



# Community Programs

The **GAE Statewide Spelling Bee** is the culmination of months of exciting spelling competition by students throughout Georgia each year. The best spellers in the state compete for the Georgia championship and the right to represent Georgia at the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May. Our 2020 champion was Arushi Cumer from River Trail Middle School in Fulton County. Due to COVID-19, she, and runner up Ananya Augustine from Eagle's Landing Middle school in Henry County, were not able to represent the state due to the cancellation of the Scripps National Bee. The 2021 GAE State Spelling Bee, at this time, is planned for March 19th at the Student Center on the campus of Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. For up-to-date information visit: [www.gae.org/spellingbee](http://www.gae.org/spellingbee).

**NEA's Read Across America** is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading. The official date for 2021 is March 2.

**National Teacher Day/Appreciation Week:** A day/week set aside to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the dedicated teachers who work day in and day out with the most precious resource our country has to offer—its children. National Teacher Day is always the first Tuesday in May.

**American Education Week:** December 4-10, 1921 became the first American Education Week, with the NEA and the American Legion as co-sponsors. In 1922, the U.S. Department of Education became a co-sponsor. Today, there are 12 co-sponsors: the NEA, the U.S. Department of Education, the National PTA, the American Legion, the American Association of School Administrators, The National School Boards Association, The American Federation of Teachers, the Council of Chief State School Officers, The National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, The National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. American Education Week is held each year the week prior to Thanksgiving. The Wednesday of AEW is set aside to honor those men and women who work as Educational Support Professionals (ESPs).