



MagnetMatters

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May 2009

MagnetMatters Highlights

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Wake County Magnet Schools Receive National Awards

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) established the Magnet Schools of Merit Award to recognize the top magnet schools in the United States. Eighteen Wake County Magnet Schools received a merit award by MSA and were honored at the 27th annual Magnet Schools of America Conference. These eighteen magnet schools were selected from a national field of over 2,000 magnet schools based on rigorous criteria that include innovative instructional strategies, student achievement, diversity goals, and parent and community involvement in the magnet school.

The two categories of awards established by MSA are *Magnet Schools of Distinction* and *Magnet Schools of Excellence*. Congratulations to the following magnet schools which received an award:

Magnet Schools of Distinction

Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary
Bugg Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary
Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary
Douglas Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary
Fuller Gifted & Talented / AG Magnet Elementary
Hunter Gifted & Talented / AG Magnet Elementary
Powell Gifted & Talented Magnet Elementary
Underwood Gifted & Talented Magnet Elementary
Wiley International Studies Magnet Elementary
Carnage Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Middle
Centennial Campus University Connections & Leadership Magnet Middle
East Millbrook International Baccalaureate MYP / Creative Arts Magnet Middle
Martin Gifted & Talented Magnet Middle



2009 National Magnet Schools of Excellence

Farmington Woods International Baccalaureate PYP Magnet Elementary
Joyner Center for Spanish Language/International Baccalaureate PYP Magnet Elementary
East Garner International Baccalaureate MYP Magnet Middle
Ligon Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Middle
Enloe Gifted & Talented/ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Center for Humanities, Sciences & the Arts Magnet High



Magnet Elementary School Announcements

A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary is celebrating its relationship with the *LEGO® Corporation* of Denmark, as well as *Panda Express* of California. *LEGO®* has donated WeDo robotics kits for the entire 4th grade team and is planning to train 15 additional teachers this summer in the *LEGO® Serious Play* model. The new kits redefine classroom robotics, making it possible for primary school students to build and program their own solutions. Likewise, *Panda Express* has generously donated \$25,000 towards A.B. Combs' technology initiatives. Combs is fortunate to be recognized by these community partners who support the school in promoting children's creative thinking, teamwork, and problem solving skills – skills that are essential for the 21st century learner.

Picture from A.B. Combs' 21st Century Global Education Summit held on March 18, 2009



Magnet Middle School Announcements

Centennial Campus University Connections & Leadership Magnet Middle awarded Dr. Carol Pope the *Centennial Campus Magnet Middle School Partnership Award* on April 20th at the "Celebrating the Engaged University" Awards Ceremony. Dr. Pope was recognized for her sustained service and outstanding collaboration with CCMMS since its inception. Dr. Pope is the head of Middle Grades Academy at NCSU. Her college class partners yearly with Centennial's sixth grade teacher, Ann Hayes with "Wolfpack Writing Partners" and with seventh grade teacher, Andrea Gambino, with the "Outsiders Project".



Carnegie Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Middle Intermediate and Advanced Strings participated in the Carowinds Music Festival on Saturday, April 18. The Orchestra received "Excellent" ratings from all judges. Congratulations to the students for an outstanding performance!

Ligon Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Middle students took the stage with professional theater company, Burning Coal. Its most recent production, "**1960**", is based on Ligon High School alumni, Joseph Holt's, legal challenge to school segregation. Ligon Middle School 7th grader, K'hyri MacKenzie-Garrett, joined former Ligon students, Jackson Bloom and Olivia Wells, as part of the multi-age, multi-talented cast. The following two 7th graders won the Burning Coal Theatre playwriting contest: Courtney Pisano and Miranda Curtis. They will have their respective one-act plays "The New York Visit" and "Memories of Virginia" performed at Burning Coal's Meymandi Theatre at the Murphy School on June 5, 6 & 7.

Ligon and Martin's German Teacher, Jo Garrison, has been named North Carolina Foreign Language Teacher of the Year by the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina. Congratulations Frau Garrison!

Ligon 7th grader, Shantan Krovvidi, won the 2009 North Carolina Geography Bee held at Wake Technical Community College on April 3. He will represent NC at the National Geographic Bee May 19-20 in Washington, D.C.

Ligon students won the 2009 NC MathCounts Competition. Calvin Deng was first individually and will compete in the National MathCounts Competition in Orlando on May 7-10. Ligon's Algebra Team, led by Allen Jiang, won the UNC-Pembroke Regional Algebra. Fifteen Ligon students qualified for the state finals of the NCCTM competition. At the NC State Math Competition, six Ligon students captured the top 10 positions in Algebra: Michael An (actually a 5th grader at Fuller who takes Algebra at Ligon) placed 1st, followed by Franklin Chen in 3rd, Allen Jiang in 5th, Jenny Wang in 7th, Peter Luo in 8th and Andrew Zhou in 10th. In the Geometry division, Jason Liang was first in the State! Tommy Luo, an 8th grader, placed 7th in Algebra II. Congratulations!



MSAP Matters

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Please contact us with any questions or suggestions!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Performing Arts Week at SRMHS (May 11th-15th):
May 12: Jazz Band and Dance concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 12: Chorus Booster Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.
May 14: Chorus and Band Spring concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 15: Performing Arts Awards Banquet and Ceremony, 7:00 p.m.



We're on the web!!

<http://www.wcpss.net/Magnet/grant/>

↑ GMHS
students with
Osei Appaigyei

News from E. Garner Magnet Middle School

What's happening with Learning Community Projects 2009? Our Year 3 students are busy working on their Learning Community Projects. The Arts group is broken down into several concentrations that include Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Vocalist, Music Production, Drama Tech, and Creative Writing. The Arts group created a play called "My Life My Struggle." This play was performed on April 23rd. The Art students developed the scenes, prepared original art works of the title theme and created various works for the other groups. The Dance students choreographed dances that helped tell the story of the play. They also contemplated creating a video. The Music producers wrote and Vocalist practiced to create and record an album that is also inspired by the theme "My Life My Struggle." Drama and Drama Tech produced the play. Creative Writers wrote songs for the vocalist and poems that were showcased in the play. The money raised from the production will be used to donate to a charity or cause. The Service Group is studying the careers in the service industry. They are focusing on law enforcement, fire and military. They have listened to guest speakers, watched videos, and had group discussions regarding these careers. Students have also learned what it takes as far as education and values such as patriotism to be their best in the career they choose. They are hanging the flags and taking them down everyday as part of their community service. The end result is that they have a clear understanding of what is involved in a service career. Healthcare Group had two guest speakers from a local hospital come to talk to our students about taking and processing blood in the hospital lab and recruitment and retention for the healthcare education programs at Wake Tech. Some of the members of the healthcare group are also participating in the upcoming Relay for Life event as well. The group has collected well over \$3000.00 to donate to the local Relay for Life. EGMMS students are continuing to shine as they grow in their learning communities!

News from Garner Magnet High School

As an International Baccalaureate World School, GMHS faculty members pride themselves in the collaborative spirit through Professional Learning Communities, benchmark testing, interdisciplinary units as well as a host of additional initiatives. The African American Dance Ensemble featuring Chuck Davis welcomed the GMHS community back following spring break. On Tuesday, April 14th, approximately 950 students attended a lecture demonstration that provided students an opportunity to gain an understanding of western African musical tradition illustrated by the dance troupe, self described as an "agent of positive social change reinforcing the best in human values." "Peace, love and respect for everybody" is the theme of the performance which combines dance, teaching and demonstration. Integrated into the performance, students were given an occasion to participate in a friendly dance competition that showcased individual student talents while introducing new concepts. Once back in class, teachers enabled students to make connections between the performance and each of the eight subject areas. Following the demonstration, the dance ensemble divided into two separate groups and facilitated master classes for fifty-nine dance students. Additionally, Osei Appaigyei, facilitated a series of African drumming master classes for the band students. Students learned the names of instruments, commonly used techniques for making the instruments, and a variety of playing skills related to each instrument. Additionally, Mr. Appaigyei handcrafted sixteen, made from cow and sheep skin, African drumming instruments, including Djembe drums, African bells, Djun Djun's and shekeres, that will be used in later band units with the hope of eventually creating an African drumming class that GMHS students can take throughout the semester.

News from Southeast Raleigh Magnet HS

Southeast has been very busy as this school year begins to wrap up. On April 29th, Southeast took two teams to the Psychology Bowl to compete against six other teams from county schools. One of our teams, "Pavlov's Bulldogs", finished in second place! It came down to the last question in the fifth tie-breaker round against Athens High School. The talented students Tia Comrartie, Karishma Desai, Rucca Ademola, and Arielle Chambers brought it home for Southeast in the last two match rounds. Ms. Sylvie Little, a French teacher at Southeast, received the Jules Ferry award for outstanding graduate work in the study of French by an in-service teacher from NC State University on April 22nd. Project Lead the Way and Duke University have certified Southeast for successfully implementing the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. Students in the PLTW program receive college credit for seven of the eight of their pre-engineering courses when they apply for colleges and universities, if they perform well in their pre-engineering courses and pass the PLTW End-of-Course examination. Students in Ms. Mirro's Technical Theatre class (4th period), are presenting their final projects on May 19th. Also, all of her acting classes and all theatre seniors are presenting at the Equity Event on Tuesday, May 26th at 7pm; which is final theatre event of the year. As the weather started to warm up, the Digital Arts CFLC took advantage and attended Raleigh's Domino Day. As a result of the event, the Broadcasting and Digital Arts courses are planning on coordinating a variety of projects for next year. The final performing arts week (May 11th-15th) for Southeast is as follows:
 May 12: Jazz Band and Dance concert, 7:00 p.m. FREE
 May 12: Chorus Booster Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 May 14: Chorus and Band Spring concert, 7:00 p.m. FREE
 May 15: Performing Arts Awards Banquet and Ceremony, 7:00 p.m.