



NEWS RELEASE

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Meadowcreek Elementary's Stopp receives prestigious award

A Meadowcreek Elementary teacher received quite a surprise on Monday, November 1, 2010, during what she thought was a schoolwide student assembly. **Kelly Stopp**, a 2nd grade reading specialist, was presented with the Milken Educator Award, one of the nation's most prestigious honors. As part of her recognition, Ms. Stopp was presented with a check for \$25,000. She is one of 55 educators from across the nation surprised with this year's national honor.

"Everyone is so elated that one of our teachers has been acknowledged for her commitment to our students and their learning," says Meadowcreek Elementary Principal **Kelli McCain**. Ms. McCain recognizes Ms. Stopp as an educator who not only supports students, but her colleagues as well. "She has a positive effect on the lives of students and staff members through her proficiency and effectiveness as a reading specialist. She conducts staff development workshops and keeps everyone abreast of current research and best practices which enables them to continue to develop their craft as an educator."

Ms. Stopp was recommended for the award by a Georgia Department of Education blue ribbon committee, with the Milken Family Foundation selecting her as a winner. She earned the recommendation for her innovative practices which include guided reading, a reader's theatre, and a reader's and writer's workshop. She creates poetry and songbooks, and uses grammar lesson mini-books to preview skills. More than 90 percent of her students – 68 percent of whom are ELL (English Language Learners) – passed the 2nd grade reading portion of the CRCT. In the last three school years, more than 80 percent of her 2nd graders posted reading scores that were at or above grade level. As a Milken Educator Award recipient, Ms. Stopp will be inducted into the national Milken Educator Network, and will have the opportunity to share her knowledge and expertise with other educators from across the nation.

Kelly Stopp joined Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) in 2003 as a 1st grade teacher at Stripling Elementary. She made the move to Meadowcreek Elementary in 2006.

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