

CLIPPINGS: GCS NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 10 May 7, 2007

"OUR CHILDREN..OUR FUTURE..OUR RESPONSIBILITY"

Blowing Up Stereotypes

Dr. Ronald Ferguson is a Harvard University professor and chairman of the Achievement Gap Initiative. He recently presented at the Virginia Literacy Policy Summit and shared some rather surprising information related to sub-group achievement and other societal issues:

- African-American students who listen to hip-hop music are more confident in the classroom and more likely to make good grades.
- Achievement gaps are more likely to widen in relationship to class "cutting" rather

than socio-economic status or the education of parents.

- African-American students and white students both overwhelmingly, and at approximately the same rate, believe that working hard and getting good grades are important.
- Speaking proper English, trusting others, and listening to rock music are the reasons most often given by African-American students who are picked on for "acting white." Rarely is "having white friends" given as a reason.



"Learning for all, whatever it takes."

40%

Percent of GCPS staff with an advanced degree (many have two!!)

They said it:

"Sometimes we need to be willing to say 'that's just not good enough' without preceding it with 30 seconds of praise."

-Dr. Ronald Ferguson

Actual Notes Given to Teachers: Albuquerque Public Schools

"Dear School: Please excuse John from being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33"

"Please excuse Johnny from being. It was his fathers fault."

"My son is under the doctor's care and should not take fizical ed. Please execute him."

"Ralph was absent yesterday because he had a sore trout."

"John has been absent because he had two teeth taken off his face."

"Please excuse Sara for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot."

"Please excuse Joyce from PE for a few days. She fell off a tree and misplaced her hip."

"Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hit in the growing part."

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Milestones:

Students Pass CNA Exam!

Six **GCPS students** are well on their way to becoming registered nurses after passing the very difficult state Certified Nursing Assistant exam:

Holly Crawford, Victoria Hanson, Teri Johansen, Lauren Knicely, Meagan Laramy, Tiffany Thacker

Congratulations students and **Mrs. Hope Harlow**, nursing instructor.

Staff Awards:

22% of **William Monroe Middle School** students had perfect attendance the third nine weeks! Way to go gang!

Congrats to Educators of the Month at WMMS: **Vickie Powell** in February and **Charlotte Harlow** in March.

Gwenda Snow beat out a tough field at WMMS to earn the Educator of the Month Award for April.

Welcome New Staff!

Jon Rocha—WMMS Language Arts

Mrs. Debra Sacre—WMMS Bookkeeper

Mrs. Cheryl McDaniel—WMMS Instructional Assistant

Mrs. Linda Bone—WMMS Secretary

Kudos from Big Dan!

Dan Mulligan spent May 1 working with the teaching staff from GCPS. He was very impressed, commenting that the primary school had an "awesome" staff. Congrats!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Skills USA Participants Pick Up Several State Awards

SkillsUSA State Competition, Richmond VA April 27-29, 2007

Mary Currier	1st Place	Cosmetology
Michael Hey	4th Place	Building Trades
Jalesa Jackson	5th Place	Cosmetology
Colleen Marchant	3 rd Place	Cosmetology
Justin Morris	4 th Place	Building Trades
Ryan Peacher	3 rd Place	TV Production
John Riggs	7 th Place	TV Production
Chris Shifflett	4 th Place	Building Trades
Matt Taylor	12 th Place	TV Production
Harry Thompson	4 th Place	Building Trades
Jasmine Williams	5 th Place	Cosmetology

The Yoda Corner: Yoda as a 3rd grade teacher:

"Much strife during lunch I see. Recess have you not. Multiplication tables review you will."

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!!

A heartfelt thanks to the GCS Safety Committee who have been meeting faithfully all year developing a more comprehensive safety plan for GCS. Their forward thinking and commitment to the safety of our kids is already paying dividends!!

Committee Members: Spike Richards (chair), Jason Tooley, Larry Hart, Kim Powell, Seth Muraskin, Tonya Cook, Kathy French, Paul Lester, Harry Daniel

Test Taking Tips to Share With Your Student or Child

Before the test:

- Eat before a test. Having food in your stomach will give you energy and help you focus, but avoid heavy foods which can make you groggy.
- Don't try to pull an all nighter. Get at least 8 hours of sleep before the test.
- Put the main ideas/information/formulas onto a sheet that can be quickly reviewed many times, this makes it easier to retain the key concepts that will be on the test.
- Try to show up at least 5 minutes before the test will start.
- Set your alarm and have a backup alarm set as well.
- Go to the bathroom before walking into the exam room, you don't want to waste anytime worrying about your bodily needs during the test.

During the Test:

- Keep a positive attitude throughout the whole test and try to stay relaxed. If you start to feel nervous take a few deep breaths to relax.
- Keep your eyes on your own paper. You don't want to appear to be cheating and cause unnecessary trouble for yourself.
- Do the easiest problems first; don't stay on a problem that you are stuck on especially when time is a factor.
- Don't rush but pace yourself, read the entire question and look for keywords.
- Ask the instructor for clarification if you don't understand what they are asking for on the test. The instructor may not be able to answer, but sometimes they can.
- Always read the whole question carefully. Don't make assumptions about what the question might be.
- If you don't know an answer skip it, go on with the rest of the test and come back to it later, maybe on another part of the test there'll be something that will help you out with that question.
- Don't worry if others finish before you; focus on the test in front of you.
- When you are finished, if you have time left look over your test, make sure that you have answered all the questions, only change an answer if you misread or misinterpreted the question because the first answer that you put is usually the correct one.

.....and, most importantly, mark only the correct answers!!!!

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What's Happening!

Mission Statement

We believe that all students can and must learn at relatively high levels of achievement. It is our job to create an environment in our classrooms that results in this high level of performance. We are confident that with our support and help, students can master challenging academic material, and we expect them to do so. We are prepared to work collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents to achieve this shared educational purpose.

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