

DeKalb  
NEWS  
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# Soviet Educators Visit DeKalb As Part Of Conference

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 Dahlenoga 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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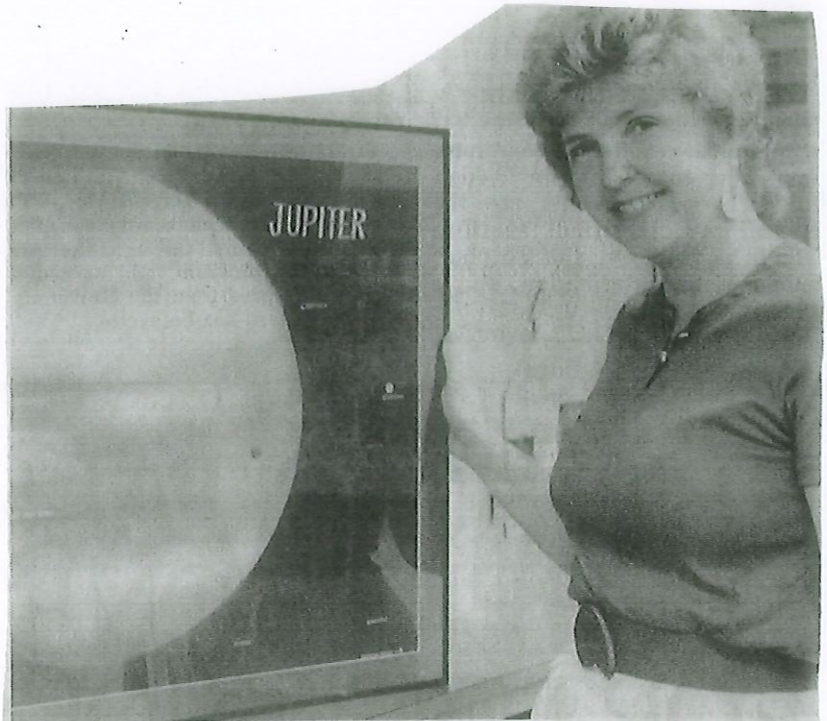


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### **Computer Demons Tooted**

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.



### **Vanderlyn Teacher Selected As 'Outstanding'**

Kay Reissing, a sixth grade Vanderlyn Elementary School teacher, has been named "Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year" in DeKalb. The award was presented by the Science Teachers Association of DeKalb and Rockdale. Mrs. Reissing, who has taught at the school for nine years, was honored for her "commitment and enthusiasm in the classroom." It was the first time an elementary school teacher has been selected for the honor.

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