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June 23, 2011

Dear Jennifer,

Summertime is upon us. Students all over Guilford County, North Carolina and the country are celebrating the end of another school year. Graduation will mark a new beginning for about 5100 Guilford County Schools students. These students have broken a record for scholarship offers and continue to showcase Guilford County educators as outstanding! Congratulations to each of you! We wish you much luck and continued academic success!! Take a moment to see their faces and read some of their amazing stories [here](#).

Sincerely,
Guilford Education Alliance

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Character Corner

When it comes to students and reading, Betty Hobbs, Reading Support Specialist for Grades 3 - 5 at Vandalia Elementary School, likes to dream big. On Thursday, June 9, Mrs. Hobbs managed to give each student at Vandalia between three and five books of their own to read over the summer.



Last summer when her husband was in the hospital in Chapel Hill, Mrs. Hobbs read an article in the Durham newspaper discussing how many students fall behind over the summer in reading because they have no books or because their parents can't get them to the library. Sitting in the hospital room, she set a goal of putting two books in the hands of each student at Vandalia before the next summer. Vandalia's principal, Keisha McMillan, agreed that Hobbs had a great idea. Hobbs recruited her church, Tabernacle United Methodist, to help procure new or gently used books. Over the Christmas season, Alamance Volunteer Fire Department, got involved. Later, she acquired a Faith Partner, Christian Reconciliation Fellowship, who donated both almost 500 books and their time at the June Book Giveaway. In all, Hobbs managed to collect 1,100 books, surpassing her original goal by more than double.

Students were able to come in with their class and "shop" for their free books. Hobbs and volunteers had set up rooms to look like book shops. Students were able to make their own selections so they would pick things they want to read.

"Students need to read over the summer so they don't lose progress," said Hobbs. "The day after the giveaway children I didn't even know were stopping me in the hall to say 'I'm going to read this summer' and to thank me for the books. It was wonderful! I'm definitely doing this again next year!"

Guilford County Education News

Class Sizes Might Stay the Same, Green Says

GREENSBORO - Guilford County Schools officials will spend the next week figuring out what other cost-saving proposals they can discard now that state and local budgets are in place for next year. [Read more...](#)

Guilford County Schools Sets Record with College Scholarship Offers

GREENSBORO - Students graduating from Guilford County Schools were offered almost \$120 million in college scholarships, surpassing the district's previous record by more than \$9 million. [Read more...](#)

North Carolina Education News

Co-Pay Will Hurt More At Four

The legislature's changes to "More at Four" will cause irreparable damage to the highly regarded pre-kindergarten program and shut out thousands of low-income children, a state education administrator testified Wednesday in court. [Read more...](#)

Adding 5 School Days Sets Off a Tiff

RALEIGH -- For all the clock-watching algebra students who know the precise moment the bell will ring, down to the position of the second hand, your wait may get a little longer. School leaders across the state are balking at a provision in the recently adopted state budget that would require them to extend the school year by five more days. The number of required

instruction hours would also increase 2.5 percent to 1,025 hours annually. [Read more...](#)

National Education News

NAEP History Repeats Itself: Flat Scores Except 8th Grade

The nation's 8th graders posted gains in American history achievement compared with four years ago, new data show, but only a small minority, 17 percent, were rated "proficient" or higher in the subject. [Read more...](#)

The Regulation Threat: Pros and Cons

Education Secretary Arne Duncan dropped a bombshell on educators and Congress alike last week when he [announced](#) that the Education Department would pursue changes to the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act through regulations if Congress doesn't get its act together and reauthorize the law. [Read more...](#)

Guilford Education Alliance Community Programs and Calendar of Events

[Guilford Education Alliance Corporate Education Council](#)

