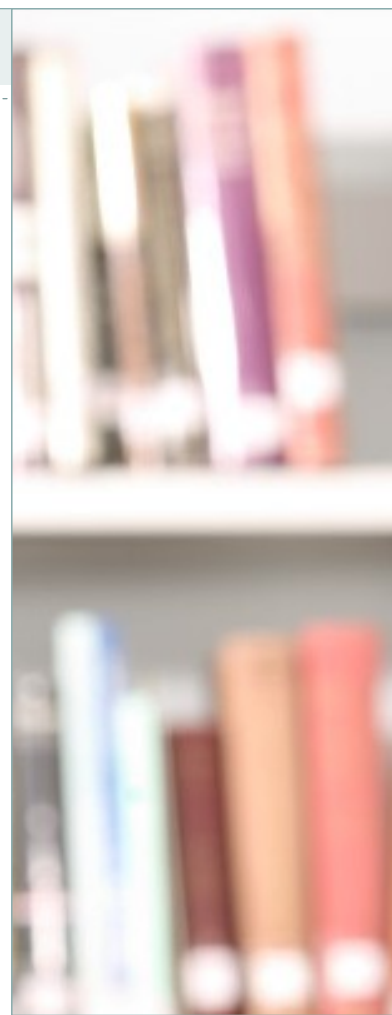


Family, Community and School Together in Success!

Parenting- The most rewarding, but also the *most challenging* job we'll ever encounter! WCPSS understands that every parent, grandparent or guardian who entrusts his/her child to one of our 163 school communities, has hopes, dreams and visions of success for their child. WCPSS has the same goal! Working together, families, community and school can help children succeed, not only in the school setting, but in life.

WCPSS has many departments designed to provide information and resources that promote student achievement. The Community Services Department is specifically devoted to creating structures that make it easier for parents, guardians and community members to become volunteers and active partners with schools. A new and exciting resource called Parent Academy is being developed and will provide free practical skills training for Wake County parents with school aged children.

The first issue of *Family, Community and School - Together in Success* will address ways in which the Community Services Department will foster the WCPSS mission and vision for student success and achievement. It will also provide families and community members with helpful and empowering information that can create proactive change and powerful alliances.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Getting Involved Through
Community
Services..... 2-3

Implications of
Globalization..... 4

Meet Kathy Rackley, Family
and Community Outreach
Senior Administrator.....5

WCPSS Mission, Vision and
Core Values 6

Coming to Volume 2:
Parent Academy



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



Getting Involved is Easy..... Right?

“I wanted to volunteer and get more involved in my child’s school, but I got so confused when I went to the WCPSS website and I almost gave up.” - Anonymous Parent

WCPSS is a LARGE system. In fact, it’s the largest school district in the state and the 18th largest school district in the nation! As with any large organization, there are going to be advantages as well as challenges. One advantage is the diversity in our school system. The WCPSS 2010-2011 District Overview reports that the enrollment of White students, Black or African-American students and Two or More Races has declined as a percentage of total students, while Hispanic/Latino, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander student enrollment has increased. Creating a ‘one stop’ resource that meets all the different needs of our diverse community can be a challenge. The Community Services Department is developing new structures in response to this very challenge and need.

Have you, a parent, guardian or community member ever searched for information pertaining to WCPSS, only to end your search with a feeling of frustration because you could not find the information you needed? Your search may have started on the WCPSS website, such as the parent quoted above. Two weeks previously, her third grade daughter had brought home an invitation to a Title 1 after school presentation on strategies to improve reading fluency. The parent wanted to attend the session, but she worked evenings and could not. She decided a better option would be to visit her daughter’s classroom during the school day to observe a reading lesson. She remembered hearing something about registering with an online system before visiting or volunteering in the school; so she went to the WCPSS website. Once she started clicking on links and entering departments, she realized that while the website was a wealth of information, she was having difficulty finding the information she needed at that moment.

After searching for fifteen minutes, the parent stopped searching and called her daughter's school. She then received the information she needed and followed the process to become a classroom volunteer. As a result, the mother was able to help her child during the school day, something she was not able to do in the evenings. The girl's academic growth blossomed and a strong partnership between home and school began.

The Community Services Department is striving to make it easier for ALL parents, guardians and community members to become more involved at school. Through the implementation of *The School Self-Assessment of Family and Community Involvement Practices*, schools will improve systems and structures designed to foster partnerships that strengthen school programs, families and student learning.

Getting involved and supporting our community's public school system is important..... and it's about to get easier! Look for the WCPSS 'Volunteer' section on the homepage of www.wcpss.net. Our goal is to provide the information, resources and guidance you need to take the next step in becoming an active participant in changing lives for a better today and a brighter tomorrow.

“Research clearly connects family and community involvement to student success and shows that active, meaningful engagement from parents and others helps schools boost student achievement and produce graduates who are prepared to be productive, globally-competitive citizens. If we are to achieve our goal of graduating every North Carolina student from high school prepared for college and a career, we must stop viewing schools as the only responsible source of student success. Young people have so many influences in their lives—at home, in school, and in their communities. Failure to establish a home-school-community collaboration aimed at increasing student success puts our children's futures at stake. The good news is that many school leaders across the state have realized the value of connecting parents and community members to what is happening in the classroom.”

June St. Clair Atkinson

State Superintendent

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO WORK TOGETHER?



Americans live in an increasingly interconnected world. We must come together to collectively make a conscientious effort to gain more knowledge of other cultures and other countries. John Engler and James Hunt address the implications for the education system in the article [Preparing our Students for Work and Citizenship in the Global Age](#). They contend that the education system must promote international knowledge and skills for the following reasons:

- A global marketplace demands an internationally competent work force. One in six jobs is tied to international trade and that number will certainly increase with the current globalization trends. Today's technology will certainly expedite this process and it is quite possible that three to four of six jobs will involve international trade within the next ten years. It is also important that we change the current situation in which minorities are underrepresented in international careers. While we're focusing on understanding different cultures from different countries, it is equally important that we strive to understand the different perspectives and cultures that exist right here in America.
- Global issues threaten peace and stability for the entire world. Issues such as terrorism, poverty, HIV/AIDS and environmental degradation require increased knowledge of world religions, cultures and languages.
- As more and more students from other countries and cultures enter American schools, there is a need for greater understanding of these students' needs and contributions.

Globalization is indeed affecting education in the U. S. We have no choice but to respond to the needs of our learners. Learning about other countries and cultures is clearly necessary for competition in a global economy, but more importantly, it is necessary for effective collaboration and problem-solving in our interconnected world.

Meet **Kathy Rackley**,
Family and Community Outreach
Senior Administrator



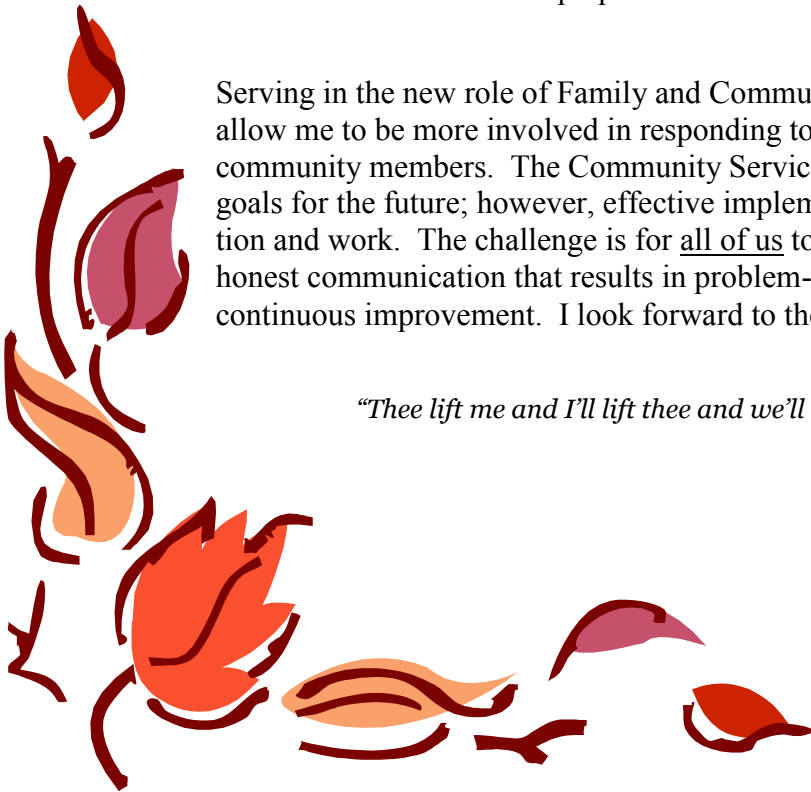
It is my privilege and honor to work with you, the families and community members of Wake County, as we strengthen the partnerships that will best support our youth. My journey as an educator with WCPSS began at Lincoln Heights Elementary in 1993, when I obtained my first teaching job as a kindergarten teacher. Little did I know 18 years ago, that I would remain with the Lincoln Heights school family as I learned, grew and made professional changes. During my years with Lincoln Heights Elementary, I served as a kindergarten teacher, first grade teacher, media specialist and assistant principal.

While growing and changing professionally, I was also growing and changing personally. My husband and I had two daughters who both went through the WCPSS system. My oldest daughter has graduated and my youngest daughter is a sophomore in high school. Both girls have had amazing learning opportunities through Wake County schools and have gained new insights and perspectives from diverse peers and friends.

My husband and I are very proud of the responsible young ladies our daughters have become, but we know we have not fostered their development alone. Fortunately for my children and your children, WCPSS strives for continuous improvement in providing a world-class education and prepares students to be productive citizens.

Serving in the new role of Family and Community Outreach Senior Administrator will allow me to be more involved in responding to the needs of our students, families and community members. The Community Services Department has tremendous vision and goals for the future; however, effective implementation of those goals requires collaboration and work. The challenge is for all of us to support one another through consistent and honest communication that results in problem-solving and a relentless commitment for continuous improvement. I look forward to the journey that lies ahead!

"Thee lift me and I'll lift thee and we'll ascend together." ~ Quaker Proverb





WCPSS MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

The Wake County Public School System will significantly increase achievement for all students by providing a world-class education that equips students with the knowledge and expertise to become successful, productive citizens.

The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century.

WCPSS CORE BELIEFS

1. All children, regardless of socio-economic circumstances, can be high achieving students.
2. Academic achievement gaps can and will be eliminated by aggressively challenging students at all achievement levels.
3. Highly effective principals and teachers are the key to improving growth in student achievement.
4. The Board of Education and Central Services promote an environment of continuous improvement that results in a high performing organization and is 100% focused on student achievement.
5. Supportive and passionate parents, families, student mentors, and other members of the multicultural Wake County community are active participants in the education of our students.

VISION

WCPSS will serve as the national standard for increasing student achievement in the 21st century. Highly effective teachers and principals are empowered to raise the achievement of all children and will provide students with high quality classroom instruction that fosters intellectual development.

WCPSS recognizes children have different needs and is committed to ensuring all are challenged to reach their full potential. Students will graduate in increasingly high percentages and compete successfully as productive citizens. WCPSS will continue this community's proud tradition of education leadership and academic excellence with a proactive school staff, effectively supported by the Board of Education and Central Services.



Works Cited:

1. Engler, John and Hunt, James. "Preparing Our Students for Work and Citizenship in the Global Age." Phi Delta Kappan. November 2004: 197-201. Proquest. February 5, 2007.

<<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=9&did=737581841&SrchMode=1&sid=5&Fmt=3>>

2. Johnson, Doug. "Skills for the Knowledge Worker." Teacher Librarian. October 2006: 8-14. Proquest February 5, 2007 <[Http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=4&did=1135117921&SrchMode=1&sid=9&Fmt=3](http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=4&did=1135117921&SrchMode=1&sid=9&Fmt=3)>

3. "NEA and the 21st Century Partnership." NEA. February 7, 2007. <<http://www.nea.org/technology/21partnership.html>>

4. WCPSS. Wake County Public School System. 18 September 2011. <<http://www.wcpss.net/>>