

Soviet Educators Visit DeKalb As Part Of Conference

DeKalb
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DeKalb teachers and students recently had opportunity to share in a 12-day visit of Soviet educators from Moscow and Leningrad. Throughout their stay in Georgia, the Russians engaged in a series of meetings at Georgia State University and Dunwoody High School, as well as visited at Peachtree Junior High and DeKalb's Kittredge Magnet. The culminating event was a day long international conference at Tucker High School.

These representatives from the Soviet Academy of Pedagogical Sciences came to the metro-Atlanta area as the second segment of a three-year program of teacher exchanges and collaborative work on a Global Thinking Project, jointly sponsored by Georgia State University and the Soviet Academy. Last year, DeKalb teachers had traveled to the Soviet Union and Dunwoody High School had welcomed a return group from Russia.

This unique cross-cultural curriculum Global Thinking Project was presented at the international conference held this year at Tucker High. Prior to the business of the day, they were greeted as guests at a breakfast reception in the media center. Flags of the two countries and many peace signs decked the building. The Tucker band played the two national anthems.

Nine Tucker students who speak Russian fluently and students from DeKalb's Foreign Language Magnet acted as interpreters where needed. The visitors distributed gifts brought from their native land -- nests of little carved wooden dolls, posters and even a tape of Beatle Paul McCartney singing in Russian.

Host coordinator, Tucker Assistant Principal Kay Burke said, "It was a warm, wonderful experience. Memorable! It carried out perfectly the theme of the day: 'A Bridge to Understanding.'"

Approximately 65 Georgia educators as well as DeKalb staff members and students shared the morning sessions that focused on "Teaching and Learning in Soviet Schools." Afternoon sessions addressed a range of topics and rap sessions on the teaching of Russian/American literature in each country, the crisis in math/science, comparative research on how Soviet and American teachers perceive the goals of education, and a report on the U.S./U.S.S.R. Global Thinking Project. Ultimately, a teachers resource book on global thinking will emerge under joint authorship.

Well aware that all work and no play might make Ivan a dull visit, sightseeing events were also included in the cultural interchange. The calendar for the visiting Soviets featured evenings at the Fox Theater and a Hawks basketball game as well as trips to Dahlonega and Amicolola Falls and tours of the High Museum and the Carter and King Centers.

DeKalb is one of three Atlanta-area school systems participating in an analysis of common areas of agreement of educational goals endorsed by U.S. and Soviet educators. DeKalb schools involved are Vanderlyn Elementary, Peachtree Junior High School and Dunwoody High (a demonstration school).

Dunwoody principal Jennie Springer was recognized as one of

the pilot school administrators providing initial support for the research study survey conducted under the leadership of nationally known educator John Goodlad.

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Computer Demons Tooted

→ Peachtree Junior High student LaShanda Paul, (at computer) demonstrates her skills to Professor Simon Vershlovsky (standing) of the Leningrad Research Institute and Professor Irina Yakimanskaya (foreground) of the Moscow Research Institute.

School

DEKALB NEIGHBOR 2-8-06

Middle school prepares to open new facilities

By Leslie Prall
DeKalb Neighbor Staff Writer

Students at Peachtree Charter Middle School can expect phase one of the building's renovation project, which includes a new gym, art lab and cafeteria, to be complete in time for the start of the next school year.

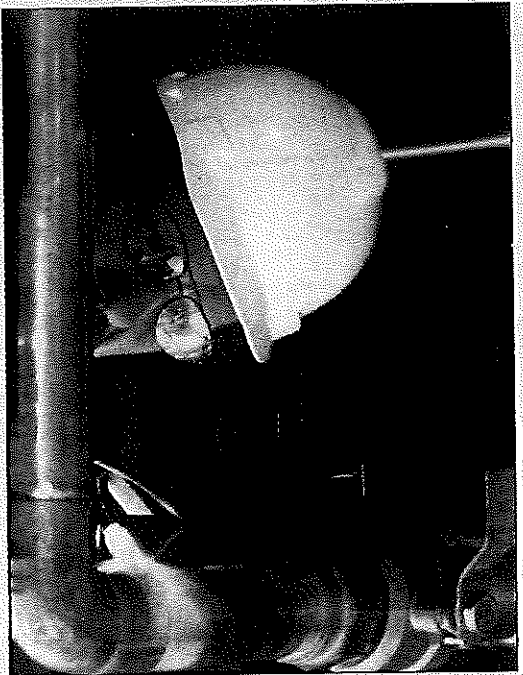
The Dunwoody school, located at 4664 North Peachtree Road with a population of 1,085 students, was built in 1967 and has consistently suffered heating, air and roof leakage problems, according to school officials.

"The pipes and wiring were old, and the roof needed to be replaced," District 1 DeKalb County School Board Member Chip Franzoni said. "The core infrastructure to the facility itself needed substantial work to be a long-term viable building."

According to Peachtree Charter's principal Steve Donahue, the facility's problems go beyond leaky pipes.

He said the school needed to be updated for technological advances.

"With upgrades in technology taking place, it would be hard for the infrastructure to handle the



Plumber Rick Hanzler welds pipes together in the expansion of Peachtree Charter Middle School.

Lawson
Wright/Staff

demand for computers."

The three phase project, which began last year, will give the building a non-traditional look with sloping roofs, brickwork and green space.

Besides a new cafeteria, gym and art lab, the first phase will also include a music pod that will house the school's band, orchestra and chorus. Students can also enjoy a new weight room and a health room.

The second phase will see the

demolition of the old gym to erect a new three story main school structure.

Sixth-graders will be housed on the first story, seventh-graders on the second, and eighth-graders on the third.

During the third phase the remaining structures will be demolished and replaced with green space. Donahue said he predicts the project, which has a budget of about \$20 million, will be complete in 2007.

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ve from the Fulton County line, fast-food joints, partially abandoned, as well as such jewels as the tore and Avondale Mall, before e jail, now under construction. lar, it's mostly retail - some of gy.

of the St. Timothy's United ; drive to put together a team, secular leadership of central beautification efforts aimed at ea for the Olympic Games in ticipants, is critical to such an ; a community around for such

lie-class homeowners from the ar is not necessarily to leave." a unified and brighter Memorial sing a branch of the Stone sing a project endorsed by local Liane Levetan, Commissioner Henson, along with civic and

t has indicated some interest in still just beginning. At a meeting Church, the group brainstormed if geographical limitations. After way across the county, from the swimmer.

ak up into workshop groups but ese defining issues. The most r the group was Pride Rings in

Neighbors tired of traffic

By DEBBIE STRICKLAND

Some residents of the Doraville neighborhood surrounding Peachtree Junior High School are asking for relief from the high volume of commuter traffic using their streets as a cut-through from Tilly Mill Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.

While angry residents of a nearby Chamblee community (see story, p. 1A) are suing their City Council over the June decision to close Keswick Drive for safety, these Doraville residents are initiating a safety-oriented push to close three intersections in their neighborhood.

Already, opposition has sprung up. Local resident Geraldine Penn shared information with the DeKalb County Board of Education at a work session last Tuesday.

A letter distributed throughout the neighborhood and signed by 18 area residents advocates closing for 90 days the intersections of Tilly Mill with Stonington Road, Dunkerlin Drive, and Dimover Circle. During this trial period, the resi-

dents who support the road closing hope to win over opponents, who are concerned about the possibility of delays in entering and leaving the subdivision.

The letter states, "A problem of this magnitude makes ALL of Dunwoody North less desirable, and therefore hurts property values for all of us."

In addition to the traffic safety issue, residents are concerned about crime, including recent mailbox thefts, which they say would be reduced if the intersections were closed.

A letter from Penn addressed to numerous local politicians countered by listing the problems a road-closing would cause, including safety hazards for children on the North Peachtree Road side of the subdivision.

The school board listened to Penn, who provided the board members with documents and pictures. No action was taken, since Penn's purpose was merely to apprise the board of the situation. During the business part of the work session, the board adopted the

consent agenda for Monday night's meeting. The agenda consists of items the board will approve as a package. Among the items is this list of sex-education videos available for classroom checkout by teachers:

Fourth-sixth grades - *Boy to Man, Girl to Woman, and Then One Year*;

Seventh-eighth grades - *It Only Takes Once, A Million Teens, Making Responsible Decisions, Teen Issues/AIDS in Focus, The Subject is HIV, and AIDS/HIV - Answers for Young People*;

Ninth-twelfth grades - *Women in the Shadows, How Can I Tell if I'm Really in Love, and A Family Talks About Sex* (parenting classes only);

By request of school principals, the play *Let's Talk About AIDS* is available from the Young Alliance Theatre.

Other items slated for approval at next week's board meeting include the following:

✓ a textbook adoption plan outlining the schedule and procedures for selecting new math and choral music textbooks;

✓ purchase of a new automated, \$45,700 touch-tone phone system from CRS Inc. to handle calls from teachers who are sick and to automatically inform substitute teachers of their assignments;

✓ participation in the Georgia Pay for Performance Program, which provides financial incentives to schools and their faculties;

✓ the purchase of \$66,345 worth of furniture for Technology Labs at McNair Senior and Redan High schools;

✓ the granting of an easement to Georgia Power so the utility company can run electricity to the high school under construction on Simpson Road;

✓ formal approval of a policy amendment to allow the superintendent to modify mandatory weapons expulsions;

✓ an agreement with DeKalb County's Parks and Recreation Department that will allow girls' softball teams to use county fields.

Community Briefs

Decatur's Olympic Interaction Task Force will have a public meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Decatur Library auditorium, 215 Sycamore Street. The purpose of the meeting is to share information and gather input. For information call 371-8386.

and live or work in DeKalb County. Call Sue Norwood at 294-2738/2706 for information.

Safe Kids of DeKalb Coalition is having a Kroger Celebrity Grocery