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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Eagle Springs Elementary and Lake Joy Elementary Win Georgia School Bell Awards**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Eagle Springs Elementary School** and **Lake Joy Elementary School** were named **2010 School Bell Award** winners by the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP). The GAESP presents this award annually to schools with outstanding programs in the area of curriculum and organizational leadership. No more than 10 schools receive this award each year.

Eagle Springs Elementary was chosen for its **Flight School**, a peer tutoring program that targets the academic needs of students in Kindergarten through third grade. Counselor Lisa Bragg designed and implemented the program. With the help of teachers, fourth and fifth grade students are identified as potential tutors and receive training to tutor the younger children. Each morning the flight school meets in the gym before school to help the younger students work on reading and math skills. Parents contribute by ensuring their children arrive early to school for the tutoring.

Principal Dr. Andrea McGee commented, “An added benefit of Flight School is that it has helped build a sense of community among our students. The younger students look up to their older peers who are helping them, and our older students develop a sense of pride in helping our youngest eagles soar. This program has truly helped us fulfill our mission of encouraging, guiding and supporting all students to reach their highest potential. It is an honor to receive this recognition for the hard work and dedication of our Eagle Springs Elementary teachers, staff, parents and students.”

Lake Joy Elementary was selected for its **Real Stories – A Reading Initiative** program that encompasses a variety of reading activities that occur throughout the year. The program is credited with increased test scores to include close to a 15 percent increase in only two years in writing alone. Lake Joy faculty and staff and community members model the importance of reading and achievement and participate in events such as “Men’s Read In” and “Book-Nic.” In addition, a book is chosen each year by the media specialist and provided to each classroom. School-wide activities such as online Jeopardy, lunchtime book discussions, contests and

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incentives support Real Stories. Parents donate children's books no longer read at home for the free book baskets. A summer book mobile visits the neighborhood to provide year-round accessibility to books and is a way for Lake Joy's Real Stories to also permeate the community. A



family is pictured using the LJES book mobile.

“Winning the School Bell Award is an honor for us here at Lake Joy Elementary,” said Principal Dr. Doug Rizer said. “Getting books into the hands of all of our students has been an initiative for us since Lake Joy opened its doors in 2007. The **Real Stories – A Reading Initiative** program has encouraged all of our students, faculty and parents to become avid readers. A special thank you needs to go to Mrs. Rose Campbell, our Assistant Principal of Instruction, and Mrs. Lynn Wood, our Media Specialist, who inspired this initiative. We are very

grateful for earning the School Bell Award and celebrate this accomplishment with our school community. Without the support of our children, teachers, parents and community partners, the real stories reading initiative would not be possible.”

McGee and Rizer will be presented the awards at the GAESP Fall Principals Conference during a banquet on Nov. 4, 2010. Past Houston County recipients of the School Bell award include:

- David Perdue Primary, 2009;
- Tucker Elementary, 2009;
- Matt Arthur Elementary, 2008;
- Eagle Springs Elementary, 2007;
- Shirley Hills Elementary, 2006 and 2001;
- David Perdue Elementary, 2005;
- Linwood Elementary, 2005;
- Northside Elementary, 2003;
- Morningside Elementary, 2002;
- Quail Run Elementary, 2000; and
- Centerville Elementary, 1998.

Eagle Springs Elementary is located at 3591 Highway 41 North in Byron. McGee may be contacted at either [Andrea.McGee@hcbe.net](mailto:Andrea.McGee@hcbe.net) or (478) 953-0450. Lake Joy Elementary is located at 985 Lake Joy Road in Warner Robins. Rizer may be contacted at (478) 971-2712 or [Douglas.Rizer@hcbe.net](mailto:Douglas.Rizer@hcbe.net).

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