



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2011

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Gwinnett County honors its STAR students and Teachers: Suresh and Kling of Brookwood High take county honor

At the annual STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) Student and Teacher Luncheon on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, a Brookwood High student and teacher earned top honors. **Brookwood High's Akshaya Suresh** and her selected STAR Teacher **Mr. Dana Kling** of Brookwood High were recognized as the county's winners, selected from a pool of honorees from every Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) high school, as well as private schools.

The luncheon recognized all local school STAR students from each GCPS high school, as well as the top student from Buford High (Buford City Schools) and Gwinnett private high schools. Each STAR student is the senior in the top 10 percent of his or her class with the highest SAT score. The STAR Teachers were selected by each student as the educator who had a strong influence on his/her academic career.

Akshaya's perfect score on the SAT helped distinguish her as the GCPS winner. Mr. Kling taught Akshaya as an 11th grader during her gifted language arts class.

Congratulations to the 2011 STAR students and teachers representing GCPS:

Priya Malhotra, Archer High
Sandy McAdams, Archer High teacher

Destiny Cobb, Berkmar High
Joni Prillaman, Berkmar High teacher

Akshaya Suresh, Brookwood High (*Gwinnett County STAR Student winner*)
Mr. Dana Kling, Brookwood High teacher (*Gwinnett County STAR Teacher winner*)

Christopher "Rhett" Henry, Central Gwinnett High
Kim Mallett, Central Gwinnett High teacher

Peter Schnaak, Collins Hill High
Laura Herbig, Collins Hill High teacher

Melinda "Mindy" Johnson, Dacula High
Jason Berube, Dacula High teacher

Grace Liu, Dacula High
Ashley Muck, Dacula High teacher

Nihar Madhavan, Duluth High
Carole Hunter, Duluth High teacher

Jaya Powell, Grayson High
Cristy Edwards, Grayson High teacher

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2010 Winner of



--more--

Daniel Park, Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
Jeff Burmester, Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology teacher

Luke Richerson, Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
Seth Hersch, Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology teacher

Christina Hardison, Lanier High
Heather Childs, Lanier High teacher

Daniel Ionescu, Meadowcreek High
Dr. Steven DuPouy, Meadowcreek High teacher

Katherine Horst, Mill Creek High
Jennifer Clark, Mill Creek High teacher

Samuel “Sam” Yang, Mountain View High
Garin Berry, Mountain View High teacher

Andrea Howard, Norcross High
Dwayne Alvis, Norcross High teacher

Ankur Shah, North Gwinnett High
Joe Higgins, North Gwinnett High teacher

David Zhang, North Gwinnett High
Kevin Blankenship, North Gwinnett High teacher

Tianqi “Tim” Wu, Parkview High
Amber Leazenbee, Parkview High teacher

Neil Patel, Peachtree Ridge High
Dean Landers, Peachtree Ridge High teacher

Deepan Mehta, Peachtree Ridge High
Dr. Dennis Hembree, Peachtree Ridge High teacher

Taylor Groff, Phoenix High
Dr. Mark Stern, Phoenix High teacher

Kristen Lemaster, Shiloh High
Patrick Norton, Shiloh High teacher

Rachel Harrison, South Gwinnett High
Kimberly Queen, South Gwinnett High teacher

As GCPS’ STAR student, Akshaya will move on to the region competition where she and her STAR teacher will be recognized and compete for the regional title. In the spring, regional winners will vie for the honor of being named Georgia’s 2011 STAR Student and Teacher.

The state STAR program is sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Department of Education. Locally, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce hosts the luncheon honoring these outstanding students and teachers.