



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

April 6, 2011

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Upcoming Events

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

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.

Thursday, April 7:

Town Hall Meeting with NC Representative Marcus Brandon; 6:30pm; Morehead Recreational Center, 101 Price Street, High Point. Contact Representative Brandon's office for more information at 919.733.5825.

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.

Tuesday, April 12:

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

Sunday, April 17:

Town Hall Meeting with NC Representative Marcus Brandon; 4:00pm; Warnersville Recreational Center, 601 Doak Street, Greensboro. Contact Representative Brandon's office for more information at 919.733.5825.

Dear Jennifer,



On Stage is **NEXT WEEK!!!**

Buy your tickets now!!

Click the logo to go to our website to order your reserve seats today!

**Congratulations to
Susan James Frye!!**

She "likes" Guilford Education Alliance on Facebook and won 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!](#)

Her Past Leads to Their Future

Your name is Savannah Wadler. Your dream is to be a teacher. And this is your shot.

The school: Gillespie Park Elementary. The time: February 2010. The situation: not good.

Your predecessor just quit. The school is under scrutiny for low test scores. Every student in your class has been projected to fail the end-of-grade test.

You need at least 50 percent of them to pass.

Oh yeah, and you've got two weeks to do it.

Now meet your class. [Read more...](#)

Thursday, April 28:

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

Monday, May 2:

Fitness by the Fountain; 5:00 - 8:00; Center City Park, Greensboro; Free event featuring jazzercise, African dance, zumba, and boot camp. Just bring yourself, dress comfortably and bring water. Health screening and information will be available.

Tuesday, May 3:

One Voice Rally; Raleigh NC; NCAE is holding the rally in Raleigh. Anyone interested in attending can sign up at www.onevoicerrally.com.

CHARACTER CORNER

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Paw Power Ladies and GQ Gentlemen of Mcleansville Elementary School raised \$500 to help a teacher in need at the Paw Power Ladies Pageant on March 25. The theme was, "An Evening of Elegant Power." With more than 500 in attendance, the Paw Power Ladies escorted by the Gentlemen Quintessential members, took the crowd by storm. Paw ...Power Ladies elegantly graced the stage in their formal attire as GQ stepped with pride in their club t-shirts. Students who are not members of either organization participated by showcasing their talent, and the two hour event left the audience begging for more. The Paw Power Ladies raised \$500 for Ms. Freda Moseley, teacher at Dudley High, who the students heard was in need of a very costly operation. Ms. Moseley phoned Mcleansville to express her appreciation and the Paw Power Ladies were inspired to continue working in the community to help others.



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,

Lawmaker to Hold Town Hall Meetings on Education Bills

HIGH POINT -- N.C. Rep. Marcus Brandon, D-Guilford, plans to hold two town hall meetings to hear from the public on education bills under consideration by state lawmakers.

The catered meetings will occur at 6:30 p.m., April 7, at Morehead Recreation Center, 101 Price St. in High Point, and 4 p.m. April 17 at Warnersville Recreation Center, 601 Doak St., Greensboro.

Brandon plans to discuss attempts to lift the cap on charter schools in the state and the approved elimination of four state end-of-course exams. He also will mention bills he intends to file that would both require personal education plans for every student and raise the compulsory school attendance age for students from 16 to 18.

Call Brandon's office at (919) 733-5825 for more information.

'Race to Nowhere' Asks Whether Kids Are Pushed Too Far

I tutor a third-grader. Let's call her Jane. She hates tests.

We were squeezing in some reading this week minutes before she started her Benchmarks - countywide tests that gauge a student's proficiency in math and reading - when she blurted out how she felt. [Read more...](#)

School Volunteer Proves Age is Just a Number

There is no denying that Guilford County Schools has many wonderful volunteers who support teachers and staff in numerous ways. But Thurman Haynes, a volunteer at Haynes-Inman Education Center in Jamestown, just may be in a class by himself.

Most notably are his age and the number of hours he devotes each week to volunteering at the school. The 94 year old easily averages about 20 hours a week. He begins the day at 8:15 a.m. with bus duty, helping get kids safely off the buses and to their classrooms. His mornings are then filled with assisting adapted physical education teacher Vicki Simmons.

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

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 www.guilfordeducationalliance.org, Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets are also available 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](#)



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](#)

NC Program May Give the Gifted a Boost

Here's a brilliant idea: If you want smarter kids, treat them as if they're smart.

A U.S. Department of Education evaluation of a North Carolina program shows that when at-risk students are taught as if they are gifted and talented, they are likely to perform better academically.

The pilot program, called Project Bright IDEA, operated from 2004 to 2009 in kindergarten through second-grade classrooms in 11 North Carolina school districts. Five thousand students were in the program at schools that receive federal funding because of a high percentage of low-income children.

[Read more...](#)

State Health Plan (\$1800 Pay Cut) Bill Goes to Governor Perdue

RALEIGH - Higher co-pays, deductibles and mandated monthly premiums for all active North Carolina state workers and teachers are included in Republican-penned legislation that received approval Monday night at the Legislature and is headed to Gov. Beverly Perdue's desk.

The Senate voted 31-18 along party lines in favor of changes made by the House last week that are part of a proposal to close a \$515 million State Health Plan shortfall through mid-2013. The bill rolled through the General Assembly in less than two weeks. Administrators must prepare to make cost changes starting July 1. There was no additional debate Monday. [Read more...](#)

House Returns to Charter School Reform

At 8:30 Wednesday morning in 544 LOB, lawmakers will take up a new version of Senate Bill 8, Charter School Reform.

House GOP leaders said last week they'd slowed down the process to consider input from the measure's opponents. Democrats expressed concerns about charter governance and standards, transportation and lunches for low-income students, and money problems for local boards who could find themselves facing a dozen or more new charters seeking to share education funds. [Read more...](#)

Charter School Bill Would Cost Local School Districts Millions

One of the most controversial bills of the early 2011 state legislative session is a proposal advanced by legislative Republicans to dramatically loosen state regulations on charter schools. Unfortunately, rather than just promoting charters, the bill takes a number of steps that pose a real threat to traditional public schools.

Though there are several big controversies surrounding the legislation, the biggest one boils down to funding. Right now, local school districts get money for their traditional public schools from a variety of funding sources - many of which require the schools receiving the funds to provide certain programs (things like Head Start, More at Four, and Junior ROTC). These schools also receive lots of public funds to provide

Today there are 120 projects for Guilford County classrooms listed on



right now! So far, you have helped to fund almost 800 projects in Guilford County School classrooms. Help us reach 1,000 by December 31st!



Jocelyn will probably never forget the day those new supplies arrived in her classroom. With a donation of just \$75, you can [create an unforgettable moment](#) for a whole class full of kids. One of them might even become your new best friend!

Our Pacesetter Sponsors

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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

transportation as well as free and reduced price meals to kids who can't afford them. [Read more...](#)

Experts Outline Challenges Facing Math Instruction

Students with disabilities and non-native English speakers need thoughtful guidance; technology can play a role

Numerous studies point to a fact that cannot be ignored: U.S. students' [math and science](#) performance trails that of several other countries, and the nation's classrooms need qualified, committed teachers to help students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), and at-risk students succeed in higher-level math and science courses.

During the Texas Instruments [T3 \(Teachers Teaching with Technology\)](#) International Conference in late February, educators got the chance to learn how technology can be integrated into math and science instruction. The conference included sessions dedicated to the instruction of at-risk students, including those with disabilities and ELLs. [Read more...](#)

Games and Simulations Help Children Access Science

With all the time today's youths spend on computers and mobile devices, technology can serve as a familiar vehicle for learning.

Want to know what it's like to stalk elk, or a mate, from the vantage point of a wild animal?

Educators at the Minnesota Zoo, located in a suburb south of the Twin Cities, created just such an online game a few years ago that has proved immensely popular-and educational. Called WolfQuest, it allows players to learn about wolf ecology by exploring Yellowstone National Park as that creature.

[Read more...](#)

Separate and Unequal

One of the most powerful tools for improving the educational achievement of poor black and Hispanic public school students is, regrettably, seldom even considered. It has become a political no-no. Educators know that it is very difficult to get consistently good results in schools characterized by high concentrations of poverty. The best teachers tend to avoid such schools. Expectations regarding student achievement are frequently much lower, and there are lower levels of parental involvement. These, of course, are the very schools in which so

Corporate Education Council

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Bank of North Carolina
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Bouvier Kelly, Inc.
Brown Investment Properties
Cemala Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro
Cornerstone Health Care
Cross Company
D.S. Miller, Inc.
Duke Energy
Ellison Family Foundation
Ernst & Young
First Citizens Bank
Gilbarco Veeder-Root
Greensboro Grasshoppers
Guilford Mills Foundation
Hanes Lineberry Funeral Homes
High Point Bank
High Point Community Foundation
Joseph M Bryan Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group
McDonald's / DeJas Management
Michel Family Foundation
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TIMCO Aviation Services
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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!

many black and Hispanic children are enrolled.

[Read more...](#)

Visit Classrooms Early and Often, And Give New Tools to Principals

In a recent comparison of student achievement in 65 countries, American adolescents ranked 17th in reading, 23rd in science, and 31st in math. Within the United States, achievement gaps among racial and economic groups are widening - including in Massachusetts.

Why? Lots of factors drag down achievement, but research shows that one thing can overcome them all: good teaching. What happens in classrooms is especially important for children who enter school with any kind of disadvantage; effective teaching closes achievement gaps; mediocre and ineffective teaching widens them.

[Read more...](#)

Advocates Worry ESEA Rewrite May Weaken Law

Civil rights, business, and education advocates are warning that Congress and the Obama administration may defang a key portion of the No Child Left Behind Act in their quest to make the law more flexible-shortchanging racial minorities and other historically overlooked student subgroups in the process.

Their concern comes amid debate about whether the law can be revised to give greater leeway to schools and districts in boosting achievement for minorities, special education students, English-language learners, and other subgroups. [Read more...](#)

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford County Council of PTAs newsletter

[April 2011 newsletter](#)

[Click here](#) for the their website

Grant Opportunities

Kenan Fellowships

Available online beginning December 15

<http://www.ncsu.edu/kenanfellows/>

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