



Newsletter

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Susan Hooper class of 1963 was one of the leaders of this beautification project. Students Awi Cing and Zara Barney interviewed her about what new additions we should expect. Mrs. Hooper explained how they are using plants native to our area both to help attract native animals and help give back to the environment while making the school look nicer.

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Garden Day at Garinger High School

Garinger High School is a Title 1 school, meaning it is high poverty. More than 90% of the students qualify for free lunch. During planning for the 50th reunion of the class of 1963, a few alumni created a scholarship fund. The following year the class of 1963 asked other classes to partner with them to form a 501(c)(3) educational foundation. The primary goal remains awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, but other goals have been defined in order to improve the physical facility and to offer opportunities for student and faculty enrichment.

GEF efforts on campus include major improvements to the three interior gardens (each measuring 2,500 square feet) to create outdoor classrooms. The other new garden is around the Vietnam Memorial that was funded by the Foundation to honor the 15 students lost in that war. The scholarships are given in memory of those students. Monies collected for scholarships are not used for the gardens. Individual contributions have funded the garden project. At present, there are 13 other garden spaces that will be improved with those funds.

On October 15, members of the GEF came on campus to brighten up the school and make it greener. Members spent the day digging up and planting.

Susan Hooper led this beautification project along with members of GEF and students of Garinger High School. New trees were planted in the quad in front of the library, which will blossom bright flowers and produce edible berries for the birds. Malabar



spinach and cardoons (a vegetable similar to artichokes) were planted in the green house as well as flowers in the interior gardens of the 100 and 200 buildings.

The garden in the 200 building has been developed by the GEF into a perennial garden incorporating the existing trees, rose bush and yuccas. The two-seater green bench (supplies provided by Home Depot) should provide a quiet spot for students and staff to enjoy the garden.

The garden in the 300 building has been developed by the GEF into a woodland garden incorporating the existing camellias, azaleas and trees. Benches and chairs were added for seating.

The Garinger Education Foundation is committed to setting an example of sustainability and beauty through adding gardens. We feel the overall perception of self-worth for the students and faculty will be improved with the addition of nature inspired design. The objective for this

garden was to provide outdoor classroom space as well as a peaceful retreat for teachers to use. Renovation of the garden is just one of the ways we hope to show the students we care about each of them and want to set a good example of stewardship of time, talent and resources.





**Ron Tucker, President
Garinger Education
Foundation**

Message from the President

The 2015-2016 school year has already been one marked with several wonderful accomplishments for the Garinger Education Foundation, and I am proud to be a part of such a remarkable organization. Before the school year even started, Foundation members were already weeding the courtyards and preparing for the incoming students. Later, with help from a grant from Keep America Beautiful, the Foundation members worked with students and others to give the planters around the cafeteria a total facelift. Students, teachers and

staff can now take great pride in the beauty of the campus. The Foundation hosted a teacher appreciation pumpkin muffins and cider break as part of a half-day teacher's workday.

Finally, I want to update you on our annual appeal. Currently, over 140 donors have generously contributed \$63,894 to help provide scholarships for Garinger grads and incentives for all students and teachers as they strive for academic excellence. We are currently about \$62,000

short of our 2015 budgeted receipts goal. Taking into account the \$25,000 CPCC grant our budgeted scholarship shortfall for next year is about \$37,000. If you have not become one of our 2015 donors, there is still time. Download the brochure from <http://www.garingereducationfoundation.org/> and consider making a donation at this time. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in young students' lives.

2016 Scholarship Initiative

The Foundation Board recently agreed on a new scholarship plan for 2016 which will award up to one hundred and one qualified Garinger graduates, \$500 scholarships to Central Piedmont Community College. In order to be better stewards of the Garinger Education Scholarship dollars and to better serve our students, the Garinger Education Foundation with the Central High Legacy Fund are collaborating with Central Piedmont Community College and the staff at Garinger to increase the number of Garinger students who will attend Central Piedmont for their first

two years of college. Not only does this increase the number of students we can serve, but it also aligns with the needs and demands of the workforce, where a high school diploma is not enough to compete. It is our plan to follow these students if they choose to transition to a four-year institution after earning an Associate Degree at CPCC. We plan to support their four year undergraduate program with a scholarship. This would help them to graduate without as much student loan debt and would provide a pathway for every student who graduates

from Garinger an affordable and accessible way to continue their education after high school.

"Some several years back, alumni from Charlotte Central High, the forerunner of Garinger, established the Central High Legacy Scholarship Fund. That scholarship program is channeled through CPCC and is available to Garinger graduates who desire to attend CPCC."

*- Jim Beatty, Central HS
Class of 1953 & Olympian*

2015 Scholarship Recipients

Georgina Smith
Tanajah Williams
Keith Sizer
Tangela Gallman
Jennifer Araguz
Rosario DelCid Osorio
Jenrry Soto Valeriano
Christian Hukportie
Brianna Geddis
Honora Ankong
Chioma Kpuih
Quyem Kpuih
Luis Erasmus Palma
Adbeel Martinez

Garinger Student Life

***Perfect Attendance** 10 students each month are acknowledged and rewarded. We currently have over 700 students on the Perfect Attendance roster!

***Wildcat Academic Scholar Celebration** invited over 300 students on the A/B honor roll for ice cream, music, and certificates in November.

***Youth Magnate Association** teaches students with entrepreneurial aspirations to operate a business of their interest.

***Senior Ambassadors** are

staying busy by tutoring, volunteering at PTSA, and providing treat bags to Special Needs children. SA will assist seniors during their graduation ceremony.

***FBLA** provided Christmas toys to the Levine Children's Hospital.

***LASA** is conducting a can food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

***GHS Winter Arts Exhibition** will take place, December 17. Please join us for an evening of cultural entertainment.

***Community Connections** are conducting a Winter Coat Drive.

***SGA** has planned a Winter Wonderland Spirit Week (December 14-December 18) Students and staff are encouraged to participate and show off their winter spirit.

***National Honor Society** will be very active the second semester completing service hours, electing a student council, applying for scholarships and encouraging future members to join NHS.

Garinger Student Life

