

**Good News
About
Gates County Schools
March 30, 2015**

Buckland Elementary School

Buckland second graders are participating in a N.C. State University nutrition program called Steps to Health. Miss Renee from the 4H Extension Office visits second graders weekly to teach the students about good eating habits. During the nine-lesson program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, students participate in taste tests and food demonstrations, and receive healthy recipes.

Buckland's Jump Rope for Heart event raised \$1,541.00 for the American Heart Association. Thirty-six students participated this year. Top fundraiser was fourth grader Thomas Boyce, who collected \$220.00.

Career Day was a resounding success. The PBIS committee arranged for many people to present their jobs to the students. The following businesses and organizations were represented: Department of Social Services, Vidant Roanoke Chowan Hospital, N.C. Highway Patrol, Cameron Outland Farms, Brinkley Lawn care Service, Pasquotank Corrections, Gates County Rescue Squad, Gates County 4-H, Albemarle Hopeline, Mrs. Dawn Gallop artist, Chick Fil A, SECU, Woodmen of the World, Merchant's Millpond State Park, and Gates County Sheriff's Department. Wake Med Air Mobile II made an exciting landing right on campus. Abundant Hope provided a delicious soup and salad lunch for the staff and presenters.

Mrs. Parker's second graders are enjoying their new farm cart, funded by the Ag in the Classroom grant. They are learning about farming with hands-on activities and special books, which they select from a rolling, produce cart. Students "milked" latex gloves during the dairy farming unit and are now raising flowers and vegetables in conjunction with the produce unit.

Dr. Seuss's birthday/*READACROSSAMERICA* plans were altered a bit & postponed by snow, but Buckland students were thrilled by GCHS's theatre arts students who performed an original program The "Mulberry Show" in the gym on Friday, March 6th. Several of the "characters" were former Buckland pandas and teachers were so happy to see how they've blossomed at the high school under Mrs. Toti's direction! Cast and crewmembers buddied up with our 2nd graders prior to the program to read favorite Dr. Seuss books. The playwrights donated \$100.00 for books in memory of Mrs. Ellen Russell and Mrs. Delores Hollowell because 100 % of our classes attended two GCHS playwrights plays this year. Mrs. Brickhouse also drew a winner from each homeroom & from the

staff for our "Readers' Raffle" contest. Students won books and goody bags, and Mrs. Avis Holley won a \$15 gift certificate & a free "E-Motions" exercise class for herself & a friend (compliments of Ms. Branch) along w/ a goody bag. Elementary & high schoolers alike really enjoyed the afternoon!

Buckland's "Battle of the Books" Girls' Night Out was March 6th (delayed by snow). 9 team members enjoyed games, pizza & snacks, pedicures & facials, dancing, and 'girl time' in addition to reading and practicing for the regional competition coming up April 23rd in Martin County. Several eBOB team parents helped out by donating money for food, delivering pizza, & assisting with the "beauty treatments".









Central Middle School

Ashley Talton represented Central in the Virginian Pilot spelling bee on February 21st. Ashley finished 6th out of over 70 spellers.

Show Choir competed in the regional contest at Perquimans High School on March 6th. The group placed 3rd and directors Kathryn Eure and Stacy White are looking forward to using what they learned to prepare for next year.

Regional Quiz Bowl was held on March 7th at Holmes High School in Edenton. Central's team finished 2nd, qualifying them for the state competition on March 28th. Their record at the regional was 4-1 with their only loss to the first place team of Chowan Middle.

Chowan Arts Council awarded several Central Middle School Art students, including 1st place winner Dustin Kirby at their recent show.

The eighth grade English classes are reading the drama "The Diary of Anne Frank." The students have discussed the period of the Holocaust as it is taking

place during this time period. The students selected which characters they would like to portray and have been acting out the parts in class daily. We are about half way through the play and they are doing a great job as the characters. We look forward to them performing the remainder of the play.

CMS BOB team is preparing to compete in the regional competition on 4/14/15. Central Sisters: Mrs. Boone (from Central Office) came out and spoke to our young ladies about working hard and being determined to reach their goals in life.

1st Viking Voyage 5K was a huge success; over 140 registered participants and lots of support from the community.

Positive Role Models On Our Campus; students from the high school are continuing to come out during grade level lunches, sparking general conversations about high school expectations and personal interest with our middle school students.

Wendy Harrell from the Credit Union visited our campus and talked with our 8th grade students about the Credit Union, finance and budgeting on March 5th.

Rebecca Leary from the high school came out last week and talked with our 8th grade students about careers and high school courses.

Wanda Stallings from Albemarle Regional Health Services is scheduled to visit our campus on March 18, 19, & 20 and talk about tobacco awareness highlighting KICK BUTTS DAY.

CMS Envirothon teams competed in Regional Competition on Tuesday, March 17th at Cool Springs Environmental Education Center and have advanced to State Competition at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington in April. We are very thankful for the Gates County Soil and Water Conservation District for sponsoring our team through this journey.

Beta Induction was held March 19th. 65 new members were inducted by the current members. Parents and families enjoyed the occasion as candles represented the light that Beta members shine in the community.

Stem Night was held March 26th at Central. Students demonstrated what they have been learning in science and math classes throughout the school.

The Pi Day of the Century occurred this weekend when the date, including the year—3/14/15—matched the first five digits of the irrational number pi (3.14159265...). Ms. Dail and Mrs. Greene's math classes participated in Pi day activities on Mar. 18 which included investigations into the circumference and diameter of different circular objects, a "Pi" decorating contest, and "Pin the center on the circle," and making a "Pi" chain.

Gatesville Elementary School

Pre-K

Our PK program recently received a visit from an ECERS-R (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales –Revised) assessor. We undergo this assessment every 3 years as dictated by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. This assessment looks at all aspects of our program. It evaluates the effectiveness of the teacher, the facilities, the materials being used, parent interaction, appropriate playtime, and learning centers – including the playground. Mary Bunch's class was randomly selected to receive the assessment. We received a good to excellent rating and more than exceeded the minimal standard. Ms. Wanda Hopkins, our daycare consultant, called to congratulate us on a job well done. Hats off to Pre-K! This year Mrs. Bunch and her assistants deserve the accolades for doing such a wonderful job. Mrs. Smith would have completed the assessment just as well as evidenced by our previous ECERS-R assessment. Please pat Mrs. Bunch on her back the next time you see her!

Pre-K applied for and received a \$1000.00 grant from Smart Start.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday the first week of March. Children participated in school wide-activities such as wearing wacky socks and hats. Students also completed various activities in class such as a green eggs and ham sight word game where students flip sight words with spatulas and read them. The week ended with a Dr. Seuss themed party provided by a parent. Students were able to eat One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, Green Eggs and Ham cupcakes, Stink Stank Stunk Pretzels and drank Pink Yink Ink. All had a fun time!

First Grade

The first grade at Gatesville recently attended "The Velveteen Rabbit" at GCHS. All who attended enjoyed the performance. We have just completed Unit 4 in Treasures and our Unit 4 Benchmark test. In Math we are learning to add 2 digit numbers and identify congruent shapes. On Friday we will present the First Grade Program, Seussical the Musical.

Second Grade

The second grade is practicing and getting ready for their Earth Day presentation of "The Great Kapok Tree". We have all been working very hard. We are also excited to go to the Disney movie, "Monkey Kingdom", in April for Earth Day. In math the students just finished a unit on money and are starting on measurement.

Third Grade

Earlier in the month, third graders enjoyed a presentation from Gates County High School Theatre Arts students. They also participated in a question and answer session and games. These activities helped students learn how various groups show artistic expression within the local and regional communities. Third graders are currently learning about energy transfer and matter properties and changes. They have enjoyed completing several labs as they explore these topics.





Fourth Grade

Fourth graders have been learning about the pirates and colonists of the "Lost Colony" in Social studies. They are now learning about the Wright Brothers. Fourth grade students are learning all about fractions and decimals.

Students are finishing up reading Little House on the Prairie. They enjoyed doing many activities related to the pioneers and their early life. Students were asked to create a replica of what the little house would have been like on the prairie. It was exciting to see all the creativity in their projects and their excitement when they presented their projects to the class. The projects have been displayed in the hallway.







Fifth Grade

Fifth grade reading students have completed reading the novel Freedom Crossing by Margaret Goff Clark. This story of a fugitive slave correlated with the social studies civil war unit.

We are very proud of Mrs. Lawlis. She was chosen to participate as an advisor serving on a committee for reviewing science texts to make recommendations to the state board for state adoption.

Fifth grade students are using geoboards to discover different properties of shapes.

General News

Andy Riddick will be holding his annual Jump Rope For Heart fundraiser the first day of April. Students and staff are assisting in the raising of funds for this fun activity. All students who bring in a \$5.00 dollar donation receive a heart fund duck. This year some of our students have even set up webpages to raise money.

We have completed our Mixed Bags fundraiser and hope our profit will be just a little bit over a thousand dollars. This money will be used for technology apps and small devices, like kindles.

Mrs. Taylor organized and hosted our Career Day on Wednesday, March 25th. GES parents are first invited to come and share their careers with our students. This year our 15 parents represented careers running the gamut from Charter Boat Captain, officers from the court, the Navy, Department of Social Services,

bakers, bus drivers and pastors. Our outside presenters included the NC State Highway Patrol, District Attorney's Office, 4-H, Roanoke Electric, GITS, Southern Bank, and SECU, However, without a doubt the biggest hit of the day for the students, was Sergeant Basnight from the Chowan County Sheriff's department and his dog, Sergeant Rico. Mrs. Taylor fed all the participants a light breakfast and wonderful lunch.

Gates County High School

Twenty Senior Beta Club members and the four sponsors attended the state convention in Greensboro to compete in academic and creative events. The GCHS Beta Club walked away with awards in the following events: Second place in Scrapbook; Ashley Toti, second place in Oratory; Wesley Walton, second place in Math; and Carmen Miller, second place in Music and Fine Arts. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Four GCHS students recently entered their artwork into the Chowan Arts Council Student Art Exhibit. These four students were Duncan O'Donnell, Sebastian Lee, Rachel Miller, and Brittany Walston. We had two winners with Brittany Walston placing 2nd in the High School section and Rachel Miller winning Best in Show. We are all very proud of all the students who were entered and those who won!

Our girls' basketball team recently concluded an amazing season. They were the Coastal 10 Conference Champions with an 18-0 record. They lost by two points to Rosewood in the fourth round of state playoffs and finished the season with a 26-2 record. Congratulations, Lady Barons!

The Boy's basketball team had a successful season also, making it to the second round of state playoffs. They were Coastal 10 Conference champions with a 16-2 record. They finished the season 21-4.

Kaila Ballard, a junior for the Gates County girls' basketball team, was recently honored after scoring her 1,500th career point. Kaila averages 27 points per game. You can see a clip of the TV news story here: <http://wavy.com/2015/03/01/gates-countys-kaila-ballard-honored/>.

On March 3 the Nursing Fundamentals students traveled to Greenville to watch the first time showing of the documentary *The American Nurse*. Photojournalist and filmmaker Carolyn Jones spent the past two years interviewing over 100 nurses from every corner of the U.S. in an effort to shine a light on nurses' critical role at the bedside and within our country's healthcare system. She published the book "The American Nurse: Photographs and Interviews" to wide critical acclaim and has just completed production on *The American Nurse* documentary film that explores the role of nursing in the most vulnerable moments of the human experience. The film gives a voice to nurses who are on the front lines of

the biggest issues facing America - poverty, aging, war, and justice. The Nursing Fundamentals students truly enjoyed learning about this aspect of nursing outside the traditional hospital setting. There were several touching moments shared by all who attended this debut film production and the Nursing Fundamentals class shared their learning experience with other health science classes at school.

Several Gates County High FFA members competed in the Livestock Judging Career Development Event on March 10th in Elizabeth City. The students had to evaluate market and breeding livestock and then give oral reasons on why they placed them a certain way. Our senior team came in first place. These students were Brian Stallings, Kelsey Graham, Abby Russell, and Loni Askew. The junior team came in second place. The students on the junior team were Gage Riddick, Caleb Moore, Hunter Jernigan, Dylan P. Eure, and Adriana Ward. Brian Stallings was second overall in the contest.

Gates County FFA students competed in four Federation level FFA contests on March 12th in Elizabeth City. Leslie Small won first place in Prepared Public Speaking. Maddy Munoz won first place in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. Madeline Hobbs won second place in FFA Creed. The FFA Tool team consisting of members Dylan Eure, Jake Overman, Forrest Hofler, Greg Johnson, and Austin Rowland placed first in the tool identification and uses event. Dylan Eure had the highest overall score of all participants. The Gates County team also had the top five scores of all of the schools.

On March 13th, the Gates County Special Olympics traveled to Smithfield, NC. The Red Barons team from Gates County High School competed in basketball and they won the GOLD medal. Team members were Joshua Dick, Rayshawn Gatling, JT Green, Tiquel Jordan, Raekwon Parker, and Christopher Smith-Dent. The Superstars team members were Ingram Hurdle, Tyquan Jordan, Jamie Knight, Tremayne Knight, and MaCalvin Saunders. They also won a GOLD medal. The Guys and Gals team members were Jessica Bradshaw, Calvin Eason, Nellie Eason, Troy Ferebee, Stephen Hill, and Nathan Yates. They won the SILVER medal. Everyone had a great time.

Ashley Toti and Madeline Simons attended the North Carolina Association of School Administrators on March 19th. They got to see their second-place award winning video on the big screen at the NCASA conference. The NCASA held the contest in celebration of 175 years of public education in North Carolina.

T. S. Cooper Elementary School

March came in roaring like a Wildcat and left purring like a Wildcat Cub.

All students participated in Read Across America to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Each day was celebrated in a different way. We celebrated Mix up Monday where students mix-matched articles of clothing. On Tophat Tuesday, students wore their favorite hats. On Wacky Wednesday, students wore wacky socks. Our school community wore green on Fun Food Friday in honor of Green Eggs and Ham. Students from GCHS's Dream Team read Dr. Seuss books to all students on Friday.

Kindergarten, First and Second Grade students enjoyed performances from the GCHS Playmakers in the play, the Velveteen Rabbit.

Third Graders visited the Museum of the Albemarle's Day on the river.

Kindergarten held a Teddy Bear fair on Friday, March 10.

Mrs. Beth Copeland took 10 students to Gatesville Elementary to celebrate their success with the Soil & Water Conservation Bookmark contest. Victor Rountree won 1st place for our School and 2nd place for our region.

Students and staff were excited to have a real live author visit our school. Thanks to Mrs. Toti's Grassroots grant, we were able to have Mike Artell visit our school on March 27. Mr. Artell is an author, illustrator/cartoonist, musician, and public speaker. He is from Louisiana and has written at least three Cajun fractured fairy tales. Mr. Artell has written more than 35 books. Students enjoyed his stories and learning how to draw cartoons.

Our Book Fair will be held March 1-April 3. We will be open 8:00 - 4:00 daily. On April 2, we are planning a Career Day. Mrs. Diana Wiggins welcomes volunteers to participate in this event. We are also hosting STEM Night on April 2. Teachers are busy preparing activities and games to enrich our students' understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math. Our Fifth Grade Science projects will be on display during STEM Night.

Finally, our PTA is hosting a Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night on April 2. Parents and staff have placed their orders online and Chick-Fil-A will deliver dinners to our school on April 2 from 5:00-7:00.

Proctors are needed for our EOG tests. Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Diana Wiggins