

# The Georgia Communicator

GAESP

An Affiliate of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Fall 2008

## From the President

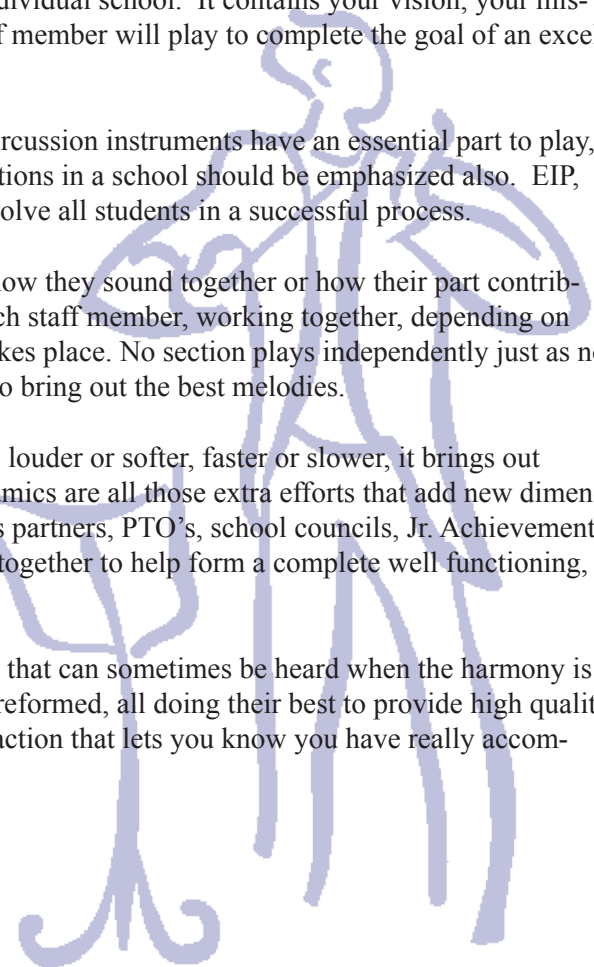
Welcome to a new school year! As a school leader, you wear many hats everyday. One role that you have is as a conductor. Our November conference will focus on this as our theme. "You the Conductor: Orchestrating for Success".

You the conductor, direct the musicians in your school bringing all of the talents together to perform. As the conductor, you:

1. Choose the appropriate musical score. The score, or piece of music, is the roadmap for the performance. It brings together all the instruments and voices with precision and harmony for a successful end result. Your score is your school improvement plan – geared to the needs and talents of your individual school. It contains your vision, your mission and your focus. It's emphasis is the strategic parts that each staff member will play to complete the goal of an excellent "performance" for your school.
2. Work with individual sections of the orchestra. Just as the percussion instruments have an essential part to play, so do the other areas – brass, woodwinds, strings. The individual sections in a school should be emphasized also. EIP, ESS, Gifted, Title 1 all must be working harmoniously in order to involve all students in a successful process.
3. Practice together regularly. If all the parts never get to hear how they sound together or how their part contributes to the whole, the flavor of the music can be lost. So it is with each staff member, working together, depending on each other and working with the students, that a successful concert takes place. No section plays independently just as no grade performs in a vacuum. Each builds and melds with the others to bring out the best melodies.
4. Use dynamics to color the music. As a passage of music gets louder or softer, faster or slower, it brings out characteristics that gives the music life and emotion. A school's dynamics are all those extra efforts that add new dimensions to the life of the goals you are trying to reach. Parents, business partners, PTO's, school councils, Jr. Achievement, 4-H, Big Brothers- Big Sisters are all individual dynamics that come together to help form a complete well functioning, harmonizing school.
5. Enjoy the overtones. Overtone are those magical high notes that can sometimes be heard when the harmony is perfect. When it all comes together with each distinctive part being preformed, all doing their best to provide high quality education for students, you can sometimes experience that rare satisfaction that lets you know you have really accomplished something beautiful.

You are the maestro!! Encore!! See you in November!!

*Rhonda Rowland*



## Executive Director's Corner

### Hal Beaver



Almost everyone whom I have spoken to tells me that they have had a really smooth school opening! I hope you have experienced the same. Our climate is changing somewhat with the economy and tight budgets. I do think that our public in general is appreciative of the work we do, but with bad press

on testing and increased testing accountability we must continue to work through these difficulties and changing times and make the pendulum begin to swing the other way. As we look to this year we must consider your own needs for collegial sharing and professional growth.

The GAESP Fall Conference is one of the best ways to accomplish both things, and in a wonderful environment. The conference will once again be held at Sea Palms November 9th-11th. We will show case some of our state's best Programs and strategies from some of our Georgia principals—they /you are truly the “conductors” of your schools.

NAESP will have the PALS Program on Thursday-Saturday; this program is a nationally known certificated mentoring program to help mentor new administrators. This registration is on-line on the GAESP web site at [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org).

Our Pre-Conference is a solid concurrent session on how to “weed-out” unsatisfactory” staff and how to hire “highly qualified” staff. Dr. Jim Garver will be the first keynote speaker on Monday morning on his bestselling book “Ten Secrets To Higher Student Achievement”. In addition our colleague and principal Bron-Gayna Schmit will present on Monday “Humor in our Office.” Dr. Bill Bonds, national keynote speaker will present on Tuesday morning “Safe Schools.”

Break-Out Session Topics:  
RTI/Pyramid of Intervention  
New State Evaluation Instrument  
Teacher Morale/Communication tips  
Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)- Researched Based Discipline Program

As we move forward we need your expertise, experience, and support as we work together for all the children in Georgia. If you have not registered go to: [Click here](#)

If you have not made reservations at Sea Palms, please do so, web-site [www.seapalms.com](http://www.seapalms.com)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you!

Bless you all,  
Hal Beaver

## Mentoring Program for Principals

The National Association of Elementary School Principals and Nova Southeastern University have formed a “partnership” to develop a mentoring program for proven administrators, to follow up with an internship paired with beginning principals to put what was learned into practice. This internship is a year long and builds on the foundation of excellence for all principals. Hal Beaver, our Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals Executive Director, has received his National Certification. Hal states that “This has definitely been a give and “learn” opportunity and is still a work in progress. Hal has coached four individuals from retired principals to college professors all through-out the country so they too can become “certified coaches/mentors”

Beaver said “There is no heavier burden than a great opportunity and we have one here, a chance to help new principals”. Congratulations Hal!

If you are interested in being a mentor please contact [NAESP.org](http://NAESP.org) or the GAESP web site.

## GAESP Executive Board

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Chatsworth Elementary School

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[www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org)



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Association of Educational Leaders*

## 2008 National Leaders' Conference

Hal Beaver (GAESP Executive Director), Cindy Flesher (GAESP President-elect), Jeanie Miller (GAESP Federal Relations Coordinator), Eddie Pollard (NAESP Zone 4 Director), and Rhonda Rowland (GAESP President) attended the National Leaders' Conference in Washington, DC in July. They were also joined by secondary principals from GASSP. The conference provided an opportunity for educational leaders to share state and



national perspectives related to elementary education and to lobby federal legislators about key educational issues. The Georgia delegation spent July 24 on Capitol Hill speaking with Georgia legislators emphasizing that the next Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) should focus on instruction and the whole child. Key points discussed were:

- Require states and districts to provide high-quality professional development specifically designed for principals, beginning mentoring in the early years and continuing throughout their careers. Professional development should address issues such as instructional leadership, family and community engagement, cultural competency, literacy education, and the effective use of data to inform instruction. Principal professional development should be funded through a dedicated funding stream authorized solely for that purpose.

Principal professional development should be funded through a dedicated funding stream authorized solely for that purpose.

- Allow the use of multiple assessments (including progress toward IEP goals by students with disabilities) and multiple opportunities to retake the assessments to be a factor in gauging school success.
- Allow for English language learners to develop English proficiency before their test scores are counted in determining student or school success.
- Allow for students with disabilities to be tested on the grade level recommended by each student's IEP team, using assessments chosen by the IEP team.
- Allow for the national graduation rate to be extended to within 5 years of entering high school, and allow for students with disabilities who complete high school before age 21 to be counted as graduates.

We also stressed that despite the tight economy, our schools and children continue to need support. Principals are responsible for leading the entire school community and for setting a high bar for student success. We asked that the Congressmen make a strong and sustained investment in education. We asked that major steps be taken toward making up for education underfunding by authorizing and appropriating much greater resources for federal education programs. In particular, we called on Congress to provide adequate funding levels for Title I, the School Leadership Program, Special Education, Striving Readers and other literacy programs, and professional development for principals when determining the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations.

### INFLUENCE YOUR GEORGIA LEGISLATORS

#### SIGN UP FOR LEAD

(Leading Educators' Advocacy Dashboard)

Go to [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org) / Click on the LEAD button

Signing up on LEAD allows you to receive action alerts and updates regarding current bills/legislation.

It also provides you with a direct link to your Georgia Congressmen.

# A Snapshot of Public Education in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

By Marilyn S. Taylor

GAESP Member/National Principal Mentor

“The real wealth of a country is not its material wealth, it is its people. They are the real strength from which we draw pride and the trees from which we receive the shade. It is our firm conviction in this reality that directs us to put all efforts in educating the people”  
*Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan*



The Ministry of Education (MoE) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to reform public education in the UAE by adopting a new curriculum and implementing teaching methods and strategies which actively engage students in meaningful learning activities and encourage higher level and critical thinking skills.

Why the change? Students have been taught traditionally with a focus on “rote” learning in a teacher-centered classroom rather than a student-centered one. Additionally, the textbook has been used to drive instruction instead of as a resource. Also, the primary language of instruction in the public schools is Arabic, thus resulting in the majority of public school students being unprepared for matriculation at state universities where courses are taught in English. The objective of the reform initiatives is to bring educational standards in the UAE up to the international standards.

What are the schools like in the UAE? The majority of the schools, with the exception of a small number of primary schools, are single gender schools (staff and students). All students are required to wear uniforms and most are transported to school by bus. Traditionally, the students remain in their assigned classroom and the subject area teachers rotate, even in the primary schools. With the implementation of the reform initiatives, many schools now have assigned teachers dedicated classrooms. In grades 1 and 2, instead of the English teachers teaching 4-6 different classes during the day, they now only teach 2 different classes for 3 back-to-back periods 4 days a week. One day a week is devoted to common planning time and professional development. Most schools are of the same structural



design, box-like structures which surround an open courtyard. The administration area is located in the front of the schools, while the classrooms, which open out into the courtyard, are located on both sides. The back of schools have classrooms located on two levels. The schools are surrounded by a tall concrete wall and a security guard monitors the gates used for entering and exiting the grounds. The security guard also lives on the premises near the entrance gate so that he can monitor the building 24-7. Students are served snacks (potato chips, cheese bread, candy, juice, water, etc.) from the canteen usually twice a day at break time. However, in the “Model Schools” students are served breakfast and lunch. During these break times, students will eat their snacks, meander around and/or play in the courtyard or their classrooms. Morning assemblies

are held daily in the courtyards where students participate in recitations from the Koran, singing of the National Anthem, some form of physical activity, and ritual clapping of the hands. The schools usually operate on a 6 or 7 period schedule with each class lasting approximately 45-55 minutes. During the month of September, the Holy month of Ramadan, school operates 1 hour later and the classes are 35-40 minutes in length.

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What amount of funding do the schools receive? Schools receive from the MoE 30,000-50,000 dhs a semester. The amounts received are not based on the number of students in each school, rather on whether the school is Cycle 1 (Elementary/Primary), Cycle 2 (Middle), or Cycle 3 (High). When you divide these amounts by 3.65 (the peg factor), the above figures are equivalent to \$8,500 -\$13,700 approximately. Principals not only use these funds to purchase instructional materials and supplies, they must also pay for internet and phone services and custodial services. To supplement their budgets, the schools generate operating funds from their canteen sales.

Who attends public/government schools? For the most part, only Emiratis/Nationals are allowed to attend the public/government schools. Foreigners/Expatriates are barred from attending the public schools; therefore, you will find these students attending one of the many private schools which are located throughout the UAE. More than approximately 40% of the Emirati parents have fled the public schools and opted to send their students to private schools.

Are teaching certifications required in the UAE? In the past, teachers and principals were hired without university degrees or certifications. Under the reform initiatives, teachers and principals must complete a certification program in order to be considered for teaching and/or administrative positions.

Remaining steadfast to Sheikh Zayed's vision of "educating the people", the Ministry of Education in the UAE has embarked upon a major journey of instituting educational reform throughout the Emirates to facilitate the change necessary to raise the quality of education in the UAE to international standards, thus building the capacity of the next generation.

**The GAESP Executive Committee and Board of Directors** would like to thank you for joining GAESP for the 2008-2009 school year. One of our main goals is to work with GAEL and the other affiliates to represent you, the school leader. We will work with the Department of Education, State Board, TRS, State Legislators, and in Washington D.C.. We will keep you informed of all issues being considered and the implication that they may have on the elementary school.

I know that you are busy this first week of school and making sure that all your students are being provided the best opportunities. One of GAESP's desires is to "keep your saw sharp" by providing you with information that will benefit all our elementary principals and assistance principals. Please know that if you have not renewed your membership for 2008-2009, this will be the last newsletter you receive.

I encourage you to access the Summer 2008 on-line issue of Changing Schools. The focus of the issue is Great Teachers for Great Schools and Classroom walkthroughs: Learning to see the trees and the forest, and attributes of a great teacher. A good read! (<http://www.mcrel.org/topics/products/351/>)

I also encourage you to attend our Fall Conference in November. Dr Jim Garver, one of our several keynotes will speak on "The Ten Secrets to Higher Student Achievement" with many more showcase sessions and proven strategies. Conference details can be found at [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org).

**Thank You for Joining GAESP**

2008 GAESP Fall Conference  
November 9-11, 2008  
Sea Palms Resort- St. Simons Island  
“Achieving Excellence through Successful Principals”

- Dr. Jim Garver - Key Note Speaker
- Bron-Gayna Schmit - Motivation/Humor
- Dr. Bill Bonds - Key Note Speaker
- Awards Banquet
- Legislative Updates
- PALS Mentoring NAESP 6th-8th
- Topics
  - Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Instrument
  - Teacher Morale
  - RTI/Pyramid of Intervention
  - Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

**Pre-Conferences**

**November 8, 2:00-4:00pm**  
Proven Practices to Successfully  
Document Unsatisfactory  
Teaching

**November 9, 8:00-9:30am**  
Hiring and Retaining Quality  
Teachers: What to Look For

**Goodbye, Teaching—Hello, Learning!**

by Dr. Jim Garver



Over the past decade a subtle, but very important, shift has occurred in American education. Our primary mission has changed from teaching to learning.

A few years ago, I accepted the principalship of a very adult-centered school. The chairman of the English department put it best: My classroom is a banquet. I prepare a lovely feast and lay it before them. Whether they choose to partake or not is not my concern.

We certainly can't say that anymore (and probably shouldn't have then)! We are accountable for the learning of all of our children. This serves to make very important initiatives such as formative assessment, differentiation, high-yield strategies, student engagement, and standards-based reporting.

That's significant, because along with the charge of learning for all students comes a corollary: Continuous learning for the adults in the school. Luckily, we're not alone in our efforts. An expectation of sharing our learning ensures that we benefit not only from research, but from our colleagues' experiences. So, the next time we hear "learning for all," remember that means all students—and adults!

*Dr. Jim Garver has experience at all levels of public education, from teacher to associate superintendent, kindergarten through university, in small schools and large. As an educational leader, he has guided schools and districts through the implementation of best practices and school-wide reform, the development of standards-based curriculum, and the improvement of climate and culture. Student achievement increased in every school and district in which Garver has held a leadership position. A highly regarded national speaker and consultant, Garver works with schools across North America, sharing expertise on classroom walk-throughs, instructional leadership and coaching, authentic student engagement, implementing educational research, and improving student achievement. His book, *The 10 Secrets of Higher Student Achievement*, serves as a blueprint for school improvement in several states. A second book, currently in development, focuses on enhanced coaching skills for educational leaders. Garver's humorous, engaging presentation style, abundant stories, and improvised songs lead to repeat engagements wherever he presents a keynote speech, workshop, or training session.*

**Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals  
2008 Annual Fall Conference, November 9-11  
Sea Palms Resort, St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522  
Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 System \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ T# \_\_\_\_\_ F# \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

08/09-Pre Conference \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (Sat. pm and Sun. am) Complimentary to New Leaders  
 08/09 Member Registration \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 08/09 Retired Member Registration \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Non-Member Registration \$395.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Non-Member Retired Registration \$185.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\* If you have not paid your 08/09 dues for GAESP/GAEL, please register as a non-member and that will include complementary membership in GAESP/GAEL for the 08/09 year.  
 (Your conference fee includes reception, banquet, continental breakfast, & lunch.)

Additional Award Banquet Tickets @ \$40.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Tennis Tournament (Sea Palms Tennis Center Sunday, 9:00 a.m.) Registration \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Dr. Chip Messer—drmesser@gmail.com

**Total Remittance (This form will serve as your invoice.)** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to GAESP & enclose with registration to:  
 GAESP Fall Conference, 5634 Atlanta Hwy., Suite 300, Flowery Branch, GA 30542  
 If you have any questions, please contact the GAEL Office, at 770-967-2050;  
 FAX: 770-967-2021; hbeaver@gael.org A receipt will be mailed.

Golf Tournament 11-9-08-8:30 a.m- SeaPalms Course Registration fee pay at site.  
 Contact-Jeff Kelly jeff.kelly@cowetaschools.org - If you plan to play, list handicap here \_\_\_\_\_.

**HOTEL INFORMATION: SEA PALMS RESORT**

Room Rates: \$99.00-DELUXE; \$109.00-EXECUTIVE; \$159.00-1BDRM SUITE; \$329.00-3BDRM SUITE (plus tax)  
 Reserve your room before 10/5 to get GAESP rates. Make your room reservations directly with the Sea Palms Resort,  
 PHONE: 912-638-3351 or 800-841-6268; FAX: 912-634-8029;  
 Web Site: www.seapalms.com

TAX EXEMPTION: For tax exemption each individual must present their own tax exemption forms prior to or upon check- in and must comply with the laws stated by the State of Georgia. (For further clarification please refer to Georgia Tax Exemption laws.)  
 Extra person: \$10.00 per person over double occupancy. Room tax is 11%, subject to change according to government regulations.

CANCELLATION/NO-SHOW POLICY: Sea Palms requires a first night room & tax deposit or a credit card guarantee. A 72-hour notice is required to cancel reservations for full refund of deposits made. An individual that does not arrive on the scheduled arrival date will be considered a "no-show" for that day and will be charged the full room & tax. If the individual arrives after the anticipated date of arrival, we will be pleased to re-instate their reservation, based upon availability and at the available Resort rates. If they are re-instated they still will be charged the "no-show" rate. No reservations will be accepted without a deposit. After October 4, 2006 reservations are subject to space availability. Deposits can be made by credit card, personal check, company check or cashiers check.

# GAESP 2008 AWARDS

## 2008 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

District 6

Kathy Corley

Sara Harp Minter Elementary

Fayette County

## 2008 EDUCATIONAL PATRON AWARDS

### **1. Advanced Dental Associates, Cumming Elementary School, Forsyth County Schools, Dr. Lynne Castleberry, Principal**

During National Dental month, Advanced Dental Associates serves 15 students providing free dental care. The services include a cleaning and check-up, filling cavities as needed, applying sealants, and other services.

Students remain under their care until their problems are resolved. The staff of Advanced Dental Associates also extends a warm welcome to all students on Dental Health Day. Many less fortunate students have their smiles and lives changed forever through this effort.

### **2. Kadee Dasher, Kadees Corner, Smiley Elementary School, Long County Schools, Sandy Jones, Principal**

Kadee Dasher has used her creativity to enhance the learning environment of Smiley Elementary School. She has painted a "Principals Choice Gallery", "Direction Words for 3rd grade, "Kelso's Choice DecisionWheel", as well as the vision/mission statements in the school. She also painted directions to different areas in the building and for the Media Center. Ms. Dasher also embroiders shirts for the office staff and Perfect Attendance and 100 Points Club towels and memorabilia for awards. Her gift baskets and specialty items enhance many occasions, and she contributes her talents freely. Smiley Elementary reflects the dedication of Ms. Kadee Dasher throughout the school.

### **3. St. Simon's Rotary, St. Simons Elementary School, Glynn County Schools, Ms. Suzanne Clements, Principal**

The St. Simon's Rotary Club has a committed and established mentor program for students at St. Simons Elementary School. Additionally, they provide monetary support for literacy education in supporting the purchase of books on tape for English Language learners. The mentors provide on-going support as well as opportunities for children to attend cultural and arts events. Relationships have developed that are life-changing. The Books on Tape purchases have provided support for students, many of them Migrant students, as they acquire English and learn academic content. St. Simon's Rotary Club's commitment to the children of St. Simon's Elementary School has made a difference in the lives of their children.

### **4. Brian Tam, Johns Creek Elementary School, Forsyth County Schools, Debbie Smith, Principal**

Brian Tam is an example of an individual supporting a school in every area that he can impact. He has served as a business representative on the School Council, a liaison for the school to connect with other community and businesses, a fund-raiser who supported an outdoor classroom, a guest speaker on Career Day, raising money for purchase of books for the media center, sponsoring special events, like "Kindergarten on Stage with Tam's Backstage", and numerous other school events. A restaurant owner of Tam's Backstage and a Forsyth County Commissioner, he has made a priority to further contribute to his community by enhancing the educational experience for children.

### **5. Rebec Builders, Erick and Jennifer Esparza, Huddleston Elementary School, Fayette County Schools, Becky Maddox, Principal**

Rebec Builders, owned by Erick and Jennifer Esparza, provided the equipment, labor, materials, and guidance to guide Huddleston Elementary in building an outdoor science laboratory. With the help of a Lowe's Outdoor Grant, Rebec Builders excavated, brought truckloads of topsoil, removed a tree, filled sink holes, and readied the land for the classroom. The classroom contains a fish and lily pond and stone waterfall. Cement walkways, picnic tables, and outdoor seating grace the classroom. An erosion table, landscaping, weather station, and potting shed were included. Through the dedication of the Esparza's, the classroom is now used by the school, local scout groups, churches, and recreation departments to provide authentic experiences for science education.

### **6. Lane Packing Company, Hunt Elementary School, Peach County Schools, Chip Messer, Principal**

Lane Packing Company has a long-standing relationship with Peach County Schools as a symbiotic partner. Not only do they employ many of the parents of Peach County students, they employ Peach County High School students through the Work-Base Learning Program and for summer jobs. Hunt Elementary Schools has been the recipient of their generosity for many years. Lane Packing has supported the provision of a Parent Resource Center, sponsored the Safety Net Program,

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tutoring for at-risk students, donated funds to provide meals for Parent Workshops, and encouraged other businesses and community leaders to become involved in the Parent Resource Center. They have provided the Media Center with funds for reading incentives, donated to Special Olympics, donated lunch for Teacher Appreciation Day, participate in Community Read Aloud Day, Career Day, and many other special events. Lanier Packing is an outstanding community leader and advocate for education with the investment they have made in the children of Peach County.

## 2008 SCHOOL BELL AWARDS

### **1. Take Home Laptop Program, Monroe Elementary School, District 10, Walton County, Dr. Zeester Swint**

This program provides access to Reading and Math software and technology applications at home for students, especially those who are in the Early Intervention Program or who score below expectations on state assessments. The program uses research-based, multimedia technology applications to incorporate state standards and improve student achievement.

### **2. Partner's Club, Matt Arthur Elementary School, District 3, Houston County, Dr. Jolie Hardin**

Program was a partnership between regular ed. students in grades 4 & 5 to share a variety of daily activities so that each group can learn from the other. Examples are: playground time, simple classroom games, sharing lunch and demonstrating and modeling basic life skills, and solving simple problems. Members also assist in pushing wheelchairs and walkers and in taking students to bus. Club members have the experience of helping others and special needs students become an integral part of the school environment.

### **3. Qwizdom for Quality Education, Gray Elementary, District 6, Jones County, Dr. Cecil Patterson**

A school-side program that utilizes technology, the Qwizdom Program, an audio-response program that provides standards-based practice questions and immediate feedback to students and reports to teachers. Ms. Marty Harrington has been instrumental in promoting this program. Their efforts to reinforce the program in promoting learning throughout the school has been recognized by the Qwizdom company.

### **4. Green Thumb Garden Club, Putnam County Elementary, District 10, Putnam County, Ms. Susan Usry**

Program is a garden club for students in grades 3-5. The focus is on promoting gardening skills and enjoyment while being environmentally aware. Science teachers from the respective grade levels work with the Putnam County Extension Agency and Lake Oconee Master Gardeners to design lessons and activities that incorporate the GPS. Students have created a garden utilizing parent and community volunteers. Hopes are to expand the program to second grade students next year.

### **5. SAFE: Student Achievement for Everyone, Appling County Primary School, District 8, Appling County Scarlett Copeland**

Program is a comprehensive plan of school improvement utilizing multiple data sources, input from parents and community, effective designs of GPS lessons based on the data analysis, and a focus on targeted instruction. ACPS was a 2006 and 2007 Platinum Award Winner and an 8th year Distinguished School. They were also nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School.

### **6. PAWS: Parents Achieving with Students, County Line Elementary School, District 9, Barrow County**

PAWS is a family literacy initiative for ESL students and families. The 12 week program brought both groups together to work on literacy skills, English language (Rosetta Stone), Classworks, Accelerated Reader, Writer UltraLab. Parents were able to check out books from the library and do collaborative assignments with their children. Parents were better able to understand the expectations for their children.

### **7. Atlanta Ballet Outreach Program, Parklane Elementary, District 5, Fulton County, Lee Adams**

Parklane has an intensive and sustained relationship with the Atlanta Ballet. What began as a series of classes held before school is now an integral innovation of the curriculum. The GPS are addressed through student's participation in movement and interpretations are recorded in journals. Atlanta Ballet teaching artists, notably Sharon Story, are considered adjunct faculty by the staff and students. Further training is provided for students who have demonstrated a particular interest or talent. The program has made it possible for students to make connections between dance and other disciplines in life.

### **8. Books on Wheels, Walker Park Elementary, District 10, Walton County, Dawn Spruill**

Program is a partnership between the school and Park Place Nursing Home. Students Pam Peters, the Media Specialist, initiated the project by filling her son's red wagon with books to take to the nursing home. Fourth grade students partici

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pate in selecting and delivering books, and enjoy the interactions with the residents while there, including some residents reading to the children. The partnership has grown with the Walker Staff adopting the home for seasonal decorations and activities. The reciprocal relationships have been beneficial to both the school and Park Place Nursing Home. The school was honored with an award as Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

**9. Collaboratively Integrating Instructional Technology Across the Curriculum, Saxon Heights Elementary, District 1, Dublin City, Dr. Marie Hooks**

This initiative is not an isolated program, but a process of infusing technology throughout instruction by a collaborative approach. The quest to integrate technology to improve learning has gathered the faculty in learning communities to share and support one another. The school has used an E-math grant from DOE to provide extensive professional learning and implementation. The dedication of the staff and commitment of Dr. Hooks to support the effort has resulted in students' instruction being more meaningful and connected.

**10. Satilla Marsh Science Club, Satilla Marsh Elementary School, District 8, Glynn County, Kathie Matthews**

Program is an on-going science club that fulfills the Habits of Mind and The Nature of Science standards, as well as supporting the GPS. The club has an Adopt a Wetlands program of wetland conservation. They have educated the public on the importance of wetlands, increase awareness of water quality issues, train citizens to monitor and protect wetlands, collect baseline wetland health data, and conducted on-going monitoring. Connections made have expanded the role of the club to include initiatives with the Jacksonville Zoo and Adopt a Highway Litter Prevention Program.

**11. Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math Competition, Sylvester Elementary School, District 2, Worth County, Todd Deariso**

This school-wide competition paired students across grade levels and classes to compete to earn points in Accelerated Reader and Math. Students were motivated by the one-on-one competition. Students had to pass a test with an 85% accuracy rate and rewards were given through donations with Partners in Excellence. Success was celebrated with trophies and honors. As a result, weekly reading and math scores increased.

**12. Never Been Absent (NBA) Attendance Incentive Program, Hubbard Elementary, District 6, Monroe County, Angela Dillon**

Developed by Assistant Principal, Alica Elder, the program was created to improve attendance, tardiness, and early check-outs, which would improve academic achievement. Using the theme of basketball, ie: NBA, the program "tips off" at the beginning of the year in each homeroom. Each homeroom has a team name and mascot. A banner outside states "Slam Dunk an NBA Day." The teacher and class chart the days for each participant. Success is acknowledged throughout the year with rewards and honors.

**2008 GEORGIA DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPALS**

District 1	Todd Williford	Sallie Zetterower Elementary	Bulloch County	Dr. Lewis Holloway
District 2	Dr. Jeannie Johnson	Lee County Primary	Lee County	Dr. Lawrence T. Walters
District 3	Harold Sapp	Hilltop Elementary	Houston County	David Carpenter
District 4	Rachel Zeigler	Marbut Traditional Theme Elementary	Dekalb County	Dr. Crawford Lewis
District 5	Jimmy Zoll	Wilson Creek Elementary	Fulton County	James Wilson
District 6	Jeanie Miller	Cleveland Elementary	Fayette County	Dr. John DeCotis
District 7	Angela Garrett	Westwood Elementary	Dalton City	Dr. Orval Porter
District 8	Pam Colvin	Oglethorpe Point Elementary	Glynn County	Dr. Michael Bull
		(currently at Johnston Elementary in Cherokee County)		
District 9	Dr. Merrienne Dyer	Fair Street IB World School	Gainesville City	Dr. Steven Ballowe
		(currently Interim Superintendent in Gainesville City)		
District 10	Bill George	Sharon Elementary	Walton County	Dr. Tim Lull

**2008 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL**

District 6	Jeannie Miller	Cleveland Elementary School	Fayette County	Dr. John DeCotis
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**2008 OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

District 9	Joeta Youngblood	Dr. Carlton Wilson	Hill City Elementary	Pickens County
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## Satilla Marsh Elementary School Receives 2008 School Bell Award



The Satilla Marsh Elementary Science Club is open to fourth and fifth graders. The Club is responsible for paper recycling and Adopt-A-Highway; planting flowers around the school; and maintaining the Outdoor Classroom area and the school's vegetable garden. The Club meets afterschool to work on Science Fair projects, entertain guest speakers, or participate in experiments. We wear our student-designed t-shirts on field trips. The Club's sponsors correlate activities with the Georgia Performance Standards.

## Sylvester Elementary School Receives 2008 School Bell Award

Sylvester Elementary School has received recognition for their Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math Competition that was held during the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Steven Dudley, Assistant Principal and Todd Deariso, Principal submitted the program to the GAESP.

The program helped students at Sylvester Elementary excel in both areas of reading and math. In the accelerated math program, 196 students out of 475 performed better than their respective grade level, and in accelerated reading and star programs 216 of 475 students are above their respective reading grade level. The school decided to make learning more of a competition among peers to help create interest in learning. The student were paired with partners from neighboring classes and competed to earn the most points. The students were required to pass all tests with an 85% accuracy rate to make sure they were learning the material covered and not just completing the test. Students were excited daily to see who had the most points. This competition helped prepare the students for the CRCT that was given April 14-18. Students that met or exceeded goals on the CRCT were rewarded with t-shirts.



The program was a success thanks to the students having such a motivation to learn. Everyone in the school was involved in the program to make sure it was a success. The teachers motivated the student's everyday and the administration was also involved in the competition. Rewards were presented weekly to the students leading the competition by the principal, assistant principal, and school improvement specialist

## Saxon Heights Elementary School Receives 2008 School Bell Award



Saxon Height's culture of teachers collaboratively planning and sharing ideas and resources transformed Saxon from being individual teacher-focused classrooms into becoming a community of student-centered learning environments. This collaborative schoolwide commitment to differentiating instruction and to utilizing technology to engage student learning throughout the curriculum has effectively changed the mindset of teachers at Saxon; it has changed the culture.

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Please Note: If you have not renewed your GAESP membership for 2008-2009 this will be your last publication.

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **2008 GAESP Fall Conference**

**November 9-11**

**Sea Palms Resort, St. Simons Island**

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### **2009 GAEL Winter Conference**

**February 1-3**

**Renaissance Waverly Hotel**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

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### **2009 GAEL Summer Conference**

**July 12-15**

**Jekyll Island, Georgia**