



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

February 10, 2011

In This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Character Corner
- Support Guilford Education Alliance
- GCCPTAs newsletter
- Grant Opportunities!
- NCDPI Publications
- Guilford to Hold Forums on Bus Route Changes
- School Board Picks Bond Plans to Postpone
- Two Schools Earn Grants for Safe Driving Program
- Charter Push Goes Beyond Raising Cap
- Childhood Obesity and School Lunches
- Among Nation's Youngest, Analysis Finds Fewer Whites
- Schools Facing Cuts if Lunches Aren't Paid For
- It May Be a Sputnik Moment, But Science Fairs Are Lagging
- Untangling Hip Hop for the Classroom
- Offset Private School Costs
- State Board Adopts Guiding Principles for 2011 Legislation
- Teachers to Use Gifted Technique
- Guilford County Schools Recognized for Effective Communications
- Study Finds Social-Skills Teaching Boosts Academics
- Report Calls for National Effort to Get Millions of Young Americans on a Realistic Path to Employability
- Higher Rates of Students Passing AP Exams
- Schools Tackle Legal Twists and Turns of Cyberbullying

Dear Jennifer,

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

For the most current news and events,

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Guilford to Hold Forums on Bus Route Changes

GREENSBORO - Parents of children riding Guilford County Schools buses will get the chance to learn more about and comment on proposed changes to the district's bus routes.

The Board of Education will hold community forums on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 to discuss and receive feedback on the proposed multi-tier bus transportation program. [Read more...](#)

School Board Picks Bond Plans to Postpone

GREENSBORO - The Guilford County Board of Education made some progress in meeting county commissioners' demands by offering on Tuesday to delay three bond projects.

The school board voted 9-1 to recommend that commissioners consider delaying for one year the renovation of Allen Jay Middle and the construction of a Southeast-area elementary school and airport-area high school. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

For additional events, access our online [calendar of events](#)

Sunday, February 13:

Open House; 2:00 - 4:00 pm; The Piedmont School, High Point; 883.0992 or info@thepiedmontschool.com for more information.

Monday, February 14:

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Summit; 10 am - 2:00 pm; Greensboro Airport Marriott; Free; The Summit will consist of a team of community leaders, clergy, media, health providers and parents willing to have honest conversations about adolescent pregnancy and what must be done to make changes to the fact that every day in Guilford County three teens between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant, two teens give birth and one teen terminates or loses her pregnancy. In one year alone, adolescent childbearing cost Guilford County \$13.6 million.

Wednesday, February 16:

Housing Summit 2011; 8:30 am - 2:30 pm; Emerald Event Center, 2000 E. Wendover Avenue; www.guilfordnonprofits.org for more information

Saturday, February 19:

GCS Magnet/Choice Fair; 9:00 am - 12:30 pm; Greensboro Coliseum Pavilion; An opportunity for students to learn more about the magnet and high school choice options available in Guilford County Schools. Representatives will be available to discuss programs, schools, transportation and opportunities.

Monday, February 28:

Kick off to Kindergarten Parent Day; 11:00 - 1:00 & 5:00 - 7:00pm; Greensboro Children's Museum

Tuesday, March 1:

Principal for a Day; 8:00 - 1:00 pm; Hosted by Guilford Education Alliance, members of the community will spend the day with a Guilford County Schools principal and attend a luncheon. Contact GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org for more information.

Tuesday, March 15:

Children's Advocacy Day; Times TBD; NC General Assembly; Health insurance, child care subsidies, juvenile justice funding, infant mortality prevention and more are all under threat this session. We need YOU to come out in support of the programs and services that protect our children's health and safety every day. More information soon, or contact mandy@ncchild.org or call 919-834-6623 x233

Two Schools Earn Grants for Safe Driving Program

GREENSBORO - Northeast High and The Middle College at Bennett are among 26 schools selected nationwide to participate in the Project Ignition program. Each school will receive a \$2,000 grant to create and implement their service-learning projects during the current school year. [Click here](#) to read more...

Charter Push Goes Beyond Raising Cap

RALEIGH - Charter schools could receive more public money but face fewer limitations than they do now under a bill the Senate Education Committee has rolled out.

Republicans, who took over control of the state House and Senate this year, campaigned on promises to eliminate the 100-school limit on the number of publicly financed but privately run charter schools.

[Click here](#) to read more...

Childhood Obesity and School Lunches

Researchers say they have identified another risk factor for childhood [obesity](#): school lunch.

A study of more than 1,000 sixth graders in several schools in southeastern Michigan found that those who regularly had the school lunch were 29 percent more likely to be obese than those who brought lunch from home.

[Read more...](#)

Among Nation's Youngest, Analysis Finds Fewer Whites

WASHINGTON - Whites continued to decline as a share of the American population in 2009, and they now represent less than half of all 3-year-olds, according to a [Brookings Institution](#) analysis of census data released Monday.

[Read more...](#)

Schools Facing Cuts if Lunches Aren't Paid For

Of the 2,200 students at Intermediate School 61 in Corona, Queens, 86 percent receive free cafeteria lunches. Some others pay a reduced price, and some are supposed to pay full price.

But not all of their parents pay what they are supposed to, and recently, the school's principal, Joseph Lisa, has been spending a lot of time trying to collect money from them.

[Read more...](#)

It May Be a Sputnik Moment, But Science Fairs Are Lagging

Rarely have school science fairs, a source of pride and panic for generations of American students, achieved such prominence on the national stage. [President Obama](#) held one at the White House last fall.

And last week he said that America should celebrate its science fair winners like Sunday's [Super Bowl](#) champions, or risk losing the nation's competitive edge.

[Read more...](#)

Thursday, April 14:

On Stage!; 7:00 pm; War Memorial Auditorium; tickets available for \$20; Guilford Education Alliance will showcase local Guilford County Schools student talent in this production! Click [here](#) or contact GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org for more information.

CHARACTER CORNER

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nathanael Greene Elementary Student Council will participate in "Pennies for Patients" to collect money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of Janet Caligan, a former media specialist for the school who lost her battle with cancer in 2009.

Students will collect pennies on Mondays, nickels on Tuesdays, dimes on Wednesdays, quarters on Thursdays and any extra change on Fridays.



Each newsletter, Guilford Education Alliance

will showcase a local school's community service project.

To submit a project to us, please email GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org with a description of the project and picture.

Congratulations Ms. Brady!



Guilford County Schools (GCS) is

Untangling Hip Hop For the Classroom

I am struck by the way my life has been impacted by two forces:

education and hip-hop. I know, it is rare that the two are juxtaposed, but in this case it makes sense. The bulk of my schooling years were in the 1980s when hip-hop was in its infancy, when it forged a tight bond with young people. To adults, hip-hop was "that" music, but to us it was "our" music. New, brash, energetic, unique, and full of potential, hip-hop was not only the sound of the streets, it also reflected a cultural experience-my cultural experience. When I heard it, I felt-for the first time-as if someone was talking to me about what I was going through, about what was familiar to me. For many of us, as urban youths, at that moment hip-hop was a musical breakthrough that spoke directly to us about common social themes and provided nuanced insight about others. [Read more...](#)

Offset Private School Costs

Legislators are beginning a push for a law that would help pay for some North Carolina students to attend private or home schools in kindergarten through the 12th grade, an idea that is generating fierce debate about school choice and funding, and could lead to a veto from Gov. Bev Perdue. [Read more...](#)

State Board Adopts Guiding Principles for 2011 Legislation

The State Board of Education adopted new guiding principles for legislation for the 2011 session at its meeting in Raleigh on February 3. Ann McColl, the State Board's new legislative director, will use these principles during her work to inform and assist state legislators on a variety of education policy issues. [Read more...](#)

delighted to announce that GCS Principal of the Year Anna Brady is one of eight finalists state-wide for the Wachovia/Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year award.

Earlier this school year, Principal Brady received GCS' highest award. She was named the 2010 GCS Principal of the Year during the 10th annual Celebrating Excellence in Education event. The event was sponsored by Businesses for Excellence in Education.

Principal Brady is an education veteran with more than 20 years in the field. She has led Grimsley High since 2008. "Principal Brady's skill, professionalism and dedication to her school and more importantly her students are something to truly be admired by all who teach or wish to teach," said Central Region Superintendent Dr. Terry Worrell. The recipient will be announced in Raleigh at a state luncheon in the spring sponsored by Wachovia/Wells Fargo to honor the regional winners. The Wachovia/Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year will receive a \$3,000 check for personal use and/or professional development and a \$3,000 check for his or her school to purchase materials or other equipment. The winner also will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. The eight regional winners each will receive \$1,000 for personal use and \$1,000 for their schools.

Teachers to Use Gifted Technique

LAFAYETTE - All students at J.W. Faulk Elementary School will soon learn from teachers trained in gifted education as part of the district's turnaround strategy for the school.

The teachers' expertise will help transform Faulk into a high-performing talent development school, Lafayette Parish School Superintendent Burnell Lemoine said. [Read more...](#)

Guilford County Schools Recognized for Effective Communications

At the February 8, 2011 meeting, the board will recognize the District Relations department, which was recognized among school districts across the state for effective communications by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPRA).

District Relations received six Blue Ribbon Awards, which are given out annually to school districts for producing outstanding publications. The awards are in the categories of excellence in writing, electronic media, identity image package and special purpose publication.

The district was presented with the awards during a Blue Ribbon Awards Brunch in Durham on Jan. 28.

The six NCSPRA Blue Ribbon Awards won by GCS are:

- Excellence in Writing: Don't Wait - Act and Mission Critical
- Electronic Media Category: We are Guilford County Schools
- Identity Image Package: State of Our Schools
- Special Purpose: Oak Ridge Elementary Facility and Celebrating Excellence in Education

A panel of journalism and communication experts judged the entries on appropriateness of message, graphic layout/design, overall appearance, writing/content and effectiveness in reaching goals. Electronic media entries are judged on professional quality and presentation of the message, including sound for radio and color/motion for video.

Study Finds Social-Skills Teaching Boosts Academics

From role-playing games for students to parent seminars, teaching social and emotional learning requires a lot of moving parts, but when all the pieces come together such instruction can rival the effectiveness of purely academic interventions to boost student achievement, according to the largest analysis of such programs to date.

[Read more...](#)



PENC (Professional Educators of North Carolina), a professional association that serves as *THE Voice* for educators in policy-making, the forum for developing professional relationships and the advocate for improving the learning environment for every educator and student, is currently accepting electronic entries for its 5th annual Young Artists Competition. The goal of this project is to highlight the hard work of North Carolina's visual art teachers and their students.

For more information, [click here](#).



The Teacher Supply Warehouse is open for shopping! New hours for the 2010-11 school year are 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Now Guilford County Schools teachers can register to shop one of three days per week.

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

Report Calls For National Effort to Get Millions of Young Americans on a Realistic Path to Employability

WASHINGTON (February 2, 2011) - Despite decades of efforts to reform education, and billions of dollars of expenditures, the harsh reality is that America is still failing to prepare millions of its young people to lead successful lives as adults. Evidence of this failure is everywhere: in the dropout epidemic that plagues our high schools and colleges; in the harsh fact that just 30 percent of our young adults earn a bachelor's degree by age 27; and in teen and young adult employment rates not seen since the Great Depression. [Read more](#).

(This report is available on our website at <http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/resources/>)

Higher Rates of Students Passing AP Exams

The proportion of each high school graduating class that passes an Advanced Placement exam continues to grow, with nearly 17 percent of the class of 2010 passing at least one such exam, according to a [College Board report](#) released yesterday.

New figures show that 16.9 percent of students in last spring's graduating class scored a 3 or better on one or more AP exams by the time they graduated, up from 15.9 percent in 2009 and 10.8 percent in 2001. The exam is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 considered passing. The College Board's research says that students who score 3 or higher are more likely to succeed in college courses. [Read more](#).

Schools Tackle Legal Twists and Turns of Cyberbullying

It was just before winter break in Pennsylvania's Hatboro-Horsham school district when Assistant Superintendent John R. Nodecker was alerted to a case of cyberbullying. Some students had created an online poll ranking the "hottest" girls in the district's high school and middle school.

The poll quickly took on a negative and harassing tone as people posted comments about students' appearance, gender, and sexual orientation.

[Read more...](#)

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

[Click here to learn more](#)

Support Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford Education Alliance is dependent on donations from the community for its 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](#)

Today there are over 130 projects for Guilford County classrooms listed on



This is Zeus. Zeus loves any reason to celebrate. For his 3rd birthday, he's going to party *and* give back, thanks to DonorsChoose.org [Celebrations](#).

We're launching [Celebrations](#) today so that you can **help classrooms as part of any special occasion** - birthdays, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and of course

your pet's birthday.

Want to follow Zeus' lead? It takes 60 seconds to [create a Giving Page](#) for the celebration of your choice.

Then, add your favorite classroom projects, and ask friends and family to support those projects in lieu of gifts.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

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and how you can become involved
in education today!

**Guilford County Council of PTAs
newsletter**

[Click here](#) for the most current edition of
the newsletter

Grant Opportunities

Kenan Fellowships

Available online beginning
December 15

[http://www.ncsu.edu/
kenanfellows/](http://www.ncsu.edu/kenanfellows/)

NC Council for Teachers of Mathematics

[http://ncctm.org/
grants_scholarships.cfm](http://ncctm.org/grants_scholarships.cfm)

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