CL USD	34.97	+0.53	34.95	34.98	9,963,127	29.94-41.56
MFT	MICROSOFT CP	CL USD	24.28	+0.05	24.28	24.29	51,565,400	22.73-31.58
PEP	PEPSICO INC	CL USD	64.82	+0.02	64.81	64.85	3,151,872	55.69-67.61
PFE	PFIZER INC	CL USD	16.10	+0.18	16.08	16.10	15,445,200	14.00-20.36
PNC	PNC FINL SVC	CL USD	52.15	-0.58	52.15	52.17	4,843,756	39.44-70.45
PG	PROCTER & GAMBLE	CL USD	60.03	+0.05	60.02	60.03	8,468,328	39.37-64.58
RDSA	ROYAL DUTCH SH A	CL USD	53.90	+0.09	53.90	53.92	1,090,431	49.16-63.75
SLE	SARA LEE CORP	CL USD	14.74	-0.06	14.74	14.75	8,908,899	9.31-15.40
SO	SOUTHERN	CL USD	35.88	+0.10	35.88	35.89	4,687,814	30.72-36.78
UAP	UNION PACIFIC CP	CL USD	72.86	-1.40	72.84	72.86	2,810,923	54.20-78.61
UPS	UNITED PARCEL B	CL USD	65.22	+0.12	65.22	65.27	3,335,652	52.06-70.89
VZ	VERIZON COMMS	CL USD	29.41	+0.04	29.39	29.41	19,999,600	24.76-31.90
WEN	WENDYS INTL	CL USD	4.12	+0.01	4.12	4.13	1,308,352	3.83-5.55
WMT	WAL-MART STORES	CL USD	51.14	+0.92	51.10	51.14	14,641,058	47.77-56.27
WIN	WINDSTREAM CORP	CL USD	11.07	-0.12	11.07	11.09	4,620,852	6.02-11.82

REAL ESTATE FACTS

By Bobby Smith

PROMOTE AND PROTECT

In these days of Internet scams and credit card fraud, we're all a little more protective of our privacy. However, if you're selling a home, you also know that posting a virtual tour online and having your agent show your home are absolute necessities for successfully landing a buyer. What can do done to protect your home against would-be thieves or burglars? You've already taken the first step by seeking representation by a trusted real estate agent, because your agent only shows your home to buyers who have been screened and qualified. Still, when you know that your home is being shown, it's best to start packing away valuables such as jewelry, electronics, silverware

and family heirlooms before the first prospect ever visits. Similarly, when your home is being filmed for a "virtual tour," remove computers, wide-screen televisions, crystal, and valuable collectibles from the camera's eye. There is no need to advertise your belongings - your home's features will speak for themselves. Further protect your home with motion sensor lights inside and out, and make sure your security system is active and that the service has an emergency contact number for you. You also have the option of registering with the local police department, so officers in your neighborhood can perform security checks. There's likely no need to worry, but why not pay it safe?

Hodges

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