



## Two Georgia Elementary Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Status

## What's Cooking at GAESP?

By Becky Maddox,  
GAESP President

### Main Elementary Named National Blue Ribbon School



Main Elementary School principal Dawn Williams (left) talks with fourth-grader Sierra Thrash after school Thursday. Photo by Ryan Smith, Rome News-Tribune

Main Elementary School in Rome has been named a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Main Elementary is one of six Georgia schools to receive the honor. The Georgia schools were among a second group of honorees to be named Blue Ribbon Schools. The first 250 schools were announced in September. A list of honored schools appears on the U.S. Department of Education Web site.

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### Kedron Elementary Receives National Recognition

Kedron Elementary is one of six schools in Georgia to be recognized as a 2006 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. Kedron is the only school earning the designation in the metro Atlanta area. The other schools are Alexander II Magnet School, Bibb County; Dawson County High School, Dawson County; Main Elementary School, Rome City; Robert A. Cross Middle School, Dougherty County and Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah/Chatham County.

"This is truly an honor for all of us at Kedron and is a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, parents, staff and community. It is their dedication to a high standard of learning and excellence that enabled the school to achieve this national recognition," says Principal Karen Bullock.

The last Fayette school to receive a National Blue Ribbon award

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Our GAESP Fall Conference was a terrific success with over 100 attendees! During our Awards Banquet more than 30 school leaders, outstanding school initiatives and school patrons were recognized. The work that elementary school staffs are accomplishing throughout the state of Georgia is absolutely amazing! All of us are working diligently to provide high quality instructional opportunities for all students, thus GAESP is honored to continue recognizing and highlighting our award winners. I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Communicator to learn how our award winning schools are providing systematic instructional interventions that are improving student achievement and increasing

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# Message From Your Executive Director

By Hal Beaver, GAESP Executive Director

Dear GAESP Members,

I would like to say “thank you” for what each of you do for the children in Georgia. For those of you who attended our Fall Conference, it was very successful and the topics were timely. An added bonus was I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. This edition of the “Communicator” features our award recipients. Please enjoy and share with your colleagues!

On a serious note, our legislators are getting ready to come back to session and, if you haven’t heard, here are some issues that will be considered:

- SB10 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act: this will allow public school students with disabilities to attend eligible private school—public school funds going to private schools - This is not a good idea.
- Health Care: for all retired and active: premiums and deductibles will increase—all educators need to speak out on this issue
- Home School Students: there is some discussion about home schooled students being allowed to participate in after-school functions and take classes.
- HB 14: this bill is recommending a return to electing local school superintendents - bad idea.
- There is some talk about reducing the salary of teachers with Ph.D. degrees in one field who are teaching in another field (if they are getting paid for teaching on that higher degree) - for example, having a Ph.D. in administration, but teaching history and getting paid on the Ph.D. level. This is considered out of field; this may not be so terrible.
- School Calendar Bill: there is some discussion that some legislators would like to see a two week window for the beginning date, (late August/early September), GAESP’s position is that this should be a local decision.

I am sure many more issues will surface prior to Winter GAEL. This is why it is so important that you attend and encourage your colleagues to attend and join our association. If you have not made plans to attend Winter GAEL you can go on line and get the information at [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org) <<http://www.gael.org>>.

Remember, membership drives the organization, get involved!  
Happy New Year! **GAESP**

*What’s Cooking at GAESP,  
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community participation in our schools.

Please know that your GAESP Board of Director’s and I always want to hear your opinions regarding how we can improve the services and professional learning opportunities offered to our members. The feedback received to date regarding the Fall Conference is quite positive with many comments regarding the excellent quality of our general session speakers and breakout session presenters. Attendees have noted that the variety of professional learning opportunities provided was very informative and useful, yet we want to hear from more of you! The evaluation form is still available on the GAESP/GAEL website, so please share your thoughts on what you benefited from as well as ideas for improvements. Thanks to all GAESP members, presenters and attendees who worked to make our 2006 Fall Conference a success!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and may this be the best New Year! **GAESP**

*“We make a living  
by what we get, we  
make a life by what  
we give.”*

*Winston Churchill*

Georgia state education officials confirmed the honor for the Rome school.

“We’re extremely pleased to have six schools in Georgia named national Blue Ribbon Schools,” said Matt Cardoza, a spokesman for the Georgia Department of Education. “We’re happy for Rome. This national honor recognizes superior academics. It means it’s a school of excellence and a should be a source of pride for the community.” Cordoza said school representatives will be invited to Washington, D.C., to be honored in November.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

1. Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests ... or
2. Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

*Published in the 10/12/06 Rome News Tribune*



Kedron Elementary students and staff at the Blue Ribbon School.

was Sandy Creek High in 2004. This latest award is added to a list of recent accolades for Kedron. Last year the school was named a 2006 Georgia School of Excellence by the Georgia Department of Education and just last month received a platinum designation from the state for high academic performance.

The schools are nominated by the state Department of Education and all nominated schools are given the chance to apply. **GAESP**

## GAEL Winter Conference To Draw Over 700 Educators

The 2007 GAEL Winter Conference provides a great opportunity to participate in stretching your potential in numerous ways.

Keynote speakers and special interest sessions have been designed with you in mind! GAEL is packing a great amount of information into two days!

Peer Networking is critical. Where in the dead of winter can you network with close to 700 of your closest friends in public education? You will be in great company with representatives from all the school principal associations, curriculum and instructional directors, special education directors and local school superintendents.

You will also have the opportunity to learn about new products and services BEFORE you plan your annual budget! Your peers and you will be able to enjoy visiting over 80 Friends of Education that have a wide array of new and proven educational products and services. You will want to be sure to include several tours of the EXPO during your Winter Conference experience.

### Conference Program

The 2007 Winter Conference program will feature several keynote speakers

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# Scenes from the GAESP Fall Conference



GAESP Board of Directors and members at the G-8 table at the Cloister.



**Distinguished Service Award Recipient** - Dr. Sheila Woo, Pooler Elementary (District 1)



**Outstanding Assistant Principal** - Sharon Collins, Spring Hill Elementary (District 6)



**Educational Patron Award (District 6)**- Chick-Fil-A at Fayetteville Towne Center; GAESP President Becky Maddox, left, and Jeanie Miller.

*Congratulations to our winners!*



**Educational Patron Award (District 8)**- Chick-Fil-A in Brunswick - nominated by Tony Ethridge.

# More Awards and Honorees... Congrats to All!



**Educational Patron Award (District 9)**- Hall County Board of Realtors, nominated by Joe Gonsalves. Pictured is Dr. Terry Dover



**Educational Patron Award and Top Educational Patron (District 9)**- Rhodia, Inc., nominated by Dr. Jeanne Oakley (left). Also pictured are Joe Vogt, Rhodia plant manager, and Assistant Principal Jackie Robinson.



**Educational Patron Award and Top Educational Patron (District 10)**- The Community Bank of Loganville, nominated by Nancy Strawbridge



**Educational Patron Award (District 9)**- Sass Building, Inc./Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sass, nominated by Dr. Kay Dillard



**Top Educational Patron Awards**- Rhodia Inc. and The Community Bank of Loganville. Pictured from left: Dr. Jeanne Oakley, Becky Maddox and Nancy Strawbridge.



GAESP Executive Director Hal Beavor speaking at the GAESP Fall Conference.

# School Bell Awards: Ringing With Achievement



**District 1** - “Exploring Art” - Smiley Elementary School, Long County; Principal Sandy Jones and Assistant Principal Christy Dunham



**District 1** - “Dolch Word Color Parties” - Lanier Primary School, Bryan County; Principal Dr. Patti Newman



**District 2** - “Wild About Learning: Reaching Our Latino Families” - Funston Elementary, Colquitt County; Principal Lynn Clark. Also pictured are Don Willis and Earl Trussell from Horace Mann.



**District 3** - “Utilizing Technology to Drive Instruction” - Shirley Hill Elementary, Houston County; Principal Traci Jackson



**District 6** - “Amigos: A Unique Tutoring Program for Elementary ESOL” - Cleveland Elementary School, Fayette County; Principal Jeanie Miller

## Other School Bell Award:

**District 4** - “Scana Energy Homework/Learning Center” - Knollwood Elementary School, DeKalb County; Principal Dr. Cecil Clark



**GAESP gratefully acknowledges Horace Mann for their support of the School Bell Awards program.**



**District 7** - "Ride the Bus" - Chatsworth Elementary School, Murray County; Principal Dr. Rhonda Rowland



**District 10** - "Camp Kindergarten" - Loganville Elementary School, Walton County; Principal Nancy Strawbridge



**District 8** - "Connections" - C.B. Greer Elementary School, Glynn County; Principal Tony Ethridge. Far left is Superintendent Dr. Michael Bull.



Dr. Larry Johnson receives his Past President pin and his rocking chair.



**District 9** - "Development of Program of Inquiry" - Fair Street Elementary, Hall County; Principal Dr. Merrienne Dyer

*Awards, Continued on page 8*

# More GAESP Awards...



**District 1 Distinguished Principal** - Dayle Burns, Springfield Elementary, Effingham County



**District 3 Distinguished Principal** - Hilda Gillis, Linwood Elementary, Houston County



**District 5 Distinguished Principal** - Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Bolton Academy, Atlanta City



**District 6 Distinguished Principal** - Angie Dillon, Samuel E. Hubbard Elementary, Monroe Elementary



**District 7 Distinguished Principal** - Dr. Rhonda Rowland, Chatsworth Elementary, Murray County



**District 8 Distinguished Principal** - Dr. Tina Kirby, Golden Isle Elementary, Glynn County



**District 9 Distinguished Principal** - David Culpepper, Chattahoochee Elementary, Forsyth County



**National Distinguished Principal** - Angie Dillon, Samuel E. Hubbard Elementary, Monroe Elementary



Charlie Thompson, guest speaker, provided humor and motivation for the conference.

# GAEL WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 4-6, 2007 -- Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta

Conference Registration deadline is January 31, 2007

If you prefer, you can register on-line at [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org) and SAVE \$20.00!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT in your own handwriting to appear on name badge.

System \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ EMS \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address Required \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Check one Registration Option:

- MEMBER REGISTRATION** [Current 06-07\* GAEL Member and one of the following Affiliate Associations:  
GACIS, GAESP, GAMSPP, GASSP, G-CASE, GSSA] \$215.00  
(includes Conference materials, refreshments, one Super Bowl Party ticket, and Monday box lunch)

\* Not sure you are a GAEL Member? Go to [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org), click on "GAEL," and then "all members by name."

- NON MEMBER REGISTRATION** [GAEL/Affiliate Non Member Registration (Includes Complimentary membership in GAEL and one Affiliate through June 30, 2007)] Check one affiliation:

<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GACIS	\$340.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GASSP	\$340.00
<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GAESP	\$340.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GSSA**	\$365.00
<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GAMSPP	\$340.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/G-CASE**	\$315.00

- REGISTRATION GAEL Non Member BUT 06-07\* Member of one of the following Affiliate Associations:  
GACIS, GAESP, GAMSPP, GASSP, G-CASE, GSSA (non-superintendent)**

(Includes Complimentary membership in GAEL through June 30, 2007) Check one affiliation:

<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GACIS	\$290.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GASSP	\$290.00
<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GAESP	\$290.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GSSA**	\$290.00
<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/GAMSPP	\$290.00	<input type="checkbox"/> GAEL/G-CASE**	\$290.00

\*\* Additional fees to be assessed by GSSA at a later date.

\*\*\* Additional fees including CEC and CASE assessed at a later date.

- If you wish to participate in additional Affiliates, please circle here and enclose additional amounts:

GACIS \$50; GAESP \$20; GAMSPP \$50; GASSP \$50; GSSA (non supts.) \$100; G-CASE \$25

- Additional MONDAY BOX LUNCH TICKET (one ticket included in Registration fees) No. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Credit Card - please circle your credit card type:

MC; VISA or AMEX. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Mailing Address, if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to GAEL and mail to:

GAEL

5674 Atlanta Highway, Suite 200

Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Phone: 770-967-2050 Fax: 770-967-2021

Please do not include cash, additional purchase order or credit card information will not be accepted.

**THIS IS YOUR INVOICE.** PLEASE PAY FROM THIS FORM. PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE FOR PAYMENT. ADDITIONAL INVOICES WILL NOT BE SENT.

**LODGING INFO:** Contact the Renaissance Waverly Hotel - 770-953-4500 by January 12, 2007

Conference agenda will be posted at the GAEL Website - [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org).

**CANCELLATION REFUNDS:** In general, any registered Conference participant will receive a full refund if they cancel more than 5 working days before the event (minus a \$25.00 handling/processing fee). Due to the commitment to the facility, advanced preparation of materials, and food vendor, participants that cancel less than 5 working days (for whatever reason) or do not attend, will be billed the full fee.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Robia Edwards, Conference Registrar - [redwards@gael.org](mailto:redwards@gael.org) or call 770-967-2050, fax 770-967-2050

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*GAEL Winter Conference, Continued from page 3*

starting Sunday, February 4, in the afternoon and concluding at noon on Tuesday, February 6. Here are a few highlights:

“Engaging Families In the Educational Lives of Children” - *Dr. Steve Constantino, President, Family Friendly Schools*

“We Will Lead the Nation in Improving Student Achievement” - *Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools*

“School Law Update”  
*Sam Harben and Phil Hartley, Harben and Hartley*

“Success in Action”  
*Dan Thurmon, President, Motivation Works, Inc.*

And, don’t miss the special interest sessions on topics from student achievement to an update on state board rules. **GAESP**

**See page 9 for registration information!**

## Dates for Your Calendar

GAEL Winter Conference - February 4-6, 2007  
(Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta)

GAEL Summer Conference -  
July 8-11, 2007 (Jekyll Island)



### 2006-2007 GAESP Board of Directors/Appointed Positions

President - Becky Maddox  
President-Elect - Lynn Clark  
Past President - Larry Johnson  
Secretary - Kay Dillard  
Treasurer - Angela Dillon  
GAEL Representative - Richard Bazemore  
NAESP Representative -  
Eddie Pollard  
Executive Director - Hal Beaver

### New District Presidents for GAESP

1st District	Todd Williford
2nd District	Keith Adams
3rd District	Cindy Flesher
4th District	Dr. Richard Reid
5th District	Ronald Trussell
6th District	Julie Raschen
7th District	Rhonda Rowland
8th District	Tony Ethridge
9th District	Beth Kieffer
10th District	Bob Boyd