



MagnetMatters

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MagnetMatters Highlights

Project Quest Grant Summary (pg.1)

Powell GT Magnet Elementary: *Blues in the School* Program (pg.1)

Douglas Creative Arts & Science Magnet Elementary emphasizes the 8th intelligence: *naturalist intelligence* (pg.2)

Hunter GT / AG students participate in Poster Contest (pg.2)

GT elementary schools participate in All-County Orchestra Festival (pg.2)

Joyner Center for Spanish / IB PYP teams qualify for NC Odyssey of the Mind (pg.2)

Underwood GT teacher award candidate and Grant Llewellyn, NC Symphony Director visits the school (pg.2)

Brooks Museums music teacher is Teacher of the Year Finalist (pg.2)

Centennial Campus University Connections / Leadership Magnet Middle hosts Risk Fest (pg.2)

Ligon GT / AG Magnet Middle wins Math Competitions; is performing *Barococo*; and sponsored "Bolt for the Blue" (pg.2)

MSAP Schools (pgs.3 & 4)

Project Quest Reflects on Grant Impact

Project Quest is an initiative that is funded by the Department of Education as part of the Advanced Placement Incentive Program. This initiative, spearheaded by the Magnet Office, is to increase academic rigor at East Garner Magnet Middle, North Garner Middle, and Garner Magnet High Schools. Project Quest began in June 2005 and the goals have been to increase the number of students from low-income families to pursue post-secondary education opportunities; to increase the number of low-income students enrolled in pre-AP, AP, and IB courses; and to improve their academic performance in these classes. While grant funding officially ends May 31, the commitment from these schools to increase the number of students enrolled in rigorous courses will continue.

To accomplish the Project Quest goals and objectives, faculty at these three schools participated in professional development. The grant provided Paideia training, AP training and IB training for school staff. Partnering with the AVID program allowed Project Quest to provide additional in-school and after-school tutoring services for students. Project Quest was also able to sponsor field trips to college campuses and cultural events and support curriculum writing; adding new courses in alignment with the grant objectives.

Project Quest also assisted the three grant school in developing new partnerships with parents and the community. The grant supported workshops on parental involvement, literacy coaching, and making successful transitions from elementary to middle to high school. New partnerships, such as with NC State University, provided middle school students summer academic camp opportunities and high school students research opportunities with college faculty. Congratulations to all Project Quest school faculty, students, parents and the grant administrator and coordinators for providing students with wonderful academic opportunities and preparing them for post-secondary education.

Magnet Elementary School Announcements

Each year, **Powell Gifted & Talented Magnet Elementary** conducts a *One Book, One School* program, which introduces a single book to the entire school and culminates in a multidisciplinary stage production. In addition, each Powell family receives a copy of the book to share at home. This year, Powell piloted the *Blues in the School* project which is tied to Powell's *One Book One School* program. The Powell community read and discussed the story, *Yesterday I Had the Blues* by Jeron Frame. Powell teachers integrated the blues musical genre' incorporating the music, artwork, dance and history developed during blues recording artist, Roger "Hurricane" Wilson's, residency. The work concluded with a student performance led by Powell's Media Specialist, Jessica Gill, and Drama Specialist, Marta King.



Magnet Elementary School Announcements *Continued*

Douglas Creative Arts & Science Magnet Elementary has its eye on nature! Douglas staff and students are engaged in a grant-funded project entitled, "In Nature's Eye." This unique project connects the arts and the Standard Course of Study (SCoS) with one of the eight multiple intelligences; the naturalist intelligence.

During this project, each grade level will work with an artist to explore their natural environment and make connections to the SCoS. Kindergarten students will work with dance educator, Martha Connerton. First and second graders will share a week-long residency with photographer, Charles Thomas. Third grade students will work with photographer, Charles Thomas of Charlotte's Light Factory. Douglas fourth graders will use photography to explore perspective and point of view and create rich writing to supplement their photographs with writer Mimi Herman. And finally, fifth grade students, with dance educator Martha Connerton, will explore friction, balance, momentum, force and gravity in nature.

All K-5 students will use photography as a part of their exploration and will generate a relevant piece of writing to accompany the photography. Students will compile their photography and writing into published books and donate them to a new "student-created naturalist collection" for the Douglas media center.



Hunter Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Elementary had 7 of the 10 winners for this year's Poster Contest sponsored by the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District. There were 500 entries total and the overall winner was Hunter student, Sierra Cartano, whose poster will enter the state competitions.

Gifted & Talented Magnet Elementary parents and orchestra teachers sponsored this year's Elementary All-County Orchestra Festival. There were 300 student participants, the largest number ever. The day began with instruction from two clinicians, Mr. Jesse Snuggs, Jr., recipient of the Maxine Swalin Award for Outstanding NC Music Educator, and Mr. Scott Laird, Director of Fine Arts at the NC School of Science and Math. After the instruction, there was a formal concert featuring music from around the globe.

Joyner Center for Spanish Language/IB PYP Magnet Elementary had two teams qualify for the NC Odyssey of the Mind Tournaments. Joyner was the only elementary school to qualify two teams.

Congratulations to **Underwood Gifted & Talented Magnet Elementary's** 3-5 I.D. (Intellectually Disabled) teacher, Jessica Benton, for being a finalist for the Diane Kent Parker First-Year Teacher Award. **Underwood's** band and strings classes invited the NC Symphony Music Director, Grant Llewellyn to school. He listened to both the continuing strings and band classes. Underwood has been chosen to partner with the NC Symphony through the Fidelity Future Stage Grant.

Congratulations to **Brooks' Museums Magnet Elementary** music teacher for becoming a Teacher of the Year finalist!

Magnet Middle and High School Announcements

Centennial Campus University Connections & Leadership Magnet Middle School will host **RiskFest** on Wednesday, April 22. Four hundred 6th & 8th grade Centennial students will learn about risk management strategies such as adopting good agriculture handling practices, using alternative fuels, reducing global warming, identifying public health & safety risks, and what they can do to help keep North Carolina viable. RMA's National Outreach Manager, David Wiggins, says "**RiskFest** will enable students to learn risk management skills that will help make a difference in the future of our economy." Indoor, outdoor, and hands-on activities will demonstrate what students can do to keep potential risks manageable.

Ligon Gifted & Talented / AG Basics Magnet Middle won its chapter **Math Counts** competition, taking 7 of the top 16 places. Ligon math students also won the UNC-Pembroke Regional Algebra Competition with all 6 members qualifying for state championships.

Performances at Ligon (PAL) Concert series will present "**Barococo**" on Friday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ligon Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Ligon Orchestra. Ligon sponsored its 2nd annual "**BOLT FOR THE BLUE**" on March 21. Nearly 400 runners braved chilly weather to compete in this USATF certified 5K race which serves as the school's only fundraiser.

MSAP Matters

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Please contact us with any questions or suggestions!

UPCOMING EVENTS! UPCOMING EVENTS!

Below, EGMMS Advanced Dance students performed on stage during the Chuck Davis-African Dance, Interdisciplinary Unit. Great job!



We're on the web!!

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

↑ East Garner Magnet Middle School students!

News from E. Garner Magnet Middle School

Eight EGMMS students traveled to NC State University and participated in the NCSU Champions in the Community Middle School Leadership Conference. This event is intended to engage middle school students in hands-on activities to develop knowledge and skills associated with value-based leadership. The conference will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities within the school longer during their middle school tenure. The eight students chosen will help guide their peers in making leadership decisions if an opportunity arises.

Language B French students made a "City of Paris." This realistic looking city is full of famous monuments while depicting neighborhoods and businesses. It won 1st place overall in the cultural exhibit area of the French festival. Bravo! Other French awards were 3rd place in poetry, 3rd place theatre performance and 1st place in traditional song.

EGMMS held its' annual talent show in the gymnasium. Staff and students displayed exceptional talent in dancing, singing, rapping and step. It was an evening of great fun that we will talk of for many years.

Our Trocaire team celebrated the month of March by having a "Trocaire Day." Trocaire is a Celtic word from Ireland. Ireland is a country that is part of their SCOS. The word means respect, courage and/or kindness. These three words are also character traits. Students and their teachers wore symbols and hats that reflected the culture of the country.

Global Ambassadors are on the road again. They will travel to Aversboro, Rand Road and Creech Road Elementary. They will provide informational sessions for our upcoming 5th graders. Our upcoming Open House for Newcomers is April 30, 2009 from 6:30-8:30. We look forward to seeing you. The ambassadors are enthusiastic and have first hand knowledge of what middle school is all about!!

News from Garner Magnet High School

GMHS receives a superior rating for Band at the Central District Band Festival. March 25-27, 2009 marked the annual North Carolina Central District High School Band Festival. This year the competition was held Holly Springs High School in Wake County, NC.

Approximately forty bands travelling from the central region of North Carolina participated in this three day festival. The purpose of the festival is not for the bands to compete against each other, but rather for each band to perform to mark overall growth.

The students received a rating of "Superior," which is the second superior that the GMHS band has received in the last three years. In addition to the achievement of the students, Jon Caldwell believes that "this recognition gives them [the participating students] a sense of accomplishment because they are recognized for the festival, but also because it is nice for the students to be acknowledged for their hard work and most importantly it encourages each one of them to continue working hard."

On Friday, March 27, 2009, the Garner Magnet High School Symphonic Band travelled to Holly Springs High School to participate in the event. Instructed by Jon Caldwell, a GMHS Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme teacher, the fifty participating students beautifully represented the school.

The students performed a total of three pieces, *Entry March of Boyars* by Johann Halvorsen, *Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Melodies* by Frank Ticheli, and *The Witch and the Saint* by Steve Reineke.

The African American Dance Ensemble featuring Chuck Davis will visit GMHS on April 14, 2009. The group will present a one hour lecture demonstration for approximately 1000 faculty and staff members followed by two master classes, specifically arranged and geared towards GMHS dance students.

News from Southeast Raleigh Magnet HS

In collaboration with the chorus, theatre, band and dance programs at Southeast Raleigh will participate in the Broadway musical "Oliver."

The Performing Arts Department's production of Oliver! include the running man, a graffiti den, and - in addition to our awesome students - a coach and Assistant Principal! April 3 & 4 at 8pm, April 5 at 4pm. To order online, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/58550 OR tickets may be purchased at the door!

Engineering Design is completing their marble sorter projects. The projects are designed to sort marbles by an electronic mechanism by the color of the marbles.

The Southeast Raleigh Rollerz were able to raise and donate \$600 to the Autism Society of North Carolina with its Skate 4 Autism 2008 in November, 2008. The event was wildly successful; therefore, they plan to hold another Skate 4 Autism in early May.

The German IV class returned from 10 days abroad with 12 students. They traveled to Germany, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. There was also a 10 day trip to Japan and a 10 day trip to Spain and Morocco. Since part of our magnet theme is Global Leadership, international travel is supported in our school. It's a great opportunity for our students to use the skills learned in our classrooms on a global scale. All of the students did a great job!

The Visual Arts classes will be very busy this month. Jodi Aker will be presenting to art teachers about Expressive art classes and Leadership emphasis. Several art students will have their work displayed at the Visual Art Exchange Gallery for the month of April along with Michelle Harrell, another Visual Arts teacher, who has an exhibit of prints there. Also The Visual Arts classes are taking students to the NC Museum of Art April 21st to see the American Landscape painting exhibit and the sculpture garden.