

**Good News
About
Gates County Schools
October 3, 2016**

Buckland Elementary School

Buckland Elementary was the lucky recipient of one hundred new fully stocked bookbags, donated by Golden State Foods of Garner, NC. Company representative, Maxie Hathaway, stated that their company employees paid for the bookbags. Every employee participated in this donation.

Buckland Elementary held its annual third grade information meeting on September 1st. The purpose of the meeting was to provide parents of third graders with updated information about the Read to Achieve Law. There was a great turnout and parents asked very important questions about what third graders and their parent could expect this year.

During the week of September 12th-16th, Buckland celebrated Grandparent's Week. Grandparents of students were invited to join their grandchildren for lunch. Buckland had a very nice turnout and students really enjoyed eating lunch with them.

Compassion Reaction (the elementary version of Rachel's Challenge) held an assembly for Buckland students on September 29th. Mrs. Copeland-McNair will be sharing more information about this wonderful program with the students during her guidance classes.

On Friday, September 30th, the fourth and fifth grade students traveled to Gatesville Elementary to see a program about Stop Bullying by Protown BMX bike team.

Let's welcome three new and two returning members to our Buckland family. Mrs. Ebony Copeland-McNair is now our guidance counselor. Mrs. Krystle Williams has joined our first grade team, and Mrs. Lori Cowper is now our third grade social studies and science teacher. Mrs. Kirby-Lynn Parker and Mrs. Becky Davis have joined our Exceptional Children's Department and Mrs. Teresa White is returning to that department. Mrs. Keisha Smith is our new receptionist. Returning to 5th grade in the area of math is Mrs. Lauren Bright. Welcome to all.

Central Middle School

- Mrs. A. Hobbs and Mrs. Farmer received the Dollar General Literacy Grant for \$3,400.00 to purchase Battle of the Books sets for this school year. Every ELA teacher will receive two sets and the media center will receive a set too!
- 6th grade band has started with 31 new and excited band members! The students have learned how to assemble their instruments, counted & clapped rhythms as an ensemble, and have started making sounds on the mouthpieces....next step, playing whole instruments!

- CMS students have been completing the Candy Box Assembly Line Challenge in Exploring Technology.
 - CMS students are doing an awesome job with Greek and Latin root instruction. In the 8th grade they are learning about the Holocaust and completing Webquests related to the time period. They are also reading "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas."
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Gatesville Elementary School

Mrs. Dickerson's 2nd grade class received a grant through DONORS CHOOSE for her "On Fire For Reading" project. Students have already enjoyed using the fire tablets for reading practice.

Our 4th grade Students did an activity for 9/11, which helped them to understand what happened that day and paid respect to the heroes and all the lives that were lost that day. On Thursday, September 8, North Carolina Senator Bill Cook visited Gatesville and received a classroom tour. Students were extremely well behaved and attentive during this surprise visit, and asked him some interesting questions.

Gates County High School

Mona Rawls and Renee Kittrell attended a workshop this summer sponsored by BRITE Research Center at NCCU entitled *Oh My Gosh, It's a Food Fight!* The workshop focused on Genetically Modified Organisms and allergens found in food items. Common uses for this procedure are to detect allergens in foods as well as drug and pregnancy tests. Mrs. Rawls, the GCHS Foods teacher, and Mrs. Kittrell, a GCHS Science teacher, plan to use the knowledge gleaned from this workshop to expand their classroom collaborations.

Over the summer students participated in the 3D Printer workshop at Gates County High School. Guest professors from Old Dominion University, Virginia Wesleyan University, and East Carolina University spent the week engaging students with hands-on training with 3D printers. Dr. Petros Katsioloudis, from Old Dominion University, began the week by introducing calipers, and how to design and print objects with 3D printers. Dr. Bill McConnell, of Virginia Wesleyan University, explored physical science concepts with energy conservation through 3D printing and angry birds. Students designed and printed a block with the 3D printers to safely house their angry bird just like the game. The remainder of the week six teachers, representing different subject areas at GCHS, taught lessons for future implementation in their classroom. These lessons ranged from creating wheels for a derby car, developing hands for a paper maiché doll, designing boxes of different shapes and sizes that will hold the same volume, manipulating gliders to create the longest flight distance and creating catapults using concepts from the Advanced Functions and Modeling curriculum. Dr. McConnell also continued to engage students throughout the week with engineering activities geared towards STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) involving the use of 3D printers. Dr. Daniel Dickerson of East Carolina University, who also serves on the Gates County School Board, oversaw the weeklong workshop. Dr. Dickerson also worked with the teachers in

an earlier workshop in June to introduce them to 3D Printers and how to incorporate the printers with project based learning. This is a great addition to the integrated STEM program at Gates County High School. The students involved described the week as fun, engaging, exciting and fantastic. All of them were eager to sign up for Technology Engineering and Design, which will be offered during the fall. The students really enjoyed the different projects taught, as well as the opportunity to work with the university professors. A special thanks to Mrs. Tammi Ward, Dr. Dickerson and Mrs. Jennifer Hill for their work in getting this program and technology lab established.

The 2016-17 Red Barons' Competition Cheer Team participated in a choreography camp with a representative from Fame Gym of Virginia Beach, Va. Our cheerleaders were very successful in achieving the goals of this camp, which were to build choreography skills for upcoming routines and strengthen tumbling skills. The 2015-16 Red Barons Competition Cheer Team won a national title of Grand Champions in the CANAM circuit at Myrtle Beach, SC. They look forward to another successful year and welcome your continued support.

Congratulations to our GCHS Boosters Club for having a very successful banquet! Mrs. Hope Riddick Melton provided encouraging words and great advice to our student athletes. Mrs. Cindy Barber, Boosters Club president, and Mr. Jay Cline, Boosters Club Vice President, led the collaborative efforts that made the banquet a success.

Freshmen Orientation, which took place on Tuesday, August 16th, was a huge success. Students arrived at 1:00 p.m. for informative sessions. The parent information session began at 6:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Parents and students were given an opportunity to explore the GCHS campus, enjoy a small meal in the cafeteria, and even receive door prizes. Many thanks to all those who helped prepare for orientation and especially Barbara Toti, who worked tirelessly to organize the event.

T. S. Cooper Elementary School

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade traveled to the Chowan County Fair during the last week in September. Students were able to see all the fair animals they had been learning about in class.

5th Grade traveled to the 28th ANNUAL MEHERRIN POWWOW in Ahoskie, NC.

Rachael's Challenge spoke with all our students during an assembly on September 27th. Students learned about the kindness campaign and pledged to pass forward kindness.

BMX riders gave our students a strong bullying message during an assembly on Friday, September 30th.

Our K-3 teachers have been working hard on the beginning of year Reading 3D assessments and the 3rd graders took the BOG reading test.

Thursday, October 6th we will be hosting Parent/Teacher conferences from 5:00-7:00. Parents will be able to pick up Progress Reports and speak with teachers about student progress.