

# Rapport ONLINE

for Fulton County School System employees

Vol. 2, No. 16

April 13, 2005

## We're proud of...

- Tri-Cities HS Magnet Director **Viola Turner**—recognized by the Bennett College National Alumnae Association for making a significant contribution to the community.
- Milton HS Principal **Ron Tesch**—elected as Vice President of the Headmasters Association, an exclusive educational organization limited to only 100 individuals nationwide. Membership is composed of three-fourths private school headmasters and one-fourth public school principals.
- **Creekside HS** and **Woodland MS**—recipients of Promoting Healthy Habits grants from the Georgia PTA. Creekside received \$1,300 to implement a campaign aimed at improving eating habits and increasing physical fitness activities, while Woodland received \$1,500 to sponsor fitness testing, interactive presentations on health, and “Healthy Challenge for Teachers,” a contest where teachers must complete a list of healthy tasks to complete as students monitor their progress.
- **Leslie Thomas**, Sweet Apple ES fifth grade teacher—honored by United BMW of Roswell as a “local hero” for her courage surviving breast cancer. Each year, participating BMW dealerships in the U.S. choose a breast cancer survivor to represent them. As United BMW of Roswell’s “local hero”, Ms. Thomas’s image and signature will become part of a flagship signature car.
- Roswell HS Principal **Ed Spurka** and Centennial HS Principal **Ron Wade**—named to the Georgia PTA’s list of Top 10 Outstanding Principals of the Year. The award recognizes principals who promote the organization and encourage the use of the National PTA Standards for



Parent/Family Involvement. Both will be recognized April 30 at the Georgia PTA’s spring convention.

- Northwood ES Principal **Ann Kingrea**—named Georgia Distinguished Principal for District 5 and now a nominee for National Distinguished Principal. The awards are sponsored by the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals and National Association of Elementary School Principals, respectively.

## F.I.Y. (Fulton Information for You)

**State Health Benefit Plan Reminder**—Employees with insurance provided by the State Health Benefit Plan must verify eligibility of dependents covered under the insurance plan. This includes spouses, children and stepchildren. You will receive a letter from the State of Georgia Department of Community Health outlining what you need to do. You must respond within 45 days of receiving your letter. If you need to contact the Department of Community Health on this matter, they are asking that you use 404-656-6322, Option 7, for this purpose. Please remember that this a state-wide initiative, and this number will be very busy over the coming days and weeks.

**Presentation given on growth needs**—During a March Board of Education retreat, Interim Superintendent James Wilson gave a presentation focusing on the continuing growth FCSS is experiencing and the need for more classrooms. The report reviewed the progress to date on SPLOST I and II projects, highlighted continuing growth trends, and concluded with a list of project needs, including new schools, pre-kindergarten, discipline centers, a possible theme school, and modular classrooms. The Board must now consider funding options for these recognized needs, which will be included for discussion on the April 28 Board Roundtable agenda. The presentation is posted on the system web site under the “Closing the Gap” button.

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## F.I.Y. (CONTINUED)

### **Town Turtles Return to Sandy Springs**—The

Town Turtles are returning to Sandy Springs! Similar to the life-size fiberglass cows that grazed Atlanta last year, 50 Sandy Springs artists—including students and teachers from North Springs HS and Riverwood HS—designed turtle sculptures as part of the Town Turtles project. The 5-foot sculptures will be placed throughout the community beginning April 16. North Springs art teacher Pilar Hernandez designed a turtle that, like the Sandy Springs community, embraces diversity.

Riverwood HS also is celebrating diversity with a turtle project. TAG teacher Mary Anne Smith and the school's Diversity Club painted a large multicultural turtle they call "Multi Culti" and 20 smaller ones with designs reflecting the diverse Riverwood community. The TAG students also collected the legends of turtles throughout different cultures.

**SunTrust Bank presents \$33K rebate**—In March, the school system received a \$33,319.87 rebate from SunTrust Bank as a result of the dollars spent last year with the Purchasing Card. The purchasing card, similar to a credit card, is used by system staff to buy specific products and services. The rebate is a part of the "P-Card" program managed by the FCSS Purchasing Department and negotiated with SunTrust to provide a percentage of the funds spent with the card back to the school system. The P-Card program has grown from a few hundred thousand dollars to more than \$6.7 million spent annually.

### **Math Curriculum Director position search**—

The school system is conducting an internal search to fill the Director of Math Curriculum position. "The right person is right under our noses here in Fulton County," said Interim Superintendent James Wilson last month. The position, advertised on the system web site at [http://www.fultonschools.org/jobs\\_openings\\_detail.asp?id=05AD010](http://www.fultonschools.org/jobs_openings_detail.asp?id=05AD010), closes April 15.

## Coming up...

**April 18 – May 17: Open Enrollment** – Open Enrollment for our Employee Benefit Plan is April 18 through May 17. This Open Enrollment brings several significant changes to our health plans offered through the Department of Community Health and will be explained

through faculty meetings at schools and at most administrative and satellite buildings.

**April 22: "Celebrating Milton's Past, Present, and Future!"** – School system staff are invited to celebrate the history of Milton HS before it moves into its new building in August. The event will take place at the "old school" at 86 School Drive, Alpharetta, on April 22, rain or shine. The school and the historic FFA log cabin will be open from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for tours, and beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Sonny Hawkins Stadium, there will be a short ceremony with entertainment by Milton students and alumni. "Movies Under the Stars" Productions will conclude the evening's celebration with a 50-foot, outdoor cinema presentation of Milton through the years, followed by the popular movie, "Shrek 2". Stadium seating will be available; however, everyone is encouraged to bring their own blankets for best viewing from the field.

Tickets, which include a raffle drawing, are \$7 at the gate or \$6 in advance. Pre-order tickets by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Milton Celebration, 11685 Alpharetta Hwy., Suite 155, Roswell, GA 30076. Checks should be made out to Milton PTSA. All proceeds will benefit outdoor beautification for the new Milton HS site.

**April 30: Parent University Graduation** – Graduation for 2004-05 Parent University participants is April 30, 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Fulton County Government Services Building. A minimum of six credits is required to earn graduation status. To graduate with Honors, eight credits are required, and to graduate Summa Cum Laude (with highest honors), 10 credits or more are required. Graduates or participants from two or more previous years will graduate at Masters level, and the Doctorate level – the most prestigious degree – is reserved for those graduating from two or more previous years while earning additional graduation credits.

**May 2: Exceptional Children Reception** – The school system, Fulton Education Foundation, and the Mamie Jo Jones chapter of the Council for Exception Children will sponsor a May 2 reception honoring exceptional children and their teachers. Yes I Can! school award winners, Special Education Teachers of the Year and Paraprofessionals of the Year, and recipients of the Mamie Jo Jones chapter awards will be honored. The reception begins at 7 p.m. at Dunwoody Springs ES.

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# Growing from good to great in Fulton County

**Editor's note:** *Growing from good to great as an organization requires healthy relationships between and among school system employees, students and the public. The following article by Richard Boyum from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire reviews the standards for healthy relationships.*

## *Healthy Relationships = Healthy Organization*

In higher education (and other places as well), students and staff are involved in a variety of organizational structures. The success of these organizations is dependant upon healthy relationships among group members. Listed below are some of the most important qualities and characteristics that contribute to a healthy organization. Think of each listing as being on a scale of 1-10. Find a number to that listing in your organization. How does your organization(s) rate? Are you satisfied with what you see? What could be done to improve the health of your organization?

### *People in healthy organizations:*

1. Respect each other
2. Care about each other
3. Have reasonable knowledge of each other
4. Know who is responsible for what
5. Are gentle with each other
6. Trust each other and tell the truth
7. Share thoughts and feelings
8. Meet together for good purpose
9. Really listen to each other and pay attention
10. Value the roles that each member plays
11. Allow for individuals without "title" to be leaders
12. When there is conflict, "care-front" it more than "con-front" it
13. Articulate the groups core values and goals
14. Have an understanding that goals are measurable, attainable and time bound
15. Know and value that each person has a life away from the organization
16. Keep a healthy balance between work and non-work life
17. Learn from the past, plan for the future, but focus on daily priorities and responsibilities
18. Celebrate success and recognize tasks "well done" on a regular basis
19. Are open to change and the creative process, but...
20. Honor routine (i.e. things often keep working for a good reason)
21. Keep learning
22. Enjoy humor and laughter

## Coming up... (CONTINUED)

**April 18-22: Spring Testing**—Fulton County students will soon participate in annual spring testing. During April 18-22, students in grades 1-8 will take the CRCT, a series of assessments that measure how well students are mastering the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum.

Last school year marked the beginning of the end for social promotion in Georgia. All third graders must now score at or above expectations in reading on the CRCT. Those scoring below level will not move to fourth grade unless they attend summer learning opportunities and pass a re-test. This year, fifth grade students also must perform at or above grade level in reading and mathematics in order to move to sixth grade. In 2005-06, the same rules apply to eighth grade students moving to ninth grade.

**April 21: Retirement Reception**—On April 21, FCSS will bid a fond farewell and celebrate the contributions of approximately 240 employees who are retiring at the end of the school year. The reception will be held at the Atlanta History Center at 6:30 p.m. Look for a detailed list of our dedicated retirees in a future *Rapport*.

**April 25: "Fore" Kids Golf Classic**—Golfers are practicing their swings for the 11th Annual Fulton Education Foundation "Fore" Kids Golf Classic, April 25, at Bear's Best, a Jack Nicklaus-designed course in Suwanee. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors and participants, last year's golf tournament generated more than \$85,000 for Teacher MiniGrants, a program that provides grants ranging from \$200-\$4,000 to fund innovative classroom activities. This year's organizers hope to generate even more funds for the children of Fulton County schools.

**May 4 and May 5: Spring Registration**—Spring registration for new kindergartners will be held May 4, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and May 5, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., at all Fulton County elementary schools. Registration also will be held for other elementary students who will be new to the Fulton County School System in 2005-06. Approximately 1,580 spaces in pre-kindergarten classes are available at 36 elementary schools throughout the county. PreK registration dates vary by school and enrollment is handled by a lottery system.

## School Board in action

### Upcoming Board meetings

...April 14, 4:30 p.m. –  
Budget Work Session #1,  
Dunwoody Springs ES

...April 14, 6:30 p.m. –  
Board meeting, Dunwoody  
Springs ES

...April 28, 5 p.m. – Roundtable, Administrative Center

...April 28, 7 p.m. – Budget Work Session #2,  
Administrative Center



The 2004-05 calendar of Board meetings, workshops and roundtables can be found on the county web site under the Board button at the top of the front page. Please check the web site frequently for updates.

## Our Mission

is to educate students to be responsible, productive citizens.

## Our Vision

The Fulton County School System is a place where all children learn to their full potential in a safe, nurturing environment supported by involved and committed staff, family, and community in helping to prepare them for a successful future.

*Rapport ONLINE is produced every two weeks during the school year and once a month during the summer by the Fulton County Schools Communications Department. For comments, questions or to submit information: Mitzi Edge, 404.763.6830 or edgem@fultonschools.org.*

*It is the policy of the Fulton County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any program, activity or service.*

*If you wish to make a complaint or request accommodation or modification due to discrimination in any program, activity or service, contact Compliance Coordinator Randy Reece at 786 Cleveland Avenue SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30315, or phone 404-763-4585; TTY 1-800-255-0135.*