

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2018

News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

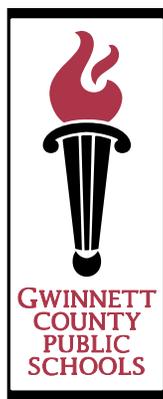
North Gwinnett High students to attack illiteracy

Some students at **North Gwinnett High School** are giving back to the community by helping struggling readers. Members of North Gwinnett High School DECA are working with **Zero-to-Five Literacy**, a project that is focused on closing the literacy gap between children from low income households and their peers. Research has shown that students from low income households are exposed to 30 million fewer words than students from higher income households.

Jacqueline Huffman, the Technical Education Department Chair and DECA Advisor, is excited about what the students and community can accomplish. “We are hoping that together with North Gwinnett Middle school and our community we can support the GCPS Book Mobiles by donating as many books as possible that will be given to children in Gwinnett County this summer,” Huffman said. “A selection of the top 15 books for children 0-5 is now available on MyPaymentsPlus (MMP) with the goal to encourage parents to go to MPP and purchase a book that will be donated to the GCPS Book Mobiles. Hopefully being able to buy a book that is close to their heart and know it will be read to a child will be a rewarding experience. At the moment, the top donated books from the list are Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and The Very Hungry Caterpillar!”

GCPS bookmobiles visit low income neighborhoods allowing kids to check out books on a weekly basis. In addition to the community efforts to put books in the hands of students, GCPS Book Mobiles have provided free books to more than 20,000 students.

During the month of November, North Gwinnett High DECA partnered with North Gwinnett Middle School as well as the school’s Language Arts Department to donate books and create promotional activities for the program. On December 15th, the students will take part in **Jingle in the Park** at Suwanee Town Center. DECA members will encourage donations to the Zero-to-Five Literacy Project and host a Buddy the Elf pie eating contest. In addition, a GCPS Book Mobile will make an appearance and every child that stops by will be given a free book. Celebrity readers will also be on hand to read books from the donation list.



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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

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