



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

February 18, 2009

In This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Summer Programs
- Moms, Daughters Discover Engineering
- US Teacher Professional Development
- On Stage 2009
- Dropout Rate Rises to 3.31 Percent
 - Hands Up High Point
 - Kindergarten Registration
- More at Four Shows Continued Success
- NC Task Force on Preventing Childhood Obesity
- Whose Schools Work Better
- Report Cites Progress, Challenges in America's High Schools
- College Freshmen in the US and China
- Stimulus Bill Promotes Stable, Adequate Funding
- For Education Chief, Stimulus Means Power, Money and Risk
- Grant Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Wednesday February 18:

Family Education Session for parents of middle school, or rising middle school students; "How to Reduce HPV Infection"; sponsored by the Guilford County Dept. of Public Health; will take place at Millis Education Center, 600 N. Elm St., High Point; 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Thursday February 19: Film premiere of "Straight Laced: How Gender's Got us All Tied Up" and a reception and

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

On Stage! 2009

On Stage!, the Guilford Education Alliance's talent showcase featuring over 300 Guilford County Schools students, will be held Thursday, April 30 at 7:00pm at War Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be available starting March 2nd at TicketMaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000.

Dropout Rate Rises to 3.31 Percent

The dropout rate in Guilford County climbed slightly during the 2007-08 school year from the previous year, according to state data released Thursday. The state reports Guilford's 2007-08 rate was 3.31 percent, or about 760 students, up from 2.99 in 2006-07. Still, Guilford's dropout rate remains one of the lowest in the state and is the lowest of North Carolina's three largest school districts...

http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/02/05/article/dropout_rate_rises_to_331_percent

"Hands Up High Point"

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Do you want to help our schools? If you have one hour a week, "Hands Up High Point" is the place for you. This new community initiative was developed in response to the goals and objectives identified in High Point's Workforce Development Strategic Plan and the academic achievement goals and objectives identified in strategic plan recently released by Guilford County Schools. "Hands Up High Point" is an opportunity to invest in our children by improving learning readiness and establishing a culture of life-long learning throughout the community.

<http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/news/documents/HandsUpHighPointPressRelease2-12-09.pdf>

Training Registration Form:

<http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/news/documents/TrainingRegistrationforHandsUpHighPoint.pdf>

open forum with the film maker; Dana Auditorium, Guilford College; free and open to the public; 7:00 pm; for more information, visit www.gsafef.org

Monday February 23: "Kickoff to Kindergarten: Parent Days", come learn how to help your child be ready for Kindergarten; Greensboro Children's Museum, 220 N. Church Street, Greensboro; 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm; for more information, call 885-1859

Wednesday February

25: Family Education Session for parents of middle school, or rising middle school students; "How to Reduce HPV Infection"; sponsored by the Guilford County Dept. of Public Health; will be held at the High Point Health Department; 501 E. Green Dr, High Point; 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Thursday February

26: Family Education Session for parents of middle school, or rising middle school students; "How to Reduce HPV Infection"; sponsored by the Guilford County Dept. of Public Health; will be held at the Department of Social Services; 1203 Maple St, Greensboro; 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Thursday February 26: Guilford County Board of Education meeting, 6:00 pm, 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for an agenda, go to www.gcsnc.com

Monday March 2: Read Across America Birthday Celebration for The Cat in the Hat; for K-5th grade students and their parents; 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm; Jamestown Public Library, 200 West Main Street, Jamestown; for more information, contact the Guilford County Association of Educators, 299-9601

Tuesday March 10:

Guilford County Board of Education meeting, 6:00 pm, 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for an agenda, go to www.gcsnc.com

Thursday March 26:

Parents Encouraged to Register Children Now for Kindergarten

The transition from pre-school to elementary school can be an exciting but uncertain time for many students and parents. This month, as North Carolina school districts kick off the kindergarten enrollment period for the 2009-2010 school year, parents are encouraged to register their children early to save time and stress. Due to a change in state law, only children who will turn 5 years old on or by Aug. 31, 2009 will be eligible to register.

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/newsroom/news/2008-09/20090203-01>

All Kindergarten Students Must Have a fully completed Kindergarten Health Assessment

http://www.gcsnc.com/depts/student_assignment/pdfs/KHA_Parent_Instructions_.pdf

More at Four Shows Continued Success

A new report from the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill shows that the More at Four program continues to successfully prepare at-risk 4-year-olds for entering school by helping them improve language and literacy, math, general knowledge and social skills. The report concludes that More at Four continues to produce significant growth among at-risk and underserved children across all of these areas, and produces even greater benefits among children with lower levels of English proficiency.

http://www.ncforum.org/doclib/2009_0206.pdf

Report from the NC Task Force on Preventing Childhood Obesity

The Task Force is to review current State activities in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Health and Wellness Trust Fund to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan with recommendations for preventing childhood obesity.

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state_board/taskforce.html

Whose Schools Work Better

North Carolina's two largest school systems have taken vastly different approaches to two thorny issues -- student reassignment and educating low-income students with hefty academic deficiencies. Wake County, the state's largest district, has used buses instead of greenbacks to address the academic needs of low-income students. To meet the demands of growth and support a

Guilford County Board of Education meeting, 6:00 pm, 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for an agenda, go to www.gcsnc.com

Thursday March 26 and Friday March 27: The 4th Annual Youth Violence Prevention Conference; for more information and to register, visit www.charlotteahec.org or call 704-512-6091

Tuesday March 31: Tommy Watson will be speaking at Windsor Recreation Center, 1601 E. Lee Street, Greensboro from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm; the event is free and open to the public; for more information, call 337-2771

Summer Programs

The Piedmont School offers Traditional Summer School and One-on-One Tutoring; register by June 15 by calling (336) 883-0992 or visiting www.thepiedmontschool.com



To learn how you can help fund school projects, visit

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

Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, DonorsChoose.org is offering a "Double Your Impact" challenge for all college preparatory projects submitted from high-need and/or rural classrooms.

diversity policy aimed at reducing the number of high-poverty schools, Wake's system moves thousands of students each year to different schools, sometimes sending kids on bus rides of more than 20 miles. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the second-largest district in North Carolina, has shifted to a system of largely neighborhood schools, resulting in a stratified mix of affluent schools in the suburbs and high-poverty schools near downtown Charlotte. Instead of busing kids to balance out the level of low-income students at each school, the district pours millions of dollars into these high-poverty schools each year to boost the performance of academically disadvantaged students.

http://www.newsobserver.com/news/v-print/story/1398099.html#MI_Comments_Link

Report Cites Progress, Challenges for America's High Schools

The National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and National Association of State Boards of Education recently released "Accelerating the Agenda: Actions to Improve America's High Schools." This follow up report to the original report from 2005, measures progress states have made since then in improving their high schools, and cites challenges that remain in ensuring students are prepared for college and career success in the global economy. The report highlights emerging trends, such as greater appreciation for international benchmarking and an increased focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

<http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/0901IMPROVEHIGHSCHOOLS.pdf>
http://www.ncforum.org/doclib/2009_0130.pdf

US Teacher Professional Development

Every year, nine in 10 of the nation's three million teachers participate in professional development designed to improve their content knowledge, transform their teaching, and help them respond to student needs. These activities, which can include workshops, study groups, mentoring, classroom observations, and numerous other formal and informal learning experiences, have mixed results in how they effect student achievement.

http://www.nsd.org/about/news/study2_4_09_release.pdf

Moms, Daughters Discover Engineering Through Robots

Miriam Jean, 15, and her mom walked into the classroom, rolled up their sleeves and got right to work. A mother-daughter bake-off this was not. The mother held up a small plastic circuit board, while the daughter used a 400-degree soldering iron to attach a

Submit your proposal to DonorsChoose.org by February 22nd; for more information visit www.donorschoose.org

To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teacher visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse
http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher_warehouse/index.html

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 become a sponsor of the Guilford Education Alliance, visit www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

thin wire.
"Metela," Gina Rouchon told her daughter. "Put the wire here."
The pair spent Thursday afternoon at a mother-daughter robotics workshop at Northwestern Senior High.
<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/education/story/879342.html>

College Freshmen in US and China

A study of college freshmen in the United States and in China found that Chinese students know more science facts than their American counterparts -- but both groups are nearly identical when it comes to their ability to do scientific reasoning.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090129140840.htm>

Stimulus Bill Promotes Stable, Adequate Funding

The \$789 billion federal stimulus bill, which was passed by Congress last weekend, allocates roughly \$100 billion for educational purposes. This figure is almost double the U.S. Department of Education's \$59.2 billion discretionary budget---and gives promise to education advocates that the Obama administration will live up to its commitment to reform and improve education in the United States. Shortly after the compromise was announced, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's office issued a statement emphasizing the importance of "strategic investments in education," stating that education is "one of the best ways to help America become more productive and competitive."

<http://www.schoolfunding.info/news/policy/02-17-09StimulusBill.php3>

For Education Chief, Stimulus Means Power, Money and Risk

The \$100 billion in emergency aid for public schools and colleges in the economic stimulus bill could transform Arne Duncan into an exceptional figure in the history of federal education policy: a secretary of education loaded with money and the power to spend large chunks of it as he sees fit.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/17/education/17educ.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper

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

Get Healthy Guilford

Visit www.GetHealthyGuilford.org to find out how to earn mini grants for your school by eating healthy!

Children Invited to Submit Designs for U.S. Fund for UNICEF Greeting Card Contest

Deadline: March 6, 2009

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF (<http://www.unicefusa.org/>) has announced a call for entries for its annual Pier 1 (<http://www.pier1.com/>) greeting card contest, in which a child's winning design is turned into an official UNICEF greeting card to be sold at Pier 1 Imports stores across the United States during the 2009 holiday season.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016775/unicefusa>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

Public Schools and School Districts Invited to Apply for Sprint Character Education Grant Program

Deadline: February 27,

2009(<http://www.sprint.com/responsibility/commitment.html/>)

The Sprint Foundation is accepting applications for the 2009 Sprint Character Education Grant Program. Open to all U.S. public schools (K-12) and U.S. public school districts, the initiative provides grant funding to support character education programs promoting leadership, voluntarism, character education, and school pride. Grants will fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, teacher training, and equipment that facilitates character education for K-12 students.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016780/sprint>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml

World of Children Awards Program Accepting Nominations

Deadline: April 17, 2009

The World of Children Awards program recognizes individuals who make a difference in the lives of children across the globe. The program is designed to honor these leaders and provide them with

funds to support the proven high-impact programs they have created in the fields of health, education, hunger, and human rights. Grants will be given to nonprofits associated with the honorees.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016909/worldofchildren>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

**Applications Available for State Farm Youth Advisory Board
Deadline: March 31, 2009**

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board

(<http://www.statefarmyab.com/>) is comprised of thirty diverse young adults between the ages of 17 and 20 who have demonstrated exemplary work in service learning, volunteering, and philanthropy in their communities. Members of the Youth Advisory Board will help State Farm leadership create and implement service-learning projects across the United States and Canada.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016911/statefarm>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

**High School Teachers and Students Invited to Apply for
Lemelson-MIT InventTeam Awards**

Deadline: April 24, 2009

Created by the Lemelson-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Program (<http://web.mit.edu/invent/>), the InvenTeam initiative gives high school students an opportunity to cultivate their creativity and experience invention.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016915/webmit>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml

SAT Video Contest - MIT University is running a nationwide contest in which students compete to produce fun, creative videos teaching SAT vocabulary. Videos should be no longer than two minutes. Once the videos have been submitted, viewers will vote on the videos, and MIT will award \$600 in prize money to the video that receives the most number of votes.

http://www.brainyflix.com/main/contest_rules

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
