



## Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

October 15, 2008

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### Upcoming Events

**October 12-18:** Give Kids Good Schools Week; for activities, go to [www.givekidsgoodschools.org](http://www.givekidsgoodschools.org)

**Friday October 17:** "Helping Families Access Resources to Help Pay for Childcare" telephone conference hosted by the NC Early Childhood Association; for more information call (919) 442-2000 or email [nceca@ncearlychildhoodassoc.com](mailto:nceca@ncearlychildhoodassoc.com)

**Tuesday October 28:** "Visual Process in Childhood Learning" Community Forum at The Piedmont School; 7:00 to 9:00 pm; RSVP by calling 883-0992 or emailing [info@thepiedmontschool.com](mailto:info@thepiedmontschool.com)

**Thursday November 13:** Education Summit 7:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Koury Convention Center; Leonard Pitts will be the Keynote Speaker; for more information contact the Guilford Education Alliance at 841-4332 or [info@guilfordeducationalliance.org](mailto:info@guilfordeducationalliance.org)

### Vote Yes for Property Tax Relief

In May, 2008, voters approved more than \$530 million to build and improve public

Welcome to the Guilford Education Alliance newsletter. We hope you find this informative and helpful!

### School Board Candidates Differ on Taxing Power

The seven candidates for the Guilford County Board of Education who participated in a forum on education Monday night at Guilford Technical Community College

agreed on many things. They disagreed most notably, however, on one question: should school board members be given the responsibility to levy taxes?... [www.hpe.com](http://www.hpe.com) Oct. 14, 2008 edition, section A2

### Hopefuls for County Seats Say Better Communication Needed

Candidates for the Guilford County Board of Commissioners participated in a separate portion of Monday (Oct. 13th) night's forum on education. Like their Board of Education counterparts, they mostly agreed, although one question brought noticeable disagreement... [www.hpe.com](http://www.hpe.com) Oct. 14, 2008 edition section A2

### School Board Candidates Field Questions

The public had its first chance to question candidates for the Guilford County Board of Education on Monday night during a forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Triad. Candidates took turns answering questions prepared by their hosts and questions submitted by the audience of about 40 people, including several candidates for other offices...

[http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/10/13/article/school\\_board\\_candidates\\_field\\_questions](http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/10/13/article/school_board_candidates_field_questions)

### GCS Construction Update

Visit the link below to get an update on the progress of Guilford County Schools construction since the passing of the School

schools and the community college in Guilford County. Now County Commissioners must find a way to pay for these improvements to our education system. Commissioners have put a ¼-cent sales tax on the ballot this November to help defray the costs of school construction. The alternative would be a steep increase in the property tax paid by all property owners in Guilford County. Go to the following website for more information  
<http://www.propertytaxrelief.info/>

### Our Sponsors

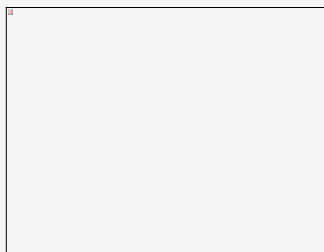
Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, High Point Community Foundation, the Cemala Foundation, the Weaver Foundation, the Tannenbaum Sternberger Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and Duke Energy Corporation, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Allen Tate Realtors, and The News & Record, as well as many individuals.

Please join in thanking them for their support!



To learn how you can help fund school projects, visit

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/search.html?zone=301&community=749:1>



To

Construction Bond in May 2008... <http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/documents/Constructionbondupdate9-23-08.pdf>

### Testing That Matters and is Appropriate

In May 2007, the State Board of Education convened a Blue Ribbon Commission on Testing and Accountability. The Commission, chaired by Dr. Sam Houston, undertook the task of doing a comprehensive review of the current assessment and accountability system and accountability system. Upon completion of that review, the Commission presented twenty-seven recommendations for modifications to the current testing program as well as identified the next steps needed to accomplish this mammoth task... [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) 10/3/08

### Pilot Program Offers Online Learning on Buses

For students in rural areas, a one way bus trip to school can take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours. The Aspirnaut Initiative, launched in 2007, provides students in the Sheridan School District of Arkansas with laptops and iPods and gives students the opportunity to take online science and math courses during these long commutes... [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) 10/3/08

### Educator Targets Achievement Gap

School districts must focus on and organize help for failing students if Colorado is to close the achievement gap between rich and poor students. That's the strategy of Anita Foxworth, appointed by the Colorado Department of Education last week to coordinate efforts to close the age-old gap in learning between affluent students, who are predominantly white, and the disadvantaged, who are disproportionately minorities... <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/sep/22/educator-targets-achievement-gap/>

### Overview on Education: Not Ready for College

Imagine your children earning B's in all their high school courses and then being told that they have to take remedial courses before they can earn credits at the state university. You'd be upset, and you'd have plenty of company: As many as 43% of community college students are enrolled in a remedial class. At four-year colleges, the number is nearly 30%. The cost for colleges and taxpayers: more than \$2 billion a year... <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/09/our-view-on-edu.html#more>

donate materials to Guilford  
County Schools Teacher visit

[http://www.gcsnc.com/  
teacher\\_warehouse/index.html](http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher_warehouse/index.html)

**Congratulations to  
Emily Ford of Northwest  
High School for scoring a  
1600 on her SAT reading  
and math!**

[http://www.nwobserver.com/  
articles/2008/10/14/youth\\_news  
\\_and\\_sports/doc48ef71c23cec  
9276249772.txt](http://www.nwobserver.com/articles/2008/10/14/youth_news_and_sports/doc48ef71c23cec9276249772.txt)

Join Our Mailing List!

## Community Resources

Earlier this month, at an elementary school in Washington, DC, Deputy Secretary Ray Simon unveiled a new series of publications, called "Helping Your Child" brochures. These brochures provide clear and concise advice to parents for helping their school-aged children with different subject areas - including reading, math, science, history, homework, and citizenship. Each brochure also contains helpful tips for parents, learning activities that families can do together, and resources for additional insight. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>.

## Under 'No Child' Law, Even Solid Schools Falter

Prairie Elementary School had not missed a testing target since the federal No Child Left Behind law took effect in 2002. Until now. The school, perched on a tidy, oak-shaded campus in a working-class neighborhood here, has moved each of its student groups - Hispanics, blacks, Asians, whites, American Indians, Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, English learners, the disabled - toward higher proficiency in recent years...

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/education/13child.html?  
\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/education/13child.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

## Grant Opportunities

### Keepers in the Classroom - NC Zoo

\*Bring a NC Zookeeper to your classroom to present a fascinating program!

\*Programs meet Standard Course of Study objectives and the zoo pays all the cost!

\*If you want to implement a classroom environmental project- ie: a butterfly garden,

bird feeding station, arts display around nature themes, compost site, recycling program- we will pay up to \$500.00 to support your efforts if you have a Keeper program.

Go to [www.nczoo.org](http://www.nczoo.org) and click on the Education Link to fill out an application

### Applications Invited for the Broad Residency in Urban Education

#### Deadline: Various

The Broad Residency in Urban Education is a two-year leadership development program that places participants into full-time high- level managerial positions in school districts and Charter Man- agement Organizations, where they can have an immediate impact on the education of America's students.

RFP Link: <http://www.broadresidency.org/>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Goody's Family Clothing Offers Funding for School Needs  
Deadline: November 1, 2008**

A philanthropic program of Goody's Family Clothing ([http://shopgoodys.com/contact\\_us/contributions/](http://shopgoodys.com/contact_us/contributions/)), Good Deeds for Schools is a grant program designed to help local schools pay for the things they need but cannot afford through regular education funding.

RFP Link: <http://www.goodysgooddeeds.com/>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Students Invited to Create "Green Solutions" in National  
Middle School Sustainability Challenge**

**Deadline: March 15, 2009**

Middle school students across the United States are invited to submit their solutions to environmental problems in their communities for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, a national sustainability education initiative.

RFP Link: <http://www.wecanchange.com/>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Grants Available to Support Summer Camps to Introduce  
Young People to Careers in Manufacturing and  
Engineering**

**Deadline: December 12, 2008**

Through a collaborative effort between the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Foundation (<http://fma-foundation.org/>) and the Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs Foundation (<http://www.nutsandboltsfoundation.org/>), grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 are available to not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions capable of offering overnight or day-camp experiences in summer 2009 that introduce young people to careers in manufacturing and engineering.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015331/fmafnd>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

To make a contribution to support the valuable programs of Guilford Education Alliance, visit

<http://www.guilfordnonprofits.org/donations/index.html>

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance