



TLH LOCAL

SCHOOL & FAMILY

BORN TO TEACH ART

IT SEEMS NATURAL THAT FIRST-YEAR TEACHER CHRISTINE CHILDERS FOLLOWED HER MOM INTO THE CLASSROOM

AMANDA KARIOTH THOMPSON
COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS

Julie and Christine Childers show off the Matisse inspired door to the Riley art room at Chiles High School. AMANDA THOMPSON

With only four weeks of real-life classroom experience, 23-year-old Christine Childers is one of Leon County's newest art teachers. Her degree in education helped prepare her for this profession but not nearly as much as her upbringing has. She is the daughter of Julie Childers, a 28-year veteran of the art room and the graphic design and art history teacher at Chiles High School.

"I was pregnant with Christine and I taught all the way up to a couple days before she was born," said Julie. "She was in the classroom, she listened to my voice as I was teaching about the elements and principles of art, so she just gets it." "It's in my bloodstream," adds Christine. "Training has been going on for this job since I

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Teach

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was born even though I had no idea. I took everything that my mom taught me and what I've experienced through her actions and by being her daughter and I put it towards everything that I'm doing now."

Though Christine trained as an elementary classroom teacher, she was pulled in a different direction. "I learned a lot in my internship but it didn't feel right. I wanted to be an art teacher. It wasn't hard, it wasn't forced, it was just natural because I grew up with that sense."

Born and raised in Tallahassee, Christine attended Chiles and was one of her mother's students. During her time in high school, she also took an art class from Walter Thorne who later moved on to teach art at Riley Elementary until he retired at the end of last year. In a bit of serendipity, it is this very art room that Christine now calls her own.

"He left me all his lessons," said Christine. "I can use that to show me what the students should already know and what they've done."

As a colleague and a mom, Julie understands how much new teachers need support and guidance. "That collaborative spirit is so important and I'm really thankful for this community of art teachers. She is never alone." Christine agreed and added "just knowing that I'm surrounded by that is really

encouraging."

With a network of experienced art educators by her side, ready to offer assistance and ideas, Christine is eager to examine and extend her instructional practices and procedures. "I was feeling constricted with my internship doing a set curriculum, this is the way it is, this is the answer. No one needs that. The whole doing your own curriculum thing is exciting to me. Now, how to organize it all and how to really think through the big scheme is a little intimidating but I take it piece by piece and day by day."

It's this kind of independence and flexibility that Julie has always admired in her daughter. "I am also proud of Christine's work ethic. It takes a lot of preparation, physically, mentally, you've got to get your act together."

For art teachers, long work days and high enrollment numbers are a matter of course. "I get up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare for classes and finish off the day around 4:30 or 5," said Julie. "Christine has that same dedication. All art teachers are juggling multiple class preparations along with large classes of students."

"It's surprising how many children you see," said Christine who is responsible for teaching art to every child at Riley, nearly 600 students. Julie sees more than 150 students at Chiles and she admitted that "in a lab, it's hard because essentially, I'm getting one minute with each student, if that. So we do a lot of collaborative learning in my class."

Planning and preparation doesn't end with the course content, it also



AMANDA THOMPSON
Christine Childers explains facial proportions to her class.



includes the physical classroom space. Julie explained "we started on her room mid-July to prepare for the students. We spent a whole day doing that Matisse inspired door. We were creating together and it was really fun."

Christine pointed out that the letter 'R' on the door is backwards and "that was a mistake originally but I liked it."

The door is a reminder that we're not trying to be perfect. It's all about how you walk into this space from the beginning to the end. It's all about where you come from, where you are leading to and those moments in between."

With a passion for teaching and a revised focus on art education, Christine is committed. "This profession is something I want to give my whole attention to. I find that giving children that avenue of expression allows them to find not only who they are but find who they want to be. They're opening their minds to different ideas and I think they need that space."

Just like anyone starting a new career, Christine experiences wobbly confidence at times but she is determined to live up to her mother's example and share her love of art with the next generation. "I'm trying to push back those feelings of you don't know how to do this, you're a newbie. Seeing the students' awe and wonder when the watercolor magic happens on that paper, it's like, 'oh, they're really into this.' When that happens, it's a nice reassurance that this is good and I'm doing something right."

Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Education and Exhibitions Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).

LEON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Renaissance Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

435 N. Macomb Street

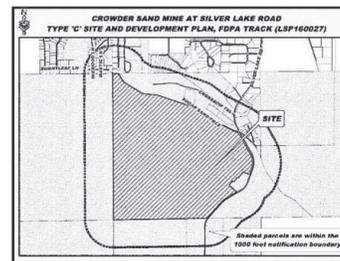
Wednesday, September 21, 2016

10:00 a.m.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING:

10:00 a.m. Project Name: Crowder Sand Mine at Silver Lake Road
 Review Level: Type "C", Final Design Plan Approval (FDPA) Track
 Project ID#: LSP160027
 Applicant: Jimmie Crowder Excavating and Land Clearing, Inc.
 Agent: Jim Stidham & Associates, Inc. (Tony Holley, P.E.)
 Parcel ID#: 42-03-20-404-002-0
 Location: South of Sugar Sand Trace on the west side of Silver Lake Road, approximately 1.2 miles south of Blountstown Hwy.

The application proposes the establishment of a sand mine as well as a 300 square foot ancillary security building. The total project site is approximately 435 acres. The property is located within the Rural (R) zoning district and approximately 7 acres of the overall site is zoned Residential Preservation (RP). The RP portion and environmental constraints will be preserved. Sand mines are a restricted use in the Rural zoning district and require Board of County Commissioners approval. The site received a variance approval from the Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BOAA Final Order 15-005) which authorized access to Silver Lake Road, a minor collector roadway. The project will be reviewed through the Type "C" Final Design Plan Approval Track.



Development Services Contact: Nancy Garcia
 Garcia.n@leoncountyfl.gov
 850-606-1300

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Community & Media Relations, 606-5300, or Facilities Management, 606-5000, by written or oral request at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. 7-1-1 (TDD and Voice), via Florida Relay Service.



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