



# GCPS SCENE

*School-to-Community Education News, Etc.*

October 2012

## Simpson named 2012 National Blue Ribbon School

Simpson Elementary has earned the prestigious national title of **National Blue Ribbon School** for high levels of student achievement in 2012, just one of 269 U.S. schools to be so honored. "This national award of excellence is a tremendous recognition and affirmation of the rigorous work, strong dedication and unwavering support of staff, students and parents at Simpson Elementary. We are so proud to represent Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) and the state of Georgia," says **Principal Bron Gayna Schmit**. "Schools honored with the National Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers," says U.S. Sec. of Education Arne Duncan.

## GCPS average SAT up by 7 points

The **College Board** recently released SAT scores and members of the **Gwinnett Class of 2012** posted a county average composite score of 1518. That's 20 points above the national average and 66 points above the state. More importantly, the GCPS average reflects a gain of 7 points overall, up 2 points in critical reading, 1 point in mathematics, and 4 points in writing. Fourteen of 20 Gwinnett high schools reported increases in their SAT average compared to 2011, with gains of up to 40 points. **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**, GCPS' STEM-focused charter school, posted a 1941 average, the state's highest composite score. Over the last two years, GCPS has experienced a 23.4% increase in SAT participation.

## GOC selects Owl as mascot



**School mascots— from knights to longhorns— serve as a unifying symbol for a school community.** That is especially true for a new school community as it begins to develop an identity and promote school spirit. Recently, Gwinnett Online Campus (GOC) adopted its mascot—the Owl— a great fit for this virtual school community. GCPS' online charter school currently serves students in grades 6–12. Next year, the school will add grades 4 and 5. Go, OWLs! (Online, We Learn Successfully!)

## College fairs, program planned for students

- Parents, students, and educators are invited to college fairs scheduled this month.**
- Annual **College Fair for Students with Disabilities**, sponsored by GCPS and Area II Gwinnett County Council of PTAs, Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m., Instructional Support Center (ISC)
  - **Asian American College Fair**, sponsored by McDonalds and hosted by the Korea Daily, Oct. 20, 10 a.m., Korean Church of Atlanta in Duluth
  - **"Steps for Success"** College Program, sponsored by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Oct. 27, 9 a.m., Duluth High

## Parents invited to participate in survey

**Parents are asked to take a brief computer survey, in English or Spanish, before Dec. 14.** These surveys help the school leaders, teachers, and district learn what is being done well at the school and what needs to improve. There are two ways to take the survey, either at the school on a computer, or at home through the GCPS Parent Portal, beginning Nov. 1.

## Key GCPS dates



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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>October 15</b>     | Georgia School Bus Driver Appreciation Day                       |
| <b>October 18</b>     | School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Instructional Support Center (ISC) |
| <b>November 6</b>     | Election Day, schools closed                                     |
| <b>November 15</b>    | School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ISC                                |
| <b>November 19–22</b> | Thanksgiving holidays for schools                                |

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Questions? Call GCPS Department of Communication & Media Relations at (678) 301-6020.



## Open house, registration dates set for charter schools, special programs

The school district's charter schools and a special technical education program have scheduled information sessions and registration dates for the 2013–14 school year:

- **Gwinnett Online Campus (GOC)**, GCPS' diploma-granting, virtual charter school, will serve grades 4–12 next year. GOC will hold information sessions Nov. 13, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb. 7. Registration for full-time students will be open Feb. 1-28.
- **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST)**, the district's STEM-focused charter high school, will hold informational meetings for interested 8th graders on Nov. 13, Dec. 13, and Jan. 15. The registration packet will be available for download Nov. 1, with a Feb. 1 deadline. A lottery will be held Feb. 11.
- **Maxwell High School of Technology** begins online registration on Feb. 1. Maxwell is GCPS' technical career-focused charter high school.
- **Grayson High Technical Education Program** is a career-focused special program housed at Grayson High. An open house for juniors and seniors will be held Oct. 25. Information on 2013-14 registration will be available soon.
- **New Life Academy of Excellence**, a system-approved charter school with two locations, will serve grades K–8 next year. Families may register Jan. 7-11 at the Norcross campus. If more applications are received than available seats, the school will hold a public lottery. In the coming weeks, learn more on school web pages, accessible through the GCPS site, [www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us).

### Communiqué

ESSENTIALS Fall 2012

Important news, dates, and messages from GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Look for the latest edition of Communiqué Essentials later this month online.

## Parents are invited to participate in survey

Parents are asked to take a brief computer survey, in English or Spanish, before Dec. 14. These surveys help the school leaders, teachers, and district learn what is being done well at the school and what needs to improve. There are two ways to take the survey, either at the school on a computer, or at home through the GCPS Parent Portal beginning Nov. 1.

## Good news from GCPS

- **Trickum Middle's Academic Team** won 1st place in the 2012 Junior National Academic Championship Tournament.
- **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST)** earned recognition for earning state certification as a STEM School.
- **GSMST** received the first annual STEM Education Award from the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) and the TAG Education Collaborative (TAG-Ed).
- 28 **GCPS** students were named National Achievement Scholar semifinalists sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Laminar Research donated software valued at \$40,000 to **Maxwell High School of Technology** for the school's flight aviation program.
- The **Gwinnett Technical Education** "Student of the Year Program" was honored as "Project of the Year" by the Georgia Employer Committee.
- **Annistown Elementary** and **Bethesda Elementary** were selected to receive \$25,000 "Give with Target" education grants.
- **Sycamore Elementary** Teacher **Jill Moore** received an OfficeMax® and Adopt-A-Classroom "A Day Made Better" award which includes more than \$1,000 in school supplies.
- A **Gwinnett** parent was selected to serve on the State Superintendent's 2013 Parent Advisory Council.
- The **Mill Creek High** marching band has been invited to perform at both the London New Year's Day Parade in 2014 and the Rome People's Christmas Celebration.
- **Dr. Aimée Burgamy**, a **Trickum Middle** teacher, was selected as Georgia Arts in Education Leader in Visual Arts by the Woodruff Arts Center. She will receive a \$2,500 award to support the arts at her school.
- Teacher **Shawn Kilpatrick** of **Hooper Renwick School** was honored by the Atlanta Falcons and Symetra with the "Heroes in the Classroom" award.

### Check out BeThere @GCPS online

BeThere@GCPS, the system's eNewsletter for involved parents, features useful information for every grade level and links to videos, tipsheets, and online resources about parent involvement. Parents may register for this publication on the system website.

## Leadership

**Katise Menchan** Snellville Middle, principal

# Celebrating EXCELLENCE

## 2012–13 Gwinnett County Local School Teachers of the Year (TOTY)

(\*Denotes semifinalists)

Alcova ES—Kakeshia A. Maloney	<b>*Gwin Oaks ES—Michelle Webb</b>	Norton ES—Mary A. Zudekoff
Alford ES—Lindsey Reddy	Gwinnett Online Campus-HS— Kristin L. Sokol	Oakland Meadow School— Sue LaFave
<b>*Anderson-Livsey ES—Amber Russell</b>	Gwinnett Online Campus-MS— Jennifer Cote	Osborne MS—Heather Brent
Annistown ES—Arthur Dale Grant, Jr.	Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology— Rachel Buzzerd	Parkview HS—Eric Brown
Arcado ES—Rachel Ellen Bell	<b>*Harbins ES—Sharon T. Mauney</b>	Parsons ES—Sue French
Archer HS—Jennifer Callaway	Harmony ES—Jill McKee	Partee ES—Erin Breland
Bay Creek MS—Collette Tucker	<b>*Harris ES—Tracy Evans</b>	Patrick ES—Donita McClelland
Beaver Ridge ES—Tracy Pelinsky	<b>*Head ES—Lindsay Kyle</b>	Peachtree ES— Dorothy Granade Swindle
Benefield ES—Patricia Auten	Hopkins ES—Megan Carney	<b>*Peachtree Ridge HS—Dean Landers</b>
Berkeley Lake ES—Candy Steventon	Hull MS—Shenée J. Holloway	Pharr ES—Darika Stevens
Berkmar HS—Lindsay B. Watson	Ivy Creek ES—Patty Baxter	Phoenix HS—Willie Mckenzie
<b>*Berkmar MS—Deborah Johnson</b>	Jackson ES—Brittany Spence	Pinckneyville MS—Roland P. Ventura
<b>*Bethesda ES—Lyndsey Klempay</b>	Jenkins ES—Kristel R. Green	Puckett's Mill ES—Mallory Brock
Britt ES—Pam Zuber	Jones MS—Ashley Saye	Radloff MS—Mauri Bolden
<b>*Brookwood ES—Debbie Taylor</b>	Kanoheda ES—Claudia Davila	<b>*Richards MS—Heidi Mikulecky</b>
<b>*Brookwood HS—Laura Moates Stanley</b>	Knight ES—Gretchen Stelten	Riverside ES—Lynne Franks
Buice School—Heather Cannon	Lanier HS—Naomi Kirchner	Roberts ES—Peggy Vanover
Burnette ES—Tracie Penn	<b>*Lanier MS—Kinsey Edwards</b>	Rock Springs ES—Margaret Byrne
Camp Creek ES—Ginger Whitley	Lawrenceville ES—Cheri Loy	Rockbridge ES—Kim Farmer
Cedar Hill ES—Julie Asztalos	<b>*Level Creek ES—Katie Turner</b>	Rosebud ES—Carol Bowman
Centerville ES—John Warhol	Lilburn ES—Noreen A. Freeman	Shiloh ES—Autumn Ginn
Central Gwinnett HS—Jennifer Ulbrich	Lilburn MS—Eric Sas	Shiloh HS—Nancy Chrisman
<b>*Chattahoochee ES—Anne-Lise Botting</b>	<b>*Lovin ES—Amy B. Lazic</b>	Shiloh MS—Roya Sadri
<b>*Chesney ES—Sarah Boyce</b>	Magill ES—Cynthia Blue	Simonton ES—Phoebe S. Jones
Collins Hill HS—Dr. Dora Bell	Mason ES—Genie Quinn	Simpson ES—José J. Rivera Robert
Cooper ES—Bridgett S. Brown	<b>*Maxwell HS of Technology— Debbie Grant</b>	Snellville MS—Heather Switzer
Corley ES—Michelle Bellamy	McConnell MS—Monica A. Maragh	South Gwinnett HS— Andie McDaniel
Couch MS—Christy C. Stephenson	<b>*McKendree ES—Paul Lovett</b>	Starling ES—Jessica Douglas
Craig ES—Pam Nunn	<b>*Meadowcreek ES—Jennifer Kim</b>	Stripling ES—Nikole B. Akande
Creekland MS—Megan C. Nagel	Meadowcreek HS—Marieta Hamilton	Sugar Hill ES—Crystal Langley
<b>*Crews MS—Eleanor Ridley</b>	Mill Creek HS—Mike Lasseter	Summerour MS —Casey Pete
Dacula ES —Kim Sutton	Minor ES—Charlotte Taylor	Suwanee ES—Patti Barry
Dacula HS—Abby Browning Peterson	Monarch School—Beth Albright	Sweetwater MS—Tony Cafarella
<b>*Dacula MS—Celisa Edwards</b>	Moore MS—Chasiree' K. Stone	Sycamore ES—Emily Acevedo
Duluth HS—Erica Millette	Mountain Park ES—Katie Malone	Taylor ES—Pamela Wiggins
Duluth MS—Erica Parkman	Mountain View HS—Steve White	Trickum MS—Michelle B. Bushell
Duncan Creek ES—Cindy Gomez	<b>*Mulberry ES—Kym Crosby</b>	Trip ES—Nicole Esswein
Dyer ES—Ellen Hill	Nesbit ES—Tanya Saucier	Twin Rivers MS— Dr. Nelly P. Knowles
Ferguson ES—Elise Moore	Norcross ES—Jackie Petree	<b>*Walnut Grove ES—Erica Leach</b>
Five Forks MS—Dr. John Culligan	<b>*Norcross HS—Jay Nebel</b>	White Oak ES—Matthew Smith
Fort Daniel ES—Laura Williams	<b>*North Gwinnett HS—McCall Grosso</b>	<b>*Winn Holt ES—Erin Hogan</b>
Freeman's Mill ES—Suzanne Keller	North Gwinnett MS—Ashley Rihner	Woodward Mill ES—Petra Hammond
GIVE Center East—LaNadia Pugh		
GIVE Center West—Dr. Charles Hawk		
Grace Snell MS—Jane McCormick		
Grayson ES—Le Gibson		
Grayson HS—Dr. Christopher Blair		

Watch the GCPS website for finalists to be named later this week.