

# Soviet Educators Visit DeKalb As Part Of Conference

DeKalb  
News  
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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 Dahlenega 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).

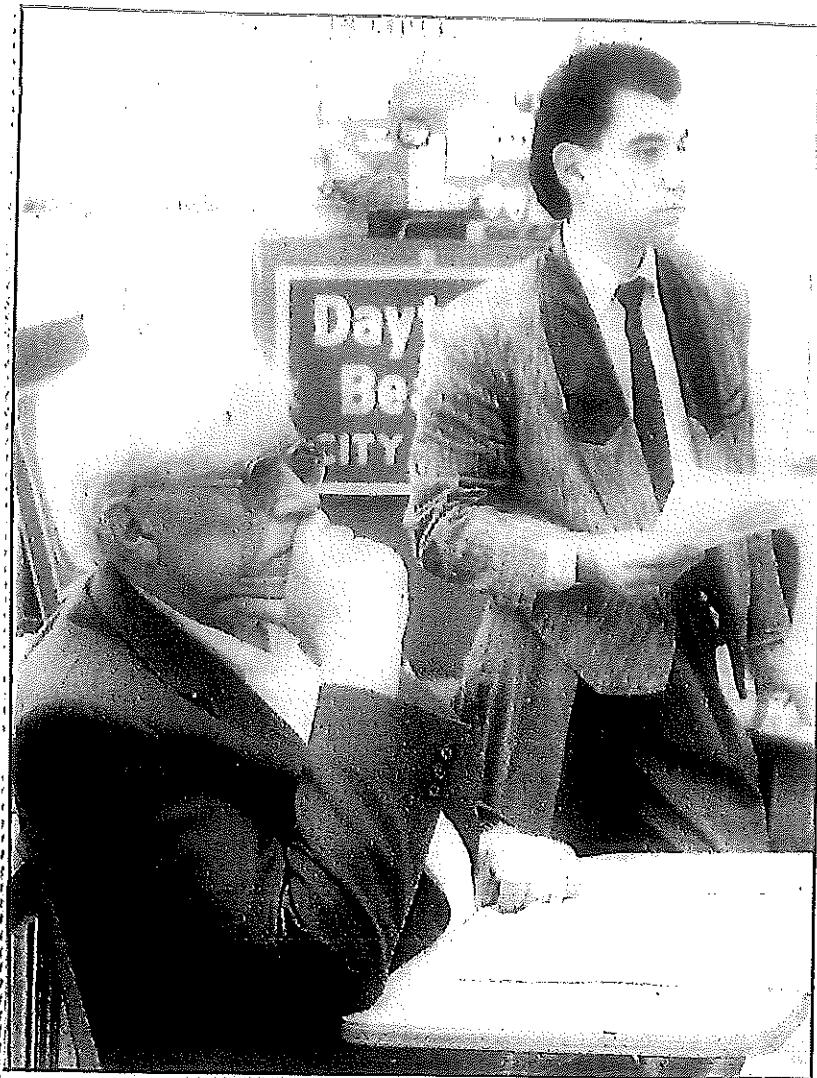
Dunwoody principal Jennie Springer was recognized as one of

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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### *Student Translator*

Vadim Zhudov (seated), principal of school 710, Moscow, USSR, assisted by Tucker High Student Michael Teyf -- fluent in the Russian language -- shares a classroom session at Tucker High School during the recent international conference cosponsored by Georgia State University and the Soviet Academy of Pedagogical Sciences.

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3



### **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.

# Yankee Sea Captain Started Famous Family That Gave DeKalb One of Pioneer Educators

The pioneer name does not survive today as that of any living person in DeKalb county, although it is carried by one of the county's finest new schools, and is deep in absorbing background.

In 1660, a sea captain who had a liking for medicine arrived in Massachusetts. He brought with him the latest medical discoveries for the benefit of the few physicians in the New World.

He transported these regularly on long voyages and he had time to read and copy the writings of the foremost doctors of his day and he became interested in surgery, particularly that branch that involved the setting and treating of broken bones. He became very

proficient.

From the old sea dog there is descended a family that has produced more doctors than any other family in American history. They are represented in unbroken succession through the tenth generation.

The Kittredges are still numerous in New England. Watson Kittredge, born in 1804, was probably the first to come south. He went by boat from New England to Savannah, being 20 years old, and there bought a horse which he rode through the wilderness to what then was Rough and Ready, near Hapeville.

That was about as far as he could go before crossing into the

Cherokee country. He settled in DeKalb county in 1824, two years after the county had been formed, after having married in Rough and Ready.

It was for Watson Kittredge that the new Kittredge Elementary School on North Druid Hills road was named.

Carl T. Hudgins, Decatur attorney who traced the family in a recent talk before the DeKalb County Historical Society, is Watson's great-grandson, as is J. Harold Hudgins, Atlanta demolition contractor of 535 Ansley Street. Harold Thomas Hudgins of 228 Harold Byrd Dr., is a great-great grandson.

They still own part of the original plantation which Watson bought in the early 1830's, although much of it is now taken up by the Shamrock Shopping Center and a residential subdivision.

The first year this transplanted Yankee was in DeKalb he taught at the Mehaffey school on Snapping Creek on the Redan road.

In 1825, the Decatur Academy was organized and he became an assistant there. He is believed to have been the first instructor in English that Decatur had.

Watson Kittredge owned some slaves, probably inherited by his wife, who was from South Carolina originally. His family in New England reputedly disapproved of his owning slaves but he was not in such bad standing that his father disinherited him. He received his share of his father's estate.

His son, Edward Mobley Kittredge, Mr. Hudgins' maternal grandfather, served in the Confederate Army, fighting under Hood. He was wounded at the Battle of Resaca in North Georgia and was reduced to walking on crutches.

Back in civilian life, he walked on crutches from the family farm home the two miles or more to Oak Grove school where he taught.

His father, Watson Kittredge, lived 15 years after the war ended, dying in 1880. He is buried in the family plot in the Old Decatur Cemetery.

Watson had the one son, Edward, who had three daughters but no son of his own. So the Kittredge name does not survive as that of living persons in DeKalb county but graces one of its fine new schools.

THE GLENWOOD HILLS NEWS

PAGE 10

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## **Kittridge Teachers Take Honors**

Social Studies teachers at Kittridge Magnet School were honored recently by the National Council for Social Studies with the 1991 Social Studies Program of Excellence Award. Pictured, left to right, are Instructional Lead Teacher E'Lane Tullis, Pat Copeland, Ann Pruitt, and Sherrie Crow. The group, along with fourth-grade social studies teacher Angela Leissa (not pictured), were awarded the state of Georgia award for elementary programs. At the national level, the competition was among winners of elementary and secondary levels. Ms. Pruitt, Ms. Crow, and Ms. Tullis traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the award.



# Board OKs lottery change to diversify DeKalb school

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By PATTI GHEZZI  
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The DeKalb County school district is changing the lottery process that decides which children get into the acclaimed Kirtredge Magnet School, in an effort to make the school more diverse.

The DeKalb Board of Education voted unanimously this week to set a limit of two students from each of the district's 82 elementary schools.

A school could have more than two representatives only if slots remain after each school has had its chance to send two students.

"It's an equity issue and a 'brain drain' issue," said Spencer Ragsdale, spokesman for the school district. "Some schools were sending more than their share of students."

Originally founded as a magnet school for "high-achieving," but not necessarily gifted,

children from all across DeKalb, Kirtredge evolved into a high-performing school serving primarily north DeKalb students.

Kirtredge parents say that's because the school is in north DeKalb, and that south DeKalb has a similar successful program at Browns Mill Elementary School.

But board members have grown increasingly uncomfortable with the high concentration of students from north DeKalb schools serving the most affluent neighborhoods.

"The original mission of Kirtredge has been greatly distorted over the years," said board Chairman Brad Bryant.

"It originally served as a lab school for the whole county. This is to steer it back to its original mission."

DeKalb Superintendent James Hallford appointed a parent task force last fall to study the district's choice programs, including magnet schools. The task force

recommended expanding programs for high-achieving students to meet demand, and Hallford has promised to do that.

Some parents said the new lottery process will unfairly penalize children because of what school they attend.

But the new system likely will please those who lamented the exodus from their neighborhood schools to Kirtredge, which boasts test scores that are among the highest in Georgia.

Susan Nicholson, a parent at Oak Grove Elementary in north DeKalb, said the change in lottery procedures does not address her concerns about Kirtredge.

Nicholson said she wants programs that serve the brightest kids beefed up in the neighborhood schools so kids don't have to leave.

"Kudos to Kirtredge for all they do," she said, "but anything offered in a public school should be offered to all kids, not just those who win the lottery."

IN 20 YEARS

## Japan Foundation Sends Grant To Kittredge

The DeKalb School System's Kittredge School of High Achievers has just received a \$1,000 grant packet from the Land of the Rising Sun. The Japan Foundation is the donor of a variety of resource materials to enrich daily instruction in Japanese available to students at this magnet school for the gifted.

Mrs. Junko Greteback, who had applied last spring to the foundation for inclusion in its program, is already putting contents of the packet to good use. Among the materials were several video cassettes encouraging students to "Let's Learn Japanese." These provided guidelines on how to study the Japanese language as well as the culture of its people. Textbooks, supplementary reading materials, slides to teach the writing system for Japanese letters and

student tests were all included.

"These are very good materials," said Mrs. Greteback. "You can see real Japanese scenes and hear real Japanese conversation. I am happy that my students are working hard at learning. My fellow teacher, Mrs. Maki Hampstead, is using these materials in her advanced class, too."

DeKalb Foreign Language Coordinator Gisela Griffin likewise expressed appreciation of the recent gift to the Kittredge magnet program. She said, "Authentic materials make instruction in a foreign language much more interesting and realistic."

The two Japanese teachers at Kittredge are also authentic. Both Mrs. Greteback and Mrs. Hampstead were born in Japan and can offer Kittredge students the flavor of "the real thing." *News/Star*



1/10/90

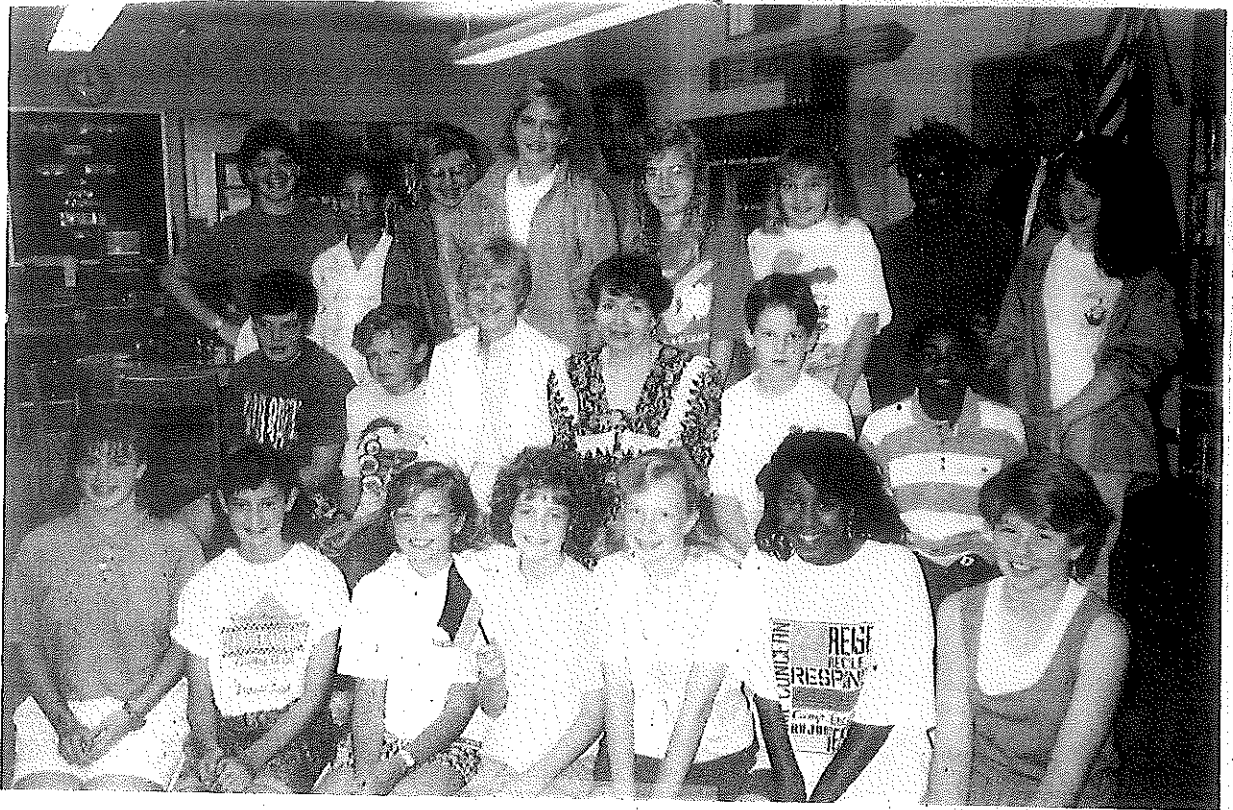


*1/10/90 DeKalb News/Star*  
**Kittredge Magnet Attracts Student Leaders**

A recent Leadership Workshop held at the DeKalb School System's Kittredge Magnet School drew student leaders from elementary schools system-wide. The focus of four rotating sessions led by DeKalb Board of Education representatives, community business and high school leaders, as well as members of the press, was the development of quality leadership attitudes and procedures. Pic-

tured left to right are: Joanne Doute-Cooper, Kittredge lead teacher for community service; Dyonna Johnson, Kittredge student; Mark Winnie, WSB-TV 2, reporter; Saloni Saralya, Mainstreet student; Scott Edwards, Hawthorne student; Carolyn Anthony, lead teacher for student service, Kittredge; Jocelyn Johnson, Student Council president, Kittredge; and Dan Shores, Laurel Ridge student.





## Kittredge Students Leave For Germany

58

Twenty students from DeKalb's Kittredge Magnet School for High Achievers have planned a trip for a two-week educational tour of Germany and Austria. The students, ages 11 through 13, have been enrolled in German classes at Kittredge for as much as two-and-one-half years. Kittredge Magnet is the first elementary school in the county to include foreign language in its daily curriculum. Teachers Linda Jenks and Gertrude Rocco will accompany the students, who will spend four days living with German families in the town of Reutlingen. While in Reutlingen, the DeKalb students will also spend two full days in

classes at a local public school. Shown, front row, left to right, are Shannon Powell, Molly Ray, Eren Thibadeau, Christie Shaver, Carrie Smith, Jocelyn Johnson, and Genevieve Hass; second row, from left, Michael Riley, Jay Catherwood, teacher Linda Jenks, teacher Gertrude Rocco, Matthew Gauenta, and Reggie Harrison; shown, back row, left to right, Sarah Tate, Damani Zayas, Clarissa Cunningham, Karin Blake, Lamech Darien, Michelle Icenogle, April Schroder, Yvonka Crenshaw, Principal Steve Dunlap, and Margaret Casey.

*DeKalb News Sun  
6/6/90*

## Kittredge nominated for award

By JEN SANSBURY  
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11/20/03  
Kittredge Magnet School is among eight Georgia schools nominated by state Superintendent Kathy Cox for the U.S. Department of Education's 2003-04 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools awards. DeKalb County's Meadowview and Vanderlyn elementary schools recently were named national winners for 2002-03.

The award honors public and private k-12 schools for high performance on state tests or, at schools with large numbers of disadvantaged students, for making dramatic gains in student achievement.

The other Georgia schools nominated are Capitol View Elementary in Atlanta, Seaborn Lee Elementary in Fulton County, Lincoln Fundamental Elementary in Dougherty County, Davidson Magnet in Richmond County and Britt David Magnet, Columbus High and Edgewood Elementary schools in Muscogee County.

Winners will be announced in September.

### Scholarships won

Seven DeKalb County students are among 221 in Georgia who have received Ty Cobb Educational Foundation scholarships for the current academic year. The foundation was established 50 years ago by baseball star Ty Cobb of Royston, in northeast Georgia. It awarded \$528,000 in scholarships this year.

Recipients must be Georgia residents who have finished their freshman year at any accredited college in the country or are graduate students studying medicine or dentistry.

The local winners are Sheldahl Battle of Lithonia, a doctor of dental surgery major at MeHarry Medical College in Nashville; Doug Chung of Decatur, a doctor of medicine major at Emory School of Medicine; Ashley M. Clark of Lithonia, a biology major at the University of Alabama/Birmingham; Arin Freeman of Stone Mountain, a biology major at Paine College in Augusta; Toya S. Hester of Stone Mountain, a doctor of medicine major at Boston University School of Medicine; Gene K. Lee of Stone Mountain, a doctor of medicine major at Emory School of Medicine; and Karen R. Stewart of Chamblee, a doctor of medicine major at Morehouse School of Medicine.

### Bound for D.C.

Cross Keys High School senior Adam Martin of Lithonia will represent the state of Georgia at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington Dec. 2-7.

At the conference, students from around the country will learn about the government, the media and the international community by interacting with elected officials, political appointees and newsmakers, according to a news release from the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the nonprofit group that sponsors the program. They will also debate, amend and vote on mock legislation during a model congress.

Martin is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, the Navy JROTC, and the Cross Keys varsity baseball and wrestling teams. He plans to major in business law at Yale University.

To submit news items, contact Jen Sansbury, the DeKalb County education reporter, at 404-479-8604. Items may be sent by fax to 404-370-7293, by e-mail to jsansbury@ajc.com or by mail to Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 475, Decatur, GA 30030.



### **School Board Honors Teachers Of The Year**

Susan Buell (L) of Panola Way School and Anne Pruitt (R) of the Kittredge Magnet were among the Teachers of the Year (TOTY) from local school units recently honored at a recognition reception hosted by the DeKalb Board of Education. Chamblee High teacher Louise Brown was selected systemwide winner as DeKalb TOTY.