



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

February 23, 2011

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Upcoming Events

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

Thursday, February 24:

We Are One: Open Auditions; 5:00 - 8:00pm; Caldcleugh Multicultural Arts Center, 1700 Orchard St, Greensboro; We Are One holds open auditions for its spring performance Pippi Longstocking. Please prepare a monologue or poem and bring music if you're planning to audition for a singing part. Participants must be available Monday-Wednesday from 6-8 pm and Saturdays from 12-4 for rehearsals. Show dates are April 15 and 16. Contact 336-373-5881 caldcleugh@greensboro-nc.gov for more information.

Saturday, February 26:

We Are One: Open Auditions; 12:00 - 4:00pm; Caldcleugh Multicultural Arts Center, 1700 Orchard St, Greensboro; We Are One holds open auditions for its spring performance Pippi Longstocking. Please prepare a monologue or poem and bring music if you're planning to audition for a singing part. Participants must be available Monday-Wednesday from 6-8 pm and Saturdays from 12-4 for rehearsals. Show dates are April 15 and 16. Contact 336-373-5881 caldcleugh@greensboro-nc.gov for more information.

Monday, February 28:

Dear Jennifer,



On Stage tickets are on sale now!! Click the logo to go to ticketmaster to order your reserve seats today!

"Like" Guilford Education Alliance on Facebook and Win! "Like Us" by March 15 and you'll be entered into a drawing for two free tickets to On Stage! Simply click on the link below (or above!) to go directly to our Facebook page and "Like" us. It's an easy way to show your support and to get the latest news and information about upcoming events.

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[View our profile on Linked](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Guilford County School Board to Discuss Multi-Tier Bus Scheduling on Thursday

After receiving feedback from parents and staff at community forums last week, the Guilford County Board of Education will discuss multi-tier bus scheduling during its meeting on Thursday.

Staff will present two bus scheduling options to the board for consideration. One of the options has been shared previously during the board's retreat in January and at community forums. The second option was developed by staff to address some of the concerns expressed by the public about the proposal.

The two multi-tier bus scheduling options are being proposed as a way to reduce transportation operating costs and increase efficiency. The potential savings from using a multi-tier schedule for all traditional

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.

Saturday, March 5:

Guilford County Association of Educators Annual Legislative Breakfast; 9:30 - 11:00 am; Golden Corral, Landview Dr, Greensboro; Contact the GCAE Office for more information 299-9601.

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

Thursday, April 7:

Wrightslaw Conference; 8:00am - 4:30pm; Westover Church, Greensboro; The Wrightslaw special education law and advocacy conference will focus on four areas: Special education law, rights and responsibilities, Tests and measurements to measure progress & regression, SMART IEPs, and Introduction to tactic & strategies for effective advocacy. For registration, cost information contact Connie Bruffey at 336-605-4654 cbruffey2@bellsouth.net.

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.

Tomorrow, Jones Elementary will host a Black History Month Program featuring many members from the community including Judge Angela Foster, former Greensboro City Mayor Yvonne Johnson, radio personalities from 102 JAMZ, NC A&T Cheerleading Team, Grimsley HS Step Team, Dudley Drum Line and a representative from the International Civil Rights Museum.

Throughout the month, students have competed in trivia contests about Black History Facts and raised money in a Change for Change Campaign to donate to the ICRM.

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.

schools is estimated between \$1.1 million and \$1.8 million.

Both options would allow the Transportation Department to remove about 40 to 60 buses from service and increase the district's efficiency rating by 3.8 to 5.6 percent. School day start and end times would change for some schools under both proposals.

For more information about the two multi-tier bus scheduling options to be presented to the board, including a side-by-side comparison, click on the link below.

[Read more...](#)

Oak Hill Rebooting the System

HIGH POINT - Almost a year has passed since Guilford County Schools officials, anxious to boost academic performance at Oak Hill Elementary, removed the former principal and most of its teaching staff.

That shuffling added a new energy to the struggling school: Hallways bustle day and night with teachers who feel freer to take creative risks with their students, parents pay more attention to their children's needs, and volunteers find ways to temper the pressure students feel to pass state exams. [Read more...](#)

Charter School Vote Delayed

RALEIGH, N.C. - A rewrite of North Carolina's charter school law that's headed for a floor vote in the legislature incorporates a Republican promise during the campaign - ending the current 100-school cap.

The Senate scheduled floor debate Wednesday before the first or two required votes. The legislation also would create a new commission that would take charter license applications and approve or reject them.

Watch the debate at 3 p.m. LIVE on WRAL.com [here](#).

[Read more](#)

More Speak Against Busing Changes for Guilford Schools

GREENSBORO - More parents, bus drivers and teachers panned a proposal to change bus schedules for students attending traditional Guilford County schools at a forum last Wednesday. [Click here](#) to read more...

Congratulations Jake Henry!

Congratulations to the Doris Henderson Newcomers School's Principal Jake Henry! Last week, the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation recognized his efforts by giving him the Unsung Hero Award and a check for \$12,500 to take back to his school.

[Read more here!](#)

Congratulations to all the Guilford County Schools Science Fair winners! [Click here!](#)



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

Perdue Would Merge College Plans

A \$49 million venture proposed by Gov. Bev Perdue would consolidate five existing high school-to-college programs and guarantee a free two-year degree, or comparable work-force training, to qualified students. Perdue announced her College to Career Promise program this week as part of her 2011-13 budget proposal.

Perdue plans to use money that supports five programs that will be rebranded as a single entity. Those are the Huskins program, Dual Enrollment, Cooperative and Innovative High Schools, Early College, and Learn and Earn Online.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Wake Judge Tells Legislators They Cannot Drop Students' Tests

Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning Jr. has told lawmakers that any legislation that eliminates mandatory end-of-course tests for public school students is "impermissible and would constitute a violation of the children's rights" under the state constitution.

If lawmakers drop the required high school tests, the move would set up a "constitutional confrontation," Manning wrote in a memo dated Monday to fellow Republicans Phil Berger, leader in the Senate, and Thom Tillis, House speaker. [Read more...](#)

Judge Sets Up Showdown Over School Tests

A Wake County judge has warned state lawmakers that dropping some mandatory end-of-course tests would violate the rights of public school students.

Superior Court Judge Howard Manning Jr., in a 22-page memo to the Republican leadership of the legislature, said eliminating required high school tests would set up a "constitutional confrontation." Manning was the presiding judge in the landmark Leandro legal case, in which the state Supreme Court held that the state constitution guarantees every child an opportunity for a sound basic education.

[Read more...](#)

Teacher Bashing Could Lead To Corporate Takeover of Public Education

A culture of teacher bashing could lead to a corporate takeover of American schools and the destruction of public education, one education expert warns.

[Washington Post blogger Valerie Strauss](#) quotes former teacher Stan Karp, who now is director of the [Secondary Reform Project for New Jersey's Education Law Center](#) and an editor of Rethinking Schools magazine.

Karp said he's [spent years criticizing flawed public education policies](#), "but now I find myself spending a lot of time defending the very idea of public education against those who say, it should be blown up." [Read more...](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)



Guilford Education Alliance is once again the proud sponsor of the On Stage! Student Talent Showcase starring over 600 Guilford County student performers! If you're looking for a fun night out while supporting the arts and local students, this is one event you won't want to miss!

In addition to watching dazzling student performances, you'll see four-time GRAMMY® Award winning tenor and High Point Central High School graduate [Anthony Dean Griffey](#) perform with students during the grand finale!

Mr. Griffey is also serving as this year's Honorary Chair of On Stage!

On Stage! will be held April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at War Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are on sale now for just \$20 and may be purchased online at [Ticketmaster.com](#) or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets are also available at select Lowes Food stores and at the Coliseum Box Office.

All tickets are for reserved seating, so get your tickets early for the best seats.

A portion of On Stage! ticket sales will directly benefit GCS arts education programs. It's also the major fundraising event for Guilford Education Alliance.

If you're interested in sponsoring the event or volunteering the day of the event, please contact our office at 336-841-4332 or GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Law of Unintended Consequences

The federal government should be the engine of equality, not the locomotive of inequality. With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Congress has the opportunity to fundamentally transform American education and set it on the path towards equality and excellence for all children.

When ESEA was last reauthorized by Congress in 2002 with overwhelming bipartisan support, the Bush administration called the new law the "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB)-a play on the Children Defense Fund's trademarked mission statement to "Leave No Child Behind." [Read more...](#)

Debate Over Busing in Wake County Shows Signs of Cooling

Raleigh, N.C.: More than a year after dismantling a student-assignment

policy based on socioeconomic diversity and setting off a wave of reaction that drew national attention, the Wake County, N.C., school board took a step last week that may turn down the temperature of the intense debate.

The board, which has been deeply split on an assignment plan for the 143,000-student district, decided on Feb. 15 to hand the matter over to Superintendent Anthony J. Tata, who joined the district less than a month ago. But Mr. Tata won't have to start from scratch. Among the plans he and a committee will weigh is one crafted by local business groups that would offer a controlled form of school choice to parents. [Read more...](#)

Losing States in Race to Top Scramble to Meet Promises

As the winners in the Race to the Top competition start spending their \$4 billion in grant money, the U.S. Department of Education's first such education reform contest has left nearly three dozen losing states with ambitious blueprints and no federal cash to put them into action.

In these tough budget times, states that failed to receive a Race to the Top award are scrounging for state funds to implement education overhaul promises they made in their grant applications, raising private money, and taking stock of what really needs to get done. [Read more...](#)



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

[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](#).

Test Tips That Can Make A Difference

Standardized tests can rise if a student gets coaching.

Preparation pays off, frequently with big-time results.

For years, the creators of the SAT and ACT have insisted that dramatic score increases are unlikely to be realized through coaching. The tests were promoted as a means to measure a student's innate ability to think and reason critically and therefore were determined to be "uncoachable."

In the 1940s while still in high school, Stanley Kaplan began helping his friends prepare for the standardized tests. Word spread of his success, and fast-forward a few decades to a test-prep industry that has survived and thrived. [Read more...](#)

Governor's Budget Protects Teaching Positions

Gov. Perdue's budget proposal protects North Carolina's legacy of investing in education.

Gov. Perdue understands that education is the foundation on which we build a successful, globally competitive North Carolina. In her proposed budget, she responsibly invests in the areas of public education that can make the most difference to our children.

North Carolina public schools enrolled 5,000 new students in the last two years, the university system added 12,000, and the community college system grew by 52,000. Growing demands on our public education system require smart, responsible investments. Educating our children means protecting our future economic success - today's students are tomorrow's workforce. [Read more...](#)

Obama Issues Budget Veto Threat

President Barack Obama issued on February 15 a veto threat on the [House Republicans' spending plan](#), which would cut education funding by nearly \$5 billion for the current fiscal year.

Here are the exact words from the administration:

"The Administration is committed to cutting spending and reducing the deficit so that current government spending does not add to the debt and has put forward a plan to do just that. However, the Administration does not support deep cuts that will undermine our ability to out-educate, out-build, and out-innovate the rest of the world.

"The bill proposes cuts that would sharply undermine core government functions and investments key to economic growth and job creation, and would reduce funding for the Department of Defense to a level that would leave the Department without the resources and flexibility needed to meet vital military requirements.

"If the President is presented with a bill that undermines critical priorities or national security through funding levels or restrictions, contains earmarks, or curtails the drivers of long-term economic growth and job creation while continuing to burden future generations with deficits, the President will veto the bill."

So there you go.

[Read more...](#)

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!

Our Pacesetter Sponsors

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Joseph M. Bryan Foundation of Greater Greensboro
Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro
Duke Energy Corporation
Greensboro Grasshoppers
Hillsdale Fund
Robert M. Irwin
Lincoln Financial Foundation
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Please join in thanking them for their support

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

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Greensboro Grasshoppers
Guilford Mills Foundation
Hanes Lineberry Funeral Homes
High Point Bank

Obama Proposes Modest Hike in Education Spending for FY 2012

The Obama administration just released its spending proposal for fiscal year 2012, which begins Oct. 1. And once again, education is a bright spot in an otherwise tight budget year.

The Obama administration is keeping domestic discretionary spending level, but it is asking \$77.4 billion in education funding, including \$49 billion excluding Pell Grants, for fiscal year 2012. That's a roughly 4 percent increase in non-Pell discretionary funding over fiscal year 2010, the most recent budget enacted.

[Read more...](#)

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

High Point Community Foundation
Joseph M Bryan Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group
McDonald's / DeJas Management
Michel Family Foundation
Moses Cone Health System
News & Record
Our State Magazine
Partnership Property Management
Piedmont Natural Gas
Precision Fabrics
Premier Commerical Bank
Procter & Gamble
Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants & Hotels
R. Steve Bowden & Assoc.
Rentenbach Constructors, Inc.
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Rooster Communications
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Southeast Fuels, Inc.
Sprinkle Family Foundation
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Thomas Built Buses
TIMCO Aviation Services
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United HealthCare
VF Corporation
Volvo Financial Services
Weaver Foundation
WFMY
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice
YMCA of Greensboro

Click [here](#) to learn more about the
Corporate Education Council
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/>

NC Council for Teachers of Mathematics

http://ncctm.org/grants_scholarships.cfm

Graduate Scholarships to Support Your
Education due March 1

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