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Class of 2001 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named

Claire Anna Kimsey has been selected as the Valedictorian and Elizabeth Young as the Salutatorian, respectively, for the Class of 2001.

A candidate for the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma, Anna Kimsey explains that having the highest GPA average in her class, which earned her the honor of Valedictorian, is not what she is most proud of, nor what she wants to talk about. It's her community service and volunteer activities that she feels are most important.

Five days a month, Anna volunteers at Grady Hospital's Teen Clinic presenting information sessions on birth control, nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy prevention. She is one of ten teens involved in the peer education program there who provide advice and a friendly ear to those who come to the Teen Clinic. She was selected as "Peer Educator of the Month" for September 2000.

During her junior and senior years she's also been a member of the Fulton County Youth Commission which represents the youth of Fulton County in decisions of local government. This year, she's also served as a reading coach, tutoring students at E. Rivers Elementary School. As an active member of her Church Youth group, she's served in a number of offices there and this summer will be traveling to Jamaica on a mission trip with her church, Peachtree Presbyterian.

During her sophomore year, Anna spent the semester in Pamplona, Spain and was selected as a finalist in Spanish for the Governor's Honors Program in her junior year. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Beta Club. During her high school career, Anna has played varsity soccer all four years, serving as co-captain this year. She has part-time jobs at P.Zazz & Co. and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Anna will be attending Yale University in the fall, majoring in international studies and political science.



Valedictorian Anna Kimsey



Salutatorian Elizabeth Young

Class of 2001 Salutatorian Elizabeth Young is also a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. She plans to major in astronomy and physics but at press time hadn't yet decided between Wesleyan University in Connecticut or Haverford in Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth has served as captain of the Quiz Bowl Team and was named to the Georgia AAA 2000 All Star Quiz Bowl Team. She also serves as president of the National Honor Society at North Atlanta. She is a member of the Creative Writers Group, French Club and Beta Club. As a sophomore, she was selected to spend the semester in France and received a Superior rating in French at the Metro Foreign Language Forum her junior year.

Last year Elizabeth was named Most Outstanding IB Junior and Most Outstanding IB Social Studies, Math and Theory of Knowledge student. She also received the Brown Book Award for excellence in written expression.

Elizabeth is also active in her church, Peachtree Road Methodist, volunteering with her youth group, visiting local nursing homes and helping with the soup kitchen, Trinity Table. She will be continuing her job at Marco's Italian restaurant through the summer and learning to play the guitar.

North Atlanta High School PTSA Newsletter

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The *NAHS Newsletter* seeks to inform current and potential NAHS parents, students, teachers and the community-at-large about the school's programs, academic achievements, clubs and extracurricular activities to promote a sense of unity and community involvement.

All news articles are due in the PTSA Newsletter mailbox in the School Office by 3:30 PM of the specified date, and are subject to editing for space, clarity and consistency. With each submission, please include your name, telephone number for any clarification needed, and the basic information on who, what, when, where and why. The *NAHS Newsletter* focuses on the achievements of NAHS students, faculty and staff, including academic and extracurricular activities.

Student Ambassadors Named

This year North Atlanta is proud to be represented by three Student Ambassadors from the Class of 2003. Mia Gresham, Tiffany Lewis and LaKeya Stinchcomb have been selected in two rounds of interviews to travel abroad next fall to one of four countries: Japan, France, Israel or the Netherlands. These young ladies emerged among stiff competition as outstanding Ambassadors to the world for the Atlanta Public Schools. The students will spend ten days living with a family, attending school and experiencing the culture of their host country. Congratulations to Mia, Tiffany and LeKeya.

MLK Scholars Chosen

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded MLK Scholarships by Emory University: Yaqutullah Ibraheem ($\frac{1}{3}$ scholarship); Reza Nadimi and Thomas Cuffie ($\frac{1}{2}$ scholarships); Jalia Armstrong and Nadia Mohammed (full scholarships).

Math Team Selected

Congratulations to the following students from the North Atlanta Mathematics Team. They competed along with other NAHS students in the Georgia Math League Contest which was given after school on six Tuesdays throughout the school year. These students had the highest cumulative score after the last contest in March.

1st Place Michael Kelly 18 points
2nd Place Joe Cheney 16 points
(tie) Richard Marcus
3rd Place Elizabeth Young 15 points

2001-2002 PTSA Board

The slate of PTSA officers for the 2001-02 school year was elected at the April 19, 2001 monthly PTSA meeting. The new board consists of:

Co-Presidents: Barbara Hartsfield
Ray Kimsey

Treasurer: Carolyn Cushing

Secretary: Jean Rush

Gladys Jackson will assume the mantle as VP of Activities and Sharon Giles will serve as VP for Development.

Calling All Junior Parents

"Visions of the Future" for graduating seniors will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2001, at 9:00 AM in the NAHS Gym with a reception to follow in the courtyard. The reception held after the service is traditionally hosted by junior parents. Opportunities to volunteer are numerous. We need people to serve on committees, help set up on Saturday, May 19, and help serve and/or clean up on Sunday, May 20. If you can help in any way, please contact Patti George at 404-351-7613 or at ppgeorge@bellsouth.net.

Lady Warriors Honored

Congratulations to Coach Kathy Washington who was selected as Coach of the Year to the *AJC* All-Area Basketball team and to Khaili Sanders who was selected as Player of the Year. Selected for First Team were: Kiona Glass, Danyelle Ingram, and Khaili Sanders. Selected for Second Team were: Megan Ballard and Chequantae Smalls.

Industry Certification Awarded to NA Business Education Department

North Atlanta High School's business education department became industry certified on March 21, 2001, becoming only the second Atlanta Public School business education department to be awarded such a distinction. The Georgia Department of Education and the Society of Human Resource Management award Industry Certification to promote high quality instruction in business education. This process provides recognition to schools which have exceptional business education programs and have met certification requirements. There are forty-four published standards that must be met within an eighteen-month time period. North Atlanta's business education department was able to achieve all forty-four standards within only seven months.

Congratulations to the members of the department who participated in this program, Mrs. Marcia McLendon, Chairperson, Mrs. Katie Hines, Mr. Michael Maze and Mrs. Angela Rucker, and to the current and future students who will benefit from this outstanding program.

Congratulations Honor Roll Students

The Renaissance Program at North Atlanta High School honored the first semester honor roll students with a pizza party on March 30, 2001. Students who earn a 3.0 average or above were invited to come to a party during their lunch period. More than 500 students received invitations because of their excellent academic achievement. Members of the business community joined the Renaissance staff in congratulating these students by providing the financial support for this party. Harden Construction Group, Inc. purchased 150 pizzas; Coca Cola Enterprises, Inc. donated 600 Coke products; Publix Supermarkets donated more than 30 cakes. Special thanks to faculty members and parents for helping serve these deserving students. Renaissance takes the incentive idea from business and ties it to educational academic endeavors. Renaissance is not a program, it is an attitude and belief that everyone can seek and achieve excellence.

Ninth Grade Summer Transition Program

The Ninth Grade Summer Transition Program planned for this summer, July 23-August 3, will assist incoming 9th graders with the transition to North Atlanta High School and as well as provide enrichment in the following content areas: language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

PLACE: North Atlanta High School

TIME: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM daily

WHEN: July 23 to August 3, 2001

TRANSPORTATION: Students will be transported from Sutton Middle School and the Lindbergh Marta Station.

Pick Up Times

Sutton Middle School

Pick Up 7:30 AM

Drop Off 1:30 PM

Lindbergh Marta Station

Pick Up 7:30 AM

Drop Off 1:30 PM

FOOD: Students will be provided a breakfast and lunch daily.

REGISTRATION: Registration forms may be obtained from the 8th grade counselor at Sutton Middle School; Magnet coordinators (Dr. Frutiger and Mr. Verdis); North Atlanta's Registrar—Mr. Aftel, and the main office at North Atlanta High School.

Registration forms are due by May 18, 2001.

Contact Person: Michael Maze, Program Coordinator—mmaze99@yahoo.com

There will be a one-hour seminar for parents on the first day of the program. Parents are encouraged to attend. *Please be advised that this is not Freshman orientation.*

From the Principal...

This year is rapidly coming to a close. Can you believe that it is Spring already? We have many accomplishments to celebrate. We inducted 76 students into the National Honor Society this year, the largest number in the history of NAHS. Hats off to the inductees, Mrs. Pringle and Mrs. Blodgett.

Also I am pleased to inform you that two of our students, Sharie Pate and Lavita Tuff, have qualified to participate in the J. B. Fuqua Urban Debate League Novice Celebration at Pace Academy. Their coach, Greg Avison, was also invited to attend.

On April 10th NAHS was proud to have the Honorable Sam Massell as the "Principal for A Day." Mr. Massell is the president of the Buckhead Coalition, one of the NAHS Partners in Education. To start his day off, he had the opportunity to sit in on the PTSA executive committee meeting then was off to a Title I pre-audit meeting for the rest of the morning. Mr. Massell said he really appreciates the job of the principal and noted that he and the Buckhead Coalition stand ready to assist NAHS in any way that they can. He has agreed to have the the Buckhead Coalition assist Ms. Gentle and the Academy of Travel/Tourism. (Mr. Massell is a certified travel counselor.)

Graduation this year is scheduled for May 24, at 8:00 PM in the Civic Center. Students will be able to pick up diplomas on the 25th in the Registrar's office.

Our partner, A.T. Kearney won the Rookie Achievement Partnership Award at the April 20th A+ Awards luncheon held at the World Congress Center and sponsored by the Atlanta Partners for Education.

Let's close this year out on a very positive note. Parents, continue to encourage students to remain focused on the big picture of academic achievement, attending school everyday, dressing for success every day, maintaining good conduct, and setting positive examples.

George Rutledge

Social Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the winners in the APS City-wide Social Science Fair. These students received a Red Ribbon and a Certificate for their project: Kyle Pease, Andrea Boone, Casey Howard, and Kim Groux.



Courtyard Project Making Progress

As many have probably noticed, several improvements have been made in our school's courtyard recently. Twelve picnic tables are now built and in place; the landscaping should be finished soon. This work has been the result of an Eagle Scout project conducted by Freshman Michael Kelly. To reach the highest rank of Eagle Scout, Michael has used this project to meet the requirement to plan and carry out a major community service/leadership project.



Michael has expressed his thanks to Mr. Williams at Northside Tool Rental for a free rental, Mr. Brandon at Pike Family Nurseries for discounts on landscaping supplies, Principal Rutledge, Assistant Principal Kinsey and Mr. Harmon for aid and guidance, and to Ari Gordin, Peter Pelosi, Berkeley Cowley, Bilianna Groz, Nels Anderson and Matthew Stills (and any others who helped complete the landscaping) for their assistance with the physical labor, and to A.T. Kearney for their financial assistance. A gazebo funded by A.T. Kearney is also planned.

JV Quiz Bowl Team Places 2nd

Kudos to the JV Quiz Bowl Team on their second place finish in the State JV Quiz Bowl Tournament on April 21 at Brookwood High School. The team was bested by Heritage High only in the last round. Team members are Davis Weitz, Hannah Rose Baker, David Crockett, Michael Kelly, William High, Caitlin VanHedemann, Ronnie Gosselin, and Rob Gignilliat. Coach Nan Hunter missed the meet due to the birth of her baby girl two days before. Congrats on her effort as well!

Community Service Pays Off

Congratulations to students selected to attend the Hands on Atlanta Prudential Youth Serving Youth Leadership Conference: Jillian Madison, Jawara McNeil, Karri Mupo, LaQuandra Ponder, Sarah Armstrong, Dorian Webster and Lynnzey Smith-Wilson. Sarah was also selected as to appear on the "Good Day Atlanta" show on April 18 for completing more than 200 hours of community service during the 2000-2001 school year.

NA Junior is One Who Beat the Odds

7 kids who dared to overcome their many adversities

Seven extraordinary students who beat the odds will be honored for their triumphs next Thursday at a banquet sponsored by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the Roundtable on Children. Appropriately called Beat the Odds, the ninth annual program pays special tribute to students who “prevailed against incredible circumstances and met astonishing challenges,” wrote Mark Massey, program manager of the Fulton County Office of Children and Youth.

These students—Kristen Ruggeri, Ititi Obidah, Andrew Lockwood, Christopher Jacobs, Shavonne Wehner, Olivia Baugh and **Tenesha Birdsong**—didn’t merely beat the odds, they crushed them. Robbed of childhood innocence by abuse, abandonment, illness, injury and difficult family circumstances, these children rose above their thorny challenges and became mature, focused adults with bright futures.

Beat the Odds was started by the Washington, D.C.-based Children’s Defense Fund in 1990. It honors students who do well in school while facing difficult obstacles. Fulton County’s program was started in 1993 and has grown under the leadership of Commissioner Nancy A. Boxill. High school principals, counselors and teachers nominate students for this honor, and county officials make the decision.

The students will be chauffeured to the downtown Ritz-Carlton by limousine and joined by their families, school principals, counselors and friends. Each honoree will receive a cash award, certificate of recognition, gifts from sponsors and a shopping spree, and will be offered a summer job.

TV news anchor Jocelyn Dorsey and radio talk show personality Frank Ski will host the evening’s event.

‘My pain is just physical’

Tenesha Birdsong doesn’t let the daily pain of sickle-cell anemia dull her zest for life. Instead of giving in to the disease, the North Atlanta High School junior maintains good grades, has a pleasant attitude and is an inspiration to her family and friends.

Diagnosed with sickle cell at 11 months of age, Tenesha cannot remember a time in her life without physical suffering. Despite many days when she can barely move, the southwest Atlanta 17-year-old tries to be strong and serve as an example to her two sisters, ages 3 and 5, who are also sickle-cell patients.

“I try to function like a normal person, and I don’t use my disease as an excuse,” she said. “I don’t want to be considered special, I want to be treated like everyone else.”

Tenesha’s lengthy medical treatments and the debilitating effects of her medications have made schoolwork a challenge. Despite a daily struggle with the disease, Tenesha completes her school assignments from home or the hospital bed. Sometimes absent for weeks at a time, when she returns to school, she stays late several times a week for special tutoring and is enrolled in a special program for students with disabilities.

“I work hard to keep up, but it’s not easy,” she said. “I still give 110 percent, even though I know they can’t fail me.”

Recently, Tenesha battled for her life after an allergic reaction to one of her many blood transfusions. Last year, she suffered from gallstones and required surgery. She also lost her beloved grandparents in an accident. Despite these adversities, Tenesha maintains a positive outlook that inspires others.

“I don’t cry, kick, scream and complain, because it doesn’t do any good,” Tenesha said. “In fact, it would only make me feel worse.”

Tenesha dreams of a life without constant pain and hopes to become an elementary school teacher. She is philosophical about her illness and has learned to turn a negative condition into positive motivation.

“In the end, it only makes me work harder and be even more determined,” she said.

After meeting other Beat the Odds recipients at a shopping spree for their banquet clothes, Tenesha said she was touched by their strength and courage.

“Their stories are so much worse than mine, because my pain is just physical,” she said. “They had to go through so much mental pain.”

(Excerpted from a story by Yusuf Davis for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, April 12, 2001)

National Honor Society Inductees

A record number of NAHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society on March 20, 2001. Selected for their scholarship, service, leadership and character, these 76 students were deemed to have exhibited the four qualities required by the National Honor Society. Please congratulate these outstanding students on their accomplishments.



Makeda Agonafer	Andrew Grimes	Jennifer MiLucky
Yejiide Alexander	Hunter Grove	Ashley Moore
Candice Alick	Fatima Henson	Tiffany Moore
Roman Alvarado	Jarrett Horne	Dimitar Petlechkiv
Jamier Andrews	Genc Imeraj	Charity Phalo
Megan Ballard	Karen Jackson	Noah Pine
Christine Books	Alyssa Jackson	Sivram Prasad
Elizabeth Books	Sheleen Jetwani	Alisha Price
Brad Buffington	Danielle Johnson	Marqueva Robertson
Pathira Bunyasarand	Neyamka Johnson	Stuart Small
Rebecca Callum-Penso	Darius Johnson	Brandon Smith
Joseph Cheney	Lauren Jones	Tracy Steindel
Ashley Coleman	Anthony Jordun	Jessica Su
Desiree Conrad	Adelina Jusufi	Allen Tep
Sonata Cooper	Jean Keenan	Ross Udoff
Jemika Crayton	Chris Kelly	Melanie Vogel
Anna Cummings	Zachary Kennedy	Lam Vu
Chuong Dinh	Frederick Krenson	Nekeitha Wade
Shanita Douglas	Richard Lorenc	Melvin Waldrop
Taylor Rose Ellsworth	Richard Marcus	Tiffany Walker
Arthur Few	Fiona May	Ashley Weems
Lasonya Ford	Claire McDonald	Niambi Young
Bealemlay Getachew	Courtney Merrow	Stephanie Young
Lemlem Getachew	Ashley Miller	Adam Zandman
Mark Graves		

Environmental Grant Awarded to NA

The NAHS Science Department received grants from Riverkeeper, Inc., and the Arthur Blank Foundation to assist with a trip to Sapelo Island, GA for the GIS environmental studies students and teacher. This year the study is of "Bioinvasion of freshwater and marine species." GPS units and water kits were used to gather data in both environments during the trip, April 28-29, which involved approximately 34 students from General Biology and IB classes.

Science Day

The NAHS Science Department observed Science Day, organized by Ms. Harris and Mrs. Drewry, on April 13. All students spent time in hands-on, "fun" activities throughout the day on the fourth floor. Publix provided amenities for students and experiments. Activities included: Egg Drops, Methane Ignition and Slime, Video Microscopy & Germ Detection, Rocket Propulsion, Pasco-EKGs, Disease Transmission, Anatomy Jeopardy and Gene Rummy.

Track Team Members

Place in Regional Meet

Congratulations to the boy's track team for their performance in the regional track meet in April. Ashenafi Arega took the region championship in the 2-mile and Quonn Bernard placed second in the 800 meter run. Both boys qualified for the State Meet to be held the first weekend in May.

Important Dates

May

- 2-22 IB Exams
- 3 JROTC Awards
- 3-4 "Perspectives" Dance Shaw Theater 7:30 PM
- 5 SAT @ NAHS
- 5 Job Fair Lecture Hall 7:00 AM-5:00 PM
- 7-18 AP Exams
- 9 NAPPS Meeting 11:30 AM
- 10 Winter Sports Banquet 7:00PM
- 14 APS Youth Orchestra Concert Shaw Theater 7:30 PM
- 15 Honors Assembly NAHS Gym
- 15 Orchestra Concert Northside UMC 7:00 PM
- 15-16 Piano Recital Lecture Hall 7:00 PM
- 16 Spring Sports Banquet Lecture Hall 7:00 PM
- 17 Band Concert Quadrangle 7:30 PM
- 17 Voice Recital Northside UMC 7:00 PM
- 17 PTSA Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 18 Jazz Band Concert Shaw Theater 7:30 PM
- 18-19 Cancer Relay for Life
- 20 Visions 2001 NAHS Gym 9:00 AM
- 21 Honors Assembly
- 22 Locker Clean-out
- 23-25 Final Exams
- 24 Graduation Civic Center 8:00 PM
- 25 Last Day of School

July

- 23-Aug. 3 Ninth Grade Summer Transition Program 8AM-1PM

2001-02 School Calendar

August 7	Teachers Report
August 13	First Day of School
September 3	Labor Day - No School
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21-Jan. 7, 2002	Winter Holidays
April 8-12	Spring Holiday
May 24	Last Day of School



PA Groups Visit Italy

During spring break 2001, two of NA's performing arts groups travelled to Italy.

Band Director Reginald Colbert and Chorus teacher Rushia Evans escorted 67 students and adults on the trip which included visits to the cities of Milan, Verona (home of Shakespeare's Juliet), Venice, Florence, Pisa and Rome.

In Venice, the performing arts groups performed at a magnificent cathedral, further adorning it with beautiful music. The groups then went on to Florence, visiting the famous Uffizi Museum where the works of Michelangelo, Leonardo DaVinci, Raphael and other famous artists are housed. After sight-seeing and shopping, the day concluded with a performance by the Chamber Orchestra and Choir in the small town of Improrneta outside of Florence, drawing a crowd of more than 300 people.

The next day, the group travelled to Pisa to see the Leaning Tower and other sights. Finally, the groups reached Rome where they visited the Vatican, including the famous Michelangelo painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. They were amazed by the artwork there as well as St. Peter's Basilica.

Summed up Freshman Terrell Grayson, the "trip to Italy turned out to be a great learning experience for us all."

Band Wins Honors in Orlando

Congratulations to the North Atlanta Band members who won First Place in the AAAA Concert Band competition at the All American Music Festival in Orlando, FL, with an outstanding performance. A special "Hats Off" goes to Sophomores Marcus Brokenborough and Robert Williams who competed in the solo competition, both earning superior ratings. Marcus also won the overall competition from among fifteen contestants from around the country. His prize: a new clarinet with gold keys!

Congratulations to Cadet Major Curtis Preston for winning the title and position as "Brigade Executive Officer" for all the Atlanta Public Schools JROTC Programs.

Students Selected for Governor's Honors Program

Three NAHS students have been selected to attend the six-week Governor's Honors Program this summer at Valdosta State University. Sophomore Nicole Williams was selected in Music, as was Junior Spencer Sharpe. Junior Tiffany Walker will be studying Spanish.

GHP is a six-week summer instructional program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching opportunities not usually available during the school year. Students are nominated early in the school year in an area where their abilities, aptitude and interests lay. The selection process is highly competitive and very involved. The semifinalists then enter a second round of competition in January, with participants notified in April. Congratulations to all who competed.

Congratulations also go to our Alternates:

Career Ed/Technology

William Pratt

Dance

Crystal Johnson
Tiffany Moore

French

Desiree Conrad

Visual Arts

Homayra Ra'oof

Theater

Jarrett Horne
Lucian Marts
Charity Phalo
Marsha Sewell

Social Studies

Makeda Agonafer

Music

Ismail Akbar
Jacqueline Blackwell
Marcus Brokenborough
Jewell Fortenberry
Stephen Lawrence
Brandon Smith
Tracy Steindel
Nekeithia Wade
Robert Williams

**Please check the NAHS website for the most current calendar and event information:
<http://www.northatlantahigh.org>**



North Atlanta High School

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