



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

May 27, 2009

In This Issue

- Support Guilford Education Alliance
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Programs
- NC General Assembly Update
- We Must Invest in Education
- Special Rates at O'Henry and Proximity Hotels for Graduation
- Students Make Plea for School Funding
- School Board Reduces All Salaries for Fairness
- Guilford County Student of the Year Awards
- State Considers Changing Status of Dropouts
- Wake's Grads Do Best in College
- Champion of Diverse Wake Schools Speaks
- State Eyes Shorter School Year
- Testing Faces Ups and Downs
- National Opportunity to Learn Campaign
- Grant Opportunities

Support Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford Education Alliance is dependent on donations from the community for its operating expenses.

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

Also, be sure to join our new Facebook page!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jamestown-NC/Guilford-Education-Alliance/57559838156>

NC General Assembly Budget Cuts Concerning Children's Issues, Update May 26, 2009

The North Carolina General Assembly is considering many budget cuts to children's education and other programs. This is an update on Children's Issues posted on Tuesday, May 26th. Guilford Education Alliance asks that you read this and respond to our Legislative Delegation with your concerns. The proposed cuts in early childhood programs and in public education are large and can be very damaging to our children's future. Margaret Arbuckle, Executive Director
<http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/news/documents/Legislativeupdate5-26-09.pdf>

Margaret Arbuckle: We Must Invest in Education

It is very disturbing that the critical need to invest in education to prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st-century economy, which was top of mind six months ago, has now been overshadowed by the current financial crisis. There is no doubt that local and state government incomes are impacted by this deep recession. However, in many ways, the change in our economy warrants even more attention to the importance of investment in our future through support for education. http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/05/01/article/margaret_arbuckle_we_must_invest_in_education

Special Rates at O'Henry and Proximity Hotels for Graduation

Do you have family visiting during the 2009 Graduation Weekend? Take advantage of a special Guilford County Schools Graduation rate on June 5-8 for you or your loved ones and stay at either the O. Henry Hotel or Proximity Hotel, both near Friendly Shopping Center in Greensboro. Enjoy beautiful

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](#)

Upcoming Events

Thursday May 28:

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

Saturday May 30: Mobile Cinema Park's Summer Cinema Kick-Off Event; 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm; tickets are \$10.75; Studio B, 5250 S. Elm St., Greensboro; for tickets call 294-7770

Monday June 1:

"Homerun for Homelessness"; Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game; 6:00 pm Kids Carnival, 7:05 pm opening pitch; proceeds from group ticket sales will be donated to the Partners ending Homelessness Initiative; for group tickets contact Brian Lee at 268-2887 or brian@gschoppers.com

Monday June 8: "School Success without Summer Stress" Parent Workshop; Reading and Writing Strategies to Utilize when working with your child; parents of rising 1-5th

accommodations and outstanding service at either of these AAA Four Diamond Hotels. **In addition to giving the great rates, they will donate \$25 from every graduation reservation to the Guilford Education Alliance Teacher Supply Warehouse!**

To make Proximity Hotel reservations, visit www.proximityhotel.com and enter 10C3ZH as the online reservations group code (click "reserve online") or call 336-379-8200. Your rate is \$169 (regular rate \$239).

To make O.Henry Hotel reservations, visit www.ohenryhotel.com and enter 10C3ZQ as the online reservations group code (click "reserve online") or call 336-854-2000. Your rate is \$169 (regular rate \$249).

Students Make Plea for School Funding

Who can say no to the pleas of children? At least two local principals hope the Guilford County commissioners can't. "I don't like my hair getting wet when I come to school," Archer Elementary fifth grader Theresah Woodland said after reading a letter to the commissioners Thursday night (May 21st) during a hearing on the proposed county budget.

http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/05/21/article/students_make_plea_for_school_funding

School Board Reduces All Salaries for Fairness

A vote this morning (Tuesday May 19th) means that all school employees will feel the pain of pay cuts caused by the state budget crisis. The Guilford County Board of Education voted 8-0 to cut all employees' pay by one half of one percent, regardless of where the funding for their position comes from. In April, Gov. Bev Perdue ordered all state employees' salaries to be cut by one half of one percent by June 30. In return, employees have 10 hours of leave they must take before Dec. 31.

http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/05/19/article/school_board_reduces_all_salaries_for_fairness

Guilford County Student of the Year Awards

Two local students have been honored as recipients of the 50th annual Student of the Year Award. They are Tara Foster, a student at Eastern Guilford High School, and Michael Raymond Blische, Jr. of Jackson Middle School. Each month throughout the academic year, middle and high school students in Guilford County who have shown substantial personal and academic growth and responsibility are tapped to receive the Student Improvement Award. Monthly award winners are then candidates for the Student of the Year Award.

<http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/news/documents/annualstudentimprovement2009.pdf>

graders; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; The Piedmont School. 815 Old Mill Road, High Point, NC 27265 Cost for the workshop is \$30.00. Call 336-883-0992 for more information or Email: info@thepiedmontschool.com

Tuesday June 9: Guilford County Board of Education meeting; 6:00 pm; 712 N. Eugene St., Greensboro; for an agenda, go to www.qcsnc.com

Sunday June 21: "Moses Cone Family Sunday" at the Greensboro Grasshoppers game; tickets are \$7 and a fundraiser for Guilford Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention; call Kristen Barbee for tickets at 373-7710

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

Youth First Teen Summer Camp will take place at the Folk Teen Center (3910 Clifton Road, Greensboro) Monday - Friday from June 15th to August 7th; the day camps last from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and is \$42 per week; Pre-registration begins on March 8th at the Sportsplex Summer Camp expo from 1-6 pm; for more information, go to <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Parks/>

State Considers Changing Status of Dropouts

Thousands of robed and tasseled students will pick up their high school diplomas this month from community colleges, though they'll show up as dropouts in state statistics. But a growing number of state legislators and education leaders want students who seek high school credentials from community colleges to be counted as if they had finished at local high schools. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1534684.html>

Wake's Grads Do Best in College

A new report indicates that Wake County high school graduates as college students are outperforming their peers from Durham, Charlotte and the state's other urban school districts. A comparison by Queens University of Charlotte placed Wake's graduates at the top among five urban school districts in the state when it comes to academic success in the University of North Carolina system.

http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/wake/story/1533167.html?story_link=email_msg

Champion of Diverse Wake Schools Speaks

Gerald Grant's message to America is clear -- emulate Wake County's school diversity policy or risk turning your back on poor and minority students. Grant is spreading his provocative message in his new book "Hope and Despair in the American City: Why There Are No Bad Schools in Raleigh."

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/story/1536267.html>

State Eyes Shorter School Year

Legislators are talking about cutting the 2009-10 school year short by five days because of the budget crisis. Public schools would employ fewer assistant principals, teaching assistants and social workers under a proposed education budget presented this week. (Friday May 22nd)

<http://www.newsobserver.com/politics/story/1537759.html>

Testing Faces Ups and Downs Amid Recession

As the recession crimps education budgets, states are beginning to pare the number of standardized tests they give, particularly those that no longer factor into state or federal accountability decisions. At the district level, though, it's a different story. Despite pressure not to cut staffing and programs, many districts are preserving local "interim" or "benchmark" tests meant to gauge how students are progressing over the course of the year--even though such assessments are not required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act or generally by state officials.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/05/13/31assess_ep.h28.html?tkn=NXZF%2BA%2Bvhi9opgJBa8ixSH71i36UbWuxLZPf

programs/youthfirst

Volunteer Center's Service Learning Impacting Citizenship Camp

Rising 9th-12th graders are eligible; August 3rd - August 7th; 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; \$50 with lunch included; for more information call 373-1633 or go to

www.volunteergso.org

Greensboro Children's Museum Summer Camp Buzz!

Weekly camps will take place June 15th - August 14th; morning camps are 8:30 - 12:30 and afternoon camps are 1:30 to 5:30; also a full day option; scholarships are available; for more information call 574-2898 x 305 or go to

www.gcmuseum.com

Summer Programs for Youth

Click the following link to view a listing of 2009 summer programs for youth. [Click here.](#)

National Opportunity to Learn Campaign

In its *Lost Opportunity* report, the Schott Foundation for Public Education establishes an "initial" metric for determining the Opportunity to Learn for students. The Schott Foundation provides a state-by-state comparison of both academic proficiency and access to high-performing schools. Realizing if the U.S. is to provide every student a true opportunity to learn, the country must first ensure that all students, even the most disadvantaged, have access to the high-quality resources necessary for success.

<http://www.blackboysreport.org/otlwebsite/>

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

American Federation of Teachers Launches \$2.8 Million Fund to Support Education Innovations

The American Federation of Teachers has announced the launch of a \$2.8 million fund to support AFT teacher unions nationwide in developing and implementing bold education innovations in public schools.

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=251500005>



Learn how you can help fund projects in Guilford County Schools' classrooms through donations on DonorsChoose.org.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Community Grants

June 15, 2009

The Community Grants Program, each Best Buy territory across the United States annually selects non-profit organizations that apply for grants to support programs and services that provide opportunities for young teens related to education, life skills, leadership skills or relationship development. This year, Best Buy Children's Foundation will give \$1 million through the Community Grants Program. <http://www.easymatch.com/bestbuygrant>

High School Teachers Invited to Apply for Classroom Earth Professional Development Grants

Deadline: June 12, 2009

A program of the National Environmental Education Foundation, Classroom Earth Professional Development grants are designed to support high school teachers new to the field of environmental education who want to increase the environmental literacy of their students.



[://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=252600041](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=252600041)

and Library Media Connection Invite Nominations for TEAMS Award
Deadline: June 15, 2009

Gale/Library Media Connection TEAMS Award recognizes and encourages critical collaboration between the teacher and media specialist to promote learning and increase student achievement.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=252600043

To donate materials to

Guilford County Schools Teachers visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse

[Click here to learn more](#)

To make a contribution to support the valuable programs of Guilford Education Alliance, visit <http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/support/index.php>

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

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.GuilfordEducation
Alliance.org/support
/
index.php](http://www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)