



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

December 2, 2009

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Support Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford Education Alliance is dependent on donations from the community for its

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

Also, be sure to join our [Facebook page!](#)

Counseling the African American Male Has its Own Requirements

"We see an urgency to reach out to the African American male because of what we see them experiencing in the community," said Patricia Whitfield, coordinator at North Carolina A&T State University and coordinator of the 2009 Fall Family Counseling Conference at the university... [read more](#)

Love-A-Tree Environmental Education Packets

Love-A-Tree is targeted to 5th Grade, but can be used by other grades. All the activities have been correlated to 4th and 5th grade Science, Social Studies and Healthful Living. **Non-formal educators that work with school-aged youth are also welcome to order.**

The theme of this year's packet is "Healthy Trees, Healthy People," and integrates environmental education, health and physical fitness. This year's packet will include a lesson plan and activity book, filled with select activities provided by these divisions of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Office of Environmental Education, Museum of Natural Science, N.C. Zoo, Parks and Recreation, Coastal Management, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, Aquariums, Wildlife Resources Commission, Forest Resources and Soil and Water Conservation. N.C. Project Wet, N.C. Project Learning Tree and the N.C. DPI Healthy Schools Section also contributed to the booklet.

Place your order at [this link](#). Remember that one packet goes to one teacher or educator (not one for each student).

operating expenses. Please consider making a donation to support our initiatives and work to promote quality education in Guilford County. Together, we can motivate our entire community to promote and support education for our students and our future.

[Click here to donate](#)

Upcoming Events

Saturday December 5: Community Flu Shot Clinics; 8 am to 12 noon 501 E. Green Drive in High Point; 12 noon to 4 pm 1203 Maple Street, Greensboro

Tuesday December 8: *An Overview of the North Carolina State Budget, Economic Forecast and Issues Affecting Your Community*; hosted by the United Way of Greater Greensboro; 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the Girl Scouts, 8818 W. Market Street, Colfax

Wednesday December 16: NC Dept. of Public Instruction Public Forum to receive public comment on amendments to "Policies Governing Services for Children With Disabilities"; 5:30 to 7:00 pm; [click here](#) for more info on how to participate

Guilford County Schools Regions

[Click here](#) to view map of the new regions of GCS

[Click here](#) to view the organization chart of superintendents

Guilford County Schools Yahoo Groups

Parents of Current and Potential GCS **Advanced Learners** are invited to join the GCS

Switch is Sudden on Wake School Board

A new majority on the Wake County School Board took immediate control at a tension-filled first meeting Tuesday December 1st, installing its members as top officers and taking the first steps toward ending the county's diversity policy... [read more](#)

World-Class Schools for Wake

Well before Wake's newest school board members thought about running for office, a group of community leaders gathered in 2008 to pinpoint what the county needed the most from its public schools. The answer was unanimous: The leaders wanted a system that exceeded world-class education standards... [read more](#)

A State-by-State Report Card on Educational Innovation

Two years ago, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Center for American Progress, and Frederick M. Hess of the American Enterprise Institute came together to grade the states on school performance. That first *Leaders and Laggards* report found much to applaud but even more that required urgent improvement. In this follow-up report, attention is turned to the future, looking not at how states are performing today, but at what they are doing to prepare themselves for the challenges that lie ahead... [read more](#)

Early College Students Outperform College-Age Classmates

The prospect of high school students sitting in community college classes was worrisome to faculty and college leaders when North Carolina's first early colleges opened in 2005. Questions were raised about the maturity of high school students, their ability to do the work and their capacity for the kind of independence that college demands. Now, data from the North Carolina Community College system about student performance suggests those kinds of worries were unfounded... [read more](#)

NC Judge Convenes Hearing on Maintaining Adequacy During Fiscal Downturn

On October 22, Judge Howard Manning convened a "non-adversarial" hearing to assess the impact of North Carolina's fiscal crisis on the implementation of the remedy in Hoke County Board of Education v. North Carolina. In his notice of hearing, the judge noted the seriousness of the state of the economy and its impact on revenue streams for the state's executive and legislative branches. Nevertheless, he emphasized that "The financial crisis notwithstanding, the basic educational assets guaranteed to the children in North Carolina public schools must remain in place."...

Advanced Learner Yahoo Group by sending an [email](#) and including the school where your child is enrolled

GCS parents interested in improved **School Bus Safety** are encouraged to join the GCS School Bus Safety Yahoo group by sending an [email](#) and including the school where your child is enrolled



Learn how you can help fund projects in Guilford County Schools' classrooms through donations on DonorsChoose.org.

[Click here to learn more](#)



To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teachers visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse

[Click here to learn more](#)

Our Sponsors

Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, High Point

[read more](#)

Racing to Aid Students Already at the Top

For too long, the nation's education system has neglected the needs of its high-potential students. Education policy has been shaped for decades by the fallacy that gifted and talented students do not need specialized support, resulting in a severely underresourced and highly fragmented collection of policies and services...[read more](#)

Gifted Education

Even though 32 states require schools to offer gifted and talented education, just under half of all states provided no funding for such programs over the past school year, according to a new report...[read more](#)

MacArthur Foundation Works With White House to Spur Math, Science Education

As part of a White House-sponsored campaign to improve math and science education in the United States, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has announced a \$2 million digital media competition designed to generate ideas with the potential to transform learning... [read more](#)

To Help the Kids, Parents Go Back to School

Awww, Miami-Dade County, you're so thoughtful. For a few years now, every parent of a newborn baby in the South Florida district has received a congratulations packet while still in the hospital that includes, among other things, a glossy animal picture book (in three languages) and a letter from something called the Parent Academy. "Keep in mind that you are, and will always be, your child's first and most important teacher," the letter reads. "Miami-Dade County Public Schools has many resources and opportunities for you to make the most of that awesome responsibility."... [read more](#)

Data-Driven Performance Management Helps Public Schools Improve Student Achievement

Many forward-thinking school districts are working to improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap by collecting and sharing data that help educators assess student performance in real time and predict and address problems early, a new report from the Texas-based Michael & Susan Dell Foundation finds... [read more](#)

Parent-School Ties Should Shift in Teen Years

Many educators and parents would agree that it's important for parents to spend time in their children's classrooms, to closely

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 become a sponsor of the Guilford Education Alliance, visit [www.GuilfordEducation](http://www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php)

Alliance.org/support/index.php

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

monitor homework, or to read to children at home.

Try telling that, though, to a 13-year-old, argues Harvard University researcher Nancy E. Hill.

In a series of studies and a new book, Ms. Hill makes the case that both research and policy initiatives aimed at promoting parent involvement fail to take into account the distinct needs of adolescents, a group of students that seems biologically driven to break free of parental vigilance...[read more](#)

The New War Against Ed Schools

After taking aim at teachers and their unions with an unabashed endorsement of merit pay and charter schools, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has now decided to focus on a target he seems to think might be more vulnerable: schools of education. He has accused them of being "mediocre" and of producing teachers who are largely unprepared to teach in the public schools...[read more](#)

Minnesota Students Acing Yoga Test

More Minnesota schools are offering yoga for students, but kids are learning more than poses such as downward dog. Educators say yoga can give students an academic boost... [read more](#)

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 and click on the Education Link to fill out an application

Do Something Invites Teens to Organize Food Drives

Deadline: December 15, 2009

Through the Feed the Need food drive campaign, Do Something invites young people to conduct food drives in their schools and local communities. Last fall, the combined efforts of young people across the United States resulted in the collection of one million pounds of food donated to food banks for families in need.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=2737000

[08](#)

Youth Development Programs

The TK Foundation, a donor-advised fund of the Orange County Community Foundation, is interested in supporting youth development programs from around the nation that are meeting the needs of motivated disadvantaged youth ages 15-21 by preparing youth for employment and careers that will allow them to become self sufficient.

Grant requests may range from \$50,000 - \$500,000, and multi-year requests will be considered.

For more information, and to download a nomination form, please visit OCCF's website at www.oc-cf.org/Page.aspx?pid=293. If you have any questions, contact Natalie Bishop at 949-553-4202 ext. 27 or nbishop@oc-cf.org.

To make a contribution to support the valuable programs of Guilford Education Alliance, visit <http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/support/index.php>

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

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