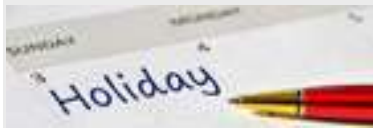


KNIGHT LIGHTS



Winter Concerts

Chorus Concert:
 Thur., Dec. 3, 7:00 pm
 Orchestra Concert:
 Tues., Dec. 8, 7:00 pm
 Grady Cluster Concert:
 Thur., Dec. 10, 6:30 pm
 Grady Cluster Jazz Concert:
 Sun., Dec. 13, 3:00 pm
 All concerts will be held in
 the Murray Auditorium.



Winter Break

Don't forget - there is no school for students from **Monday, Dec. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 5**. School will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016. Second semester begins on Wed., Jan. 6, 2016.

Letter from the Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the Holiday Break. Please frequently check the Grady website for important school updates, and subscribe to the weekly *GradyGram* electronic newsletter, published by the PTSA. The *GradyGram* includes weekly announcements encompassing all aspects of the school, and also posts special editions as needed for important school announcements. Click the following link to subscribe to the *GradyGram*: <http://eepurl.com/fA-Yo>



The administration has heard numerous parent concerns regarding the emphasis on attendance and the specific focus on students having fewer than six absences. For background, here is some information about this new initiative and its foundation. As many of you know, all schools in Georgia are measured using a "report card" metric called College and Career Preparation Readiness Index (CCRPI). This metric includes more than thirty performance indicators. For 2015-2016, the state changed the attendance indicator from overall attendance percentage to "percentage of students with six or fewer absences." The rationale is grounded in educational research that students with six or fewer absences are more academically successful. Unfortunately, the state does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences for this calculation. I know that this is a difficult balance. While we do not want to encourage students to come to school when they are ill, we do want to emphasize that attendance, including timeliness, is important. Thanks for your support!

New Format for Parent-Teacher Conferences

In an effort to better accommodate requests for Parent-Teacher Conferences, a new format is being implemented at Grady High School. Effective November 3, 2015, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be conducted on the **1st and 4th Tuesday of each month @ 3:40 p.m. in the Cafeteria**. Please see the Grady website for further information about Parent Conferences. To sign up, use this link <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/47859>. For informational purposes, here is the text from the webpage.



From your PTSA Board

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

How Do I Schedule A Parent-Teacher Conference?

- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled online.
- Access the link to SignUpGenius.com below.
- Schedule your Parent-Teacher Conference at least 2 business days in advance.
- Select your child’s Counselor and request a conference with specific teachers by entering their names. Be sure to enter your contact information.

What Should I Do on the Conference Day?

- Sign in at the Main Office (Charles Allen entrance).
- Report to the Cafeteria by 3:40 p.m.
- Conference Stations will be set up by Counselor/Cohort
- Teachers will report to designated Conference Stations to meet with parents.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their student to the conference.
- Counselors will be on-site during the conference period.

Charter System Conversion

Atlanta Public Schools has been approved by the state as a Charter System. As part of this transition, every school will have a Local School Governance Team (LSGT), which will also be referred to as a “Go Team.” The LSGT is a way to get the community, parents, and teachers involved in decision making to improve educational opportunities for students. Unlike a Local School Council (LSC) which is an advisory group, the “Go Team” does have some governance responsibilities in the areas of curriculum, school operations, personnel, financial decisions, and resource allocations. It is important to note that the LSGT functions in more of a “big picture” capacity, while school leadership handles specific daily matters in these areas. If you are interested in getting more information about service on a “Go Team,” go to www.atlantapublicschools.us/candidatebank . You should also mark your calendar for a Candidate Information meeting at 5:30 p.m. on December 10 in Grady’s cafeteria.

Finally, please encourage your child to get involved in a club, sport, or extra-curricular activity. At Grady High School, there is truly “something for everyone.” If you have a concern or a suggestion for school improvement, please feel free to contact your child’s grade level counselor or administrator.

If you should need any additional assistance, you can contact me at tguiney@atlanta.k12.ga.us or by phone at 404-802-3000. I look forward to partnering with you this year and beyond.

Sincerely,
Timothy J. Guiney, Principal



Counselor's Corner

Governor's Honors Program Semi-Finalists Announced

Twenty-two of our students have been selected to proceed to the next phase of the Governor's Honors Program (GHP) application process! The next phase for nominees is to complete and submit the state-wide application scheduled in December.



GHP is a four-week summer institute held on the campus of Valdosta State University, and offers academically and artistically gifted and talented students the opportunity to engage in exciting and challenging learning opportunities outside of the school year. If you have any questions regarding GHP, please contact me, Shaketha Blankenship, PhD, LPC, NCC, NCSC, sblankenship@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Meanwhile, please help me in congratulating our 2015-2016 GHP Semi-Finalists:

Capelouto, Carolyn	Social Studies
Damiani, Bailey	Social Studies
Mason, Phoebe	Communicative Arts
Podber, Olivia	Communicative Arts
Thweatt, Harrison	Communicative Arts
Bruce, Kiera	Mechanical
	Engineering
Fedorov, Gregory	Social Studies
Jones, Walden	Math
Keith, Maia	Mechanical
	Engineering
LaRocca-Pitts, Eleanor	Mechanical
	Engineering
Lombardo, Sam	Social Studies
Mack, Dyshann	Vocal Music Tenor
Mansbach, Orly	Latin
Mehra, Dhruv	Math
Nathan, Mei	Communicative Arts
Prausnitz-Weinbaum, Hannah	Math
Roorbach, John	Theatre
Schneider, Allie	Dance
Simon-Brecke, Nicholas	Mechanical
	Engineering
Stroud, Kendall	Vocal Music Tenor
Tehrani, Rose	Science

Prom

Save the Date

Plans are underway by the Junior Class to host the Junior-Senior Prom. The 2016 GHS Prom will be held on April 23, 2016 at the Twelve Hotel in Atlantic Station.

Current prices: \$60 for Juniors and \$85 for Seniors. Only Seniors who did not pay Junior dues last year will be required to purchase a ticket. Payments accepted in money order form payable to Henry W. Grady High School. Guest tickets are \$50.

Tickets may be purchased Mon. - Fri., 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. in room E212.

Student participation is being solicited for planning, theme selection, and event space design. Parent volunteers are also welcomed. For all inquiries, please contact Mr. Pilson, mpilson@atlanta.k12.ga.us.



AP Capstone Program

In the spring of 2015, as part of the cluster planning process, the Grady Cluster Planning Committee began looking at ways to enhance and enrich existing successful programming. A detailed topic of conversation was The College Board's new Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program. This program was designed to complement existing AP programs and intended to equip students with independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges, and more importantly, *lifelong learning*.



The AP Capstone Program was built on the foundation of a new two-course high school sequence: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. Students will have the choice of attaining an **AP Capstone Diploma** (AP Seminar + AP Research + 4 additional AP courses) or an **AP Seminar and Research Certificate** (AP Seminar + AP Research). Both the diploma and the certificate require a score of 3 or higher on the AP course exams.

The College Board rolled out the AP Capstone Program nationally in 2014. Schools must apply to be a Capstone school, and only a select few are chosen each year. Georgia currently has 8 AP Capstone schools; included are Walton HS in Cobb County, and the Wesleyan School in Norcross.

On Friday, November 6, the Grady Cluster Planning Committee received the wonderful news that Grady High School has been granted approval by the College Board to submit an application as a Capstone school for the 2016-2017 school year.

Details of how the program would be offered at Grady (if the application is approved) are still being worked out. Nonetheless, we are very excited at the possibility of becoming the first AP Capstone School in the City of Atlanta!

JROTC Holidays

JROTC Hosts Christmas Invitation Drill Meet

On December 12, the JROTC Department will host the Christmas Invitation Drill Meet at Grady High School. Twenty metro area schools will be represented. Judges from the National Guard and Army will be in attendance.

Cadets will participate in many events throughout the day. At the end of the evening, an awards ceremony will be conducted and winning teams in each category will collect trophies.

This event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at GHS and is free to the public. Good luck to all participants, especially our Grady Knights!

Additionally, the annual JROTC Program Assessment inspection was held November 4. The inspection began with the recitation of the ROTC creed and ended with a portfolio check and remarks from Principal Guiney. The Knights' outstanding performance helped the battalion gain a total of 98 points out of 100. To learn more about ROTC activity, contact LTC Johnson, cejohnson@atlanta.k12.ga.us.





Graduation Cords

Graduation Service Cords

Seniors are now able to earn a Service Cord for

graduation. The primary requirement is logging 100 community service hours. Grady High School is using [GivingPoint](#) to track and record student Service Cord program requirements.

This program provides online interactive tools allowing students to track volunteer hours, and earn extra points through quizzes and blog posts while building a civic resume.

Guidelines on this four step program can be found at mygivingpoint.org. Program deadline for completion is March 31, 2016 to be considered for a Graduation Service Cord.



Always visit the GHS website Senior Counselor Information Page for up to date information.

College and Career Center Updates



It has been a busy fall in the College and Career Center in our new space, Room C226! The school year began with a series of lunchtime workshops for seniors. Topics included making your college list,

diversity fly-in programs, essay and resume writing and conquering the common app. We welcomed back Jenny Buyns, one of the CCC founders, to debunk the myths of college applications.

Over 100 colleges have visited Grady so far, giving students the chance to get information and valuable face time with the very reps who will likely be reading their applications. College visits continue throughout the year.

Other CCC programs have included a liberal arts college panel, a college application overview for parents, and an information session about the University of Georgia's honors program.

Every Grady senior visited the CCC during Advisement this fall. Many seniors are already regular visitors, but we want *every* student to know how our volunteers can assist them. Juniors will start rotating through in the spring.

Over winter break, CCC volunteers can continue helping students with their essays. We will offer a service we call Essay Elf, where students writing college or scholarship essays for early January may still receive writing assistance. If needed, submit essays to ccessayhelp@gmail.com. Volunteers will offer a response within 48 hours.



PTSA Teacher Grant Program SpOtlight

TSA Students Place in Architectural Renovation Competition

Tonia Schofield, Engineering Pathway Educator, heads the TSA Club at GHS. TSA stands for Technology Student Association. The Association prepares students as successful leaders in technological societies through exposure, involvement, and attendance of industry focused events.

With assistance from the PTSA Teacher's Grant Program, Ms. Schofield was able to sponsor a group of 20 student leaders to participate in the Georgia Annual TSA Tech Day held in Perry this past October. During Tech Day, the students competed in over 70 events, with Grady students placing 4th in the State in Architectural Renovation.

Participation in this association provides students the opportunity to join over 70,000 TSA members nationwide, providing an outlet to interact with other students across the country with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) interest while engaging in STEM activities.

As a Title I school, specific efforts are made to defer costs to parents through various fundraising efforts: bake sales, candy bar sales, parking lot lottery, and teacher-club grant funding. Funds are also expended on association dues, student registration, competition fees, and tech equipment. Through more funding, students will compete in the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference and State Leadership Conference.

Grady students have shown they enjoy competing in the TSA competitions. The students benefit by enhancing their STEM skills, learning to work as a team of leaders, and broadening their exposure of career opportunities. Grady TSA Club has gratitude for the PTSA Teacher Grant Program, as well as the GHS community for supporting student endeavors and goals. Learn more about [TSA National Organization](#).

Congratulations to Ms. Schofield and GHS TSA Club as our PTSA Teacher Grant Program Spotlight of the month!



Annual Campaign to Support CINS Teacher Grants Program

Every year the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) takes on two major initiatives: informational community meetings and a teacher grant program. Our grant program provides resources to teachers in the Grady cluster for special projects to enhance our students' experiences at school. CINS is proud to report that it provided over \$6,000 in teacher grants in the 2014-15 school year!

CINS is currently accepting donations to support its 2015-16 grants program. You can support our students' learning gardens, STEM and arts programs, and technology integration (just a few of our past projects) by contributing today. Donate online at cinsatlanta.org.

The CINS board works with the cluster schools, the community and the Atlanta Public Schools system to identify critical issues and possible solutions through monthly meetings. All meetings have a particular focus pertinent to cluster academic issues. The annual Cluster Data Dig is coming up in January at Centennial Academy. Watch cinsatlanta.org for details.

CINS is a non-profit organization that supports and advocates for education in the entire Grady cluster. Founded in 1978, CINS represents eight APS schools serving students from diverse cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds: four elementary schools (Mary-Lin, Hope-Hill, Morningside, Springdale Park), Centennial Academy (K-8), the Kindezi Charter School, Inman Middle School and Grady High School.



The Writing Center

Bestselling Authors Direct the Writing Center

The Grady Writing Center is off to a strong start this year under new leadership. The irrepressible Riki Bolster has scaled back her involvement after many years directing the center. She still volunteers one day a week, but has handed over the reins to new co-directors Denene Millner and Nick Chiles.

Millner and Chiles, who served as volunteers the last two years, are the parents of a Grady junior and an 8th grader. Already this year they have conducted workshops with students in Grady's journalism program, led a workshop on writing personal statements, and held poetry and short story contests - giving away prize money.

They are professional writers with 30 published books between them, including novels, children's books, self-help books, and co-written celebrity memoirs. They are longtime journalists and have been involved in almost every facet of publishing, as magazine writers, magazine editors, website editors and essayists.

Chiles won a Pulitzer Prize as a reporter at *New York Newsday*, and has written *New York Times* bestsellers with Kirk Franklin and Rev. Al Sharpton. Millner founded an award-winning parenting website, *MyBrownBaby.com*, and wrote bestsellers with Steve Harvey and Charlie Wilson. They also taught writing at a Harlem-based program for high schoolers.

Millner and Chiles are passionate about instilling a love of the written word - or at least lessening fears. They urge students to take full advantage of the Writing Center, inside the Media Center every Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m., and they encourage parents to nudge students this way with school papers, college application or scholarship essays, resumes or any other writing tasks. No guarantees, but they say they can turn that B into an A!

G3 Robotics Team Soars!

Building on 10 years of expanding strength, G3 Robotics achieved success in its 11th year by winning the inaugural FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Georgia Southern Classic Regional, advancing to the World Competition in St. Louis.

The team's outreach has grown with more elementary and middle schools committing to the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and G3 Drones for Good (DFG) programs. Given this increased interest, greater opportunities for student leadership and sponsor, mentor and parent volunteer support, G3 is ready for its best year yet!

G3 started in 2004 with 10 students, four mentors, and one sponsor. Today, the team has grown to 64 students, 10 mentors, and 16 sponsors. Grady teacher Andrew Nichols, has mentored the team from the start, and helped it become a student led organization.

Senior members direct operations in the fabrication, electronics, and marketing branches of the team. Together, students develop and share their interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

On December 5, G3 will host its 4th annual FLL Qualifying Tournament for 36 elementary schools. In March 2016, G3 will host 20 middle schools for the 2nd annual G3 DFG Competition. At the end

of these events, G3 will have served over 500 elementary and middle school students.

If you would like to learn more about this award winning team, email Mr. Nichols at



phi.naught@gmail.com.

Congratulations Grady Jesters!



Grady's speech and debate team, the Jesters, enjoyed great success at several tournaments in late October and early November. They competed at the Sequoyah High School "Autumn Argument" tournament in Canton, Ga., and brought home more honors than any other school:

·Novice Public Forum debate:
Dominic Coletta and **Jordan Killenberg**, quarterfinals; **Ethan Damiani** and **Harry Suazo**, semifinals

·Varsity Public Forum debate:

Bailey Damiani and **Todd Pengelly**, quarterfinals; **Max Rafferty** and **Harper Gambill**, semifinals; 6th place speaker, **Todd Pengelly**; 5th place, **Max Rafferty**; 3rd place, **Bailey Damiani**

- Novice Lincoln-Douglas debate: **Avni Garg**, quarterfinals; **Louis Cameli**, semifinals; **Avni Garg**, 4th place speaker; **Eddie Belle**, 1st place
- Extemporaneous Speaking: **Freddy Fernandez**, 6th place; **Quinn Preston**, 5th place; **Micah Bowman**, 4th place; **Robert Weimar**, 2nd place; **Sam Lombardo**, CHAMPION
- Dramatic Interpretation: **Molly Looman**, CHAMPION
- Original Oratory: **Rayedean Sparks**, 6th place
- Program Oral Interpretation: **Ashley Carter**, CHAMPION

The Jesters also had a fine showing at the North Hall Tournament in Gainesville, Ga.:

- Impromptu: **Quinn Preston**, 4th place; **Denis Goldsman**, 2nd place
- Extemporaneous Speaking: **Micah Bowman**, 6th place; **Denis Goldsman**, 5th place
- Dramatic Interpretation: **Molly Looman**, 1st place
- Novice Lincoln-Douglas: **Avni Garg**, 5th place
- Varsity Lincoln-Douglas: **Grace Bridges**, 5th place; **Alex Opsahl**, 2nd place; **Will Taft**, CHAMPION

The Jesters excelled at smaller and specialty tournaments as well. At the Alpharetta High School Raider Treasure Hunt, **Sophia Carter** took 7th place in Novice Lincoln-Douglas debate and **Harrison Wilco** was named co-champion in Varsity. At the Marist Ivy Street Public Forum Round Robin, **Bailey Damiani** and **Todd Pengelly** were 2nd place winners. Congratulations!

Grady Seniors get your Cap & Gown!

Grady Seniors - please go to the Grady website and select "Senior Class 2016 Information" under the QuickLinks section on the left. Please provide the requested information, some of which will be used to order your cap and gown.

Senior Fees

Senior fees may be paid online through the "Senior Fees" link on the Grady website. Fees are as follows:
\$190 if paid by Feb. 29
\$200 after Mar. 1
Save some money by paying early!

December & January Dates to Remember

12/2, Wed	5:30/7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys JV Basketball Game vs Carver (A)
12/2, Wed	6:00 p.m.	Financial Aid Information Session (Cafeteria)
12/3, Thu	7:00 p.m.	Chorus Winter Concert (Theatre)
12/4, Fri	4:30 p.m.	Ultimate Frisbee Meeting
12/4, Fri	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Cross Keys (H)
12/5, Sat	8:00 a.m.	G3 Robotics FLL Tournament (Cafeteria, Theatre, Gyms)
12/5, Sat	10:00 a.m.	Boys 9 th Grade Basketball Game vs Maynard Jackson (A)
12/5, Sat	2:00 p.m./3:30 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Game vs Whitefield Academy (A)
12/5, Sat	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys JV Basketball Game vs KIPP (H)
12/7, Mon	6:30 p.m.	Robotics Booster Club Meeting (Cafeteria)
12/8, Tue	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Game vs Stone Mountain (A)
12/8, Tue	5:30 p.m.	Georgia Milestone Results Parent Meeting (Interactive Lab)
12/8, Tue	7:00 p.m.	Orchestra Winter Concert (Theatre)
12/9, Wed	9:40 a.m.	One Fair Presentation Workshop (Advisement)
12/9, Wed	10:00 a.m./11:30 a.m.	Girls/Boys JV Basketball Game vs Drew (H)
12/10, Thu		Academic Fair (Media Center)
12/10, Thu	3:30 p.m.	Transportation YOU Meeting (Cafeteria)
12/10, Thu	5:30 p.m.	Grady Cluster LSGT Candidate Information Session (Cafeteria)
12/10, Thu	6:30 p.m.	Grady Cluster Winter Concert (Theatre)
12/11, Fri	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Lithonia (A)
12/11, Fri	7:00 p.m.	I and You (BBT)
12/12, Sat	7:00 a.m.	JROTC Drill Invitation (Field)
12/12, Sat	10:00 a.m.	Boys 9 th Grade Basketball Game vs South Atlanta (A)
12/12, Sat	10:00 a.m./11:30 a.m.	Girls/Boys JV Basketball Game vs Hapeville (A)
12/12, Sat	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Columbia (A)
12/12, Sat	7:00 p.m.	I and You (BBT)
12/14, Mon	4:00 p.m.	Local School Council Meeting (CCC)
12/15, Tue	6:30 p.m.	PTSA General Meeting (Cafeteria)
12/16, Wed	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Boys/Girls JV Basketball Game vs Mays (H)
12/18, Fri		End, 1st Semester
12/18, Fri	5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.	Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Marist (A)
12/21, Mon		Semester Break Begins
12/21, Mon		Girls Varsity Basketball Holiday Tournament vs Woodward Academy (A)
12/22, Tue		Girls Varsity Basketball Holiday Tournament vs Woodward Academy (A)
12/28, Mon		Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Dwight
		Madison Roundball Tourney (A)
12/28, Mon	7:00 p.m.	CINS Meeting (Cafeteria)
12/29, Tue		Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Dwight
		Madison Roundball Tourney (A)
12/30, Wed		Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs Dwight
		Madison Roundball Tourney (A)



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Stay In Touch



Grady PTSA Facebook Page

Like Grady High School PTSA to keep up with everything going on at Grady!

Go to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal for student schedules, attendance, and grades.

The Parent Portal web address is https://ic.apsk12.org/campus/portal/atlanta.jsp. Site Activation Key: Email bmontero@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

The GradyGram e-newsletter is sent weekly during the school year. Sign up on Grady's website. Send current news to gradygram@hotmail.com by Thurs. at 5:00 p.m. for the next edition.

