

# GCS *Monday* Morning

May 14-19

Weekly update for *Gaston County Schools* employees and parents

---

## From the Superintendent – Budget Update

- **Governor’s budget proposal** – Governor Beverly Perdue released her budget proposal last week. It calls for a ¾ cent increase in the sales tax with the money going to fund education. This would save more than 11,000 jobs in local school systems. The key components of Perdue’s budget are
  - The elimination of the entire discretionary cut (\$504 million statewide). This would give Gaston County Schools approximately 10 million additional dollars, which would fund the 234 positions that are to be eliminated next year.
  - Additional teaching positions (\$92 million statewide) to reduce class size in kindergarten and grades 1-3.
  - A 1.8 percent salary increase for teachers, school system employees and all state employees.

Obviously, the Governor’s budget would be good for our school system, but we will have to wait and see what the General Assembly does with her proposal as it works to adopt a final state budget.

- **Local budget request from County Commissioners** – As you may have read in the newspaper, the members of our Board of Education have presented a budget to the county commissioners. They also recently met with your state legislative delegation to seek support for school funding. Employees will receive a letter in the near future concerning the county budget request.

*L. Reeves McGlohon, Superintendent*

## Wells Fargo honors GCS top teachers and administrators

The following educators were honored last Tuesday night at the Evening of Excellence recognition ceremony sponsored by Wells Fargo and Gaston County Schools:

- Teacher of the Year: Julian Wilson – York Chester Middle School
- Principal of the Year: Torben Ross – Grier Middle School
- Assistant Principal of the Year: Jodi Edwards – Woodhill Elementary
- Central Office Employee of the Year: Jim Parks – executive director of auxiliary services

Congratulations to the winners, finalists and other outstanding employees who were recognized during the Evening of Excellence program. Thank you to Wells Fargo for sponsoring this wonderful event again this year. Information about the Evening of Excellence ceremony and a photo slideshow are available on the GCS website, [www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us).

## Board of Education Meeting

The Gaston County Board of Education will meet Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room. The agenda will be available on our website.

### **Board of Education Scholarship Recognition Program**

The annual Board of Education High School Scholarship Recognition Program is Monday, June 4, 6:00 p.m. at Ashbrook High School. The Board will recognize the high school seniors from our nine high schools who receive outstanding scholarships. Parents, teachers and family members are invited to help us honor these outstanding students.

### **2012-2013 School Calendar**

The Board of Education is scheduled to consider changes to the school calendar at its May 21 meeting. Last year, the General Assembly approved a law that increased the number of school days from 180 to 185. Our calendar committee drafted a calendar with 185 days, which the Board approved. Later, GCS like other school districts in the state received a waiver that allows students to attend school for 180 days and designates five days for teacher professional development. School systems requested a waiver because of the extra expense to have children in school for five additional days. After the Board of Education approves the revised 2012-2013 calendar, it will be posted on the GCS website.

### **Last Day of School**

The last day of school – Friday, June 8 – is a regular school day for students. There is no early dismissal on June 8.

### **May 14-17 – End-of-Grade Tests (Grades 3-8)**

### **Coffee with the Superintendent**

Assistant principals (Group 2) will meet with the Superintendent Friday, May 18, 8:00-9:00 a.m. at the Rader Center.

### **Gaston County Schools Nutrition Banquet**

The annual School Nutrition Employee Recognition Banquet will be held Thursday, May 17, 6:00 p.m. at Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia.

### **Receptions for Teacher Assistant, New Teacher Honorees**

The Teacher Assistant of the Year reception is Monday, May 21 at 3:45 p.m. and the New Teacher of the Year reception is Tuesday, May 22 at 3:45 p.m. The programs will be held at the Rader Center.

### **Upcoming Volunteer Orientation**

Volunteer orientation sessions will be held Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 24 at 8:30 a.m. For registration information, call the Business Partnerships office, (704) 866-6329.

### **Student transfer request**

The student transfer window closes Thursday, May 31. Parents should turn in their transfer request as quickly as possible so the request can be processed before the end of school.

### ***The Gaston Gazette Best and Brightest Banquet***

*The Gaston Gazette Best and Brightest* Banquet is May 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the City Club of Gastonia. A panel of judges selects the students who receive a prestigious *Gazette Best and Brightest* scholarship through an extremely competitive application process.

### **Annual Enrollment for Optional Benefits**

Annual Enrollment for Optional Benefits ends Tuesday, June 12. A Pierce Group representative will be available during the enrollment period if employees would like additional information. Employees who would like to enroll should log on to the website, <https://gcsbenefits.hrntouch.com>

### **Gazette to sponsor Star Teacher-Student Awards Program**

The annual Star Teacher-Student Awards Program sponsored by the *Gaston Gazette* is Tuesday, May 29, 4:30 p.m. at the City Club of Gastonia. The program is a highlight of the year because we have an opportunity to recognize the top student in the Class of 2012 from each high school and the educator, as selected by the student, who had the greatest influence on that student's educational career.

### **Tdap vaccine required for rising sixth graders**

All rising sixth grade students are required to receive the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Whooping Cough) vaccine by August 27, 2012. Parents, if your child receives the Tdap vaccine prior to the end of the fifth grade, please send a copy of the immunization record to your child's school nurse. For additional information, contact Susan Neeley, director of school nurses, (704) 866-6264.

**School Events** – For school events, check out the GCS website – click on *Weekly School Events, May 14-19* on the homepage.

**Weekly Point of Pride:** Ashbrook High School students Andrea Cuevas, Lauren Huffstetler and Kelly Roddick will represent the school system this week at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is the world's largest pre-college science competition featuring more than 1,500 high school students from 65 countries, regions and territories. Congratulations to these outstanding students, and we wish them the very best as they represent us at the international event.

**Communications Tip:** When designing a school web page, make sure the information is presented in a user-friendly way. Avoid scrolling messages, pop-up windows, colorful text, animated graphics, busy backgrounds and multimedia items that distract the user from paying attention to the information you want to communicate. Work toward designing a web page that looks clean, professional and organized.

Produced by GCS Communications/Public Information Department, 2012

Submit items to Bonnie Reidy, Chief Communications Officer

[breidy@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:breidy@gaston.k12.nc.us)

