

# Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

January 2012



Steve Parrott

## A Message From Our President

Happy New Year!! As we begin a new year at the Partnership, I am excited about several program initiatives we have underway in support of our guiding principles: 1) Promoting best practices 2) Connecting resources and 3) Engaging leaders.

**Excellence in Action - Seeing What Works:** This program will provide business leaders, elected officials and educators the opportunity to visit schools throughout Wake County where classroom practices of special note are making a difference in the academic success and personal development of our students.

Working in partnership with the school district, we will select schools using an approach that emphasizes measurable indicators of success.

There are several expected outcomes of this program, including an opportunity to showcase "best practices" for achieving classroom success and for closing achievement gaps. Another goal is to help spread those best practices to other schools, in part by connecting the resources necessary to implement and monitor successful ideas.

A secondary, yet important, outcome is to better focus community discussion on what it means - and requires - to be academically successful.

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Welcome! We hope you find the information and links in this publication helpful. To find out more about us:

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**Quality Matters:** Still in its early stages, this project infuses a Partnership initiative of years past with some of today's tools for data analysis. Working in consultation with the school district's leadership and others, the Partnership will provide the community with an independent and interactive way to review school performance results.

In addition to traditional print materials that will contain key charts, graphs and text, an interactive website will be created allowing users to easily access school level data in one place.

This information can serve several purposes, but it should be especially helpful to parents now that school choice plays a larger role in Wake County's student assignment process.

I look forward to providing you updates in future newsletters on these and other program initiatives from Wake Education Partnership.

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## teacher leadership grants

### **2012-2013 Grant Applications** **Available Soon!**

The Partnership is offering two types of Teacher Leadership Grants for the 2012-2013 school year. Online applications will be available at our web site in February.

The two type of grants being offered this year are:

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAM GRANTS:** Designed to provide assistance to developing or established professional learning teams (PLTs), these grants will enable those charged with student instruction to organize into learning communities whose goals are aligned with those of the school and the district.



## 2012 Pieces of Gold

**29th Annual Performance**  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Memorial Auditorium**

### **Help Sponsor the Largest Student Performance Event of 2012!**

The 2012 Pieces of Gold performance will be the largest in the school district's history! With more than 1,000 public school students performing on stage from 30 different schools, this promises to be a sold out event at Memorial Auditorium with more than 2,200 people attending.

Wake Education Partnership is pleased to play such a pivotal role in this annual production and we want to offer you the chance to show your support.

Pieces of Gold is far more than the signature display of talent for which it is known. It is also an acknowledgement by our schools, parents, business leaders and community that artistic expression and creativity is an important part of academic achievement as well as the development of 21st century work skills.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are available now to help us support the arts through this event!

Please add your name to the list and join our Presenting Sponsor Progress Energy as well as Capitol Broadcasting Company, Golden Corral, SAS, Duke Raleigh

Professional Learning Team grants will be available in amounts up to \$5,000 for school-wide teams or up to \$2,500 for grade-level or subject-area teams.

**INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION GRANTS:**

Designed to encourage innovative approaches and provide support for teachers and/or teams to enhance instruction. There are now three categories of Innovative Instruction grants.

- General - open to any content area.
- Science - target science achievement and science content.
- Health and Nutrition - target nutrition, health, and wellness.

Innovative Instruction grants will be available in amounts to \$1,000 for an individual teacher application, or \$2,500 for grade-level of subject-area teams.

Teacher Leadership Grants are open to all Wake County Public School teachers, teachers' assistants, school psychologists or counselors, social workers, IRTs and media specialists. Recipients will be notified in May 2012 and will receive funding at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year to implement their grants.

You can support Teacher Leadership Grants with an investment in this program. For more information or to learn more, email [Julie Crain](mailto:Julie.Crain@wakecountypublicschools.org) or contact her at 821-7609.



Hospital, AECOM and Applebee's for this year's 29th anniversary performance of Pieces of Gold.

Your support this year will allow us to use ticket sale proceeds to help fund our [Teacher Leadership Grants program](#). Tickets are available at the Memorial Auditorium Box Office on Wilmington Street or via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Please email [Fran Carruthers](mailto:Fran.Carruthers@wakecountypublicschools.org), the Partnership's VP of Development, for sponsorship details or call her at 919-821-7609 x 130.



**Parents begin making school choices**

Parents wanting to participate in school choice options have until Feb. 24 to [go online](#) and make selections under the new student assignment plan.

## Upcoming Events

### Student assignment mobile enrollment sessions

The Wake County school district is providing a number of mobile enrollment events in the coming weeks where student assignment staff will inform parents about the new student assignment plan and help them choose schools if needed.

New kindergartners, families new or returning to the district, and families who wish to change their pre-assigned school for next year must participate in the online choice selection process that runs until Feb. 24th.

You can find a list of dates, times, and locations [here](#) for the mobile registration events.

The mobile service is just one way parents can select a school. Those who are already registered with the district can select a school online from any computer. For more detail visit the district's [student assignment web site](#).

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## Partnership Connections

Wake Education Partnership is pleased to work not only with local businesses and the school system, but also with a wide variety of groups focused on children and their families.

Below are a few highlights from recent meetings and events.

- The past month saw the continuation of ongoing efforts to help all parents understand the new school choice student assignment plan. Special thanks to Communities in Schools of Wake County, the YMCA of the Triangle Area, Wake County SmartStart and the Boys & Girls Club of Wake

The magnet registration period concluded last month with 4,296 applications for 1,755 available seats. The results were mailed to families in early January.

The current registration period from Jan. 17 to Feb. 24 is focused on students applying to non-magnet schools. All students can choose to remain in their current school under the plan and most are expected to do so. In those cases, enrollment is automatic.

Rising kindergarten students, however, must register and select a school for 2012-2013. Enrollment for rising kindergartners is not automatic.

The district has already registered about half of the expected kindergarten students for 2012-2013 with a countywide push scheduled for early February.

Outreach efforts are ongoing in parts of the county predicted to have low participation rates.

About 4 percent of eligible student have applied to change schools as of this week. Their selections will be granted based upon available seats.

The Partnership was a key player in creating the framework that eventually became the student assignment plan.

To learn more about the plan, visit the school district's assignment [web site](#).

If you have questions about the Partnership's involvement, please contact [Tim Simmons](#) at 919.821.7609.

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## In Their Words Why The Partnership Matters

From time to time, people will graciously drop us a line telling us why the Partnership matters to them. For those of you who have done so, many thanks.

County for working with the Partnership and the school district on outreach efforts.

- On January 9 and 10, the Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy hosted its 9th Annual Legislators Retreat. Partnership staff member Julie Crain assisted the Hunt Institute staff with this event.
- The Partnership was pleased to meet in the past month with members of the Knightdale 100 and the local chamber of commerce to discuss school improvement ideas for schools in eastern Wake County. The Partnership is scheduled to lead a presentation and discussion about "The State of Knightdale Schools" at a meeting organized by the Knightdale 100. It will be Thursday from 7-8:30 pm at the Knightdale Town Hall.

Working with such a wide range of groups is part of [Who We Are and What We Do](#), giving us us an opportunity to learn more about the needs of the district and to make sure the perspectives of local businesses are well represented in discussions at all levels.

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### **Our Cornerstone Investors**

The following have invested in the work of the Partnership at \$10,000 and above. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them and want you to know who they are.

AT&T  
Bank of America  
BB&T  
Biogen Idec  
Capitol Broadcasting Company  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Golden Corral  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
Lifetouch  
News & Observer  
Progress Energy

To get a fuller idea of what it is we do, we encourage you to [visit our site](#) where you can learn more about our work with Wake County's schools.

Don't be shy. Send us an email letting us know why the Partnership's work matters to you. We sincerely appreciate the support.

*"The kindergarten teachers at Olive Chapel Elementary school are looking forward to receiving an Interactive Whiteboard system provided to us by a grant from Wake Ed Partnership. We'll use this system to reinforce literacy skills, specifically phonemic awareness, for our kindergarten students."*

**Mary Decker**  
**Kindergarten Teacher M.Ed., NBCT**  
**Olive Chapel Year-Round Elementary School**

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### ***In Context***

An independent review of school issues for business leaders, elected officials and the education community in Wake County.

*Provided free by Wake Education Partnership*

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SAS  
SunTrust Bank  
Time Warner Cable  
Wells Fargo

## By the numbers...

### A measure of Wake County schools

The ability of a public school system to compete effectively with other education options available to families is critical to a district's long-term success. The following chart, recently released by school planners, shows how Wake's traditional public schools have fared the past decade relative to local private schools, home schools and public charter schools.

Year	K-12 Total	% Private	% Home	% Charter	% WCPSS
2000-2001	115,162	10.4	2.8	2.0	84.8
2005-2006	120,504	9.3	4.4	3.4	82.9
2010-2011	143,289	9.3	4.6	3.1	82.9

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction; NC Division of Non-Public Education

Please contact our [staff](#) at 821.7609 if you have any questions about our work or if you wish to find out how you can invest in public education through the Partnership. If you like what you see here or at our [web site](#), please encourage your friends and colleagues to join our mailing list. It costs nothing to receive Partnership materials.

Join our mailing list

Invest in our work