

**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**September 24, 2009**

***The Rome City School System Salutes Outstanding Educators  
and Support Employees  
2011***

Each year an outstanding Rome City Schools educator and a support employee are selected to represent classroom teachers and support employees as ambassadors for public education. These employees are selected for recognition because the quality of their work is exemplary and because their job performance significantly contributes to the success of the students.

Each school and administrative location is invited to nominate one teacher and one support person for consideration in the system program. Information representing each employee is provided to a committee of persons, outside the Rome area, who select a system winner as the *Support Employee of the Year* and an educator as the *Teacher of the Year*. The *Teacher of the Year* winner is then entered into the state of Georgia competition. The Georgia *Teacher of the Year* program is currently accepting nominees for 2011. At this time, the state of Georgia does not have a recognition program for support employees.

All of the representatives for *Teacher of the Year* and *Support Employee of the Year* for 2011 will be honored at a banquet on **Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at Rome Middle School**. The program, which begins at **7:00 p.m.**, will honor and celebrate all nominees and give special recognition to the employees selected as the *2011 Teacher of the Year* and the *Support Employee of the Year*.

The following have been chosen as the *2011 Teacher of the Year* representative from their school:

- **Lisa Saroka**, fifth grade teacher at Anna K. Davie Elementary;
- **Kevin Kilpatrick**, special education teacher at East Central Elementary;
- **Merrimac Forsyth**, first grade teacher at Elm Street Elementary;
- **Belinda Miller**, third grade teacher at Main Elementary;
- **Emily Matheny**, third grade teacher at North Heights Elementary;
- **Carolyn Petty**, special education teacher at Rome Middle School;
- **Jennifer Williams**, choral music teacher at Rome High School;
- **Danielle Tapp**, first grade teacher at Southeast Elementary;
- **Anne Bearden**, second grade teacher at West Central Elementary; and
- **Sandra Pruett**, kindergarten teacher at West End Elementary.

Named as the *2011 Support Employees of the Year* representatives are:

- **Jennifer Smith**, pre-k paraprofessional at Anna K. Davie Elementary;
- **Gina Byars**, assistant to the director of personnel at Central Office;
- **Michael Bray**, custodian at East Central Elementary;
- **Vicky Lynn Abney**, paraprofessional at Elm Street Elementary;
- **Barbara Godfrey**, custodian at Main Elementary;
- **Jody Summerville**, general maintenance at Maintenance Department;
- **Ginger Rowston**, parent resource coordinator at North Heights Elementary;
- **Cheryl Suddeth**, secretary to the principal at Rome High;
- **Lori Drake**, secretary to the assistant principals at Rome Middle;
- **Noelle Schaekel**, special education paraprofessional at Southeast Elementary;
- **Suzanne Bray**, Title I parapro at West Central Elementary; and
- **John Hrubes**, custodian at West End Elementary.

It is anticipated that the employees selected as the school district's *Teacher of the Year*, runner-up, and *Support Employee of the Year* will be named in a surprise announcement the week of September 28, prior to the recognition banquet scheduled for October 13.

Additional information about the *Georgia Teacher of the Year Program* may be found on the following website: <http://www.public.doe.k12.ga.us>.

For more information regarding the Rome City School System *Employee Recognition Program*, please contact: Personnel Director, Rome City School System, 508 E. Second Street, Rome, GA. 30161.