



CGMS' 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year



Ms. Savannah Cassanova is Cedar Grove Middle School's Teacher of the year for the 2015-2016 school term! Ms. Cassanova started her teaching career at Cedar Grove Middle School in August 2010 as a Special Education Teacher. She believes that a love for learning is the ultimate gift that any teacher can give to their students; therefore she strives to create magical experiences for her students that will evoke memories that they will cherish. She model respect by treating students with the same consideration that she

expect them to have for others. Ms. Cassanova believes that as a teacher her greatest contributions and accomplishments are directly related to the success for her students. Ms. Cassanova participates in the mentoring program at the school, where she guide students to take positive life choices and a sense of their own personal power academically and socially. She gives credit to her mom, also a special education teacher, who taught her what a teacher should be; teach with love, humor, and a dedication to excellence.

(continued on pg. 4)

Inside this issue

Superintendent's Statement.....	2
From the Principal's Desk.....	2
Administrators Page	3
CGMS Basketball.....	4
USA Test Prep	5
Civil Rights Leaders	6-7
Jan/ Feb Calendars.....	8

Special points of interest

- Spelling Bee winners
- Helen Ruffin Bowl
- What is Title I?
- TOTY
- DCSD Technology Fair
- Counseling Week

Superintendent Statement 2015-2016 Central Office Reorganization Phase I



Dr. R. Stephen Green
Superintendent

I am pleased that the Board has approved the first phase of a bold plan to streamline, strengthen and make our executive team more effective, efficient and responsive. As with every strategic move this administration takes, we have one goal in mind – to improve student learning. Since arriving here in DeKalb nearly six months ago, I have observed, researched, evaluated and explored the steps needed to take the DeKalb County Schools to a high level of efficiency. With the Board’s support, we are ready to implement this phase of the plan and move forward. What does this mean to parents, other taxpayers, our teachers and other staff – and especially our students? The plan improves efficiency and effectiveness by providing a de-

centralized – flatter – organization that will improve customer service. It will provide for quicker response, more accessibility and better communication. Our district is already becoming more transparent and customer friendly. For many, it is a cultural change – one I am confident will work and lead to improved instructional delivery and classroom results. It gives us consistency across all regional offices through checks and balances. As our administrative team, teachers and other staff become familiar with the plan, I encourage them to embrace it.

Dr. R. Stephen Green
Superintendent



Dr. Candace Alexander
Principal

Greetings Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students!

Welcome back to the second semester for the 2015-2016 school year. Please keep in mind that students are given 3 opportunities a week to earn grades so please encourage your children to complete all assignments and submit them to their teachers. Remember, if the student is present in school they are expected to complete their work. It is the teacher’s discretion to provide any extra credit. Parents and students are expected to use Launch Pad, Infinite Campus, and USA Test Prep to monitor progress in school. Parents and students, there are under 45 days and counting to the Ga Milestones. In order to be promoted students must meet the following guidelines:

- 1) Content Completion (CC)- Pass all classes
- 2) 1050 or above Lexile (mandatory for all 8th graders)
- 3) 36% Student Growth from on year to the next on the Milestones
- 4) Pass all Georgia Milestones

Please keep in mind all the aforementioned requirements and encourage each student to meet each goal. Let’s begin the second semester as 5 Star Completers!

CGMS' Administrators Page



Ms. Patricia Wells
8th Grade Administrator

Happy New Year Parents, Teachers, and Students! As the 8th grade administrator and discipline office I look forward in working with you to continue the efforts in a successful semester. Lets work together in creating the tone of respect and order with our students. This will work hand and hand in helping the students increase their grades and decrease any discipline issues that may hinder them for progressing positively to the next grade. To help support our students increase their scores to at least 1050 on the GA Milestones we will have after school tutoring sessions. Starting February 11, 2016 after school tutorial will begin and continue every Tuesday and Thursday through March 31st. Times for after school tutorial is from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. A letter will be sent home to all students who have been accepted for the program. Parents if you have not received your letter by February 8, 2016 please note that your child has been placed on the waiting list until a space is available. Lets continue to have a 5 Star year!

Welcome back to the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. As your 7th grade administrator and attendance office we urge all parents to work with us in keeping all students in compliance with the DeKalb County School District Attendance Protocol. Parents please provide an excuse when you have to keep your child(ren) out of school due to sickness or family emergencies. Please note only when an excuse is given for an absence will the student be able to receive make-up work. The teacher does not have to provide make-up work to students that has not provided an excuse for their absence. Also parents please send any transportation changes for your child in writing with a working number to get in contact with you if needed. Only written requests will be honored. Parents lets work together to stay in compliance with the attendance protocol and continue to have a great school year!



Mr. Overton Wright
7th Grade Administrator

Greetings Parents, Teachers, and Students! As your assistant principal of instruction I look forward to continue working with our students to increase instructional performance. We expect that all teachers continue to provide quality instruction to our students at CGMS. We have been administering our STAR Testing from January 15-29 and will be issuing a school-wide Writing Assessment on February 4, 2016. Also parents please note that Progress Reports will be issued on Monday, February 8, 2016; and following the next day on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 we will hold a Parent/Teacher conference from 5-7pm at CGMS. I look forward to working with you, parents and teachers, in continuing the success of mastering the GA Milestones and being content completers at CGMS.



Dr. Shelton Bernard
6th Grade Administrator

Teacher of the Year 2015-2016 ~Mrs. Savannah Cassanova~



Congratulations to Asia Armour and Sumayyah Law for representing The CGMS News Team at the DCSD Technology Fair Saturday January 30, 2016! They did an awesome job! To view their project log onto the CGMS school website at www.cedargroves.dekalb.k12.ga.us/



The English Language Arts Department's Spelling Bee Committee extends a very special thanks to all the Cedar Grove Middle School's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Saints who participated in our school-wide spelling bee competition in January. As a result, a **SUPER SAINTS CONGRATULATIONS** are in order for the following winners: First runner-up is Skylar Colman, from team 8B; and our 2016 Local school-wide Spelling Bee Champion is Jaheam Charles also from team 8B. Jaheam will be participating in our district-wide spelling bee competition. It will be held in the auditorium at the Administrative and Instructional Complex on Thursday February 4, 2016.

Congratulations to both of our winners!

Ms. Cassanova was born in Livingston, New Jersey on January 18th to the parents of Sheron and Paltimore Cassanova. She moved to Georgia her sophomore year of high school and attended Stephenson high School. She graduated from Stephenson with honors, top 10% of her graduating class, in 2005. In August of 2005, she started Armstrong Atlantic University as Biology major, planning on becoming a doctor; but she soon realized that her passion was for teaching. At the end of her first year she changed her major to Special Education, and thus started her journey to becoming an educator.

While at Armstrong she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Tau Alpha Chapter, in March 2007. In May 2010 Ms. Cassanova graduated Armstrong Atlantic Cum Laude with a B.S. Degree in Special Education.

She then continued to obtain her MA degree from Grand Canyon University in 2012.

Ms. Cassanova is currently pursuing her certification in Applied Behavior Analyst at Cappella university.

Ms. Cassanova enjoys music. In her early years she sang on the choir, and was a soloist at weddings. She loves to bake, and enjoys food. Family is very important to her, and she loves children. She is the proud godmother of Aubrey, Kennedy, and Omar Jr. With her faith and determination. Ms. Cassanova continues to strive for her goals with a smile on her face through it all.

Congratulations Ms. Cassanova!

Cedar Grove Middle School Basketball

We are pleased to announce that Cedar Grove MS will be hosting the DCSD Middle School Basketball semi-finals on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, as well as Middle School & Junior Varsity Championship games Saturday, February 13, 2016. Please see Coach Latimer if your club/group would like to reserve a time slot for the concession stand. **Times will be given on a "first come, first serve basis"**.



Cedar Grove Middle School has under **40** days until the GA Milestones. The test will be given on April 18-29, 2016.



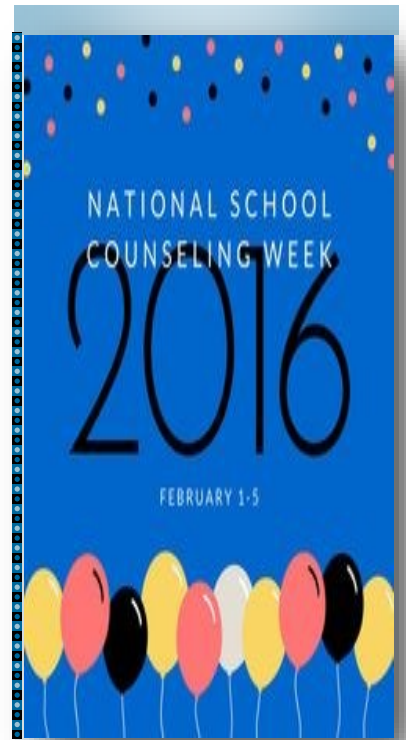
Title I is a federal grant program designed to give educational assistance to students living in areas of high poverty. The Title I program originated in 1965 when congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and was reauthorized in 2001 with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act. Title I is one of the oldest and largest federal programs supporting elementary and secondary education in existence, and over 90% of the school systems in the United States receive some sort of Title I funding.

The Title I program provides financial assistance through State Educational Agencies (SEA) to Local Educational Agencies (LEA) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards. Title I reaches about 12.5 million students enrolled in both public and private schools. Title I funds may be issued for children from preschool age to high school.

In order for a school to receive Title I funds the school must be ranked to the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Schools with 75% of students in poverty are automatically allocated Title I funding. Schools with 35% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch are eligible to receive Title I funding, However it is the discretion of the school division as to the number of schools to serve.

Title I funds are used to hire additional staff, purchase instructional materials and provided professional development to support students identified as low achieving in reading and math so that they are able to show proficiency on reading and math state assessments.

Title I schools are required to develop a parent engagement policy that specifically outlines how the school will support parents with their students' learning.



CEDAR GROVE MIDDLE HAS USA TESTPREP!

USA Test prep offers more than practice questions. It includes games, puzzles, animations, skill-work exercises, and self-directed activities - all aligned to your state's standards, including Common Core.

USATestprep, Inc. is recognized as a leader in online review for high school, middle school, and elementary school standardized testing. USATestPrep has been helping students with high-stakes tests since 1998 and currently offer a multitude of review products and subject areas for subject area end-of-grade, end-of-course, graduation level, or college entrance assessments. Programs are tailored to both individual state and/or Common Core standard. All Core Area teachers have assigned work to all students. Parents, please check your student's progress:

<http://www.usatestprep.com/Member-Login>

Member Login

User ID: cedargrove68

Username: student ID

Password: student ID (all lowercase)



1935-2014

The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

Mrs. Helen Ruffin, a dynamic and innovative Library Media Specialist at Sky Haven Elementary School in DeKalb County, created a unique reading competition in 1986. It was called The Reading Bowl and, in a competitive game format, questioned students about the content of the 20 Georgia Book Award Nominees each year. Her vision was to have teams, comprised of students from different schools, compete to test their knowledge of the selected books.

To participate in the annual Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, elementary and middle school students must read the current Georgia Children's Book Award Nominees. The Georgia Book Award Nominees is the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl's official reading list.

Rules of the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

Each school will participate in six rounds.

Each round will consist of 10 questions.

Alternates may be substituted between rounds.

Teams will receive 10 points for each answer.

There will be no penalties for wrong answers.

There will be five members on a team and up to five alternates.

A school may have no more than one team.

Kudos to the Cedar Grove Middle School Team for placing reading first!

Students:

If you would like to join next year's team please see

Ms. Pete, Media Specialist

Cedar Grove Middle School Honors Black History Month



Rosa Parks is known as “ the mother of the civil rights movement”. Her brave contribution began on a crowded bus in Montgomery, Alabama. During this time everything was segregated so were the buses. Black people had to sit at the back of the bus and white people towards the front. If the bus became crowded black people was forced to give up their seat on the bus. On December 1, 1955 Ms. Rosa Parks had a long day at work and her feet were sore . The white section on the bus was filled and a white passenger expected Ms. Parks to get out of her seat

and let her sit instead. Ms. Parks refused to give her seat to the white passenger and sat there until the bus driver was forced to call the cops. As small as this action may seem it actually fueled the whole civil rights movement to the next level. In response to her arrest the Montgomery black community launched a bus boycott, which lasted for more than a year.

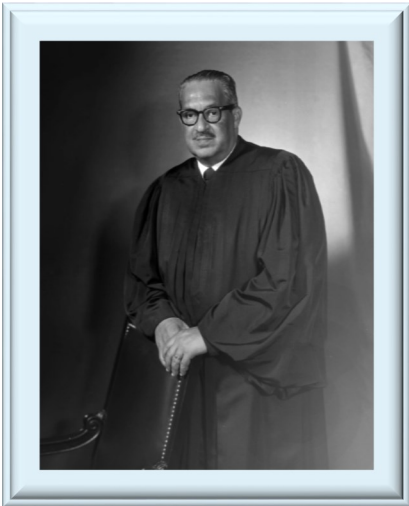
With the help of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other organizations the buses were desegregated Dec 21, 1956. .



The impact Dr. Martin Luther King had on the Civil Rights Movement is astounding. Dr. King’s leadership in the Civil Rights Movement was inspired from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teaching of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. King led the nonviolent movement from December 1955 until April 4, 1968. His influence in the civil rights movement as a nonviolent leader had many critics to include Malcom X who believe by any means necessary we should fight to gain victory in the civil rights movement. Despite others belief he continued and succeeded with his dreams of an unsegregated country and equal opportunity for all citizens on American soil. Some of his accomplishments include being elected as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) in 1955; the president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), creation of the Civil rights Act of 1964; the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and of being the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. His most memorable accomplishment is his inspiring speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. this speech was a defining moment of the American civil Rights Movement.



Highlighting Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement







Thurgood Marshall was a courageous civil rights lawyer during a time when segregation was the law of the land. During this time the majority of American society refused to view and treat black people as equals to a human being. Thurgood Marshall realized that one of the best ways to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961 he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them. His most important case was *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) which ended segregation in public schools. This was a huge bullet point in the civil rights movement for all humans to be treated as equals. Thurgood Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court justice in American history.






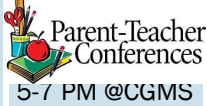


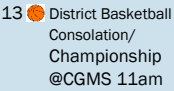



Shortly after the huge win Thurgood Marshall made at the Supreme Court with *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*; nine black teenagers from Little Rock, Arkansas (known as The Little Rock Nine) went to an all white school to earn an education. Although segregation was outlawed by the Supreme Court many school systems defied the law by intimidating and threatening black students. Central High School was a prime example of this ignorance. On the first day of school the governor of Arkansas ordered the state's National Guard to block the black students from entering the school. President Eisenhower had to send in federal troops to protect the students. Even though these students received death threats and ultimate disrespect, they challenged and persevered through a racist system and defeated it.



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Teacher Work Day (Students do not report)	5 Students Return First Day of 2nd Semester	6 Basketball Game CGMS vs. Chapel Hill Home 5pm	7 School Wide SLO Testing	8 School Wide SLO Testing	9 Basketball Game CGMS vs. Columbia Away 10am
10	11 	12 School Wide SLO School Council Meeting @5:30pm	13 Basketball Game CGMS vs. McNair Home 5pm	14  6pm; Title I @ 6:30pm	15	16
17	18 	19	20 Basketball Game CGMS vs. Stephenson Away 5 pm	21  9am	22	23 Basketball Game CGMS vs. Salem Home 10am
24	25	26 Student of the Month Breakfast 9am Title I Parent Workshop 5:30-6:30pm	27 1st Semester Award Day 9:15 am Teacher of the Year Banquet 5pm	28 Rising 9th Grade parent advisement Meeting 6pm	29	30 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Tucker HS
31						

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 	3 	4 School wide writing assessment.	5	6
7	8 	9  5-7 PM @CGMS	10  Basketball Semi Finals 5pm	11  Tutoring Begins after school 4:30-6:30PM	12 School is Closed.	13  District Basketball Consolation/ Championship @CGMS 11am
	15  School is Closed.	16 After school Tutorial 4:30- 6:30PM	17 Region V Family Engagement Center Open House 6pm-8pm	18 After School Tutorial 4:30- 6:30PM	19	20
21	22 Title I Parent Workshop Topic ELA 5:30-6:30pm	23 After School Tutorial 4:30- 6:30PM	24 PTSA 5:30PM Black History Pro- gram 6PM	25 After school tutorial 4:30- 6:30PM	26 CGMS Track Meet 	27
28	29					

SPECIAL THANKS!!!!

Ms. Priscilla Jenkins and The CGMS News Team Members

Administration and everyone who contributed at CGMS!!!!

Cedar Grove Middle School Newsletter is a bi-monthly bulletin showcasing our awesome staff, students, parents, school events, important changes and updates, and community information. If you have any events or information you would like to add please contact Ms. Jenkins at

Priscilla_Jenkins@dekalbschoolsga.org or 678-874-4220. On behalf of the CGMS Newsletter team we hope you enjoyed and please spread the word!