



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

March 23, 2011

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Upcoming Events

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

Thursday, March 24:

Guilford County Board of Education Meeting; 6pm; Board Room, 712 N. Eugene Street.

Monday, March 28:

Guilford Parent Academy; 7 - 9pm; High Point Museum, 1859 E. Lexington Ave, High Point; Understanding Bullying. www.gcsnc.com/parentacademy/ to register and learn more or call 279-4924.

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 IEP's, and Introduction to tactic & strategies for effective advocacy. For registration, cost information contact Connie Bruffey at 336-605-4654 cbruffey2@bellsouth.net. Deadline to register is March 24th.

Tuesday, April 12:

Guilford County Board of Education Meeting; 6pm; Board Room, 712 N. Eugene Street.

Dear Jennifer,



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

There is still time to enter!!

"Like" Guilford Education Alliance on Facebook and win! "Like Us" by March 31 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!](#)

Help and Hope: A Better Fate for Black Men

GREENSBORO - Meet Jaquan Edwards and Tyrick Jackson. They're both 15, both freshmen at Dudley High.

Jaquan wants to be a lawyer or a basketball player. Tyrick wants to be a veterinarian or a computer technician. But they wonder if they'll make it.

Here's how they see it:

"You drive through downtown Greensboro," Tyrick says, "and you see that new jail they're building, and you know it's going to be filled with 85 percent black males, maybe 90 percent. And knowing the world today, no matter how hard you try, you'll hear, 'You're black! You're black! You're black!'"

[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.

Guilford County Schools
Operation H.O.P.E.
for Japan

After hearing of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear threat to Japan, GCS staff and students immediately began to think of ways to reach out and help the many adults and children left injured, hungry and homeless. Many concerned people have contacted the district office for guidance as to the best way to help.

As was done in response to Hurricane Katrina, the Indian Ocean tsunami and the earthquake in Haiti, GCS is enacting Operation H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Everywhere)

To learn how you can help, please contact Vernice Thomas, director of character education, at 621-4026.



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

Cuts Impact Guilford Schools' Goals

GREENSBORO - Guilford County Schools promised every student at Montlieu Elementary Academy of Technology a laptop or other wireless device to boost enrollment and prepare children for 21st-century jobs. So teachers and administrators anxiously await word that the district raised enough money to outfit classrooms before students return in the fall.

They believe Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green will follow through on opening a world-renowned technology school as part of his strategic plan.

[Read more...](#)

School Board to Discuss Bus Proposals Again

GUILFORD COUNTY - School officials will take another look Thursday at two proposed bus schedule options aimed at saving more than \$1 million.

After holding two series of public forums, the Guilford County Board of Education could decide on a plan during a 6pm meeting Thursday at District Administrative headquarters in Greensboro. [Read more...](#)

Students to Speak Out During Bullying Forum

"You just don't understand," is often a resounding cry from a teen to a parent. And although parents have likely been through similar experiences as their children, times have certainly changed, and the issues are becoming increasingly more complicated and causing a much louder echo in students' lives.

Bullying is one such issue that calls for the careful attention of parents, and here to help teach parents about what to watch out for and how to relate to their children is the Guilford Parent Academy who will host a forum on bullying at High Point Museum, 1859 E. Lexington Ave., Mon., March 28, 7-9 p.m.

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

Bringing Parents to Schools

Despite the current trend of holding teachers and principals solely accountable for student learning, research underscores the power of parents.

In fact, most top scholars note that, while teachers have significant influence on student achievement, non-school factors outweigh those controlled by educators by a two-to-one margin.

The impact parents have on student achievement can be profound. A 2006 study of National Assessment of Educational Progress data revealed a 30-point difference in scale scores between students with involved parents and those without. [Read more...](#)

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

[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

Hunt Back For Smart Start

RALEIGH -- Two decades ago, Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt used his renowned political arm-twisting skills to get state lawmakers to support a pilot early-childhood program, then persuaded Republican leaders to spend more so all 100 counties had it by the time he left office in 2001.

Smart Start began in 1993 and became a model for other states. It provides health screenings, parent training, and high-quality child care to families so tens of thousands of additional children are ready to learn when they reach kindergarten.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Testing Bill to Take Effect Without Perdue

RALEIGH -- Gov. Bev Perdue said Friday, March 18th, that a bill to eliminate four standardized end-of-course tests in North Carolina high schools will become law without her signature.

Perdue said two weeks ago she wouldn't veto the measure if it came to her desk. But she confirmed Friday that she wouldn't sign it into law, either. She had until Friday the 18th at midnight to act. [Read more...](#)

Teachers Rally in Raleigh Against Cuts Education

RALEIGH -- In a spirited display March 18 in downtown Raleigh, hundreds of teachers rallied against budget cuts expected in public schools.

Chanting "No more cuts!" and "Public schools!" the teachers, clad in red T-shirts, marched around a couple of blocks near the Raleigh Convention Center. More than 900 teachers and school staffers from across the state were in town for the annual convention of the N.C. Association of Educators, the teachers group. [Read more...](#)

Preschool Programs May Be Merged

Legislative Republicans want to merge the state's early childhood education and health programs, Smart Start and More at Four, a move that would grant continued life to both but which raises the possibility of significant funding cuts.

Republican leaders are considering three consolidation options, said Rep. Mitch Gillespie, one of the leading budget writers in the House, and will

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](#)



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[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



discuss details - at least with the GOP legislative caucuses - next week. It's likely, Gillespie said, that the health and education program Smart Start will absorb More at Four, the preschool program for children at risk of academic failure. [Read more...](#)

U.S. Is Urged to Raise Teachers' Status

To improve its public schools, the United States should raise the status of the teaching profession by recruiting more qualified candidates, training them better and paying them more, according to a new [report](#) on comparative educational systems.

Andreas Schleicher, who oversees the international achievement test known by its acronym Pisa, says in his report that top-scoring countries like Korea, Singapore and Finland recruit only high-performing college graduates for teaching positions, support them with mentoring and other help in the classroom, and take steps to raise respect for the profession.

[Read more...](#)

Obama Asks Congress for Education Bill by September

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...](#)

Fewer Schools Deemed 'Dropout Factories'

The number of U.S. schools with such poor graduation rates that they are known as "dropout factories" fell by 6.4 percent between 2008 and 2009, according to a [report](#) released March 22.

In 2008, the nation had 1,746 schools with graduation rates no higher than 60 percent. That number fell by 112, to 1,634, the following year. From 2008 to 2009, there were 183,701 fewer students attending these low-performing schools, an 8 percent drop.

[Read more...](#)



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](#) 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

- American Express
- 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
- The News & Record
- Weaver Foundation

Please join in thanking them for their support

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

Pay Teachers More

From the debates in Wisconsin and elsewhere about public sector unions, you might get the impression that we're going bust because teachers are overpaid.

That's a pernicious fallacy. A basic educational challenge is not that teachers are raking it in, but that they are underpaid. If we want to compete with other countries, and chip away at poverty across America, then we need to pay teachers more so as to attract better people into the profession. [Read more...](#)

New Urban Playbook: Hand Over Schools to Charter Operators

The financially embattled Detroit school system has announced a controversial plan to turn nearly a third of the district's 141 schools over to charter operators or education-management organizations by next school year. Officials say their only other option is to close dozens of low-performing schools.

If the plan to hand 41 schools over to outside managers is approved by the school board, the 73,000-student Detroit district will be borrowing a page from the same playbook that a growing number of large urban districts seem to be using. [Read more...](#)

Key Parts of Title I Broken, Researchers Say

Several pieces of the Title I program are broken and doing little for the disadvantaged students the law is intended to help, according to seven researchers offering **new analyses** of the multi-billion-dollar cornerstone of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

That message, delivered March 11 as part of a conference sponsored by the Center for American Progress and the American Enterprise Institute, comes as the Obama administration is ratcheting up efforts to redo the ESEA, the current version of which is the No Child Left Behind Act. Title I, which currently carries \$14.5 billion in federal aid, is intended to provide

Corporate Education Council

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United HealthCare
VF Corporation
Volvo Financial Services
Weaver Foundation
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YMCA of Greensboro

additional money for educating disadvantaged students that is distributed to schools based on the number of students in poverty they enroll. [Read more...](#)

Teachers Tackle Text Complexity

On a freezing morning in February, teachers from a Bronx high school pore over excerpts and guidelines, trying to figure out whether they should teach *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* or leave it to college professors.

A team of teachers from International Community High School joined colleagues from 17 other schools here to wrestle with the American classic in a basement meeting room as part of their city's attempt to beef up secondary literacy instruction. [Read more...](#)

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

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 their website

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

NCDPI Publications Available Online

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