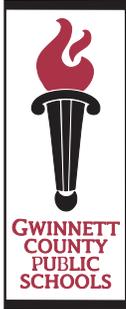


EDUCATION BRIEFS

*Information and celebrations for
Gwinnett County Public Schools
and district employees*



Volume 25, Number 5

December 2004

CEO/Superintendent Wilbanks honored as top Ga. leader



Left:
CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks (left) accepts congratulations on his selection as Georgia's 2005 Superintendent of the Year. **H.F. Johnson** (right), the president of the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA), called Mr. Wilbanks "a wise and courageous leader" in announcing the award at the annual conference of the Georgia School Boards Association on Dec. 3.

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J. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS), is **Georgia's 2005 Superintendent of the Year**. While a surprise to Mr. Wilbanks, the announcement did not surprise key staff members who "snuck" into the conference luncheon so they could share the moment and add their congratulations. Accepting the award, Mr. Wilbanks said "I've had the opportunity to work for great people—the Gwinnett County Board of Education—and with good people—my staff. This is a recognition for all of us, and I thank you on behalf of everyone at Gwinnett County Public Schools."

As the Georgia winner, Mr. Wilbanks will represent the state in the national Superintendent of the Year contest, which culminates with the naming of the national winner at the National Conference on Education in February 2005.

A well-respected, visionary leader, Mr. Wilbanks led Gwinnett's efforts in implementing an accountability model for its schools and system departments, long before the mandates of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Georgia's A+ Education Reform Law. He has served in influential roles at the state and national levels in the area of education reform. In addition, he is held in high regard by the Gwinnett business community, which consistently praises the quality of the public schools as the primary factor in attracting new businesses to Gwinnett. A veteran educator with more than 40 years of service, Mr. Wilbanks also is a leader in a number of civic, community, and professional organizations, including the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Gwinnett County Board of Public Health. ∞

See page 3
for a holiday
message from
CEO/Superintendent
J. Alvin Wilbanks.



*Wishing You and
Yours Happy
Holidays and Safe
Travels... The Staff
of Communication
and Media Relations*

What principals are saying about the event...

"[Our CEO] was impressed with the similarities between the organizations. I think he was taken aback a bit when, after he presented me with a business card which outlined [his company's] vision and objectives, I handed him one of the GCPS vision/mission/goals cards!"

"It was an opportunity for our CEO to witness first hand the day-to-day operations of a very large business. I think he was impressed with our policies and procedures. ... He was impressed with the degree of cooperation between faculty/staff and students. He stressed his view that we were about "teaching and learning."

The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

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EB Staff: Laura Nurse, Jill Russell, and Lori Larsen

2004 GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Dr. Mary Kay Murphy, chair;
 Dr. Billy Britt, vice chair;
 Dr. Robert McClure;
 Louise Radloff; and
 Daniel Seckinger

CEO/SUPERINTENDENT
 J. Alvin Wilbanks

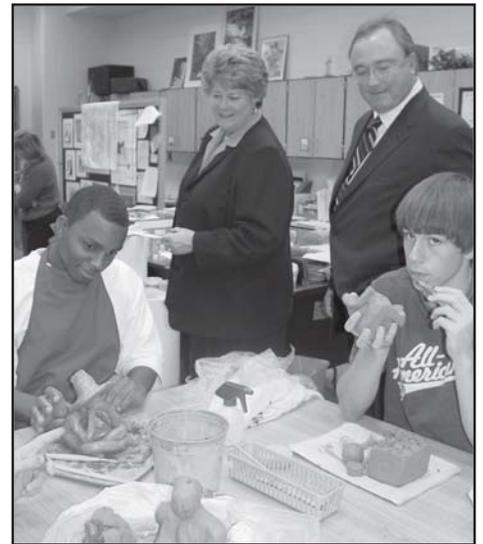
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Principal for a Day event celebrates spirit of American Education Week

Right: (From left) **Cafeteria Manager Sandra Soucy** talks about the school nutrition program with **Keith Fleming** of Cintas Corporation and **Principal Chris Emsley**.



Above: Students at Alton C. Crews MS share their work with **Joanne Taylor** of Advanced Computing Technologies (standing, left), who is accompanied by **Dr. Janet Blanchette**, local school technology coordinator.



Above: Brookwood HS **Principal Jane Stegall** (standing, left) tours an art class with **Kerry Armstrong** of Duke Realty Corp.

Below: A W. C. Britt ES kindergarten student reads her story to **Principal for a Day Derik Taylor** of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and her teacher, **Jo-Ann Haines-Thomas**.



GCPS schools host community members for education celebration

During American Education Week (Nov. 14–20), 31 Gwinnett schools hosted business leaders for the inaugural Principal for a Day initiative, cosponsored by Gwinnett County Public Schools and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. “Our goal was to provide CEO-level business leaders with a day-long, personal, authentic look at the operations of today’s schools,” said **CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks**. “They experienced up close the rewards, challenges, and satisfaction that come with being the instructional and managerial leader of a modern public school.”

Thanks to the 31 principals and their staff members for hosting “Principals for a Day” during American Education Week: **Cindy Antrim** of McKendree ES; **Dr. Craig Barlow** of Riverside ES; **Linda Boyd** of Snellville MS; **Dr. Buck Buchanan** of Parkview HS; **Keith Chaney** of Grayson HS; **Mary Anne Charron** of Norcross HS; **Paula Deweese** of Dr. M. H. Mason Jr. ES; **Chris Emsley** of Duncan Creek ES; **Dr. Phil Epperson** of W. J. Cooper ES; **Dr. John Green** of North Gwinnett HS; **Dr. Kay Harvey** of Duluth MS;

(continued)

What business leaders are saying about the event...

"I gained great appreciation for goal-setting, leadership, team building with staff, which leads to truly teaching and not being consumed with teaching for the test scores."

"I am really encouraged by the innovation and the passion of the educators."

... I learned that a principal's job is a little bit of management and a whole lot of leadership."

They have to be engaged at all levels of the school operation."

"The fact you call them 'CEO' of a school is very appropriate. ... They do not sit down! I had an image of a principal sitting behind her desk meeting with teachers, staff, AP's, etc. To say that was not the case is an understatement. She was very visible to students and faculty throughout the entire day."

American Education Week, continued

Dr. Patty Heitmuller of Louise Radloff MS; **Dr. Olivia Hodges** of Freeman's Mill ES; **Ken Johnson** of Berkmar HS; **Kathy Jones** of Camp Creek ES; **Dr. Bill Kruskamp** of Shiloh HS; **Jim Markham** of Mill Creek HS; **Glenn McFall** of Collins Hill HS; **Donnie Nutt** of Dacula HS; **Jonathan Patterson** of Alton C. Crews MS; **Bron Gayna Schmit** of Simpson ES; **Jane Stegall** of Brookwood HS; **Judy Stephens** of J. E. Richards MS; **Dr. Kevin Tashlein** of Phoenix HS; **Dr. Gwen Tatum** of Richard Hull MS; **Beverly Todd-Lee** of W. C. Britt ES; **Dr. LaVern Lynch Watkins** of Norcross ES; **Terry Watlington** of Kanoheda ES; **Calvin Watts** of Annistown ES; **Leigh Westcott** of Berkeley Lake ES; and **Susan White** of Cedar Hill ES.

Superintendent's Message

Best wishes for a relaxing, joyous holiday season

To every employee of Gwinnett County Public Schools, my best wishes for a relaxing and joyous holiday season!. This time of year reminds us of so many things for which we can and should be thankful. Among those are our families, friends, and colleagues. Without a doubt, my blessings include this "school family"—the GCPS team of outstanding professionals who come to work each day to contribute to the education and success of Gwinnett students.

Day in and day out you give your best to Gwinnett's children. I thank you for that, and in this season of giving send you traditional wishes for peace and happiness in the New Year. Whether you celebrate Christmas, as my family and I do, or Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another holiday observance, this is a fitting time to reflect on the heritage of our great nation and how the holiday season influences and impacts our lives. Whatever you celebrate, I hope you and your family enjoy the meaning and magic of the season.

Have fun during your time off, reflect on your personal and professional successes of the past year, and come back refreshed and ready for an even better 2005!

Merry Christmas,



J. Alvin Wilbanks
CEO/Superintendent

BOE welcomes Carole Boyce, Dr. Britt completes term

The new year means a new member of the Gwinnett County Board of Education (BOE) in the District I seat. Former teacher and GCPS parent **Carole Boyce** begins her four-year term representing schools in the areas of Dacula, Lawrenceville, and Grayson on Jan. 1. Mrs. Boyce holds bachelor's degrees in English, elementary education, and interior design, and a master's degree in middle grades education. She has been active in the PTA and has served on the Dacula HS Principal's Advisory Committee for Safety and Security.



Carole Boyce,
District I

Mrs. Boyce was elected to fill the post held by **Dr. Billy Britt** since 1996. Dr. Britt, who chose not to seek re-election for a third term, attended his last Board meeting Dec. 9. Jan. 1 also mark new terms for two current Board members who won re-election Nov. 2. **Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**, District III representative and 2004 Board chair, begins her third term. **Louise Radloff** has held the District V Board seat since 1973. A new BOE chair and vice chair will be elected at the Jan. 13 BOE meeting.

Board shares 'wish list' with Gwinnett lawmakers

No Game Boys, bikes, or Barbie dolls on this wish list. On Nov. 30, the Gwinnett County Board of Education presented its legislative priorities to the 22-member Gwinnett legislative delegation. School system officials hope important GCPS issues will find an ear under the Gold Dome when the 2005 General Assembly begins in January. At the top of the GCPS list... local control and those issues with a financial impact on an already-tight budget, especially class-size reduction. Here are Gwinnett's 2005 legislative priorities:

“This annual meeting is a warm-up to the legislative session, bringing leaders together to discuss education funding and challenges. It is critical that we update our delegation on the current funding situation in GCPS, providing them with accurate information and answering questions they might have.”

*David McCleskey,
GCPS coordinator for
Governmental
Relations*

- **On Appropriations... Protect the K–12 education appropriation** from any further austerity reductions. Already, Gwinnett has absorbed a budget cut of \$10.7 million in FY03 and another \$23 million in FY04. The reduction for FY05 is anticipated to be as high as \$27 million. Between austerity cuts, trimmed grants, and cuts to other state education programs, GCPS has taken an \$83.5 million hit in the wallet since FY02.
- **On Flexibility... Continue to delay implementation of mandated class-size reductions.** In Gwinnett, completing the last phase of class-size reductions would cost about \$20 million this year. In addition, **make permanent the temporary systemwide expenditure test for direct instruction.**
- **On Capital Outlay... Fund at the \$200 million level for Regular Entitlement and at the \$100 million level for Exceptional Growth.** With SPLOST collections down by 28%, the state is a critical source of capital funding to help handle a growing student population. GCPS accounts for about 6,000 of the 25,000 to 30,000 new students in Georgia each year.
- **On Salary and Benefit Improvements... Increase state funding to supplement the full cost of teacher salary increases, including benefits.** Gwinnett funds 27 salary steps (to reflect additional pay for additional years of experience). The state now funds 20 steps. In addition, GCPS funds the full cost of contributions to the Gwinnett Retirement System (\$36.4 million in FY2004). Recommended cost-of-living increases should not be funded by austerity reductions to local systems.
- **On Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Textbooks... Increase Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding to address instructional costs** for consumable materials and supplies, textbooks, and replacement of instructional equipment. In FY2005, GCPS is paying about 70% of the \$29.3 million cost, with the state funding just \$8.7 million.
- **On Training and Experience... Provide mid-term adjustments for Training and Experience** of all certificated professional personnel employed by the system as of the most recent month for which data is available. Presently, the state waits a year to reimburse school systems for increased pay tied to additional schooling and experience, costing GCPS about \$5 million in FY05.
- **On Sick and Personal Time... Increase the existing amount of \$150 per teacher per year to pay for substitute teachers** to an amount that is comparable to the actual cost to the system. The state's FY05 funding is \$1.3 million, significantly less than the \$8 million GCPS pays for substitute teachers.
- **On Transportation... Revise the current formula for state funding for transportation** of students to include students who live outside a one-mile radius of school. The state formula currently reimburses transportation costs just for those students living 1½ miles from a school. For FY05, GCPS will pay 87.5% of costs to ensure safe and efficient transportation.
- **On Employment of Retirees... Consider increasing Teacher Retirement System (TRS) benefits to employees who choose to continue to work beyond 30 years,** to help with the teacher shortage.

In addition, there are several continuing positions that address local control of public education, the curriculum, and student discipline; the modification of provisions governing local school councils; and opposition to collective bargaining. ☺

Local professional learning uses airwaves on GCPS TV

Bright lights, cameras, action... Professional learning in Gwinnett County Public Schools branched out last month, airing live training on GCPS TV. Across the county, media specialists, local school technology coordinators (LSTCs), and technology support technicians (TSTs) tuned in to learn about conducting the annual technology inventory required by the state.

“Each year during inventory, we hear questions about what and how to count technology items in the school,” says **George Bagwell**, director of Business and Resource Management in the Information Management Division. “Questions range from ‘How do you list PDAs in the inventory?’ to ‘In which category do you list the school nutrition program computers?’ To more efficiently answer these questions, we decided to broadcast information via GCPS TV. We worked with the Broadcast and Distance Learning team to offer the show live, giving viewers an interactive learning opportunity where they could call in with questions.”

The program, “Tech Talk,” was re-aired at various times to ensure all had the opportunity to view it. According to Mr. Bagwell, the IMD team has received positive feedback on the show and hopes to expand its use of this communication/learning tool. ☺

Making conversion activities more effective

Converting documents from Lotus Smartsuite to Microsoft Office can sometimes lead to unexpected results. Before you convert a document electronically, make sure that you have removed all extra spaces and characters that may be converted improperly, such as hyphens. This is especially true when converting Lotus 1-2-3 and Lotus Approach into Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access. A “cleaner” document usually makes for a smoother conversion.

EB Bulletin Board

New leaders get BOE nod

The following leaders were approved at the Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 Board meetings.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>New position</u> | <u>Current position</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Dr. James Russell Fleenor | Director, Admin. Services, Organizational Advancement | Principal, Winterville ES, Clarke County Schools (Athens) |
| Jane Stone | Director, Assessment, Organizational Advancement | Coordinator, Assessment, Organizational Advancement |
| John Culberson | Coordinator, Data Center Operations, Info. Mgmt. | Consultant, MODIS, Inc. (Atlanta) |
| Cheryl Rutherford Ngoto | Coordinator, Special Education, HS Program | Program Assistant, Special Education, Atlanta Public Schools |
| Eva Parks | Coordinator, Special Education, Deaf/Hard of Hearing | Hearing Impaired Teacher, Berkmar MS |

Inclement weather procedures:

Be prepared for Old Man Winter, just in case

Chilly one day, practically balmy the next—that’s Georgia fall weather for you. One thing you can count on in the coming months is wintry weather hitting the Peach State. Question is, will it visit Gwinnett County or take a detour? That’s why it’s important to refamiliarize yourself with GCPS procedures for inclement weather. Here’s a rundown of how the school system handles school cancellations:

- **GCPS schools and facilities may close in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies** which present threats to the safety of students, staff, or school property.



(continued)

Meadowcreek-Hopkins redistricting OK'd

At the Dec. 9 meeting, the School Board approved a recommendation to redistrict approximately 350 students from Meadowcreek ES to G. H. Hopkins ES. A new 33-classroom addition at Hopkins will open in August 2005, bringing the school's capacity to 1,600 students. The new boundaries were based on current enrollment, enrollment forecasts and history, existing identifiable boundaries, the locations of the schools, and student transportation. During the redistricting process, staff, parents, and community members had an opportunity to give their input on the proposal.



R. L. Norton ES gets new address

On Dec. 8, the County Board of Commissioners renamed a section of Lenora Church Road (below Carson Road). As a result, R. L. Norton ES has a new address: 3050 Xavier Ray Court.

Inclement weather, continued

- **The superintendent makes the decision about school closing based on a cross-divisional and cross-agency effort**, with information from public safety officials, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Gwinnett County officials, and the state Department of Transportation. In addition, when inclement weather is an issue, members of the GCPS Facilities and Operations team head out as early as 3:30 or 4 a.m. to drive roads around the county and assess road conditions. The school system's Transportation staff ensures that buses are operable. (Extreme cold can cause operational problems for diesel buses.) Facilities are checked in the early hours, and GCPS works with power providers, as needed. Local school principals gather information for the leadership team about specific school conditions.
- **It is more likely for school to be cancelled in the early morning**— due to dangerous road conditions that formed overnight— than for school to let out early because bad weather is moving in.
- **As a rule, the decision to cancel school is made before 6 a.m.** The school system immediately notifies all **major radio and television stations** in the Atlanta area. In addition, the information is announced on **GCPS TV** and posted on the **system's Web site**.
- **Should severe weather move into the area during the day, plans to cancel classes will be announced** on metro-Atlanta radio and TV stations before school is dismissed.
- **If schools are closed, 12-month employees should report to work as soon as it is safe and possible for them to do so, unless told otherwise.** If a 12-month employee believes the roads are not safe enough to travel to work, the employee should notify his or her supervisor immediately. The employee will be expected to take personal leave or vacation for any portion of the workday missed.

United Way's 2-1-1 a great place to find, give help

During October, GCPS employees pledged their support to the United Way campaign in record numbers. While pledges are still being tallied, here's a reminder of what your United Way support means and why it matters. Things happen... Spouses lose jobs. Medical bills pile up after an accident or unexpected illness. Reliable childcare arrangements fall through. Families need a place to stay after a hurricane or fire. That's when United Way steps up. Metro Atlanta residents can dial 2-1-1 to find help 24 hours a day from anywhere in the 404, 678, and 770 area codes. Free, confidential information is available on counseling, child care, emergency shelter, food, mortgage assistance, help with utilities, and more. Outside metro Atlanta, call 404-614-1000. The TDD number for callers with hearing impairments is 404-614-1042. Callers also may dial 2-1-1 to offer help to others in the community— to volunteer, to donate goods or services, or to offer an internship. **And that's what matters... being able to get help when you need it, and being able to give help when you can.** ☺

Calendar reminders for December and January

- HS students have early release Dec. 15–17 for exams.
- Dec. 17 is the end of the 2nd nine weeks, 3rd six weeks, and 1st semester.
- Optional professional learning opportunities will be available at the local school and central office levels on Jan. 3 for 190-, 210-, and 220-day employees. Required professional learning/planning is scheduled for 190-, 200-, 210-, and 220-day employees for Jan. 4. Note: Personal leave for staff is not allowed on Dec. 17 and Jan. 5.
- Students return to classes on Jan. 5.
- Jan. 13 is the next meeting of the Gwinnett County Board of Education.

(continued)

Calendar, continued

Here are holiday vacation schedules for employees...

- **180-day employees:** Dec. 20–Jan. 4 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 5
- **190-day employees:** Dec. 20–Jan. 3 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 4
- **200-day employees:** Dec. 20–Jan. 3 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 4
- **210-day employees:** Dec. 20–31 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 3
- **220-day employees:** Dec. 20–31 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 3
- **12-month employees:** Dec. 22–31 for Winter Break, returning Jan. 3

HR BRIEFS

Certified Teacher Fair on Nov. 6 draws 766 candidates



*Beaver Ridge ES Assistant Principals **Joan Johnson** and **Mark Montello** prepare for prospective teachers during the teacher fair.*

The search for highly qualified teachers for the 2005–06 school year is in full gear. Some 766 teachers attended the Certified Teacher Fair on Nov. 6, hosted by Peachtree Ridge HS. Local school administrators from 108 schools and other educational facilities, along with staffing personnel, had an opportunity to interview potential employees. Visiting teachers also spoke with department representatives about certification, payroll, benefits, and curriculum and instruction in Gwinnett County Public Schools. Recruitment in Gwinnett County is a year-round process. In addition to holding two teacher fairs in the county, GCPS recruiters crisscross the Southeast on the hunt for highly qualified staff. In addition, we focus on nurturing our own students who show an interest in teaching through the Future Educators of America program.

Homegrown staff feel special connection as GCPS grads

You've heard the old adage, "home is where the heart is." While the vast majority of GCPS staffers call Gwinnett home, about 11% of GCPS' certificated employees (teachers, media specialists, and administrators) say they have a special home connection. A recent survey found that more than 1,000 of Gwinnett's 9,605 certified employees have followed their hearts and returned to the school system where they were educated themselves.

"We knew a lot of our teachers were products of Gwinnett schools, and many had spoken about how pleased they were to be close to home, perhaps even teaching in the schools where they attended classes, but we were overwhelmed with the response we got from our homegrown graduates," says **Debi Cate**, director of staff retention in Human Resources.

Ms. Cate says the stories shared by GCPS-educated employees ran the gamut on experience. Some respondents were veteran teachers, like **Dr. Judy Jordan Johnson** of Central Gwinnett HS, who was a Black Knight herself and has spent her entire 27-year career at Central Gwinnett. Others are in their first years of teaching and still getting used to the fact they can call their new colleagues—their former teachers—by their first names. The survey responses had a common thread, according to Ms. Cate. No matter the role each employee fills in the school system, our homegrown staff members take a great deal of pride in being a product of Gwinnett schools and being able to give back to the community through their work in public education. However, teachers and administrators aren't the only Gwinnett grads to return to their roots. Human Resources is in the process of discovering how many of our classified staff members have returned to their school system home to work in support of teaching and learning. Look for an update in a future issue of *Education Briefs*.

GSBA honors Daily Post editor

At the Georgia School Boards Association conference, J. K. Murphy, executive editor of the *Gwinnett Daily Post*, was honored with the Beacon Award. Mr. Murphy was nominated by Gwinnett County Public Schools for creating understanding and building community support for public education.

Periodically, Human Resources provides information about discount programs extended to GCPS employees by local businesses. All discounts are subject to change. GCPS does not endorse any business or service, and is not liable for any change or inaccuracies this list may hold. For additions or corrections, call **Kelly Herndon** at 770-513-6665. Unless otherwise noted, show your GCPS ID badge to get the discount.

Certification involves rigorous process

More than 8,000 U.S. teachers earned certification in the 2004 cycle, says the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). In Georgia, 450 teachers earned certification with the state total now at nearly 1,800 board certified teachers. According to NBPTS, this voluntary process involves a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. Through the assessment process, teachers document their subject-matter knowledge, provide evidence that they teach their subjects to students most effectively, and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning.

GCPS Personnel Perks

- **Classy Nails & Tan:** GCPS staff get 15% off any service, including manicure, pedicure, and waxing. Located next to The Gwinnett Center at 6603 Sugarloaf Parkway, Suite 105. Call 770-622-1199 for an appointment and hours. 
- **Custom Graphics and Signs by Vas:** With ID, GCPS employees get a 10% discount for lettering on race vehicles, watercraft, auto and fleet lettering, plus signs, magnetics, banners, and pin stripes. Complete on-site service. Call 678-910-4407 to learn more.
- **Hertz Car Sales:** GCPS employees get low, fixed price on one- and two-year-old cars, SUVs, trucks, and minivans. Most have the balance of the factory warranty remaining. Maintenance records available. Located at 3050 Satellite Blvd. in Duluth. Call 678-417-5301.
- **Gwinnett Federal Credit Union (GFCU):** If you have a GFCU loan and need a little extra cash this holiday season, call 770-963-5679 to Skip-A-Payment!
- **MEMBERS AutoChoice™:** GCPS employees get a low rate plus the MEMBERS AutoChoice™ service to locate a vehicle, negotiate the price, provide you with information (payments, rebates, and optional equipment), and arrange for delivery at any GFCU location. Also available: trade-in service, service contracts, and gap insurance. Contact Sean Bennett at 770-963-5860, or send an e-mail to sean.bennett@membersautochoice.com.

EB Spotlight

41 Gwinnett educators qualify for national certification

The teaching profession's highest credential, national board certification, became a reality for 41 Gwinnett educators last month. (Additional teachers who began the process in another school system are not included in this total.) GCPS had more teachers certified in 2004 than any other Georgia school system and has close to 150 board-certified teachers on staff, says **Dr. Connie Burch** of Professional Development, who works with candidates. Several certified Gwinnett educators also work with the candidates as facilitators— **Sallie Barrett** of Richard Hull MS, **Peggy Coffey** of Kanoheda ES, **Jolinda Collins** of Brookwood HS, **Hollene Ferguson** of Chattahoochee ES, **Tim Mullen** of J. E. Richards MS, and **Angela Schoenknecht** of G. H. Hopkins ES. Here are Gwinnett's newest board-certified teachers:

Krista Bennett of Charles Brant Chesney ES
Cheri Carter of Brookwood ES
April Coleman of J. P. McConnell MS
Cindy Cordero of J. E. Richards MS
Sally Crawford of Nesbit ES
Susie Fancher of Craig ES
Lynn Fogel of Rockbridge ES
Leslie Fowler of Summerour MS
Gary Fryns of Cedar Hill ES
Beverly Jerrim of Duluth HS
Donna Jimenez of Berkmar HS
Susan King of Knight ES
Melinda Klinect of Duluth HS
Darlene Kukulski of Walnut Grove ES
Terry Lee of Chattahoochee ES
Vickie McCrary of Collins Hill High
Debbie Medwick of Parkview HS
Nancy Meek of Phoenix HS
Mary Anne Meeks of Duluth HS
Loretta Mirandola of Berkmar HS

Kathy Muir of Arcado ES
Julie Ann Nelson of Centerville ES
Millie Patterson of Freeman's Mill ES
Janna Penn of Shiloh HS
Brenda Petty of Mill Creek HS
Jan Pruitt of Frank N. Osborne MS
Madeline Realmuto of Bethesda ES
Novelett Salmon-Davis of Berkmar HS
Derek Schroll of Rockbridge ES
June Smith of Pinckneyville MS
Star Smith of Kanoheda ES
Walt Snow of Berkmar HS
Lisa Tilley of Parkview HS
Judy Vestrand of Parkview HS
Richard Voss of Duncan Creek ES
Cathy Warr of Parkview HS
Lori Weitzel of Camp Creek ES
Dorothy Wilson of J. P. McConnell MS
Mary Martha Wilson of Louise Radloff MS
Craig Witmer of Brookwood HS
Tim Yoder of J. P. McConnell MS

Honors

Spotlight on...

- **Debi West** of Level Creek ES— named 2005 National Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.
- **David Jahner**, GCPS foreign language coordinator— elected president of the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Language.
- **Joe Marelle** of Duluth HS— named National Coach of the Year for Coaches vs. Cancer.
- **Dr. Terry Oatts** of Meadowcreek HS— selected as an apprentice trainer by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). He will be a certified trainer for the Assessment and Instruction Module. Dr. Oatts also appeared in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.
- The Collins Hill Screamin' Eagle Marching Band, led by **Richard Marshall**— advanced to the semifinals in the Bands of America Grand National Competition in Indianapolis.
- Three Gwinnett schools— **Annistown ES, G. H. Hopkins ES, and Kanoheheda ES**— earned Title I recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, all have made Adequate Yearly Progress for three consecutive years.
- GCPS' **Special Education** Department— recognized by the Council for Administrators of Special Education as a state leader for increasing the percentage of students with disabilities meeting or exceeding state achievement standards in 2003–04.
- **Dr. Jim Curtiss**, principal of Margaret Winn Holt ES— earned the Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Art Education Association for his exemplary support of the arts.
- **Dr. Rich Holland**, principal of Glenn C. Jones MS— earned the Administrative Leadership Award from the Georgia Music Educators Association for his support of the arts.
- Congratulations to the Parkview HS Boys' Cross Country Team, state AAAAA champions. The team is coached by **Josh Crowfoot**.

Degrees

- **Dr. Eddie Maresh** of Glenn C. Jones MS— earned a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia.
- **Dr. Jeff Mathews** of Parkview HS— earned a doctoral degree in Philosophy with an emphasis on Science Education from Georgia State University.
- **Mary Anderson** of Henry Partee ES— earned a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University.
- **Kathy Barrett** of Rebecca Minor ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau University.
- **Karen Berry** of J. A. Alford ES— earned a specialist's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial.
- **Charisse Deramus** of Bethesda ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial.
- **Julia Karen** of Riverside ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Leslie Livaditis** of Riverside ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Michelle McCorkle** of Dr. M. H. Mason Jr. ES— earned a specialist's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial.
- **Kim McCray** of Knight ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Candy McMahon** of Riverside ES— earned a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from Lincoln Memorial.
- **Constance Munn** of J. A. Alford ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial.
- **Dan Myrick** of Snellville MS— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Nancy Nations** of Benefield ES— earned a specialist's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.

This issue of *Education Briefs* includes 101 GCPS honors and recognitions. Will you or your school be in the next issue? Not if you don't let us know. If you are a GCPS employee who has earned a state or national award, earned a degree, made a presentation, or had work published, send the information to the *Education Briefs* mailbox via Lotus Notes, or to the Community and Media Relations department through the courier.

Degrees

- **Pepper Price** of Louise Radloff MS— earned a specialist’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Ellen Rossie** of Lilburn ES— earned a specialist’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.
- **Gwen Warner** of Jackson ES— earned a specialist’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Brenau.

Presentations

- **Elisa Brown** of Simpson ES— conducted a workshop at the 38th Annual National Conference of Foreign Language Teachers in Raleigh, N.C.
- These GCPS employees presented at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference in Chicago last month: **Lynne Gant** of J. P. McConnell MS and **Dr. Phil Carroll** of Snellville MS had a co-presenter from Georgia State for “Exploring Key Components of Middle School Programs in Foreign Language.” Ms. Gant also co-presented “Building a Community of Support for New Teachers with WebCT.” **David Jahner** co-presented “Georgia’s K–12 Standards: A Curriculum for All Students.”
- **Rachel Bush** and **Alison Lumpkin**, speech-language pathologists at T. Carl Buice School— presented “Using Video Modeling to Teach Children with Autism/PDD More Complex, Interactive, Scripted Play” at the American Speech and Hearing Association conference.
- **Bernie Warner** of J. E. Richards MS and **Nancy Bourke** of Pinckneyville MS— presented “Grab and Go Breakfasts” for the Georgia School Food Services Association.
- The following staffers presented at the annual conference of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies: **Geri Flanary** of Duluth HS presented “Teaching Advanced Placement Human Geography to HS Freshmen.” **Danny Klinect** of Grayson HS and **Melinda Klinect** of Duluth HS presented “World History, World Literature, and Art History— A Collaboration Approach.” **Susan Thompson** of Collins Hill HS presented “Teaching HS Social Studies Integrating Economics.” **Helene Brown** of Frank N. Osborne MS, **Scotty Roberts** of Summerour MS, and **Niki Powell** of Snellville MS presented “Best Practices for Teaching 8th Grade Social Studies.” **Debbie Daniell**, GCPS social studies coordinator, presented “Are you a Lectureholic? A 12-Step Recovery Program.”

Publications

- **Dr. Tiffany Coleman** of Simonton ES— published “The University System of Georgia’s Reading Consortium Teacher Scholar Awards: Putting Theory into Practice in Georgia’s Classrooms” in the *Georgia Journal of Reading*, Vol. 27., No. 2.

Participants

- The following teachers were recognized by Georgia State University for participating in 10 Music Educators Leadership Institutes in the past five years— **Joe Bader** of Five Forks MS, **Frank Folds** of Alton C. Crews MS, **Joyce Hunt** of Henry Partee ES, **Debbie Jenkins** of Creekland MS, **Linda Pinner** of Creekland MS, **Richard Shivers** of Riverside ES, **Janice Smith** of Simpson ES, and **Kathy Wallace** of Frank N. Osborne MS.
- **Dr. Connie Burch** of Professional Learning, **Alexis Jones** of Collins Hill HS, and **Dr. Colin Martin** of Research and Accountability— selected for the 2004–05 class of Leadership Gwinnett.

For more on Mr. Wilbanks’ award and GCPS’ legislative priorities, check out the links from the home page of the GCPS Web site... <http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us>

For program highlights and the GCPS TV program schedule...

<http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps-mainweb01.nsf/ef7f98252b19baee85256b81004a254d/55406d758cfa66ce85256f1e004fb5dd?OpenDocument&0-QuickLinks>

For a link to United Way 2-1-1 services... <http://www.unitedwayatl.org/e0-211.asp>

For more on Perks...

<http://www.classynailstan.com>

<http://www.hertzcarsales.com>

<http://www.gwinnettfcu.org>

