

**Good News
About
Gates County Schools
May 12, 2015**

Buckland Elementary School

Several staff members celebrated the arrival of spring by participating in the 5K Color Me Rad race in Virginia Beach.

Second graders in Mrs. Parker's class earned their Junior Ranger badges at Merchant's Millpond State Park.

The Climate Committee pranked the staff with brown E's on April Fool's Day. Fun, but somewhat tasteless.

The Brain Brawl Competition was held on April 2nd. Teams of second/third graders and fourth/fifth graders compete by buzzing in to answer general knowledge questions. Second/Third grade first place winners was the Red Team (Paige Besterfeldt, Savion Butts, Nyghel Garner, and Jacy Keith), second place went to the Green Team (Leah Moore, Jeffrey Brent, Jacob Nichols, and Marlana Kleiber), and third place went to the Blue Team (Taylor Ward, Cooper Gallop, Nicole Grider, and Avery Boyd). Fourth/Fifth grade first place winners were the Green Team (Makayla Bolton, Chris Carl, Jerne Beamon, and Zachary Shank), second place winners were the Red Team (Olivia McGuire, Dakota McKnight, Emily Williams, and Hunter Donaldson), and third place was claimed by the Blue Team (Lillian Grant, Austin Warren, Sebastian Hall, and Semaj Cross).

The Panda Pride event was held April 3rd. Students who consistently exhibited positive behavior during the grading period were treated to snacks and free play in the gym.

The PTA hid exceptionally nice treats for the children's annual Easter egg hunt.

12 Buckland Elementary 5th graders represented the school and Gates County Public Schools at the Northeast Regional elementary "Battle of the Books" competition against the district winners of 10 other counties in Martin County on April 23. EBOB is a club in which 5th graders meet to read, discuss, and then compete on 17 "Young Adult" novels in a game format. EBOB is an all volunteer program sponsored by the NC School Library Media Association in order to promote the reading of a wide variety of quality literature, which not only increases students' reading skills, but their knowledge of American and world history, geography, and culture. The students were accompanied by Mrs. Newsome and Mrs. Brickhouse.

April was National Poetry Month, so to celebrate and encourage our students to read and enjoy all kinds of books, Buckland held an "Open Mic Day" on National "Poem in Your Pocket" Day on Thurs., April 30th. Students read poetry during library classes in the weeks prior to the 30th and picked out poems to share. Those who dared to, including many kindergartners, stepped behind the microphone and shared poetry and enjoyed the applause and appreciation of their peers. In addition, Mrs. Tammy Simons, Media Specialist at GCHS, GCHS Senior and former Buckland Panda Rachel Miller, Sunbury resident and published poet June Norfleet, GCS board member and former Buckland teacher Claire Whitehurst, and several Buckland staff members read their favorite poems to classes in the library during the day.

Students who met their teachers' Accelerated Reader goals for the third nine weeks were recognized for their hard work. They were treated to a pizza and Bingo party.

Twenty-two fifth graders were inducted into the Junior Beta Club on April 16th. Students are eligible for the honor if they maintain a 90 average all year, demonstrate distinguished leadership skills, and are recommended by their teachers. Officers include Lauryn Brooks, Faith Martin, Hailey Ellis and Aicela Savage. Beta students are cleaning up the Buckland campus as their service project during the month of May.

Kindergarten registration took place on April 17th. So far we have 30 little ones who are ready to become Buckland pandas.

Kindergarten students presented a delightful spring program on Friday, April 24th. They were adorably costumed as zoo animals. The program was greatly enjoyed by family members and the student body.

Buckland Elementary School held the Annual Science Fair on April 14th. Overall winners for the school were Jacob Ross – first place, Carter and Braxton Preas – second place, and Taylor Ward – third place. First place winners by grade level were Jacob Ross and Morgan Cotton, Braydon Wolford, Taylor Ward and Cooper Gallop, Jacob Nichols, Carter and Braxton Preas, and Aicela Savage. Second place winners were A.J. Foster, Dusty Gallop, Ryan Dunstan, Janiah Norman, Dylan Utt, and Dakota McKnight. Third place winners were Anna Giron and Addison Maurer, Carly Cowper, Brynlee Stevens, Jacy Keith, Brittany Coggsdale, Lily Grant. Many thanks to our judges.

On Tuesday, April 14 Buckland had our annual Family Science night. This event was part of the NC Science Festival. It included 12 engaging science experiments and activities that parents could participate in with their students. The PTA provided chicken dinner to the families. Over 200 parents and students attended!

Mrs. Anita Winn has been selected as the Elementary School Outstanding Mathematics Teacher for Gates County Schools by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Congratulations to following Buckland pandas, Ms. Ruby Holder, 2015-2016 teacher of the year, Mrs. Paula Walker, 2015-2016, support person of the year, and Mrs. Meghan Maurer, 2015-2016, volunteer of the year.





Central Middle School

8th graders toured the campus of ECU.

Career Day was held on April 1, 2015; 32 representatives from the community participated

Student of the months: 6th grade Casey Hart; 7th grade Makayla Norman and 8th grade Braden Lucas Teacher of the month: Mrs. McElfresh

CMS received great feedback from the PBIS Set completed 4/23 by Diana Wiggins.

Central Sisters activity scheduled for 4/30: "Cookies and Canvas" Mrs. Boyd (Gatesville) will come out and paint with our girls while they eat cookies.

Ms. Walton gets involved in Art by making a Wire Sculpture. It looks like she enjoyed herself.



Kathryn Eure presented at the Beginning Teacher conference in Morehead City on "Proactive -vs- Reactive" Classroom Management.

Computer 7 students have been learning Desktop Publishing skills. Students have enjoyed putting their skills to use creating menus, Viking Ball flyers and Field Day flyers. They are currently conducting research and will create brochures. Come out to Central and view their work on display in the hallways!

The CMS Envirothon team competed at Cedarock Park in Burlington on April 24-25. They earned two of the highest scores CMS has earned at state competition since we restarted the program 3 years ago. These students are excited about their growth and are looking forward to another shot at state next year. These students are already asking if we can meet for a science camp this summer to get a head start :) Gates County Soil and Water are working to help make this happen for our students and any others that are interested in joining the program.

CMS Dance Team is in its formative stages with gathering interested students to begin preparations for competition in November of next school year.

Cole Dickerson and Steven Futrell represented Central at the regional History Bee in Arlington Virginia on April 21st. They were two of 120 students from the DC, Virginia, Maryland region and both students completed all four rounds in the very competitive contest.

Six CMS students participated in the state History Day contest on April 25th. Steven Futrell and Dustin Kirby were 3rd in their preliminary round and Kayla White placed 3rd overall in the individual website category. She also won a special prize for the best entry on women's history. Also competing were Cheyenne Umphlett, Caleb and Wyatt Lawlis.

The state art showcase will be held May 9th in Winston-Salem. Central will be represented by artwork by Charisma Kennedy, Taylor Vaughan, Elizabeth Wiggins, Willa Powell, and Hailey McGlauchon. These students prepared submissions based on a poem entitled "Brooks Brothers Shirts". Prior to submitting, 13 art students visited the Brooks Brothers store and Artspace in Raleigh. The team effort garnered a third place in the East Region.

Jetta Cameron-Paz, Ashley Talton, Noah Ellis, and BJ Roscoe competed in the regional Quill competition. Although they didn't advance to the state level, Talton placed 3rd in the region in the narrative category.

The Battle of the Books team competed in Elizabeth City on April 14th. They continue to show great improvement and this year scored over 100 points, a first for a CMS team.

Of 60 teams represented at the Hertford-Gates Relay for Life on April 17-18, 2015, Gates County Educators ranked 8th, raising over \$6000 to fight cancer. Several Beta Club members participated as part of teams.



The CMS Viking Baseball team is hoping for an undefeated season. Their current record is 6-0.

Gatesville Elementary School

Gatesville Elementary participated in the NC Science Festivals Statewide Science Symphony day with thousands of other students across the state. Our school applied for and received a free Science Symphony toolkit, complete with lessons and materials, for our students to build their very own homemade Sound

Sandwiches (kazoos). Students enjoyed learning about sound and making their own music!



Media Center

We want to thank all of our parents, grandparents, and friends who came and visited our book fair. We earned \$1000 in cash and another \$1000 in Scholastic Dollars! Thank you all for your support.

Pre-K

Our preschool program and kindergarten program teachers met to review preschool and Kindergarten expectations for rising Kindergarten students. I am happy to say that we hold similar expectations for rising Kindergarten students. PK was able to share Foundations, our learning standards, and Kindergarten shared their focus for Kindergarten. PK presented a new report that would be shared with the Kindergarten teachers for each rising Kindergarten student that leaves our program. We have also scheduled transition meetings for our preschoolers with special needs. This is a time when the child's accomplishments can be shared and needs discussed. The parents have a chance to meet the team that will be serving their child and begin to establish a very important relationship.

Plans for the annual preschool screening are being made and the preschool applications for the 15-16 School Year are rolling in!

We had a great field trip to the Park in Suffolk. We had great parent participation and the children had a great time.

Kindergarten

Students in kindergarten have had a wonderful April! We welcomed spring through stories and artwork. We celebrated Easter by dying Easter eggs, participating in an Easter egg hunt, and ended with an Easter party. This week, we are studying weather in science. We have made an anemometer, read poems about weather, and will travel with a rain drop. David Spruill's mom will be sharing weather facts with us on Friday! We look forward to this!

First Grade

The first grade at Gatesville has just completed unit five in reading. They have learned a lot about nature including weather, seasons, the moon, and electricity.

In Math the first grade is continuing to learn their addition and subtraction facts, counting by 10's from a given number, and counting on.

We are working on a trip to a strawberry farm after Mother's Day.

Second Grade

The second grade had a wonderful field trip to see the movie "Monkey Kingdom." The movie was enjoyed by all and fit in with our science curriculum. In math, students are learning arrays and multiplication. In reading, students are reading mini passages and answering questions to prepare them for third grade. In social studies, students are studying the world around us and learning the 50 states and their locations. They are doing a project booklet on individual states that they picked out of a hat. For Earth Day the second grade put on a presentation of "The Great Kapok Tree." The students did an outstanding job and a copy of the performance will be turned in to A+ for viewing.

Third Grade

Third graders will tour the old Gates County courthouse this month as a follow up to their Gates County History Unit. They are also looking forward to a trip to Merchants Millpond as a culminating activity for their Ecosystems unit.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students have been working on an integrated unit in science, language arts, and reading. Students have been exploring the wonderful world of weather in science class. Mrs. Lawlis' students have completed many experiments and hands-on activities. They have measured weather conditions: wind speed, temperature, air pressure, precipitation, and cloud formations. In conjunction with all these science activities, Mrs. White's reading classes have been reading the novel, Night of the Twisters by Ivy Ruckman. Students have been intrigued by the power of tornadoes that star in this novel. Students are participating in many creative and critical thinking activities and journal writing as they read the story of Dan and his buddies struggling to survive the harrowing night of the twisters.

Gates County High School

On March 7th of 2015 Sergeant Juan C. Ayala retired from the United States Air Force after 21 years of service. He has served 12 years as a United States Marine with 2 deployments to Asia and one deployment to the Middle East. Master Sergeant Ayala participated as a trainer during multiple Military Global exercises training civilian and military personnel alike. For the professionalism, mentorship and outstanding military service, Master Sergeant Juan C. Ayala was honored with the Meritorious Service Medal and a Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Barak Obama.

Chloe Ford, a graduate of and recruiter for the College of Textiles from NC State, presented a program to the Chemistry and Physics students on March 9. She did many science demonstrations for the students that highlighted the areas of study in the college. She also encouraged the students to participate in the STEP (Summer Textiles Education Program), a week long residential experience for rising juniors. Finally she gave the students information about the application process to NC State.

Mrs. Kittrell's biology classes have been learning about stem cells. Students read various opinions from six different people as well as interviewed a mentor. The students were able to discuss the pros and cons of the information that was gleaned to begin formulating their individual opinion on the use of Stem Cells. The Foods II class prepared an AWESOME Baked Potato Bar, Cheddar Broccoli Soup, Grilled Bread and a variety of Desserts for GCHS teachers on the early

release day on March 13th. The project provided a wonderful learning experience for the students. It was a great day in the foods lab!

The Cheerleaders received 2nd runner up at the CheerLtd Nationals at Canam competition in Myrtle Beach March 21 and 22 in the Small Varsity Non-tumble category. There were seven teams in our category. We placed 8th last year out of nine teams! Also, Marcasia Smith was selected to participate Friday at the Jump-Off competition which consisted of the best jumpers from across the United States, including All-Stars. She was eliminated after the second round.

Gates County High School completed class registration for Fall semester online during March. This is the second year we have done online registration, which mimics the registration process for college students. We are one of the only high schools in the area to participate in this innovative registration process. It allows us to gather information more accurately and schedule students in a more timely manner. This is just one example of how Gates County High School is staying on the cutting edge of technological opportunities.

Mrs. Wiant and her daughter Carly attended a March of Dimes Walk Kickoff Breakfast on March 17th at QVC. This was in preparation for the FBLA's fundraising efforts to support the March of Dimes Walk to be held April 25th in Suffolk.

The Beta Club is sponsoring a spirit links fundraiser for Relay for Life. Students will purchase Awareness Links, four for a dollar, in memory or honor of a loved one affected by cancer. Links will be displayed by class so that school groups will compete against each other to form the longest link.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsored a Fried Chicken dinner fundraiser for the Football team at GCHS to attend camp on June 18-20 at Mount Olive University. Thanks to the Baron community for your support.

SGA representatives have been sharing "Quotes of the Day" with our student body during the last two weeks of . Quotes are shared in an effort to inspire positive feelings among students and staff.

The Business Department sponsored a field trip on Tuesday, March 31st, for 29 students to visit and tour Elizabeth City State University and College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. Participants were able to experience college life in a small way by visiting student centers and various college classrooms, while hearing from academic advisors, admissions representatives, instructors, and college students. They were even able to eat lunch in a university cafeteria. This trip will help these students as they begin making decisions about pursuing education beyond high school. Students were accompanied by teachers Diane Brothers and Barbara Wiant and by Career Development Coordinator, Rebecca Leary.

Gates County High School won fifth place for 1A schools at the 37th annual high school mathematics contest at East Carolina University. Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Walston took a group of twenty students to compete.

GCHS Playmakers proudly performed their final mainstage production of the year on March 20-22. Students from the local elementary schools enjoyed the matinees on Friday and the evening public shows were well received by family and friends of the cast and crew. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the heartwarming tale of how the Velveteen Rabbit became real.

The week of March 23-27 the GCHS Performing Arts Department hosted the Blackbox Dancetheater as a result of the cARTwheels grant program, funded in full by the North Carolina Arts Council. Students in Intermediate Theatre and Dance enjoyed a wonderful residency with the dancers, ending in a school-wide performance. While here the artists offered a community workshop, a workshop with all of our Special Olympics athletes and spent several days working with a group of senior citizens at the Community Center. All participants enjoyed the workshops immensely, as well as getting to know the artists. The Blackbox Dancetheater also performed for Central Middle School. Students from 6th-12th enjoyed the performance, which included pieces about the Day of the Dead, a call to action piece about the ravages of war and the age old Greek myth of Sisyphus. The performance at the high school was a world premiere, as one of the dances was in part created from the week of dance and had never been seen before! Special thanks to the NCAC for the funding and to the wonderful artists in the Blackbox DanceTheater Company for an awesome week of learning and inspiration!

The SGA will be sponsoring an Earth Day activity on April 22nd. The SGA will be planting flowers around the school and picking up trash around campus.

GCHS Intermediate Theatre Arts students visited the Pre-K classes as well as New Beginnings Day Care at Gatesville Elementary on Thursday April 16 to help celebrate the Week of the Young Child with a TheatricalThursday. The high school students teamed up with the younger students and their teachers and created puppets together during their regular class time. Over 60 participants enjoyed the morning together celebrating TheatricalThursday.

The Library Club celebrated National Library Week April 13 - 17 with various activities. Students were "on display" reading all week, there was a shelfie/selfie contest matching people to their bookshelves, club members proudly wore their READ shirts one day, a book swap was held in the library, and there was a raffle for students who received tickets for being caught reading throughout the week.

On Friday, April 24th, the PBIS committee sponsored a No Tardy Party for students who had no tardies in fourth hour. Students were treated to a popsicle!

Gates County High School students spent their spring break volunteering to help those in need through Habitat for Humanity. For one week, 13 students and 5 faculty helped build houses in Atlanta, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. Sod was laid, foundations were built, walls were painted, floors were put in, and so much more. Physical labor is a big part of the volunteer work; however, it does not encompass all that was learned. These students were able to develop their interpersonal skills through leadership, problem solving, communication, critical thinking, and teamwork. At the end of the week, they came back to Gates County having grown personally, gained cultural understanding, increased construction skills, and with a deeper appreciation for what they have.

Eight students participated in job shadowing local businesses on Friday, April 24th. This event was sponsored by the Gates County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Career and Technical Education department. Following the job shadowing experience, the students joined together for lunch and shared their reflections on the events of the day. Local community organizations involved were Dixie Auto, First Citizens Bank, Gatesville Elementary School, The County Managers Office, B & S Enterprises, Down East Nursing Home, Todd's Pharmacy, and Lee Insurance. Dan Askew with Southern Bank worked on coordinating the event.

The Occupational Course of Study students raffled off Spring baskets to help with their business venture. The class created a beach basket, garden basket and car wash bucket. The lucky winners were Mrs. Pamela Holley, Mr. Karon Gatling, and Ms. Regina Hurdle. Thank-you to everyone who bought tickets.

On April 17, 2015 a group of 20 Juniors and Seniors from Gates County High School went to the College of the Albemarle's Currituck campus and Elizabeth City campus. These students got the opportunity to tour the Aviation Center on Currituck campus. They found out information about earning a degree through the Computer-Aided Drafting Technology Program, Aviation Systems Technology Program, and Computer Integrated Machining. At the Elizabeth City campus they had the opportunity to visit the Cosmetology classes and the Welding Technology classes. The tour was ended with a visit to registration. We would like to thank everyone at the colleges for their help and information. Mrs. Teresa White and Mr. Aron Martin would like to thank the students for their great behavior.

T. S. Cooper Elementary School

April has been a busy month for our students. Our kindergarten registration was a success. We enjoyed meeting our future students.

Our students enjoyed our Spring Book Fair Under the Sea. April 2 was a day packed with fun educational activities and events. We had our Career Day that morning followed by our STEM night that evening. Students enjoyed the many activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, and math. Fifth Grade presented their Science Fair projects. We had our annual recycled can drive. Finally, PTA hosted a Chick-Fil-A drive-through Spirit Night.

We had a much-needed Spring Break, which was enjoyed by ALL!

Our Spelling Bee was held on April 17 for grades 2-5.

Second Grade students have been enjoying learning about healthy nutrition from 4H.

Third Grade students took a field trip to the Museum of the Albemarle for "Day on the River." Fourth graders enjoyed a field trip to Manteo where they toured the Fort Raleigh National Park and Elizabeth II.

Now that April has drawn to a close, we are busy preparing for EOGs as we review our Common Core and Essential Standards. K-2 students are now beginning their End of Year assessments as well.