

Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

August 4, 2010

In This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Summer Camps
- Support Guilford Education Alliance
 - 2010 Education Summit
 - 2010 Back to School Kit
 - N.C. a School Grants Finalist
 - Editorial: Set the Bar Higher
- 'Controlled Choice' Sets Script for School Zones
- Wake Schools Hear Ideas on Discipline
 - NC Ranks 37th in Child Well-Being
 - Class Management Systems Monitor Students' Monitors
- Civil Rights Groups Call for New Federal Education Agenda
 - The Case Against Summer Vacation
 - Once a Leader, U.S. Lags in College Degrees
 - The Case for \$320,000 Kindergarten Teachers
 - How Preschool Changes the Brain
- Study: Error Rates High When Student Test Scores Used to Evaluate Teachers
 - The Real Problem with NY's "Gifted" Tests for Kindergarteners
 - Effectively Linking Teachers and Students
 - Oakland Schools Struggle, but Emeryville May Point a Way Up
 - Cheating Inquiry in Atlanta Largely Vindicates Schools
 - Grant Opportunities

Upcoming Events

[Click here](#) for the open house schedule for all Guilford County Schools

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

Also, be sure to join our [Facebook page!](#)

2010 Education Summit on December 2nd!



Keynote Speaker Ron Clark

North Carolina Native
Disney American Teacher of the Year
Making a Difference in the Lives of Children
[Click here](#) to learn more about Ron Clark!

Thursday December 2nd, 7:30 am

Koury Convention Center

Reservations available through the Guilford Education Alliance beginning in September

2010 Back to School Kit

[Click here](#) for the Guilford County Schools 2010 Back to School Kit! It includes essential information that the parents and guardians of Guilford County Schools students need to know.

N.C. a School Grants Finalist

North Carolina is one of 19 finalists competing for a share of \$3.4 billion in grants to improve education, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced Tuesday (July 27th). Under the state's proposal to win the grants, North Carolina could remove principals from low-performing schools that don't improve and would build networks of schools focused on math and science. The state would also create training for new teachers modeled after the

Tuesday August 10:

Guilford County Board of Education meeting; 6:00 pm; 712 N. Eugene St, Greensboro; [click here](#) for more info

Saturday August 14: *Kickoff to Kindergarten* at the Greensboro Children's Museum, 220 North Church St, Greensboro; 3-5 pm; call 574-2898 x 311 for more information

Friday August 20: Guilford County Department of Public Health *Teen Immunization Clinic*; for info or an appointment in Greensboro call 641-5563, in High Point call 845-7655

Monday August 23: Guilford County Department of Public Health *Teen Immunization Clinic*; for info or an appointment in Greensboro call 641-5563, in High Point call 845-7655



The Teacher Supply Warehouse will reopen for shopping on Tuesday, Aug. 10. 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.

Take advantage of the Sales Tax Holiday August 6-8 for back to school supplies! Don't forget to pick up extra supplies to donate to the Teacher Supply Warehouse.

Teach for America program, which recruits top college graduates to teach in poor schools... [read more](#)

Editorial: Set the Bar Higher

North Carolina climbed a big step this week in the federal Race to the Top school funding competition. It's one of 19 states named a finalist for a share of \$3.4 billion.

It helped that North Carolina recently adopted national academic standards, one of the keys to winning points from the U.S. Department of Education... [read more](#)

[Click here](#) to view the report from the Fordham Institute *The State of State Standards - and the Common Core - in 2010*

'Controlled Choice' Sets Script for School Zones

Wake County parents will likely need to start doing homework to choose their children's schools, instead of having the decision made for them on the basis of their address. Members of a key school board committee Tuesday (July 27th) praised an approach that would drop the longstanding idea of assigning neighborhoods to a specific school. Instead, the county would be divided into a number of new attendance zones, with parents choosing among several schools and the system making final decisions based on parental requests... [read more](#)

Wake Schools Hear Ideas on Discipline

A Wake County school board committee charged with improving the performance of low-income students gave a warm response Thursday (July 29) to an advocacy group's recommendations for easing the district's strict discipline policies... [read more](#)

NC Ranks 37th in Child Well-Being

Action for Children North Carolina announced that, based on 2007 data, the new Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Book ranked North Carolina 37th in child well-being nationwide. The data book, released annually, is a state-by-state comparison of ten selected measures of the well-being of America's children. The data book reveals that NC has improved on five of the ten measures since the year 2000. While, on three other measures, conditions have worsened for the State's children... [read more](#) (scroll to story #3)

Class Management Systems Monitor Students' Monitors

Maura Hendrickson didn't like peering over her elementary school students' shoulders while they worked on desktop computers. Yet, with no other way to see their monitors, it was the best defense she had against a student getting distracted, falling behind, and

To donate materials to
Guilford County Schools
Teachers visit the
Teacher Supply Warehouse

[Click here to learn more](#)

Summer Programs

Volunteers Needed for the Hope Project

Greensboro's Hope Project is teaming up with The Next Level of the Triad to host a summer basketball tournament and a series of recreation activities for youth and families. The program brought in an attendance of over 3000 in the spring and summer of 2009. With the addition of more activities, we expect a turn-out of even more this year! To support this growing program we are asking for commitments from faith based organizations, community service agencies, college volunteers, advocates and leaders to help provide safe and enjoyable activities. For more info call Dakia Davis at 373-4673

UNC-G Dream Camp Dream Camp is a therapeutic and recreational day camp designed for children aged 8 to 18 with Asperger's Disorder. The main focus of the camp is to enhance social skills and to help children cope with the common challenges they face. Campers will also enjoy art, music and outdoor activities!; August 9-13; For more information, call Sarah O'Rourke at 336-346-3196 x. 704.

Greensboro Children's Museum
The Greensboro Children's Museum offers morning, half-day, summer enrichment camps for children ages 4 - 11 years old! Over 18 camps are available throughout the summer with different themes like science, music, art, nature, cooking, construction, fantasy, and gardening! [Click here](#) for a list of the camps and how to register.

Community Theatre of Greensboro
CTG is offering week-long (and 1 two week-long) Summer Theatre Camps. The students will put on a mini-production and will present it to family and friends at the end of the week.
Dates: June 14-August 20

doing poorly... [read more](#)

Civil Rights Groups Call for New Federal Education Agenda

Seven leading civil rights groups, including the NAACP and the National Urban League, called on U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today (July 26th) to dismantle core pieces of his education agenda, arguing that his emphases on expanding charter schools, closing low-performing schools, and using competitive rather than formula funding are detrimental to low-income and minority children... [read more](#)

The Case Against Summer Vacation

Blame Tom Sawyer: Americans have a skewed view of childhood and summertime. We associate the school year with oppression and the summer months with liberty. School is regimen; summer is creativity. School is work and summer is play. But when American students are competing with children around the globe who may be spending four weeks longer in school each year, larking through summer is a luxury we can't afford... [read more](#)

Once a Leader, U.S. Lags in College Degrees

Adding to a drumbeat of concern about the nation's dismal college-completion rates, the College Board warned Thursday (July 22nd) that the growing gap between the United States and other countries threatens to undermine American economic competitiveness... [read more](#)

The Case for \$320,000 Kindergarten Teachers

How much do your kindergarten teacher and classmates affect the rest of your life? Economists have generally thought that the answer was not much. Great teachers and early childhood programs can have a big short-term effect... [read more](#)

How Preschool Changes the Brain

We live in a world of scarce governmental resources, and they seem to be getting scarcer. This means it's more important than ever to pick our public investments wisely. A new paper by Flavio Cunha, an economist at the University of Pennsylvania, and James Heckman, a Nobel Laureate at the University of Chicago, documents the wisdom of one particular kind of investment: Preschool... [read more](#)

Study: Error Rates High When Student Test Scores Used to Evaluate Teachers

I don't actually understand all of a new statistical study about error rates when "value-added" student test scores are used to

Ages: 3-18 years old
[Click here](#) for cost and more information

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](#)



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

[Click here to learn more](#)

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.

evaluate teachers, but I do get this: The rates high enough to give even supporters of such measures some pause about using them for high-stakes decisions... [read more](#)

The Real Problem with NY's "Gifted" Tests for Kindergarteners

Given the anxieties and aspirations of their target audience of readers, its no surprise that publications like the New York Times and New York Magazine never tire of writing about the concerns raised by New York City's system of identifying "gifted" students for special gifted programs. Today, the NYT looks at how the city's gifted assessment serves to lock in educational inequities between low-income children and middle-class and affluent families who can pay to prep their youngsters for the test... [read more](#)

Effectively Linking Teachers and Students: The Key to Improving Teacher Quality

Current state and federal reform initiatives rely heavily on the ability of multiple stakeholders to access and use information from statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDSs) to improve student achievement. State policymakers have indicated through reform plans that states are best positioned to achieve this goal by developing and implementing various policies affecting educators. They will also, for the first time on a larger and more visible scale, use student achievement as a primary indicator of educator and program effectiveness... [read more](#)

Oakland Schools Struggle, but Emeryville May Point a Way Up

In his five-year plan to turn around the lowest-performing schools in the Oakland Unified School District, Superintendent Tony Smith does not mention teachers, textbooks or test scores. Instead, Mr. Smith said his students most urgently needed social and health services, engaged parents and activities outside the classroom... [read more](#)

Cheating Inquiry in Atlanta Largely Vindicates Schools

The Atlanta public school system was substantially vindicated Monday (August 2nd) when the results of an independent investigation into cheating on standardized tests were released. The inquiry was the result of a state report on irregularities on test answer forms that flagged 58 of Atlanta's 84 elementary and middle schools in February, causing much consternation among parents and teachers and raising concerns that cheating was condoned at the highest levels of the administration... [read more](#)

Please join in thanking them for their support!

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Click here](#) for the full report.

Grant Opportunities

Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro Seeks Grant Applicants for Educational Programs

Deadline: August 31, 2010

The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro is looking for youth programs in need. The Future Fund is accepting applications for organizations or programs that will make an impact or improvement on the education of local youth. For more information go to www.cfgg.org

Kids In Need Foundation Accepting Applications for Teacher Grants

Deadline: September 30, 2010

The School, Home, & Office Products Association's Kids In Need Foundation offers Kids In Need Teacher Grants to provide K-12 educators in United States with funding to implement innovative learning opportunities for their students.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=302200022

Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Offers Instruments for School Music Programs

Deadline: October 1, 2010

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates both new and refurbished instruments to school and after-school music programs in the United States that lack the resources to keep up with equipment loss due to attrition, depreciation, and wear over time, and to accommodate students on waiting lists or who have to share instruments.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=301400013

Surdna Foundation Accepting Applications for Arts Teachers Fellowship Program

Deadline: November 12, 2010

The Surdna Foundation is accepting applications for its Arts Teachers Fellowship Program, a national initiative to support the artistic revitalization of outstanding arts teachers in public arts high schools.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=303500024

Student Groups Invited to Submit Entries for SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards

Deadline: December 1, 2010

A program of the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, the 2011 SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards will recognize the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the U.S. who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=302200024

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.

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

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