



News Release

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News to Know for October 21 - 25

Special Observances for October

National Principals Month, an opportunity to recognize and celebrate principals for their hard work and dedication, is celebrated in October.

Save the Date

Bus Safety Week is October 21-25, according to National Association for Pupil Transportation. The theme for 2019 is "My School Bus, The Safest Form of Student Transportation!" It is a time for schools to highlight safety in transportation and celebrate bus drivers. National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is Monday, October 21, and students and parents across Fulton will honor drivers with handmade cards, signs and special treats. FCS was the first propane-powered school bus fleet to add three-point seat belts on all bus purchases since 2017.

Correction: Closing the weeklong celebration, Fulton County Schools will host the 36th annual FCS Bus Safety Competition on **Saturday, October 26**. The event aims to continue the professional development of Fulton's bus drivers by improving and maintaining their driving skills in a fun competition.

Red Ribbon Week, a reminder to stay drug free, is October 23-31. The theme this year is "Send a Message. Stay Drug Free." Fulton County Schools counselors, psychologists and social workers are sending a message by providing buttons, pins and information on making healthy and safe choices. Students will be able to participate in campaigns to bring awareness, from wearing a certain color of clothing to video contests to canned food drives ("I CAN, You CAN, Be Drug Free"). For more information on this national initiative, visit <http://redribbon.org/>.

As part of their Parent University, **Johns Creek High School** PTSA will present a three-part conversation that addresses students' mental and emotional wellness. This conversation is based on the documentary "Race to Nowhere," a piece that highlights systemic pressures and how to tackle them. The events will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23, Thursday, Nov. 21 and Friday, Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Centennial High School will host Raising Resilient Kids - A COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM 2019, Saturday, Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. in partnership with Emory Johns Creek Hospital and Georgia PTA. The community is invited to a day of workshops, discussions and seminars designed to support families in their desire to raise successful, resilient, and healthy people.

Keynote speakers include a teenager who will share his struggle with addiction and subsequent path to recovery as well as a mental health expert who will discuss the addiction recovery process. A free continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Workshop and presentation topics include Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Vaping, Signs of Depression, Suicide Awareness, Anxiety, Bullying, Recognizing Your Child's Needs, Help Managing Social Media, Positive Parenting Techniques and Skills, Working with Your Exceptional Child, Study Habits, Looking Beyond Your Test Scores, Goal Setting, the College Application Process, Alternative Career Paths, Adulthood and Financial Literacy, and more. [Click here for more information and to reserve a spot.](#)

Students **Sheridan Hernandez Cruz, Bear Creek MS; Jasmin Guadalupe Segura, Camp Creek MS; Belen Verence Montalvo Vedia, Elkins Point MS; Itzel Acevedo-Pena, Holcomb Bridge MS; Ivanna Rojas, Hopewell MS; Teresa Nichole Lopez, Renaissance MS; Gabriella Ava's Horton, Sandy Springs MS; Tiffany Clementine Lajj, Taylor Road MS** and **Daniel Dwight Williams, Woodland MS** will become **REACH Scholars** October 23, 10 a.m. at **REACH Georgia Signing Day**. The event will be held at Fulton County Schools North Learning Center located at 450 Northridge Parkway, Sandy Springs. **REACH Georgia** is a needs-based scholarship program that begins in eighth grade. Scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through high school and must maintain good grades, behavior and attendance through middle and high school. Those who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school are awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to be used at any HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 26, when **FCS affinity partner, Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF)** will hold the sixth annual Footprints for the Future 5k/10k Road Race. Proceeds from the race and sponsor contributions support SSEF's targeted literacy programs in **Fulton County Schools in Sandy Springs** such as "Reading Buddies" and Mini Libraries. Both races are run on a USTAF certified racecourse and are certified AJC Peachtree Road Race qualifiers with awards given for all age categories and special Overall and Masters awards. For the second year, the races will begin at the City Springs Green and the race routes through the heart of Sandy Springs. Registration includes a t-shirt and a SWAG bag of giveaways from sponsors and community supporters. Awards will be presented in multiple

categories including a trophy for the school with the highest representation of attendees. Sign up today at: <https://bit.ly/2IHZdsr>. Post-race entertainment includes a DJ, sponsor booths, demonstrations, snacks and a 1k fun run for young children and families. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes in advance of Halloween. As a special bonus, the Sandy Springs-Perimeter Chamber's Health and Well-Being Council will present their free Fall Fun Health Fest on the Green.

October 31 is a costume day in many Central Learning Community elementary schools but with a literary twist. **Heards Ferry, Woodland, Ison Springs and High Point Elementary Schools** will celebrate Storybook Character Day by dressing as their favorite book character. **Spalding Drive Elementary School** will hold a Storybook Character Parade.

The Legacy of Excellence Awards, a recognition luncheon for Fulton County Schools teachers, principals, professionals and partnerships of the year, is Friday, November 1, at 11:30 a.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Cliftdale Elementary celebrates 10 years of excellence with a Family Gala on November 16 at Westlake High School, at 6 p.m. For more information visit www.osp.osmsinc.com/fultonga.

Awards and Honors

Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Area Superintendent, South Learning Community; Chelsea Montgomery, Executive Director of Psychological Services; Langston Hughes High Principal Charles Chester; Creekside High Principal Frankie Pollock and Banneker Assistant Principal Ramon Garner have been accepted into the Harvard Institute's Proving Ground Multi-Day Summit held November 19-22. The initiative is part of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University. The learning opportunity will provide strategies toward solving one of the most pressing problems educators face: chronic absenteeism.

Martha Alanis from **College Park Elementary School** presented with her Read Conmigo Bilingual Educator of the Year award on October 25. Conmigo is an organization that provides free children's bilingual books to promote bilingual literacy in families.

McNair Middle School sixth grader **Jaidah Bienaime** won First Place in her category in the Governor's Red Ribbon Poster Contest. She also was the Overall Winner out of hundreds of entries in the competition.

Valendia Durden from **College Park Elementary School** has been nominated as a 2019-2020 LifeChanger of the Year. The LifeChanger of the Year program recognizes and rewards K-12 school employees who make a positive difference in the lives of students.

Riverwood International Charter School was recently honored with the 2019 Fulton County Citizens Commission on the Environment Award (FCCCE)

for their community garden. Science teachers **Patti Lawrimore** and **Isaac Seals** as well as culinary arts teacher **Elissa Oliver** were the driving forces in the garden's development and accepted the award on behalf of the school. The FCCCS is a citizen environmental advisory group appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The group's purpose is to investigate environmental concerns; make recommendations on environmental policies; and to increase public awareness, understanding, and involvement concerning environmental issues. Awards are given to those that have excelled at improving the environment within Fulton County.

Due to the construction of new facilities at Riverwood, the previous outdoor garden closed in 2015. Isaac Seals and his International Baccalaureate Environmental Science students wrote and submitted the proposal and budget for a new garden. With support from the Riverwood Foundation and grants from both the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program and the Whole Kids Foundation by Whole Foods Market, the new, advanced garden space broke ground in May 2018.

Cool Kids (and Schools) Doing Cool Things

Manning Oaks Elementary School held their annual Boosterthon fundraiser earlier this fall. The PTA-driven event ran two weeks, and the school met their goal, raising \$18, 890. Funds will go towards playground enhancements. For meeting their goal, Principal **Jennifer Rosenthal** got slimed on the morning broadcast.

Langston Hughes High School art students, under the direction of Fine Arts Chair **Mary Breazeale**, have a scarecrow on exhibit at the Atlanta Botanical Garden through October 27.

Mimosa Elementary School's partnership with CHRIS 180, is up and running. Through this partnership, Mimosa students can receive onsite counseling services from a bilingual mental health therapist who will provide assessments, individual/group counseling and crisis intervention services to students. Support is also provided to school staff in addressing the crisis needs of students who are not specifically CHRIS 180 clients through consultation and coaching.

River Trail Middle School kicked off the *Month of the Young Adolescent* by holding a highly successful "Parent to School Day." Approximately 250 parents of students in all three grades signed up to attend two class periods with their children. Parents were encouraged to participate in class activities along with their children to get the full experience of a middle school student's school day. The event was a success, and River Trail plans to make "Parent to School Day" an annual occurrence.

Fifth graders at **High Point Elementary School** experienced a little bit of history with the Ellis Island project, "Coming to America." Divided into "boats" and taking assumed names and countries of origin, students dressed in clothing their assigned immigrant would wear. They then walked through the

immigration experience of 1892 to 1954, arriving at Ellis Island by the Statue of Liberty and proceeding through processing at various 'stations.' Parents helped facilitate the event as Ellis Island immigration processors.

Staff and students from **Amana Academy**, a FCS charter school, recently participated in the EL Education 2019 National Conference here in Atlanta. EL (formerly Expeditionary Learning) is a research-based approach that encourages teachers and students to combine challenge and joy in learning. Amana students welcomed conference attendees to Atlanta through song, dance, step and spoken word. Their performance celebrated the city as the birthplace of the Civil Rights movement in the South, honoring noted leaders of the movement and highlighting Atlanta's HBCUs and the role they've played throughout history. Staff members presented two master classes. Amana Academy is both an EL Education Credential Network School and a Certified STEM public charter school for students in grades K-8.

In Case You Missed It

Ridgeview Middle School hosted the annual College Fair for eighth graders and high school students from North Springs Charter High School and Riverwood International Charter School clusters. Participants met more than 40 college representatives and attended informative workshops by collegiate professionals about the college admissions and preparedness processes.

A preschool Special Education class at **New Prospect Elementary School** recently participated in the Student Art Show at the High Museum of Art. The piece is on display at the museum. Titled "Flying High," the work depicts the students flying in a hot air balloon.

Flu Season Update: Georgia is experiencing the onset of an early flu season with confirmed cases already reported by local health providers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics have stressed the importance of children receiving flu vaccines and the danger of flu to children. According to the CDC, a flu vaccine offers the best defense against getting flu and spreading it to others. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that the flu can cause 10 days of fever and lead to serious complications even for healthy kids. Therefore, we are sharing this information to remind us to take precautions and to work together to help prevent the spread of flu. To ensure the safety and health of students, staff and parents, we encourage you to take proactive measures that can help reduce the spread of flu and other communicable illnesses. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2IPZauv>.

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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 93,500 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.

