



WORLD WAR II CLASS

Scollard is history scholar

When the student becomes the teacher, you know you have someone special on your hands.

Thanks to a combination of a student's passion and a school system's nurturing environment, Inman Middle School eighth-grader Patrick Scollard has become a scholar on the subject of World War II. Ever since his interest was sparked, Atlanta Public Schools teachers have offered plenty of encouragement.

His fifth-grade teacher, Morningside Elementary's Beth Burney, noticed his WWII interest while she taught a class on the Holocaust, and fed him a steady diet of supplementary reading

See SCOLLARD Page 18



Patrick Scollard has a passion for WWII.



Read all about APS

The Atlanta Educator delivers the news to readers of all ages, as evidenced by this future APS grad and her father.

Inside this edition



Meet the Valedictorians: Pages 8-9

Reflecting on an outstanding year at APS



Dr. Beverly L. Hall

Welcome to the third edition of *The Atlanta Educator*. As we head into the summer, let's pause and reflect on another outstanding year for Atlanta Public Schools. In this edition, we tried to capture the confidence, optimism and excitement so clearly reflected in the Class of 2009.

In this issue, you will meet Instructional Liaison Specialist Raine Hackler, who offers a laptop to every college-bound Thomasville Heights Elementary student. You will learn about Crim Open Campus custodian Ronnie Jones, who helped transform the school into an environment where high performance is expected every day. Counselor Sonya Wright of Jean Childs Young Middle School offers

tips to parents, and APS media specialists share their favorite books to keep students focused on reading.

We have encouraging words from Jasmine Graham, an APS alumna who tells the Class of 2009 to embrace challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We also proudly introduce our outstanding valedictorians, who will attend college and take their rightful places in society. Their accomplishments remind us of what happens when you combine hard work, discipline and drive. More than ever, we need their leadership to improve our world.

Let me also say "well done" to all of our principals, teachers, administrators and staff who helped our students reach and exceed their goals this year.

We hope that you will enjoy *The Atlanta Educator* and share this publication with friends and colleagues. I'm counting on you to help spread the good news about Atlanta Public Schools.

We are setting the groundwork for the future mayors, judges, doctors, teachers, lawyers and business moguls who will walk through our doors next year. Teachers have enrolled in summer enrichment programs, administrators are transforming our high schools and middle school initiatives are taking shape.

Dr. Beverly L. Hall is superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools.



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A challenge for the Class of 2009: Stretch beyond your comfort zone

**To the Atlanta Public
Schools Class of 2009:**

Congratulations on reaching this momentous milestone. Standing in your shoes only three years ago, I remember the nostalgic feelings I had about my high school years, the anxiety of starting a new life, the excitement of walking on stage at the Civic Center and the pride on my mother's face as I gave her my diploma. Soon you, too, will have this wild rush of emotions.

Enjoy this moment. But don't be satisfied with where you are today. Strive to reach higher heights, explore the world and stretch beyond your comfort zone.

I remember teachers, principals, family members and friends challenging me to dream the impossible. Dreaming is the first step to



Enjoy this moment.
But don't be satisfied
with where you
are today. Strive to
reach higher heights,
explore the world and
stretch beyond your
comfort zone.

Jasmine Graham
APS, Class of 2006

reaching your goals, but you also must put forth effort. I never dreamt that I would go to Bowdoin College in Maine, where I had to face snow-filled winters. I never dreamt of spending a year studying in Beijing, where I had to explain why my hair is "different."

It has been a wild adventure, one that has opened my eyes to a new world and stretched me beyond my own limits. When people told me there was a world of opportunity, I never took it literally; I do now.

As you head out into the real world, take advantage of every opportunity within your reach, even when the odds are against you. Don't let your environment, GPA, economic situation, or any other circumstance hinder you from attaining your goals.

Remember the Atlanta Public Schools teachers who stayed after school to help you

succeed. Remember counselors who guided you through the college application process. Be mindful of friends who encouraged you to be better, and the haters who said you wouldn't make it. Remember the people who always had faith in you. Those memories will propel you to help others as you have been helped.

I leave you with one of my favorite quotes by Benjamin E. Mays: "It is not your environment, it is you — the quality of your mind, the integrity of your soul and the determination of your will — that will decide your future and shape your life."

Best wishes,
Jasmine Graham
South Atlanta High School Class of 2006

Jasmine Graham is a junior majoring in Sociology and Asian Studies at Bowdoin College. She has a four-year scholarship through the 21st Century Atlanta Scholars program.

2009	Fri., May 22	Sat., May 23	Tues., May 26	Wed., May 27	Thurs., May 28
GRADUATION SCHEDULE <i>All ceremonies to be held at the Atlanta Civic Center.</i>	Crim 4:30 p.m. North Atlanta 8:30 p.m.	Washington 10 a.m. North Atlanta 1:30 p.m.	South Atlanta 4:30 p.m. Douglass 8:30 p.m.	Grady 4:30 p.m. Mays 8:30 p.m.	Jackson 4:30 p.m. Carver 8:30 p.m. (2-hour ceremony)

APS BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Brenda J. Muhammad

Board Rep. for District 1 was first African-American woman to be elected chair

Brenda J. Muhammad serves as School Board Representative for District 1. This is the third in a series of board member profiles in The Atlanta Educator.

Position

Brenda Muhammad served on the Atlanta Board of Education from 1997-2002, and returned to her seat in 2004. She has held the position of vice chair and was the first female African-American to be elected chair.

Background

A devoted mother and grandmother, Muhammad's work in the district took root during her years of service on various Parent Teacher Organizations. Following the tragic death of her son, who was killed at age 16, Muhammad founded Mothers of Murdered Sons and Daughters (MOMS), and currently serves as its president. MOMS, now a nationwide organization, is dedicated to stopping the plague of violence in communities and to providing programs that advocate for the rights of victims and family survivors. Muhammad's efforts and tenacity in the area of violence prevention has elevated her into the national spotlight through her diligence and struggle to turn survivors of adversity into activists for change. She has received local and national service awards for her work to reduce violence in the community from more than 25 different organizations.

"I came to see that many of the perpetrators of these violent crimes were young people who had dropped out of school," she said. "One of my goals has been to find ways to combat

that and make education more attractive."

Muhammad also is executive director of Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc. (AVA), an organization that advocates with compassion, dignity and respect for the fundamental rights of victims and witnesses of crime. AVA provides comprehensive services which remove barriers, strengthen victims and their families and foster a healthy transition from victim to survivor. Previously, she served for 12 years as president of a public relations and communications firm, Unique Affairs/Communications Inc. She also has dedicated countless hours to local and national political campaigns as candidate, campaign manager and political consultant.

Experience

Muhammad's community involvement includes past and present service on the following boards and organizations: the Board of Directors of Atlanta Educational Telecommunications Collaborative, Inc.; Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials Corporate Roundtable; NFL-YET Boys and Girls Club; National Kidney Foundation; National Coalition for Survivors of Homicide; Carrie Steel Pitts Home; NAACP; Southside PTA; Georgians United Against Violence; South Atlanta Neighborhood Development; Rollins School of Public



Health Organ Donor Commission; National Black Women's Political Caucus; National Coalition of 100 Black Women; Weed and Seed Advisory Board; American Red Cross Minority Recruitment Advisory Board; South Atlanta Neighborhood Development; Leadership Atlanta Class of 1996; Buckhead Leadership Academy Class of 1998; and 2002 Coca-Cola Diversity Leadership Academy.

Points of Pride

Muhammad feels strongly about the progress APS has made in recent years.

"I always wanted this district to have quality schools — structurally as well as academically — and today we have that," she said, citing Parkside Elementary School, which was named a Title I School of Distinction for the third year in a row and met 100 percent of its AYP targets for the 2007-08 school year.

Muhammad also is an advocate for district's pre-K program and outreach to children age 4 and under. "I'm a strong believer that the learning process begins at day No. 1 and we need to prepare our children before they get to school," she said. "I think that's something we can accomplish under the leadership of Dr. Hall. She's been such an innovative superintendent, always ahead of the curve."

Brenda Muhammad's email address is bmuhammad@atlantapublicschools.us. The Atlanta Board of Education meets June 8 at the Center for Learning and Leadership Auditorium, 130 Trinity Ave. S.W. Atlanta, 30303. For more information about the board, visit atlantapublicschools.us/board



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DR. ARLETTA T. BRINSON

Each quarter, The Atlanta Educator will introduce you to Atlanta Public Schools faculty, staff and administrators.

Q How long have you worked in Atlanta Public Schools?

A 31 years, including six in my current position. I am also a product of APS (the former Luther Johnson Price High School).

Q The Office of Student Programs comprises 11 divisions, ranging from guidance counseling to truancy intervention. How did the department evolve to address all these areas?

A We provide support systems for students and families. To that end, we offer psychological services, counseling, social work services, services for homeless, student placement, truancy intervention center, program for exceptional children, health services and student support team. We support the instructional and

behavioral needs of all students.

Q How has the mission of your department changed over the years?

A We now work to provide more coordinated services, both internally and externally. We do serve a population that has high poverty indicators, and with that comes certain risk factors. We work in partnership with community agencies and other institutions, such as the City of Atlanta, Weed and Seed, hospitals, ZAP Asthma. While the school system can do a lot, we can't do it all, so we try to broker services from other agencies that can provide the wrap-around services some of our students desperately need.



Dr. Arletta T. Brinson

Q Can you share a few of the department's points of pride?

A The fact that we are still able to provide the level of services we do is a point of pride. In times of budget cuts, people often look to cut support services first. The fact that we have psychologists and social workers and counselors speaks to the value-added services we provide. We are proud to be working with the Devereux Foundation and the Marcus Foundation to implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model in 15 of our schools. We have four people on special assignment to PBIS at this time.

Q How have students' needs changed over the past 10 years?

A Our students are very reflective of our society. Families are under greater economic stress. We have to work to

be sensitive to the needs of our kids. Our students are remarkably resilient. We need to build a structure so that we bring out the best in kids.

Q How will the department prepare for August 10, the first day of the 2009-10 school year?

A Our social workers will have back-to-school initiatives leading up to the opening. We want to make sure all students are properly immunized and the appropriate records are in place. We will conduct child-abuse-awareness presentations for staff. Our psychological services department will work with staff on positive-reinforcement strategies.

For more information about the Office of Student Programs and Services, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/programs-services.

APS
STUDENT
PROFILE

No keeping up with Jones

Gates Millennium Scholar from Carver has big plans for her future

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Gates Millennium Scholar Khali Jones is the epitome of achievement in Atlanta Public Schools.

As valedictorian of her class at Carver School of Health Sciences & Research, Jones will graduate with a 4.0 GPA and major in animal sciences at Tuskegee University. She plans to earn her doctorate in veterinary medicine and ultimately own her own private practice, join the Army Veterinary Corps, or become CEO of a nonprofit organization geared to promoting low-cost animal healthcare.

“Without a doubt, Carver has prepared me for post-secondary success,” said Jones. “I think APS did a tremendous job with the Carver small schools initiative. With the health sciences specialization, I know that I will be able to compete when I enter the health field. The teachers, administrative team, and especially my principal, Dr. (Darian) Jones, have been so supportive of the aspirations of every student.”

Khali Jones also was a member of the largest class of metro Atlanta students to be inducted into the W.E.B. Du Bois Society’s signature 20-week scholars program. Scholars become part of a unique community of high-achieving African-American athletes, actors, singers, dancers, musicians, writers and scientists from metro Atlanta.

In addition to those honors, Jones also has earned the Charles E. Shepard Scholarship, a one-time \$10,000 award sponsored by the Atlanta First United Methodist Church.

At Carver, Jones has served as president of the National Honor Society, vice president of Health Occupations Student Association and JROTC battalion adjutant. She was also a member of the varsity tennis team, National Beta Club, Lambda Alpha Beta Honor Society, Parent Teacher Student Association, Young Life Ministries, Project GRAD Atlanta, College Bound, Student Government Association and Finest Footwork step team.

Through dual enrollment at Atlanta Technical College, Jones also completed a certified nursing assistant program, and served as a research intern at Emory University, working to benefit ongoing cancer and stem-cell research. She also volunteers with many community organizations, and she has launched her own business venture, Khali’s Kennel, an in-house pet sitting service. For her initiative, she was named a finalist in Guardian Life Insurance Company of America’s 2007 Girls Going Places teen entrepreneur award program and honored at the National Association of Women Business Owners conference in Atlanta.

Jones credits her experiences in APS, including her early years at Cleveland Avenue Elementary and Walden Middle School, as the seeds to her growing success. As a part of the Challenge Program, she traveled to Alaska and then, in middle school, to Hawaii. In May, she was one of 50 Carver students to travel to Egypt.

“From day one, I made the decision that I would do my best to be the best,” she said.

Khali Jones, valedictorian of her class at Carver School of Health Sciences & Research, will graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

Scholarships

Some of the scholarship programs that benefit APS students:

Coca-Cola Scholars

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation supports more than 1,400 college students each year, with annual scholarships of \$3.4 million. Of the 252 outstanding high school seniors named as Coca-Cola Scholars this year, two are from Atlanta Public Schools: Marlena R. Dobbs of Mays High School and Derrick D. Standifer of Carver Early College.

W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars

Named for the noted educator, philosopher and Civil Rights activist, the W.E.B. Du Bois Society rewards, reinforces, and encourages a sustained, exceptional scholastic work ethic. Its signature program — the WEB — is a 20-week program for African-American high school students who attend metro Atlanta schools. Students engage with accomplished African-American executives, entertainers and public figures. This year, 19 students from APS became W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars: Brianne Gilbert and Khali Jones of Carver School of Health Science; Tristin Travis of Carver School of the Arts; Maya Jackson and Latrice Stringer of Therrell; Jessica Doanes, Nichole Wiggins and Kenya Wilkerson of Douglass; Briana Fullwood, Alexandria Melton and Maia Miller of Grady; Charles Benton, Malik Epps, Ross James, Alexis Lawrence, Cece Lee, Camille Sims, Alexandria Thomas and Stephen Weatherly of North Atlanta High.

Gates Scholars

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, established in 1999, was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The scholarships provide support for the cost of education; renewable awards for scholars maintaining satisfactory academic progress; graduate school funding in the areas of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science; and leadership skills.

APS recipients of the 2008-09 Gates scholarship are: Jasmine Johnson of Booker T. Washington; Khali Jones and Alex Mullins of Carver’s School of Health Sciences & Research; Rodneysha Brown, Audrianna Bryant, Tilifayea Griffin, Derick Jones, Antonika Souder and Janelle Vallair of Douglass; Robin Ayers of Maynard Jackson; Sarneshea Evans of Mays; Malika Begum, Bakhtawar Mazhar, Evangeline McDonald and Elyas Munye of North Atlanta; Webster Foreman of South Atlanta; Ashley Garvin of Therrell; Breonna Davis, Ambernique Howard and Jeanie Johnson of Washington.

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding students from Atlanta Public Schools whose qualities of mind and spirit promise outstanding contributions to society. Scholarships cover tuition, fees and room and board at Emory University.

The 2008-09 MLK Scholars include: Aimee Turner of Douglass; John Holland and Ariel Manning of Grady; Robin Ayers and Keitra Thompson of Maynard Jackson; Alvin Borun, Marlena Dobbs and Brian Oliver of Mays; Maria Dieci and Evangeline McDonald of North Atlanta; and Kedra Woodard of Therrell School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Posse Scholars

The Posse Foundation identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential, but who may be overlooked by the traditional college selection process. Partner colleges and universities award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. Once chosen, each scholar is assigned a mentor to guide him or her through the first year in college, and a group of nine other scholars — who serve as their “posse” — provide support along the way. The 2008-09 Posse Scholars from APS, and the schools they will attend, include:

Bard College — Miriam Huppert, Léna James and Hannah Mitchell of Grady High; and Brandon LaBord of Therrell School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Boston University — Matthew Campbell, Danielle Galloway and Daniel Lievens of North Atlanta; Aretha Pinkney of Therrell School of Business and Entrepreneurship; Demarius Walker of Grady HS.

The College of Wooster — Erica Bryant, Carver School of the Arts; Laura Haldane, Tech High; Kenneth Perry Jr., B.T. Washington HS; Malcolm Perry, Grady; Julian Rainwater, North Atlanta.

Visit the APS Web site, www.atlantapublicschools.us, for additional scholarship information.

REASON TO BE PROUD OF APS: APS class of 2008 was offered more than \$64 million in scholarships to colleges and universities across the country and abroad!

Lavishing laptops and love

Thomasville Heights teacher promises computers to college-bound students

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Students of Atlanta Public Schools may view Raine Hackler as the source of an infinite supply of laptops. He'd prefer they see it as an infinite source of love.

Hackler, an instructional liaison specialist at Thomasville Heights Elementary School, first began promising laptops to students in 2000 while he was teaching fifth grade at Centennial Place Elementary School. The hook? Students had to keep up their end of the bargain by staying in touch and graduating from high school.

"The love doesn't stop after one year, after they move on, and I started to think about ways to motivate them to stay connected," said Hackler. "It's about longevity, about establishing long-

term relationships. I want them to know that I'm still rooting for them to go the distance."

To date, Hackler has given out six laptops and has promised another 300 to his former Thomasville Heights students — the oldest of whom are now sophomores in high school.

"Every single child I run into I say, 'get into college; I'm getting you this laptop, right?'" said Hackler.

It's a pricey endeavor, but one that Hackler believes in whole-heartedly.

"We cannot afford to have our kids dropping out," said Hackler. "If there's merit to No Child Left Behind, we can't let anyone slip through the cracks."

Hackler was recently selected as a recipient of the Tinfoil Star Award, which honors educators who use technology to enhance learning. He was selected by CDW Inc., a leading provider of technology products and services for business, government and education, and received a \$1,000 donation toward his mission.

His goal is to set up a non-profit foundation, Laptops for Life, to ensure that he is able to live up to his promises for years to come.

A Canadian native, Hackler has traveled around the world, teaching in countries such as Thailand and Zimbabwe.

He first

came to Atlanta for his sister's wedding and fell in love with the city and with the school system.

"When I walked into this building (at Thomasville Heights), my heart just went out to the community and I thought to myself, 'I want to be here,'" he said. "I want my students to know I'm not going anywhere."

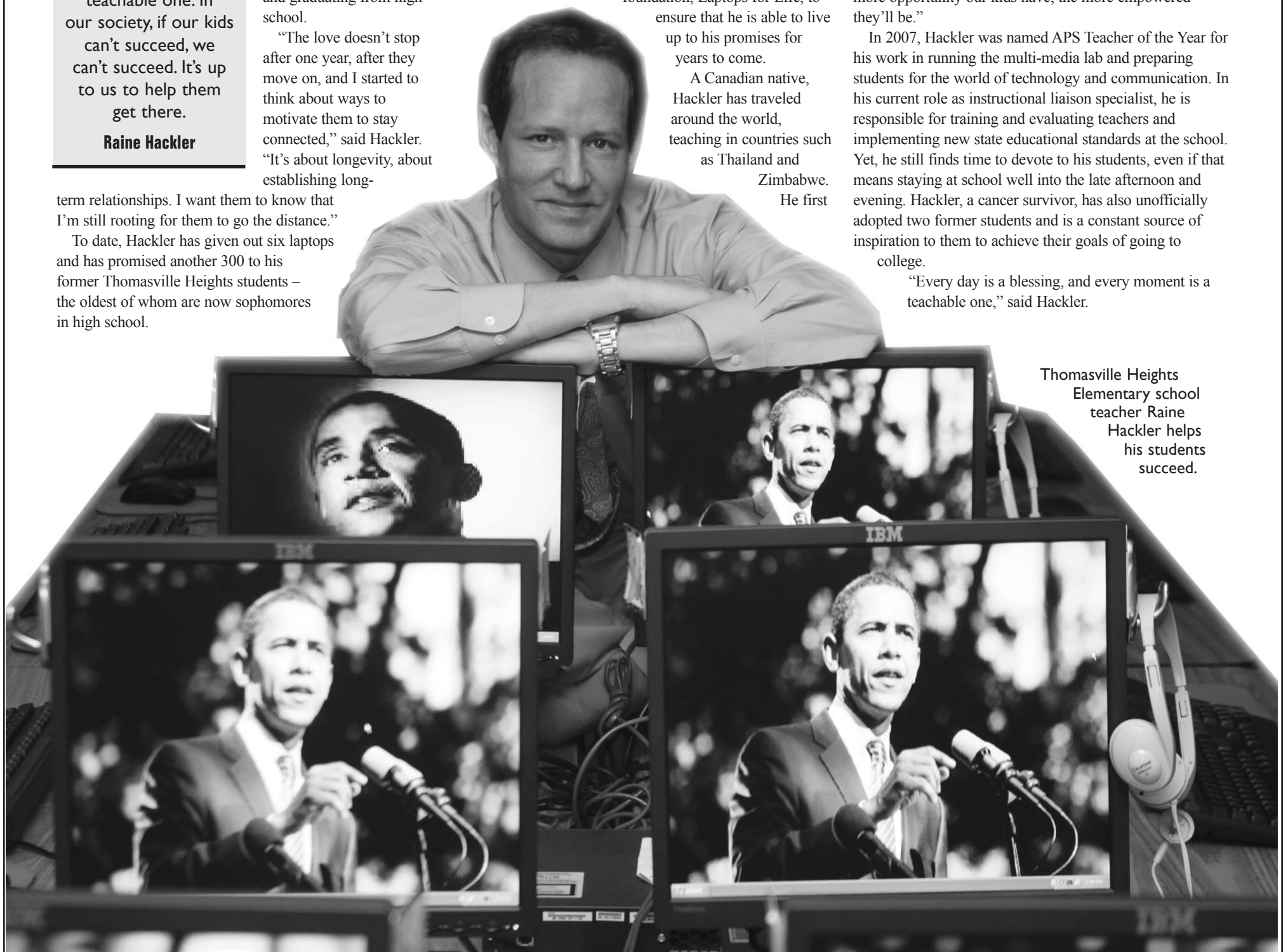
Before joining the Thomasville Heights staff in 2004, he taught fifth grade at Centennial Place and served as an administrator at the APS-CEP Partnership School (now Forrest Hills Academy), which offers academic and behavior improvement programs for students in grades 6-12.

"At CEP, I saw a lot of great kids in bad situations," said Hackler. "I've always believed anything's possible. The more opportunity our kids have, the more empowered they'll be."

In 2007, Hackler was named APS Teacher of the Year for his work in running the multi-media lab and preparing students for the world of technology and communication. In his current role as instructional liaison specialist, he is responsible for training and evaluating teachers and implementing new state educational standards at the school. Yet, he still finds time to devote to his students, even if that means staying at school well into the late afternoon and evening. Hackler, a cancer survivor, has also unofficially adopted two former students and is a constant source of inspiration to them to achieve their goals of going to college.

"Every day is a blessing, and every moment is a teachable one," said Hackler.

Thomasville Heights Elementary school teacher Raine Hackler helps his students succeed.





Karl Gilchrist reads a story to his kindergarten students at Cleveland Avenue Elementary School.

Teaching teamwork

Cleveland Avenue students learn about basketball and life

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

At the center of the basketball court, surrounded by nearly a dozen players — all under 4-feet-tall — Karl Gilchrist is in his element.

Gilchrist, a kindergarten teacher at Cleveland Avenue Elementary School, organized a team of kindergarten and first-grade students last year to participate in the Rosel Fann Recreation Center youth basketball league. This year, the team finished with a record of 9-3, losing in the championship game against Grove Park.

"The challenge is keeping the kids focused, but it's rewarding watching their level of

development," said Gilchrist. "Their basketball abilities and skills have improved and they've really enjoyed it and learned about working together as a team. It's an athletic means to motivate them toward academic success."

Born in South Carolina and raised in Florida, Gilchrist began teaching at Cleveland Avenue in 2005, following two years in the private sector.

"It was a dream of mine to live in Atlanta and teach in the Atlanta Public Schools," he



The one thing I try to reinforce is that they're smart and intelligent and there's nothing they can't accomplish.

Karl Gilchrist
Cleveland Avenue teacher

said. "To be able to work with inner-city students was my passion."

Gilchrist began teaching at the fifth-grade level before accepting the challenge of kindergarten.

"I love their eagerness to learn," said Gilchrist, referring to his pint-size students. "The one thing I try to reinforce is that they're intelligent and there's nothing they can't

accomplish. They're so impressionable at that age, so planting the seed for success early on is important. I tell every one of them, 'go,

graduate from high school; graduate from college; set your goals high.'"

Becoming immersed in the Cleveland Avenue Elementary family was an easy transition for Gilchrist, in more ways than one. Gilchrist met his wife, Angela, media specialist at the school, when the two were first assigned to Cleveland Avenue, and attended training together. They have been married for two years.

"It's wonderful to be in the same building together and to be able to have that work connection at home," he said. "She's always there for me with a listening ear."

Gilchrist was named 2008-09 Cleveland Avenue Elementary Teacher of the Year.

KEEPING CRIM CLEAN

Longtime custodian and principal are on the same page

By RICH FAHEY

Crim custodian Ronnie Jones plays with daycare student Tristan Henderson. Crim is the only APS school that offers daycare services to teenage mothers and fathers while they attend classes.

The first person Dr. Angelisha Cummings met at the Crim Open Campus was longtime custodian Ronnie Jones. Jones, who has been at Crim for 27 years, was one of the few holdovers when the Alonzo A. Crim Comprehensive High School closed its doors in 2005 to make way for the Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus.

"After the introductions, I asked Ronnie where the principal's office was," Cummings recalled. "Then I said, 'the first thing I need from you, sir, is a pair of gloves and a gray trash barrel.'"

Jones and Cummings worked together that first morning cleaning up the school. That first day knocked Jones off his feet, literally. The next day he came into the school walking slowly.

"I told Dr. Cummings, 'I like to work but you have to lighten up on me, I couldn't get up this morning,'" he said.

Cummings, laughing heartily, also recalls how Jones described her to family and friends.

"There's no person like her. She's a nice person but she'll work you. If you're not going to work, you can't stay."

But together, Cummings and Jones got the job done in the school, even working weekends when they had to.

Jones said Cummings is the fourth principal he has worked for, but the first one who has worked right alongside him. Renovations and clean-up were completed in time, allowing Crim to open its doors for the beginning of the 2005-06 school year. Crim serves students aged 16 and older living in Atlanta who have not found success in a traditional high school setting but still want to earn a high school diploma.

"The inside and out are breathtaking," said Cummings. "People are taken aback at looking at how we were and are able to create a masterpiece out of a building that is considered a historical site."

Jones said the compliments about the school are great, but it's all in a day's work. "I love doing a good job for the kids, the parents, and the babies in the school nursery," he said.

One of the first things he does every day is to check out the nursery — the only one of its kind in the APS — that allows teen mothers and fathers to study without worrying about their children, and also provides quiet time for the teen parents to read to their children or relax with them.

As a parent, Jones can appreciate having a nursery on the school campus. He and his wife, Debbie Louise Ellington, who have been married 26 years, have five children and four grandchildren.

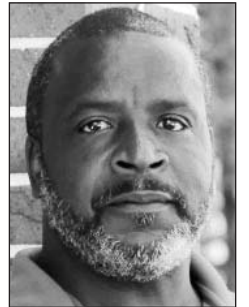
"Mr. Jones makes sure everything is clean and ready for us when we come in," said Margaret Manns-Jones, who oversees the nursery.

Jones said the condition of the school plays a role in students' success. "I think when they walk in here, it makes them happy," he said. "I think they can learn better in a clean building."

That's important, because the stakes are high. Study is intense and concentrated; students take courses offered in the regular high school core curriculum depending upon the individual classes they need in order to complete graduation requirements, and they receive advice on course selection, standardized test preparation, post-secondary options and scholarships.

Students must meet all graduation requirements including all state assessments. After completing their requirements, Crim students attend graduation and commencement.

Both Jones and Manns-Jones stress that Crim's transformation goes beyond a clean building. "Dr. Cummings has made a big difference," said Manns-Jones. "We have students winning scholarships and going off to college. We are offering a lot of students a second chance in life, to do what you didn't do before."



Ronnie Jones





They're No. 1

Meet the APS valedictorians from the Class of 2009

Jazline Mekel Brown

The New Schools at Carver School of Technology

Jazline Brown, a Carson Scholar, Project GRAD Brumley Scholar and Wellesley Book Award recipient, serves as a teen mentor and member of student government, yearbook and video production staff, among other activities. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee to major in mass communications and journalism, with the goal of becoming a successful reporter and producer.



Rodneysha L. Brown

Frederick Douglass High School

Rodneysha Brown has been honored for her academic achievements as a member of the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, National Honor Roll, Hispanic Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She presently reigns as Miss Frederick Douglass High School, is the senior class secretary and serves as co-captain of the varsity cheerleading squad. She will attend Howard University as a Legacy Scholar, majoring in biology and pre-med, and hopes to become an obstetrician/gynecologist in the Atlanta area.



Sarah Bufkin

Henry W. Grady High School

A student in the Communications magnet, Sarah Bufkin is one of two managing editors of the award-winning student newspaper, *The Southerner*, attorney on the Georgia championship mock trial team, captain of the varsity soccer team and senior designer with Grady's UrbanCouture fashion program. She hopes to become a published writer, live in Spain for several years, continually challenge herself mentally and make a difference in the world.



REASON TO BE PROUD OF APS: The Nation's Report Card shows that since 2003, APS math, reading and writing scores have improved faster than other urban school districts.

Makiya Cargill*D.M. Therrell High School of Law,
Government and Public Policy*

At Therrell, Makiya Cargill became a varsity track and cross country runner, while also participating in mock trial, band, National Beta Club and the Student Government Association. Her dream is to attend law school and become an entertainment lawyer. She is also working toward the goal of becoming a gold medalist in the 2012 Olympics.



Meet the best APS has to offer – the valedictorians from the Class of 2009. These 13 scholars were honored, along with this year's salutatorians and STAR students, at an awards ceremony March 31. The keynote speaker was Dr. Dennis P. Kimbro, author and professor at Clark Atlanta University's School of Business Administration.

Jade Carter*The New Schools at Carver
School of the Arts*

Jade Carter is a member of the National Honor Society, student government, Urban Youth Harp Ensemble and the 21st Century Atlanta Scholars program. She participated in internships with Turner Broadcasting, Communities in Schools Atlanta and Matrix 3D, an architectural firm. She plans to pursue a degree in journalism and a career as a broadcast news analyst.

**Maria Dieci***North Atlanta High School*

During her time at North Atlanta, Maria Dieci played soccer and softball, ran cross country, served as yearbook editor and was active in the band and orchestra programs, as well as the National Honor Society. Through the International Baccalaureate Program, she had the unique opportunity to study in St. Brieuc, France for three months during her junior year. She hopes to pursue studies in anthropology.

**Marlena Renee Dobbs***Benjamin E. Mays High School*

Marlena Dobbs has excelled in the Math and Science Academy, and participates in the library, French, math, science and social studies clubs. She also is the concert master of the orchestra and an avid tennis player, and has volunteered with Alzheimer's patients and inner-city youth. She plans to pursue a degree in mathematics at Emory University.

**Courtney Henderson***The New Schools at Carver
Early College High School*

As a member of the "Trailblazing 20," the first group of Georgia students to enroll in college courses as part of the national early college initiative, Courtney Henderson entered Georgia State University as a sophomore and has earned more than 40 college credits. Her extracurricular activities have included the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Ernest Wilkins Mathematics Society, Mock Trial, World Quest Team, Planeteers and cheerleading.

**Khali N. Jones***The New Schools at Carver
School of Health Sciences &
Research*

Khali Jones serves as president of National Honor Society, vice president of Health Occupations Student Association and battalion adjutant for the JROTC. She also is a member of Carver's varsity tennis team, step team and the SANKOFA project. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in animal sciences, as well as a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

**Subira Nisbeth***Booker T. Washington High School*

Subira Nisbeth has been involved in the National Beta Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Future Educators Association, Students for Teaching Careers and Academic Readiness Academy, Project GRAD, Academic Decathlon, Junior Achievement and varsity volleyball, among others. She traveled to Ghana, West Africa, where she donated school and medical supplies to a local village and tutored students. She plans to attend Kennesaw State University and pursue her interest in teaching.

**Keitra L. Thompson***Maynard Holbrook Jackson Jr.
High School*

Keitra Thompson is involved in many activities, including the Student Government Association, Future Business Leaders of America, National Beta Club and the National Honor Society. This year, she received a Youth for Understanding scholarship to study Spanish in Quito, Ecuador. She plans to attend Emory University to study political science while completing pre-med requirements. Her ultimate goal is to travel the world and become an epidemiologist, treating disease and illness in the world.

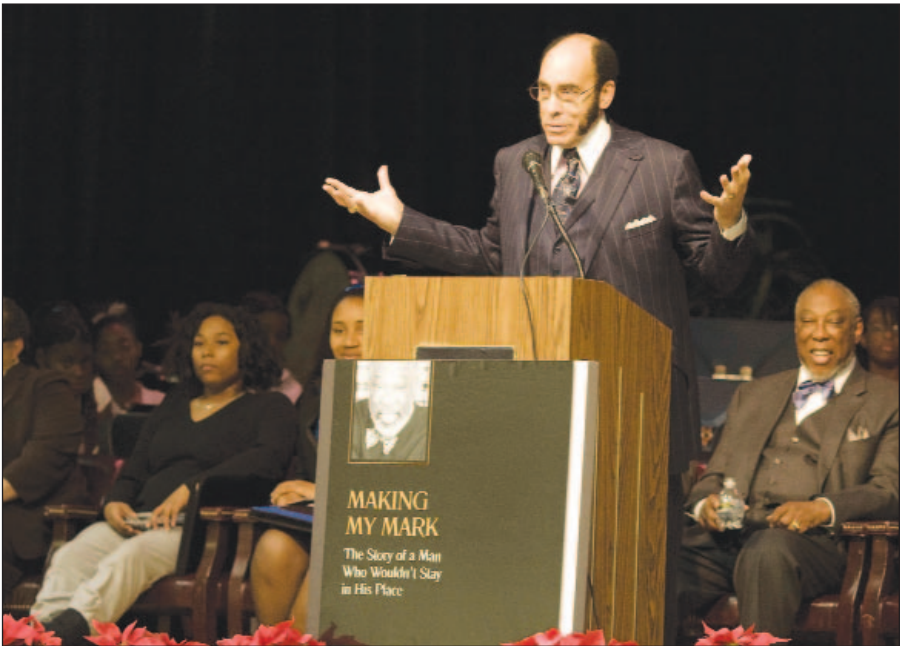
**Tyson Shepherd***D.M. Therrell High School of
Business and Entrepreneurship*

Tyson Shepherd currently participates in the dual enrollment program at Atlanta Metropolitan College, where he is studying psychology. He aspires to be a journalist. Shepherd has served on the state's student advisory council and is a member of the Art Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Georgia Career Student Association, National Honor Society and Key Club. He also is a member of the 21st Century Atlanta Scholars program, a Maynard Jackson Leadership Academy graduate and a volunteer for the American Red Cross.

**Nandi A. Wahid***South Atlanta High School of
Leadership and Economic
Empowerment*

A well-rounded student, Nandi Wahid is a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Rocket Club, Improvisation Club and Youth Force Leadership Program. She also serves as co-president of Skills USA and was chosen by her peers to serve as executive financial officer for the senior council.





Earl Graves at Booker T. Washington High
Earl Graves, founder and publisher of *Black Enterprise* magazine, presented 1,000 copies of “Making My Mark,” the story of Fulton County Superior Court Judge Marvin S. Arrington Sr., to students from six Atlanta Public Schools in an appearance at Booker T. Washington High School. Judge Arrington is pictured at far right.



Georgia House Rep. Kathy Ashe at Bethune
Each of Bethune Elementary School’s 474 students received a book from Scholastic, Inc. to add to his or her home library, thanks to a partnership with Communities in Schools of Atlanta (CIS). Georgia House Rep. Kathy Ashe (D-Atlanta) was on hand to help students select the books they wanted.



Dr. Alveda King at Sutton Middle School
Dr. Alveda King, niece of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered a message of peace to Sutton Middle School students as part of the many King Day events that took place in Atlanta Public Schools. “Be nonviolent, peaceful, have courage, and don’t be afraid,” said King, an author, activist and former member of the Georgia House of Representatives.



Colombian students at Sutton and North Atlanta HS
Students and families of Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High got an in-depth lesson in intercultural exchange when they hosted 25 Colombian students, who spent six days entertaining and educating them on the geography and customs of their country.

Visitors share tools for success

Dignitaries challenge Atlanta Public Schools students to achieve goals



Georgia Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox at B.E.S.T.
Georgia Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox toured Atlanta Public Schools’ single-gender schools, Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy and Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Academy. Cox visited classrooms, addressed students and met with faculty and staff at both schools, which opened in 2007.



Judge Leah Ward Sears at Coan Middle School
Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, the first African-American woman to serve as Superior Court judge in Georgia, advised Coan Middle School students to “do your work, study real hard” to be successful. Sears offered the advice during a conversation with students about education, leadership and the law. Sears has been mentioned as a possible replacement for retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter.



Surgeon General Dr. Steven Gilson at Carver
Rear Adm. Dr. Steven K. Gilson, acting U.S. surgeon general, visited the Carver School of Health Sciences & Research to give the inaugural Class of 2009 a Community Champion Award and tour the school’s health fair. “I’m here to talk about the epidemic of childhood obesity in this country,” said Gilson, who had his blood pressure checked by Carver senior Gracie Solomon.



Mildred Bethel at Centennial Place
Centennial Place third-graders enjoyed the rich tradition of quilt making in honor of Black History Month. Artistic quilter Mildred Bethel visited the school and worked with students as part of the school’s efforts to promote child development through innovative art and music programs.

APS
ALUMNUS
PROFILE

True(tu) to his schools

Chick-fil-A founder gives back to APS

BY RICH FAHEY

As a child of the Great Depression, S. Truett Cathy knew what it meant to grow up in poverty. Perhaps that's why he has spent so much time and effort working to improve the lives of others.

Cathy graduated from Atlanta Public Schools' Tech High before entering the Army. After his return home, he entered the restaurant business, eventually giving birth to a chicken sandwich that launched the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain, which earned \$2.64 billion in sales from 1,380 locations in 2007. The annual Chick-fil-A Bowl showcases top college football teams from the Atlanta Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference, and raises money for scholarships and other charities.

Cathy's rise to prominence in the fast-food industry, and his continued commitment to education, were the subject of a "Profiles in Excellence" segment of "APS Today," the monthly TV program produced by Atlanta Public Schools and presented on PBA TV 30, the TV station owned by the Atlanta Board of Education.

Cathy told host Nwandi Lawson about inserting cardboard into his battered shoes as a youngster and feeling his poverty in other ways.

"You had to carry lunch to school, and I always wished someday I could have a basket with my lunch in it and have bulk bread. I didn't have anything but biscuits left over from the table," he said. "As a kid I wished I could have bulk bread like some of the other people had."

"My mother kept a boarding house and if we could find another place that was more desirable with a cheaper rent, we'd move and so we bounced around all over the West End," said Cathy, who attended four different high schools, eventually graduating from Tech.

He also confessed to not liking school all that much, and recalled flunking shorthand at Commercial High, a rather unpromising start for a future business titan.

After returning home from the Army, he and his brother opened the Dwarf Grille — later known as the Dwarf House — in 1946 in Hapeville, Ga.

While the burgers and steaks were a hit, he was stymied in trying to cook chicken quickly and efficiently with the bone in. He decided to concentrate on a chicken sandwich using a boneless breast of



Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy is an APS alum.

chicken on a toasted bun.

The Original Chicken Sandwich was born in 1964, which led to the first Chick-fil-A mall restaurant in 1967 in Atlanta's Greenbriar Mall. Since then, the Chick-fil-A story has consistently improved, with 40 consecutive years of annual sales increases. Some highlights:

- ◆ in 1973, Cathy began awarding \$1,000 scholarships to restaurant workers to further their education;
- ◆ in 1984, he established his WinShape Foundation, which has blossomed to include many philanthropic ventures;
- ◆ in 1986, he opened the first free-standing Chick-fil-A restaurant;
- ◆ in 2000, the firm eclipsed \$1 billion in sales;
- ◆ in 2001, the 1,000th restaurant was opened;
- ◆ in 2005, the Chick fil-A Bowl was established (*See Eight Get Smart, Page 20*); and,
- ◆ in 2006, the company surpassed \$2 billion in sales and Cathy marked 60 years in business.

The honors have poured in for this APS alum through the years. Voices for Georgia's Children recently honored Cathy for his interest in children and the WinShape Foundation's WinShape Homes® program — a long-term care program for foster children. He funds between 20-30 full scholarships to Berry College in Rome, Ga., each year, and some 1,800 children attend his WinShape camps each year.

In addition, through its Leadership Scholarship Program, the Chick-fil-A chain has given more than \$23.3 million in scholarships to Chick-fil-A restaurant employees since 1973.

In one of the three books he has written — "Eat Mor Chikin: Inspire More People" — Cathy explains his philosophy on philanthropy. "Nearly every moment of every day we have the opportunity to give something to someone else — our time, our love, our resources. I have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return."

Catch the June 8 graduation special on "APS Today."

APS has no room for bullies

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Every day, students face a full gamut of social challenges — peer pressure, family strain, cliques, aggressive behavior and bullying.

School counselors such as Sonya Wright are there to help students navigate those sensitive, and often daunting, circumstances.

"It's important for schools to create a safe environment for our students," said Wright, president-elect of the Georgia School Counselors Association and a counselor at Jean Childs Young Middle School.

"They need to know there are resources and adults here who will help them," she said.

With bullying on the rise in schools across America, creating a safe haven for students is more important than ever. National studies reveal that 15-25 percent of students report they are bullied with some frequency.

"We want to empower students with communications skills and give them the courage to leave the situation, walk away and go to an adult who will intervene," said Wright.

APS has a policy that strictly prohibits bullying and other forms of intimidation. Any student found guilty of bullying will be disciplined. Georgia law also mandates that a student who has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year shall be referred to the APS Disciplinary Tribunal.

"We want to make sure students understand it's not OK for bullying to take place here," said Wright.

To strengthen student outreach, APS school counselors run an advisement program, which is required for all middle-school students. The goal of the program is to help students become successful in three distinct areas of development: academic, personal/social and career.

"The program connects students with a caring adult who will guide them in those three areas," said Wright.

Parental involvement is another critical component in guiding students to academic and social success. Next year, the APS will participate in a national campaign, "Be There," encouraging parents to become more involved in their children's lives.

"Parents are first and foremost teachers," said Wright. "They have the greatest amount of influence on their children."

An Atlanta native, Wright is a graduate of Washington High School. Now in her seventh year at Young, she also spent three years as a high-school counselor and scholarship coordinator at Mays High.



Sonya Wright

High fashion

Grady students express themselves through clothing design

By RICH FAHEY

They're designing women ... and men.

While they learn how to make a garment that looks good, students are also learning the basics of running a business.

The UrbanCouture fashion design program at Grady High is six years old and encompasses about 100 students over the four grades. It develops students' problem-solving skills as well as their creativity.

Student designers get a chance to express themselves while also getting a taste of the inner workings of the fashion business. It all culminated in the annual senior fashion show — this year, titled UC6 — May 9 at the Grady High School gymnasium.

The 10 senior designers presented collections that are both stylish and trendy: Sheer, Metallics, Gladiator, Eco-Fashion, Ethnicware, Fast Fashion, Fruit Salad (or mixed prints), and Muffin Tops.

The designers used their fellow students as models, while the Grady Art Department, G Stage, designed the set. Students not only served as models, but also as lighting and sound technicians, graphic designers, and musicians.

E. Vincent Martinez, director of the



Senior designer Dané White models an outfit during a fashion show preview.

UrbanCouture program, said the students have a great deal of control over what they design and present. While the student designers are overwhelmingly female, the classes also have attracted about 10 males.

"I have the overall say," he said. "I guide them and mentor them towards a cohesive collection. The designs can be edgy, but appropriate. There's a lot of polishing and tweaking."

Martinez said he and the students work as a team, selecting models, music, choreography, and fabrics to be used. He exposes them to the many aspects of being a successful designer.

"They not only have to worry about

design, but hair, makeup, and everything else," he said.

While the senior showcase is the highlight of the year, students also conducted the second annual Doggies on the Catwalk benefit fashion show in January. Each student designed two outfits for dogs and two outfits for their human escorts. There were bulldogs in ball gowns and terriers in tuxes, as the students proved that pooches can be just as fashionable as their human

pals. In addition to funky runway fashions, Grady students also designed the set and worked with the animals backstage.

As a result of the students' efforts,

Doggies on the Catwalk raised \$2,258 for PALS Atlanta, which provides care for pets of terminally ill Atlantans.

Martinez said students who choose to major or minor in fashion design in college will be "several steps" ahead of the other students.

Tasha White, mother of senior designer Dané White, said her daughter has several college options on the horizon, including the Savannah College of Art and Design. She credits Grady's diverse course offerings for her daughter's success.

"The variety is exceptional," she said.

The UrbanCouture program also has many practical applications, not the least of which is learning how to sew, a skill that pays dividends over a lifetime. Two female students made their own prom dresses, while others made sun dresses and other garments.

Read more about Grady at www.altantapublicschools.us/grady



Senior Daryl Wright works on pieces for the UrbanCouture show.



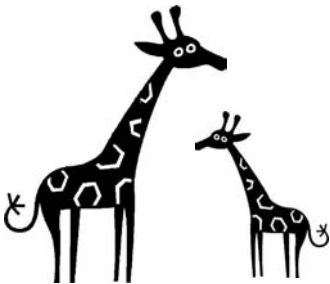
Senior Taylor Fulton works on a pattern in preparation for the show.

PUZZLE

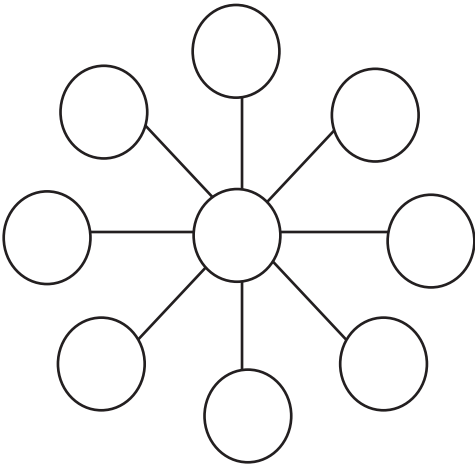
- 1. Write down the first number that is divisible by 6 and a multiple of 3.
 - 2. Add 4 of the numbers shown to make 18.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- 3. The difference of 2 numbers is 32. The sum is 158. What are the 2 numbers?
 - 4. The number 68 can be made by adding 4 consecutive numbers. What are they?
 - 5. $A + B + C = 15$
 $A \times B \times C = 60$

$A = ? \quad B = ? \quad C = ?$

- 6. A giraffe is twice as tall as its baby.
The baby's height and the mother's height total 4.5 meters. How tall is the baby? How tall is the mother?



- 7. Fill in the circles with numbers 1-9 without repetition, so that the sum of any line is 18.



- 8. Aunt Lucy died leaving \$1000 to her 5 nieces. The money is to be divided according to their ages with each niece receiving \$20 more than the previous niece. How much does the oldest niece get?
- 9. A perfect number is a number with factors (not including itself) which add up to the number itself, e.g. 6 -the factors are 1, 2, 3, 6 $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$
- 10. Fill in the missing numbers:

$3 \underline{\hspace{1cm}} 7 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} 6 = 53 \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
(this one has more than one answer)

* Puzzle provided courtesy of Fun Maths.
http://www.funmaths.com/worksheets/math_games_puzzles_07.htm

TIPS FOR CONTROLLING ASTHMA

By Rich Fahey

The end of the so-called “smog season” in Atlanta means a certain segment of students in the Atlanta Public Schools can breathe a little easier.

Students who suffer from asthma are more at risk for breathing difficulties or attacks from May 1-Sept. 30, when the air contains higher levels of ozone, a primary component of smog. For the last 15 years, Atlanta has averaged 40 Code Orange days in the city, when groups of people who are sensitive to high ozone levels could be affected.

For Viva Snowden, who has been the school nurse at the Fickett Elementary School for 10 years, smog season means making sure students know when they are at risk for an attack.

Jayketa Singleton, RN, MS, is the coordinator of school health services for the Atlanta Public Schools, and has been working to get the word out to students and parents about high ozone levels.

“Asthma is a chronic condition which means it can last a lifetime,” she said. “Many children’s problems with asthma get better as they get older. Although there is no cure for asthma, it can be controlled.”

She offers the following tips to students, parents and staff on controlling asthma on so-called Code Orange days.

- ◆ **Avoid triggers.** Students diagnosed with asthma should avoid outdoor activities during Code Orange days as the air quality index is unhealthy for sensitive groups with respiratory disease.
- ◆ **Take the medication.** Students prescribed medication to control asthma symptoms should maintain a current prescription at all times.
- ◆ **Monitor asthma.** Students must keep track of their asthma symptoms and share the information with their doctor at least every six months during scheduled follow-up appointments for preventive health care. A peak flow meter can help students measure how well air is flowing out of their lungs, which is a good marker of how well they are managing their asthma.
- ◆ **Work with doctors to create an asthma action plan** to help prevent asthma symptoms and take proper steps if they occur. Be sure to take the action plan to each doctor visit.
- ◆ **Stick to the asthma plan and be prepared for emergencies.** Reach the most important goal of all, which is controlling asthma instead of letting it control you.

Snowden said parents can help by taking their children to the doctor when they are ill and determining exactly what is causing them problems.

“I have children coming to me saying they have asthma when it’s actually bronchitis or sinus problems,” Snowden said. “If I have the diagnosis of asthma from a doctor, I can notify them when they’re at risk or make sure they get the proper treatment when necessary.”

Gearing up for summer

A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE

Fund helps teachers learn lessons about other cultures

By RICH FAHEY

The Atlanta Education Fund and a nationally-known non-profit group that supports teachers have joined forces to help 18 APS teachers' dreams come true ... and students will benefit as well.

This summer, those 18 teachers who have received Fund for Teachers fellowships worth \$77,114 will embark on adventures such as helping to conserve and expand the population of Giant Pandas in China or assisting teachers and students in Ghana in harvesting bio diesel fuel from household resources, while offering English instruction.

The Fund for Teachers is a non-profit group that helps teachers pursue self designed programs that promote summer learning and exploration. Teachers submit proposals detailing how their fellowship will make them better teachers and how their improved skills will be implemented in the classroom. Teachers are awarded grants based on merit.

To date, more than 4,000 teachers from across the United States have received more than \$12 million in grants to study and travel in 110 countries on all seven continents. In 2008, the Atlanta Education Fund



Last summer, through the Atlanta Fund for Teachers, Gideons Elementary teacher Darlene Dobbs explored the discoveries of ancient Egyptians in the areas of science, math and linguistics.

became the Fund for Teachers' newest community partner. The AEF's mission is to galvanize community support to accelerate and sustain student achievement in Atlanta Public Schools.

"I am excited about this partnership between the Atlanta Education Fund and Fund for Teachers," said Hosanna Johnson, AEF President. "In all of the work we do to support the district, the quality of Atlanta's schools is only as good as the quality of the teachers. We are happy to be part of a program that gives back to those who most deserve it."

Last summer, Michell Carter of Sarah Smith Elementary School volunteered with the Earthwatch Institute, assessing the endangered hawksbill turtles on a remote

island off Australia's Great Barrier Reef. In the evenings she collected vast amounts of plastic products that washed up on the once pristine shoreline.

When she returned to Atlanta, Carter documented the amount of trash each student produced, and led the effort to reduce the amount of plastic waste by up to 60 percent in some classrooms.

Here are the 2009 Atlanta Fund for Teachers Fellows, their schools and what each will be doing this summer.

Sam Bean, Langston Longley
Stanton D. H. Elementary
Travel to Japan to observe and learn various techniques for teaching critical thinking math skills.

Terri Dunson
Rivers Elementary
Volunteer with the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu, China, focusing on wildlife conservation and scientific research.

Sabrina Harris
Bolton Academy
Live with a family in Playa Tamarindo, Costa Rica, taking daily

Spanish classes through the Study Abroad, Inc., program.

Charon Kirkland, Woodson Elementary, and Lorrae Walker, Scott Elementary
Attend a tropical ecology and conservation workshop on the island Dominica through the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to identify better strategies for teaching ecology in the classroom.

Angela Nelson
Garden Hills Elementary
Observe teaching strategies and cultural differences in Jordan and Egypt as related to ESL students.

Xylecia Taylor
Williams Elementary
Assist teachers and students in Ghana to harvest biodiesel fuel from household resources while offering English instruction.

Traci West
Bolton Academy
Study Hispanic culture through the Equinox Spanish School in Ecuador to develop and enhance teaching and learning skills.

Reosha Bush and Tiedra Hutchings
Crim Open Campus High School
Study the English perspective of American colonist James Oglethorpe by exploring early colonial England, and research information on the founding of Georgia.

Sydney Butler
Crim Open Campus High School
Attend an international special education conference in Spain to acquire knowledge about the practice of special education in other countries.

Reginald Colbert, North Atlanta High School, and Nat Colbert, Sutton Middle School
Participate in the Verbier Festival Academy in Verbier, Switzerland, to observe and research strategies used in master classes and chamber music coaching.

Amy Leonard
Grady High School
Explore life, death and entertainment in ancient Rome through a tour of archaeological sites in southern Italy.

Neville McFarlane
Jackson High School
Attend a photovoltaic design & installation workshop at Solar Energy International in Colorado, to promote renewable energy in schools.

Beverly Easterling
Kennedy Middle School
Study racial reconciliation and restorative justice in South Africa to develop a more positive climate in the school setting and community.

Brevery Littles
Young Middle School
Benefit from an immersion program in Spain to enhance language skills, improve knowledge of the country and research African influences on Spanish culture.



Sarah Smith Elementary teacher Michell Carter assisted scientists in gathering data on the hawksbill turtles, an endangered species, in the Great Barrier Reef last summer.



Last summer, Jackson High School teacher Mahdi Ibrihim (pictured in the middle of the crowd during a math lab) observed the implementation of a school math lab in Oromiyaa, Ethiopia, and studied its use in enhancing students' understanding of and interest in mathematics.

Carver School of Health Sciences & Research students embark on trip to Egypt



Carver School of Health Sciences & Research students visit Valley of the Kings at Luxor, Egypt.

PHOTO BY DR. DARIAN JONES

Four years ago, Dr. Darian Jones made a promise to students who walked through the doors of Carver's School of Health Sciences & Research. Graduate in four years, he told the freshmen, and we will embark on a trip to Egypt.

On May 2, Principal Jones' promise became a reality as 50 seniors joined parents and faculty members on a 10-day journey to Africa.

Students from Carver's first graduating class, its "legacy class," toured the Greek temple of Horus in Edfu, viewed ancient pyramids in Cairo, and traveled the West Bank's Valley of the Kings.

Each student needed about \$2,500 for airfare, required vaccinations, a passport and attractions. Many companies and individuals made donations right up to

the trip deadline.

"I consider it a privilege to be among the select group of people going on the Egypt trip in 2009, simply because of the great history, culture and tradition," said Health Sciences & Research student Jobias McLester. "This trip will advance and enhance my character as a man and help me to strive towards excellence in any and everything that I attempt."

Health Sciences & Research is one of four small schools housed at The New Schools at Carver, along with Early College, Arts and Technology. The small schools model was created through Atlanta Public Schools' high school transformation initiative. Each school has its own principal and promotes closer interaction between students and faculty.



Seniors from Carver's School of Health Science & Research students begin the long journey from Atlanta to Cairo.

PHOTO BY SCOTT KING

Five fun ways to get kids moving

Video games and television shows constantly lure kids away from healthier activities. So how do you motivate students to get moving?

A little bit of fun can make a big difference.

Members of the Atlanta Falcons football team raised the fun factor when they participated in fitness activities at five Atlanta Public Schools. "We want to do anything we can to give back to the community and help serve a role model," said wide receiver Laurent Robinson between rounds of basketball and jump rope with students at The B.E.S.T. Academy.

Robinson and seven teammates helped students do push-ups, sit-ups and other physically challenging exercises. Falcons players also visited Gideons and Whitefoord elementary schools, as well as Parks and King middle schools through a partnership program with the United Way.

"I was happy to meet some of the players," said seventh grader Solomon McBride, one of 70 B.E.S.T. Academy students chosen to participate because of good behavior. "You get to see that they're just like us, even though they are on TV doing extraordinary things."

But physical education teacher Bakari

Moore has the extraordinary task of keeping students physically fit on a daily basis. He offered this advice to parents who want to help kids trade couch time for exercise:

Encourage healthy competition. "That's the driving force with boys," Moore said. Promote activities that inspire good sportsmanship, such as having kids compete to finish chores around the house.

Promote teamwork. Kids like to work in groups, Moore said. Encourage team sports or activities that involve the whole family.

Focus on a particular skill. "We're focusing on soccer and the principle of dribbling the ball, so kids will practice a

game of keep away," Moore said. "It helps them perfect one skill that is essential to succeeding in the game as a whole."

Expose kids to various sports. Kids don't know what they're good at until they try a variety of activities. "There's more than football or basketball," he added. Try a game of golf or soccer.

Lead by example. Moore notes that kids respond better when parents share an interest in the activity. Try jogging together or take a walk as a family. "The key is to model the behavior you want to see," he said. "Kids will gravitate to that."



Recycle your copy of *The Atlanta Educator*

We encourage you to read this publication and share it with friends. But Atlanta Public Schools also wants to help the environment. Here are a few suggestions for going green with your copy of *The Atlanta Educator*:

Word play: Create a scavenger hunt by searching for vocabulary words in the publication.

It's a wrap: Use the pages as fun and colorful gift wrap.

Have fun: Make paper hats or kites.

Go green: Shredded newspaper can serve as mulch, reducing weeds in the garden.

Clean up: Remove window streaks and lint left from paper towels.

Recycle: Deliver copies to local recycling centers.

Donate: Several local animal shelters use old newspapers in their animal runs.

APS 2009-2010 school calendar

July

15 Year-round schools open

August

4 First day of school (teachers)

10 First day of school (students)

September

7 Labor Day

October

12-13 Teacher Planning Days

November

3 Teacher Planning Day

25-27 Thanksgiving break

December

21-31 Winter Break

January

1 New Year's Day

5 Teacher Planning Day

6 Students return to school

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

15 Presidents' Day

April

5-9 Spring Break

May

25 Last day of school

31 Memorial Day



Junior Danielle Dill posed in front of the display that she worked on with junior Ralph Jones for the CFEAT program.

Douglass students examine the global impact of war

BY RICH FAHEY

The impact of human conflict was emphasized on April 22, Earth Day, when Douglass High School students in the CFEAT – the Center for Engineering and Applied Technology, the magnet program – studied “The Global Impact of War.”

About 350 students at Douglass had a hand in the event and some 100 parents attended, according to CFEAT Coordinator Jane Martin, who described it as “great success.”

All of the school’s core-subjects integrated the theme into their classes – elective courses such as JROTC, band, music, drama, dance, art, Spanish, technology and engineering also participated.

“We reached out to other departments,” said Martin “Most of the school was involved in some way or another.”

The school’s teachers were divided into “families” – both core subject teachers and engineering/technology teachers – and they had common planning time to discuss the unit. In planning meetings, various aspects of war were viewed through the lens of both engineering and technology.

“We came up with an umbrella of things that described the global impact of war,” said Martin.

Classes looked at engineering programs that launch and guide missiles and the effects of atomic bombs on communities

they are deployed against. Students examined the ongoing genocide in Darfur in the Sudan, where an estimated 400,000 civilians have died and 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes, according to the Web site genocideindarfur.net.

“It was very intense subject matter,” said Martin.

Through meetings and conferences, the teachers and staff found ways to intergrate the theme into every area of the school’s curriculum. The 10th-grade math team, for example, presented “Nature’s Voices Heard.”

Students worked in groups; there also were individual projects. Teachers and students determined the projects’ criteria and rubrics, the elements students had to include.

“The rubrics worked,”

Martin said. “They allowed our teachers and students to be on the same page when it came to the projects.”

In 1984, Douglass High School opened CFEAT to meet the needs of students interested in engineering and science and business technology. The first graduating class had 50 students, but the program has grown to more than 500 students become well known for its academic

accomplishments.

CFEAT students are engaged in career-oriented activities, have access to the latest technology software, receive instructions and inspirations from members of the SAME (Society of American Military Engineers) organization and are provided with opportunities to participate in local, state, as well as national competition in

engineering and technology.

They also have access to Project Lead The Way, the national Pre-Engineering Initiative, and a state-of-the-art student resource center.

Martin said the message of the Earth Day event was that war has risks and consequences for all.

But students have been learning another Earth Day lesson: how environmental

factors play into their lives. CFEAT students learned that children in one ZIP code had a high risk of contracting communicable diseases, or suffering from high blood pressure or asthma that could be related to pollution.

“What happens in the rest of the world affects our homes, our communities,” said Martin. “We are truly one world.”

“

What happens in the rest of the world affects our homes, our communities. We are truly one world.

Jane Martin
CFEAT Coordinator

Elementary schools

Burgess-Peterson

Teachers, students, parents, faculty and staff set the foundation for a school garden, erecting two raised beds for planting. Donations from Trees Atlanta were planted inside the garden and on the sunny side of Clifton Street. Neighbors also worked with East Atlanta Village Farmers Market and Georgia Organics to help build a garden for two classes at Burgess-Peterson.

Centennial Place

Students in Sharhonda Davies' third-grade class celebrated Black History Month (February) by creating a quilt for display during an exhibit at the Threshing Floor Academy Children's Art Gallery in Castleberry Hill. Textile artist Mildred Bethel visited the class to offer her expertise.

Cook

Principal LaPaul Shelton was one of four APS principals (and 11 teachers) given the Atlanta Families' Awards for Excellence in Education, which included a \$7,500 grant. Shelton will use the money for a "Boys to Men" program that will include weekend activities, additional learning opportunities, a character-development curriculum and guest speakers. Students also will take field trips and maintain responsibilities in the school.

East Lake

East Lake was one of 26 APS schools recognized by Gov. Sonny Perdue and State Schools Superintendent Kathy for high achievement or improvement during the 2007-2008 school year. East Lake earned a "Platinum" award — the highest of four levels. This distinction is based on East Lake's performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) guidelines under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

C.W. Hill

Fox 5 HealthWatch reporter Beth Galvin delighted 25 students in the school's After School Classé program by reading books and educating them about healthy lifestyles during the fall launch of "Lights On Afterschool" Day. Galvin read popular children's story *The Stinky Cheese Man* and the American Indian legend *The Story of Jumping Mouse*.

John Hope

In an effort to "Go Green," the school joined forces with Sprint and Hands on Atlanta in November to stage a variety of projects that included building recycling bins, placing solar reflective films on school windows, replacing paper towel dispensers with air-dry dispensers and rebuilding the school's existing organic garden.



Mary Lin

The elementary school was one of 26 in the APS schools singled out for recognition in by Gov. Sonny Perdue and State Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox for its high achievement during the 2007-2008 school year. Mary Lin was one of five elementary schools and one high school named winners of the 2007-2008 "highest performance" award under the state's Single Statewide Accountability System. The school won a silver medal in the "highest performance" category, based on its performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) guidelines under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Morningside

WSB-TV honored the school with its People's Choice Going Green Champions award in honor of second-graders' efforts to promote awareness of global pollution and energy-conservation. The campaign was supervised by second-grade challenge teacher Stella Mercker. The campaign also led to

the school's first "One Hour Blackout at Home."

Parkside

Principal Phillip Luck (University of West Georgia) and assistant principal Sarah Haynes (Clark Atlanta University) successfully defended their dissertations and earned their doctoral degrees. Erica Donerlson, Parkside's challenge program instructor, also received her doctorate during the school year.

Fred A. Toomer

Students kicked off a new partnership with Fort McPherson, headquarters for the U.S. Installation Management Command, Southeast Region. The partnership included a field trip where students met Col. Deborah Grays, garrison commander. Soldiers also provided mentoring and tutoring to students, and the base donated used computers to the school.

Whitefoord

Bob Littell, president of Littell Consulting Services, made his third annual visit to Whitefoord during Career Week in March. Littell explained the "Pay It Forward" program he helped start at Whitefoord in 2007. The program supports random acts of kindness and has been profiled by 11Alive reporter Donna Lowry.

Middle Schools

Coan

In coordination with the Confucius Institute, the school hosted a Chinese New Year's celebration in January. Chinese-language students from Coan, Toomer Elementary, Maynard Jackson High, North Atlanta High and Carver Early College rang in the Year of the Ox with food, poetry, songs and a traditional lion dance.

Inman

Sixth-grader Tucker James Lancaster and seventh-grader Eliza Renner earned honorable mention for their entrees in the Istanbul Center of Atlanta's annual "Talented Minds" art and essay contest in February at North Atlanta High. The theme of the contest was "Alliance of Civilizations," the United Nations' concept of interaction and coordination among nations and cultures. The purpose is to establish relationships and facilitate cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue, understanding, reconciliation and cooperation.

King

Eighth-grader Bria Griffin recently was selected as a 2009 Carson Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be invested for her college education. The nationwide program is celebrating its sixth consecutive year of offering the scholarship to students based on criteria including a minimum 3.75 grade-point average, community service and a submitted essay.

Inman Middle School student is a WWII scholar

SCOLLARD: From Page 1

material. In the sixth grade, social studies teacher Sara Looman was so impressed by a presentation he had given on the Battle of the Bulge in another class that she asked Scollard to do the same for her class.

"It's really helpful when your teachers are supporting you and helping you along," said Scollard. "Plus, if you ever need a recommendation or sponsor for an activity, you can go back to your old teachers and they will always give you a recommendation."

With help from Inman gifted-student coordinator Tommy Firesheets, Scollard organized a school visit by legendary Tuskegee Airmen, WWII Air Force veterans. The presentation made such an impact that eighth-grade Georgia studies instructor Lisa Chambless asked Scollard to give a WWII-themed presentation to her class by the semester's end.

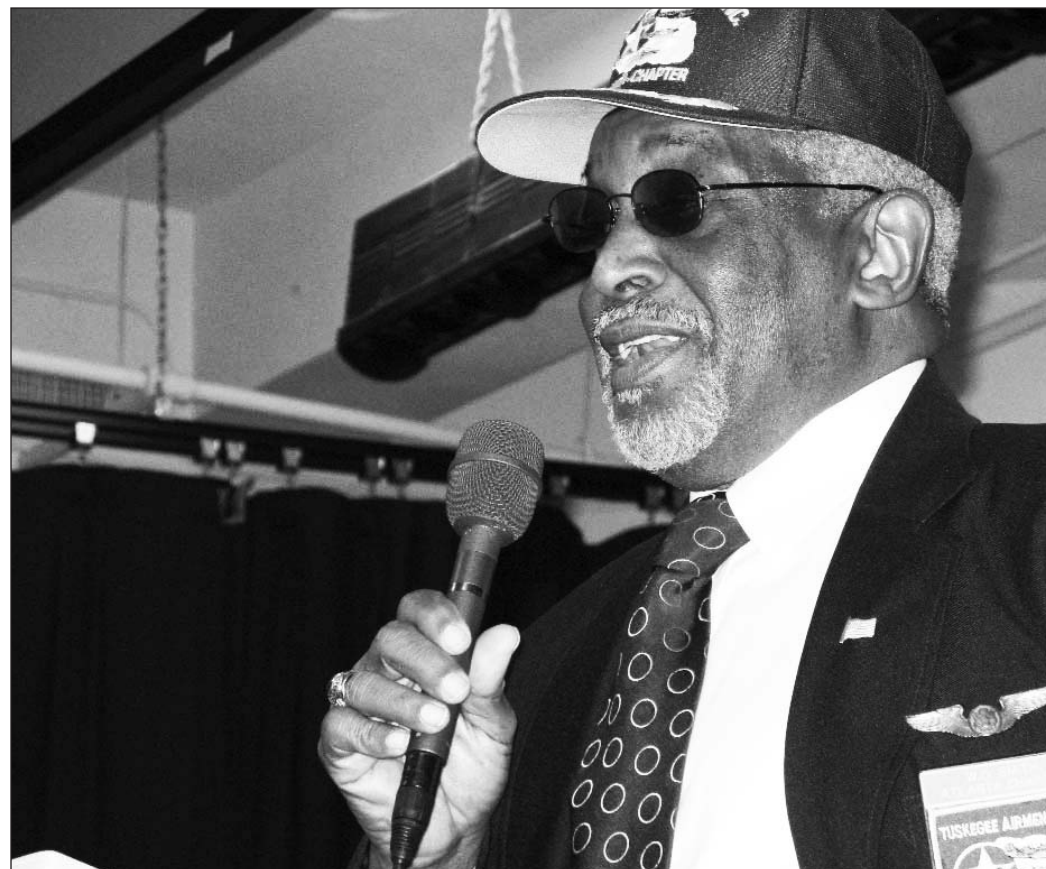
"It's incumbent upon us, as educators, to recognize the strengths and talents of our students and then to nurture them by providing opportunities for growth," Chambless said. "Working with Patrick is one of the joys of teaching and learning.

When this happens, the student is much more likely to be engaged in their education and to be positioned for success."

Along with his passion for history, Scollard also plays on the tennis team, is active in student government, and participates in what has become one of APS' most competitive robotics teams — thanks to the work of science teacher Melissa Nunnick, STEM teacher Jimmy Stapp and Inman parent Dave Gluck.

His accomplishments moved classmates to vote him Most Likely to Become President.

"When Patrick was born, we didn't know if our local schools would be strong enough to send him all the way through from kindergarten through 12th grade," said his mother, Michelle Scollard. "But I really feel we've gotten our money's worth with Patrick's education. My husband, Kevin, and I are big supporters of public schools and we've been very pleased with the quality of education that Patrick and his sister Kelly (a fifth-grader at Morningside Elementary), have received at APS. The encouragement that so many teachers have shown Patrick is priceless and we are thankful for it."



Patrick Scollard organized a visit of the Tuskegee Airmen to Inman Middle School. Above, Master Sgt. W.O. Smith speaks to students.



Eight Atlanta Public students received Play It Smart scholarships this year.

Play It Smart helps athletes reach academic potential

PLAY IT SMART: From Page 20

Educational Complex.

West won the Whitey Zimmerman Student Manager Award, which recognizes students for work off the field and behind the scenes. An accomplished student and a member of the National Honor Society in Therrell High's School of Business and Entrepreneurship, West was looking for an extracurricular activity.

West was a jack of all trades, taking inventory of equipment, taping ankles, making sure water was in place and doing whatever else had to be done. "It was physically taxing and a lot of work," she said.

The players on the team respected her efforts. "I was considered part of the team, just like anyone else," West said.

When not in school, she volunteers at area nursing homes and helps clean up areas that need to be improved as part of the Play It Smart program's commitment to community service.

West will attend Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala., next fall, majoring in sports and recreation, with a eye toward a possible career in sports medicine or athletic training.

Cassandra Bolding, West's guidance counselor at Therrell, knows the work it takes to be a student manager and the benefits of the Zimmerman Scholarship. She was a student manager for the Therrell football team in 1999 and earned the Zimmerman Scholarship, which she used while attending Mercer University.

"I can indeed attest it was hard, but it was also fun," she said.

Seven APS football players won the

George Morris Student Athlete Award: Derron Bowles, Matthew Campbell and Benjamin Lai, North Atlanta; Webster Foreman, South Atlanta; Brontavious Railey, Frederick Douglas; Mark Williams, New Schools at Carver; and Miles Gilbreath, Grady.

Play it Smart has tracked its graduates. Averages for the past three academic years show that:

- ◆ 95 percent of Play It Smart seniors graduate high school compared to 85 percent of their peers;
- ◆ 80 percent enroll in college compared to 62 percent of their peers, with the majority qualifying for full financial aid;
- ◆ 40 percent more Play It Smart participants take the SAT/ACT than their classmates;
- ◆ Play It Smart teams nationwide complete more than 60,000 hours of community service annually;
- ◆ Participants earn more than \$6 million a year in scholarships; and
- ◆ The Play It Smart program is in every Atlanta high school, thanks to a \$180,000 annual grant from the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

"College football holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Atlantans, and we are working to make the city a power center for the activities of the National Football Foundation," said NFF President and CEO Steve Hatchell. "The Chick-fil-A Bowl's leadership in support of Play It Smart is a wonderful way for us to showcase the power of our organization and its ability to shape the lives of young football players into tomorrow's leaders."

Wheelchairs don't slow the Wolfpack team down

WOLFPACK From Page 20

The team started strong and maintained a lead, but saw the Wolverines come within two points in the fourth period.

The 11 players on the co-ed team celebrated with Onie Lawson, the adapted sport liaison for the APS Program for Exceptional Children, which oversees the Adapted Sports Program.

Top scorers for the Wolfpack were Douglass High School senior Reece Johnson, with 18 points, and Maynard Jackson High junior Rodreickus Griggs, with 14. Johnson and Griggs, along with Omega Meade of the Price Middle School, have been invited to play for the elite Georgia Eagles wheelchair basketball team that competes on a national level.

"Wheelchair basketball is a fast-paced sport and it gives the students an excellent chance to develop their skills," said Lawson.

Athletes in three adapted sports — wheelchair basketball, team handball and wheelchair football — compete under the auspices of the American Association of Adapted Sports Program (AAASP), which is recognized by the Georgia High School Association.

Founded in 1996, the award-winning AAASP is a national organization based in Atlanta that addresses the need for standardized interscholastic adapted sports. Atlanta and the state of Georgia have been pioneers in giving disabled students a chance to compete, Lawson said.

"Athletics are a great tool for keeping our students motivated to learn, engaged in the

school community and for stressing the importance of collaboration and teamwork," said state Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "Our partnership with AAASP is part of an ongoing effort to make sure that all students have access to the power of athletic competition."

Lawson has a litany of success stories about what the competition has meant to disabled athletes.

"We have seen all kinds of positive changes in our students — academically, emotionally, and physically," said Lawson. "Some of them live, eat and drink their sport."

For some of the students, just learning how to catch and throw a ball can be a personal victory.

"We had a youngster with cerebral palsy who had a real problem with coordination," said Lawson.

"After a while, he was catching and dribbling the ball."

Then there was another student who was the victim of a shooting that left him a paraplegic. Playing wheelchair basketball allowed him to focus on something other than his disability.

"The boy's relatives were looking for something positive he could do," said Lawson, who added students develop their skills at different speeds and to different levels, but just being part of a program is its own reward.

"For every athlete who competes, we get an opportunity to touch their lives in some way," said Lawson, who admits to fighting back tears when she sees what making progress in their sport means to some of the athletes.

“
We have seen all kinds of positive changes in our students — academically, emotionally, and physically, Some of them live, eat and drink their sport.

Onie Lawson
Wolfpack coach



Members of the APS wheelchair basketball team celebrate another state title.

SPORTS

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Three cheers

Wheelchair hoop team wins third state crown

By RICH FAHEY

APS student-athletes with disabilities are tough competitors.

When members of the Atlanta Wolfpack are moving up court, wheelchairs don't do much to slow them down. So it's no surprise that the Wolfpack captured their third Georgia State Wheelchair Basketball Program title in four years with a 32-22 victory over the West Georgia Wolverines in March.

See WOLFPACK Page 19



Maynard Jackson High School junior Rodreickus Griggs of the Atlanta Wolfpack dribbles around West Georgia Wolverine Laura Ray.

Eight get Smart

APS students score with National Football Foundation

By RICH FAHEY

There comes a day when the cheering stops. For some athletes, it may be after they finish their high school careers; for others, it's after college, and for a select few it may be after enjoying a career in professional sports.

Whenever that day arrives, student-athletes involved in the Play It Smart program truly realize the value of the experience.

The National Football Foundation's Play It Smart program helps

at-risk student-athletes to take advantage of opportunities for higher education. Play It Smart participants graduate and go on to college at rates well above those of their peers.

Launched in 1998, and currently in 140 schools in 85 cities, Play It Smart also trains academic coaches to work with high school football teams during the entire school year, taking the lessons learned on the field and applying them in the classroom and the community.

APS students benefit not only from the academic counseling provided, but also the scholarships that are part of the program. Eight students received Play It Smart scholarships this year — seven football players and one student manager, Brittany West, a student at the Therrell



Brittany West of Therrell won a Play It Smart scholarship.

See PLAY IT SMART Page 19