



# President's Message

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

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## January 2012

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Greetings
- Professional Development
- Community Partner
- Committee Information
- Educator Spotlight

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Greetings!

**College 101: A College Readiness Mini Conference and PEACE Forum was held on Saturday, December 3, 2011.** While it was a rainy and cold morning, we still had students committed to the event that arrived and participated. Our presenters were fantastic and shared beneficial information to assist the students as they prepare for post-secondary life. I would like to give an additional note of thanks to the following individuals for joining me as they donated their time to the students of Garland ISD: Willie Allen, Pshawn Archie, Michael Bland, Ron Bowman, Daylene Carter, Jean Carter, Aishley Cohsn, Pamela Edwards, Carolyn Franklin, Debra Goheen, Sonya Gregory, Marquetta Harris, Tommy Henry, Janice Howard, Nikki Hunter-Jones, Roderick King, Canaa Lee, Conrad Leonard, Donna Mitchell, Christina Nichols, Leah Filzow-Perez, Anna Sifford, Esther Smith, Orenda Spikes, Diana Tharpe, John Washington, Marcus Whitt, Mary Whitt, and BJ Williams.

**On Friday, December 16th we collected, wrapped, and delivered our Adopted Family's** holiday needs and wants. The family, comprised of 2 grandparents and 4 grandchildren, were very grateful for our assistance. Through donations, it would ideal if we could offer items to them in the Spring (Spring Break) or Summer (June) to supplement the families food reserves. I would like to give an additional note of thanks to the following individuals for joining me as we donated, wrapped, and delivered our family's items: Bonnie Barrett, Daylene Carter, Lisa Patterson-Clark, Pamela Edwards, Sheri Flinn, Janae Francis, Loyed Jones, Tracy Kovachevich, LaKorcha Ross, Sherion Stribling, John Washington, Phyllis Williams, and Rockwall Friendship Baptist Church.

**The Habitat for Humanity of Greater Garland hosted their *Hotcakes For Homes* fundraiser on Saturday, December 17, 2011** which included a full breakfast at Applebee's. A portion of the proceeds raised at Applebees was given to Habitat For Humanity and per our contact with the organization, **they raised over \$900!** I had my first experience ever, as being a server as all volunteers waited tables. I have a new respect for those who are in the service industry as it was more difficult than I thought it would be! I would like to thank the following individuals for either donating to this event: Dwight Bogar, Willie Bogar, Daylene Carter, Lisa Clark, Pamela Edwards, Loyed Jones, Roderick King, Carol Montgomery, LaKorcha Ross, BJ Williams, Daisy Washington, John Washington, and Phyllis Williams.

Per our 2011-2012 Plan, we are increasing membership and have increased communication in the organization, college readiness events, professional development opportunities and community participation/partnerships. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting and event!

Warmest Regards,

Lauren A. McKinney, M.Ed.

## Upcoming Events

### NAACP Garland Chapter

*“Celebrating God’s Drum Major: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”*

Event: 23rd Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March

Day/Date: Saturday, January 14, 2012

Location: Parade starts on Dairy Road @ Garden Drive (near Embree Park), Garland, Texas, 75040

Time: 10:00 am

Information: <http://garlandtxnaacp.org>

### GAABSE General Meeting

Day/Date: TBA

Location: Harris Hill Administration Bldg

Time: 4:30 PM

RSVP: TBA

## Professional Development

The Garland Area Alliance of Black School Educators hosts professional development opportunities once a month. Participants receive research based information, continuing professional education (CPE) credit, and a certificate of completion. The professional development sessions are held at Sellers Middle School which is located at 1009 Mars Dr., Garland, TX 75040.

Our next professional development opportunity is being held on a **Thursday**. Due to conflicts in scheduling, the date is to be determined. The Location for this Professional Development is tentatively being held at Parson’s Pre-Kindergarten Center. Date and time to be announced at a later time.

TOPIC: Early Childhood Development

PRESENTER: Parson’s PK Center



## Habitat For Humanity: Community Partner

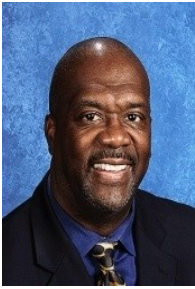
**You Can Help Make A Dream Come True!!**

Habitat For Humanity of Greater Garland, Inc. (HFHGG) provides the opportunity for homeownership to low income qualified families in Garland, Texas by building new, decent, energy-efficient, affordable homes, sold at no-profit, and with an zero interest loan, and sweat equity hours to serve as down payment. Through HFHGG the dream of owning a home in Garland can be a reality for a low income family. We rely on volunteers and donors to do the work we do, and ask that you consider giving your time or a financial donation to HFHGG this year! Sally Muhl is the Volunteer Coordinator and can be reached at [sferrio@gmail.com](mailto:sferrio@gmail.com) or via phone at 972-839-3046.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

[www.gaabse.net](http://www.gaabse.net)

# A Note from the Research Committee



**Dwight Lofton**  
Committee  
Chair

## Turning Around Underperforming Schools by Kenneth Leithwood

“This paper is part (of) the College of (CASS) ongoing efforts to help district leaders in the province raise overall levels of student achievement in their systems and reduce gaps in the achievement of more and less advantaged and culturally diverse groups of students”.

To read the entire research paper, click on the following: [K. Leithwood Research Paper](#).

Retrieved from Education Leader Network: Professional Development eBulletin.

# A Note from the College Readiness Seminar Committee



**Daylene Carter**  
Committee  
Chair

We have several College Readiness Seminar Events and Fundraising Initiatives occurring this Spring! The trips this Spring include Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M University-Commerce. In regards to fundraisers, there will be a couple so please be on the look out for more information as pertains to it in the coming weeks!

**We really need your help!** Please contact Daylene Carter at [drcarter@garlandisd.net](mailto:drcarter@garlandisd.net) and/or Conrad Leonard at [cgleonar@garlandisd.net](mailto:cgleonar@garlandisd.net) if you have questions or time to donate to this committee!



**Conrad Leonard**  
Committee  
Co-Chair

# A Note from the Fundraising Committee

## WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!!

**Dr. Kishawna**  
**Wiggins**  
Committee  
Chair

**On Monday, November 7, 2011** we had a quorum of members present who motioned, voted, and passed, with a majority vote, to "delay the Scholarship Ball/Gala until the 2012-2013 school year with the understanding that an alternate fundraiser would be completed in order to raise the finances required to award Scholarships to qualified students". With that being said we need to brainstorm, plan, and develop a fundraiser(s) to raise finances for Scholarships. We can not be lax in our decision not to host the Gala and not fundraise as it will negatively impact the organization going into the next school year. If you have any ideas or the time to donate, please contact Kishawna Wiggins, Committee Chair, at [kpwiggin@garlandisd.net](mailto:kpwiggin@garlandisd.net)!

# Educator Spotlight



## SEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Virginia Rodriguez** serves as the school librarian at Sewell Elementary School. All fifteen years of her educational experience has been served in the Garland ISD. She has served in GISD since 1997 in a variety of roles which includes being a Paraprofessional, Bi-Lingual Teacher, and Librarian. Virginia has received several honors and awards which includes, but is not limited to, being the Paraprofessional of the year at Sewell Elementary in 2002 as well as the Regular Educator of the year at Sewell Elementary in 2008. Her co-workers have noted that she makes their library an inviting and engaging setting for education and goes above and beyond in everything that she does. "I try to meet student diversity through a balanced collection that ensures equity for all learners." (Virginia Rodriguez)



## COYLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Anna Roome** is the Skills For Living instructor in the Family and Consumer Sciences department at Coyle Middle School. She has served the students of the Garland Independent School District for ten years. She holds several certifications in the educational field and is constantly striving to increase her own professional development. An avid member of the community she has served on the African American Advisory Committee and the March of Dimes philanthropy campaign in the Garland Independent School District. Community members know her to have a strong desire to see all children be successful, regardless of ethnicity, and endeavors to make a difference in the lives of the children she teaches and influences throughout the learning community.



## GARLAND (INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT) ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER

**Patricia Peoples** serves a high needs population at the GAEC. She has a plethora of experience in the field of education with 32 years of experience to date. Of those 32 years of experience, 12 have been served in the Garland Independent School District. She has taught Therapeutic Art at the GAEC for the last 7 years delivering artistic services to students to allow alternate forms of expression. An entrepreneur, she is the owner of a community art school (Brooks-Peoples Academy) which has a focus on tutoring, community service, and art enrichment. Known for fostering and maintaining relationships with the students on her campus, she is known for her dedication, continued support, and going beyond her professional duties with students, staff, and community members.