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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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## News to Know for Week of March 18-22

This tip sheet is prepared weekly to help members of the news media plan coverage for the week.

### Special Observances for March

Today, March 18, marks the first day of “Georgia School Board Appreciation Week,” a weeklong celebration to show **Fulton County Board of Education** members how much they are valued for their service and dedication to the students of Fulton County Schools. As constitutional officers of Georgia, school board members are responsible for setting educational and personnel policies providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system and approving the school system budget. As community leaders, board members serve as advocates for the children in local public schools, and must study, evaluate and decide what actions are in the best interest of all students.

### Cool Kids Doing Cool Things

In partnership with the Daffodil Project, the **Webb Bridge Middle School** Jewish Club will hold a dedication and celebration of its Holocaust Memorial Garden this afternoon, March 18, from 4:15 - 5:50 p.m. Last fall, Webb Bridge students and parents planted 500 bulbs in front of the school. They join a long list of schools and communities worldwide collaborating to inspire learning through action, awareness and education. The Daffodil Project aspires to build a Living Memorial around the world by planting 1.5 daffodils in memory of the 1.5 children who perished in the Holocaust and in support of children globally who suffer in humanitarian crises today.

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Fulton County Schools’ **School Nutrition Program** announces the winner of its first-ever Student Chef Competition. Called “Shake It Up Best School Recipe Contest,” the competition was held for high school students in March during School Nutrition Month. Students throughout the district competed for the winning recipe, and **Lenox Lee**, sophomore at **Johns Creek High School**, took first place with his Chicken Butternut Squash Pasta with Broccoli recipe.

The challenge was to develop a nutritious, student-friendly recipe that included Georgia-grown foods and USDA Foods that could easily be incorporated into the school nutrition program. To enter, teams submitted applications as well as an original recipe with nutrient analysis, taste test results, and a photograph of their dish.

A panel of school nutrition experts, including Fulton's own District Chef Reggie "Rhymes with Veggie" Sloan, rated students' creations on student appeal, presentation, nutrition, and creativity.

The winning recipe will send the school team to participate in the Georgia Department of Education's School Nutrition Program's Statewide "Shake It Up Student Chef Competition." The winning team will be invited to compete in the Cooking Competition held March 20 in Macon, and from there, the first-place team will be eligible to compete in the Southeast Regional Junior Chef Competition in May in Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Awards and Honors**

**River Trail Middle School** seventh grader **Arushi Cumer** recently won the Georgia Association of Educators' state spelling bee. The winning word was "andouille." Some other difficult words included "schipperke," "hedebo," "voiturette," "Lammas," and "bascology." To advance to the state spelling bee, Arushi had to first secure a top spot in her school's competition, then the Fulton County Schools' spelling bee, and then a regional competition. Arushi now advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. this spring. **Photo Attached.**

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**Ella Ponsell**, a senior at **Riverwood International Charter School**, was selected by the Sandy Springs chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) as its 2018-19 Good Citizen. The NSDAR Good Citizen Award and Scholarship Contest recognizes high school seniors who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

In addition to being judged on academic performance and school and community involvement, Ella wrote a compelling essay on this year's topic, "Our American Heritage and our Responsibility for Preserving It: What new challenges will America face as we move forward into the future?" As a chapter winner, Ella now advances toward a national scholarship. **Photo Attached.**

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Fulton County Schools' **STEM Department** hosted the Elementary Science Olympiad Regional State Qualifying Competition on March 2 at Centennial High School. Science Olympiad is one of the premier science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous challenges that encourage participation in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students from 36 elementary schools with teams of up to 20 third- through sixth-graders participated in the second largest regional qualifier, and more than 100 faculty members and student volunteers assisted throughout the day as event judges or supervisors.

Ribbons and medals were awarded to individual teams placing in the top 10 in each event, and trophies were awarded to the top four teams. The top six teams will advance to the state tournament at Kennesaw State University on May 11. The winners are: First Place – **Lake Windward Elementary School**; Second Place – **Cogburn Woods Elementary School**; Third Place – **Barnwell Elementary School**; Fourth Place – **Woodland Elementary School**; Fifth Place – **Crabapple Crossing Elementary School**; and Sixth Place – **State Bridge Crossing Elementary School**.

## **Save the Date**

On March 25, **Riverwood International Charter School** will hold the district-wide "**Yes I Can!**" awards ceremony, sponsored by the Fulton Education Foundation, at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Prior to the

event at 6 p.m., families can visit a special education resource fair to explore options for recreation, transition, post-secondary opportunities, parent and family support and employment. The event, hosted by the school system's Services for Exceptional Children Department, recognizes students with exceptionalities that impact their academic and cognitive performance and social/emotional health and behavior.

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**Stonewall Tell Elementary School** presents STEAM Night on March 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will include an exhibition of family STEAM activities, including science exhibits and cultural arts.

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**Sandtown Middle School** is hosting a free "Not Even Once" (N.E.O.) drug prevention workshop on March 20 in partnership with the Fulton County Youth Commission. Led by Fulton County Youth Commissioner A. Reginald Crossley, who is a state-certified drug prevention specialist, the daylong workshop will feature several 60-75 minute sessions on alcohol, tobacco, prescription opioids, marijuana, and more. A former Fulton County Schools student, who lost his sight in a drug deal gone wrong, also will share his story.

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**Stonewall Tell Elementary School** will hold a Cultural Explosion for the community on March 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will feature international food, student performances, student art creations, and Salsa dance lessons. The event is sponsored by the Foreign Language Action Group (FLAG).

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**Wolf Creek Elementary School** will host its annual Career Day on March 29 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. People from various careers, including law enforcement, construction, medicine, and more have been invited to participate.

## **In Case You Missed It**

**Westlake High School** hosted "Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead," an Atlanta Science Festival event on March 16. This amazing day of fun and discovery for the community involves students K-12, teachers, parents, college students, community leaders and business partners. The S.T.E.A.M. Makers-workshop facilitators led participants in such activities as making an art masterpiece with a fan, coding, flying drones, and building and driving a robot.

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**Banneker High School's** chorus participated in the region-wide Large Group Performance Evaluation at Benjamin Mays High School on March 14. Performances were graded on a 1-5 scale, with 1 being the superior score. The Banneker chorus received all 1s from three of the judges.

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March 4-8 was **Exceptional Children's Week** across Georgia, and Fulton County Schools joined in with celebrations around the county. Many schools held "Yes I Can!" awards ceremonies to celebrate the talents of their exceptional scholars and to highlight other instructional activities. [Read More...](#)

## **On the Website: [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org)**

[Graduation dates announced for Class of 2019](#)

[Spring Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration Dates Set](#)

[2019-20 and 2020-21 school calendars approved](#)

## **On The Tube: FCS-TV**

[Fulton County Schools Science Fair Recap](#)

[Fulton Now! student-hosted news show – Episode 17](#)

[Inside Look: Langston Hughes High School](#)

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.