

**Good News About
Gates County Schools
May 8, 2017**

Central Middle School

- Seventh grade ELA students are digging deep into poetry. After spring break they began taking part in a poetry cafe' expressing their personal written poetry. Students are loving it!
 - The majority of our ELA students here at CMS grew on Mock EOG testing. Each of Mrs. Simpson's classes in the 6th grade showed growth as a whole class. ELA teachers continue to concentrate on standards of weakness to build strength in these areas during tutoring and interventions. We are also teaching effective test taking strategies. 6th grade students are finishing up The Lightning Thief novel and are working on character traits and motives where the students choose a character to "become". During this fun activity students are not revealing their identity and are producing a poster with character traits as the character they have chosen sees himself. Students will evaluate the posters and try to guess which character they are describing.
 - 8th grade ELA students recently finished reading The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd and My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen. Students have used these novels as a vehicle to prepare for EOGs.
 - CMS baseball, softball, and track teams continue to hold outstanding records! We are pumped that 6th graders are now joining us in sports!
 - CONGRATULATIONS to our CMS Teacher of the Year, Kathryn Eure! Another CONGRATULATIONS to our Support Staff of the Year, Monica Hathaway! These awards are well deserved!
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Buckland Elementary School

Buckland School held its annual Career Day on Friday, April 7th. Students visited stations for seven local businesses or agencies. The businesses included SECU, DSS, Sheriffs dept., Merchant's Millpond, EMS, Coast Guard, and there was also a simulator that the students were able to sit in and tour. Each station provided a hands-on activity or video to give the students a chance to experience what it would really be like to work for that business or agency.

Students who met their teachers' Accelerated Reader goals for the third nine weeks were recognized for their hard work. They all received an ice cream treat to enjoy. Looks like it pays to read.

Buckland Elementary School held the Annual Science Fair on April 12th. Overall winners for the school were Jacob Nichols – first place, Carly Cowper – second place, and Madison Myers – third place. First place winners by grade level were Broden Newsome (K), Lauren Ross (1st), Haley Copeland (2nd), Carly Cowper (3rd), Madison Myers (4th), and Jacob Nichols (5th). Second place winners were Leigh Boyce (K), Josh Jernigan (1st), Jacob Ross (2nd), Keegan Massey (3rd), Marian Stanz (4th) and Evan Eure (5th). Third place winners were David Flowers

and Xavian Rocha (K), Kayleigh Baines (1st), Jazmine Godfrey (2nd), Lena Johnson (3rd), Alvin Vinson (4th), and Laura Anderson (5th). Many thanks to our judges.

On Wednesday, April 12th Buckland had our 5th Annual Duke Energy Family Science Night. This event was part of the NC Science Festival. It included many engaging science experiments and activities that parents could participate in with their students. A pizza dinner was provided for the families and staff. Over 180 parents and students attended!

Buckland held its Jr. Beta Induction on Monday, April 10th. Fourteen students were inducted. Students are eligible for the honor if they maintain a 90 average all year, demonstrate distinguished leadership skills, and are recommended by their teachers.

Gatesville Elementary School

Our 2nd grade went to the College of the Albemarle and saw Charlie and the Chocolate Factor. A grant secured by Mrs. Laura Dickerson paid for the trip. Students had studied the story in detail before going, and did some impressive writing assignments after.

On April 13, WAVY 10 meteorologist Dietra Tate visited our 2nd grade for the 2nd straight year to talk about weather. A picture of our 5th grade and a brief overview of her visit was on the Saturday morning news. On the same day, Dr. Scott Powell, son of one of our substitute teachers, discussed weather from the research and experiment perspective. It was a day of hands on learning for 5th grade.

Grades 3 through 5 are working hard, and ready to excel on EOGS.

Gates County High School

HOSA members recently competed at state competitions in Greensboro. Ashley Bunch earned third place in Job Seeking Skills and Morgan Legg placed second in Home Health Aide. Both students will be representing North Carolina at the National HOSA Leadership conference this summer in Florida. The following students finished in the top ten of their respective competitions: Kyle Lowe in clinical Nursing, Casey Winn in Home Health Aide, Luke Felton in Medical Law, Rachel Byrum in Medical Terminology, Shannon Davis in Nursing Assistant, Haley Neal in Physical Therapy, Ashley Talton in Prepared Speaking, Christa Bazemore in Sports Medicine, and Jared Hobbs in Sports Medicine. HOSA District One officers are President, Cole Dickerson and Vice President, Ashley Talton. Congratulations!

Registration for next year is currently under way. The counselors and assistants are busy helping students plan their high school course of study and make the most of the credit hours that are required for graduation. Parents were encouraged to come out to help their students register and should continue to speak to them about their choices and future plans. Also the ASVAB was administered this past week for students who are interested in going in to the military or just furthering their research on careers.

Congratulations to Ashley Talton and Will Leary who were both accepted to the North Carolina School of Science and Math. NCSSM is a two-year, public residential high school located in Durham that focuses on the intensive study of science, mathematics and technology. The school accepts rising juniors from across North Carolina and enrolls them through their senior year in high school. Though NCSSM is a public school, enrollment is limited, and applicants undergo a highly competitive review process prior to admission.

Daniel Long and Kaitlynn Plumley will represent Gates County High School at the NCSU Satellite Program, which will be held on the NCSU campus from May 13-17, 2017. The NCSU SATELLITE program strives to introduce its participants to the science and technology related disciplines at NC State. Seminars focus on many of the different avenues of study in the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Sciences, and the College of Natural Resources. Through lectures and demonstrations by professors, on-site tours of facilities available for study and research, projects used to demonstrate industrial and research applications, and hands-on exercises, students will begin to gain an understanding of which areas excite and interest them the most. In addition to academic seminars, students also participate in information sessions, round table discussions, and team-building activities that are conducive to the open exchange of ideas.

Kaylee White scored in the top three in the state of North Carolina on her Microsoft Office Word and PowerPoint Certification Exam. She achieved a perfect score on the exam and the amount of time it took her to complete the performance test was the 3rd fastest in the state.

The Chemistry students at GCHS toured the visitor's center at Surry Nuclear Power Plant. Mrs. Carol Elmore shared an interactive presentation about energy with a focus on the use of fissionable uranium in the production of electricity. Students were also made aware of career opportunities at all educational levels.

The SGA went on a field trip to Buckland Elementary on Friday, April 14th to celebrate Earth Day which officially takes place on April 22nd. SGA members did a presentation about just what Earth Day is and then the K-2 students made their own potted plants by mixing soil with grass seed and painted the outside of their cups. Everyone had a great time and this event was a big success!! SGA members involved were: Maddy Munoz (Sr. class President), Jay Brooks (Sr. VP), William Harrell (Sr. Treasurer), Nyasia Luke (Sr Class Rep), Dylan M. Eure (Junior class President), Haley Brown (Jr. VP), Hailey Fisher (Jr. Social Media Director), Christa Bazemore (Jr. Treasurer), Sarah White (Sophomore VP), Jared Hobbs (Sophomore Treasurer), Kaleigh Presley (Sophomore Class Rep), Michaela Sizemore (Freshman President), and Brianna Sawyer (Freshman Secretary).

The GCHS Library Club celebrated National Library Week April 10 - 14 with several contests and a book swap. Winners of the Book Character Costume Contest were Kayla Dawson, Carly Wiant and Kaylee White. Aliyah Jacox won the bookmark creation contest. Thanks to all who participated.

The Durham band, The Beast rocked the Baron House the last days before spring break! Thanks to special funding from the Grassroots Arts Grant Program with the North Carolina Arts Council, the local community and the middle and high school students were treated to an awesome performance. The community performance on Thursday April 13, 2017 was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and everyone enjoyed the punch and cookie reception that followed to celebrate 50 Years of North Carolina Arts Council. Audience members were treated to a variety of songs including witty, funny and protest songs. The highlight song of the evening was "Doing What I Love", the newest single of The Beast's new album. The schools shows were a treat, with a well behaved audience. The students, although ready for Spring Break, were a great audience. Everyone agreed the Beast was the best way to end the week!

T. S. Cooper Elementary School

April has been a busy month for our students. We all enjoyed a much-needed Spring Break preceded by many exciting activities such as our assembly and Easter Egg hunts. Third graders were given a tour of the Gates County Courthouse by Sheriff Randy Hathaway. After the tour, students enjoyed lunch at Merchant's Millpond and recreation at the Community Center Park.

We had several parents and community resources share their career information with students on Career Day on April 7.

Students who achieved their Accelerated Reader goals were rewarded with an activity with a camping theme that correlated with our Happy Camper Book Fair - Read S'more Books.

Students enjoyed s'mores as they previewed the books that would be offered at our book fair which was held on April 10-14. On April 13, our school held a STEM night where students participated in activities to enrich their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math. Science Fair projects were on display.

On April 27, we had our Kindergarten registration.

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.