

## SCHOOLS AND MORE

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

Compiled by Matthew E. Milliken

**Session focuses on kindergarten**

Durham parents whose children will start kindergarten this year are invited to attend a welcome session presented by the Durham public school system.

The session is today from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Road. District kindergarten teachers will discuss what children should know to be ready to enter school, kindergarten registration and magnet applications, and before- and after-school care programs. Parents' questions will be answered.

Children who turn 5 on or before Aug. 31 will be eligible to attend kindergarten beginning in August.

Child care will be provided.

For information, visit [www.dpsnc.net/kindergarten](http://www.dpsnc.net/kindergarten) or contact Kate MacDonell at 560-9403 or [kate.macdonell@dpsnc.net](mailto:kate.macdonell@dpsnc.net).

**Honors String Festival Friday**

The Durham Public Schools Honors String Festival will be held Friday at 7 p.m. at Baldwin Auditorium on Duke's

East Campus.

Students from Brogden, Carrington, Githens, Morehead Montessori, Rogers-Herr, W.G. Pearson Elementary, W.G. Pearson Middle, Durham School of the Arts, Jordan, Northern and Riverside are expected to perform.

The guest conductors will be Johanna Rogers of East Millbrook Middle in Raleigh and Tm Juergensen, a conductor, violinist, violist and educator from Indianapolis. Admission is free and open to the public.

**Junior receives President's Award**

Bria Davenport, a junior at Hillside New Tech High School, has been honored for her exemplary service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Davenport earned her award primarily by volunteering at the Durham Arts Council over the summer. She has also

volunteered for UNC-TV and additional community organizations.

**Carrington wins Battle of Books**

Carrington Middle School came out on top in a tie-breaker round to win the Durham Public Schools Middle School Battle of the Books on March 5. All 10 district middle schools competed.

The team members are Laurina Bird, Brooklyn Cooper, Nolan Felton, Emily Korest, Eric Lassiter, Dillon Leovic, Dante Otero, Kevin Parham, Madeline Rickard, Connor Rogerson, Femi Villamor and Paul Wolf. Amanda McCall and Marty O'Sullivan are the Carrington team's coaches.

The runner-up was Githens Middle School.

**Apply now for pre-K program**

Durham's Partnership for Children's More at Four Program, Head Start and the Durham public school system are accepting applications for a no-cost pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds. Interviews will be conducted through March 31.

To make an appoint-

ment, call 403-6950, Ext. 6820 or visit a Durham County Head Start office at 215 Seminary St., 1313 Halley St. or 908 Liberty St.

Children must turn 4 by Aug. 31 to qualify for the program. Families must also meet income guidelines.

**Get ready for middle school**

The Durham Public Schools system is sponsoring a workshop designed to help fifth-grade parents feel more comfortable about their children's preparation to enter middle school.

If you have questions about what this transition will be like, plan to attend on Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Road. Sign up by visiting [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net).

**Grandparents to meet**

There will be a meeting for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren on Thursday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Durham Cooperative Extension Building, 721 Foster St.

The topic is "Better conversation with your

grandchild." Call Peggy Kernodle at 560-0523 to register.

**Workshop to focus on health**

NC Action for Healthy Kids and the Durham Public Schools are holding a free workshop for parents concerned about their children's health.

It will be Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Road. A healthy dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Child care will not be provided. Spanish interpreters will be available. Registration is required. To do so, look for the link at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net).

**5 named Park Scholars**

Five Durham students have been chosen by N.C. State as members of the 53-person Class of 2014 Park Scholars. The scholarship's value is pegged at \$80,000 for North Carolina residents.

The recipients are Ansilta Zulima De Luca-Westrate, Durham Academy; and Emerson Wayne Barker, Joshua Russell Chappell, Jennifer Ifeoma Okpala and Michelle Elizabeth Phillips,

all of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

**Science, tech program unveiled**

Duke University and North Carolina State University on Friday announced a new program to stimulate interest in science and technology.

"We can accomplish so much by introducing engineering at the K-12 level, such as influencing technology literacy early on and cultivating a mindset to address big societal problems," said Tom Katsouleas, dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke. "We also hope that by teaching youngsters to develop a problem-solving orientation to the world, something we call 'engineering habits of mind,' we may also encourage more students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. That is good for the country."

The Grand Challenge K-12 Partners Program has a Web site at [www.grandchallengek12.org](http://www.grandchallengek12.org). It is an offshoot of the Grand Challenges initiative of the National Academy of Engineering. Information is available at [www.engineeringchallenges.org](http://www.engineeringchallenges.org).