

**Ficquett Teachers Selected to Present at National Conference after Being Named
HP 2008-2009 High-Performing Technology for Teaching Team**

In May, 2008, teachers at Ficquett Elementary School learned that their school would receive \$40,000 in grant funds in cash and technology from HP to implement innovative projects integrating technology in science and math instruction. Through the grant, Ficquett received an HP Design Jet Printer as well as HP Tablet PC's, digital projectors, printers, and digital cameras to be used by teachers on the project team. Teachers Susan Fowler (Kindergarten) Kena Hudgins (First Grade), Laurie Carpenter (Second Grade), Heather White (Third Grade), and Kristen Emerson (Fourth Grade) implemented a project titled "Welcome to the Digital World of Plants and Animals," in which students used the new technology to explore the characteristics, habitats, and life cycles of plants and animals in Newton County and throughout the world.

A recent evaluation of student progress in science resulted in HP's selection of the Ficquett team as an HP High-Performing team for Technology for Teaching 2008-2009. Of the 125 schools in the nation which received last year's grant award, only 15 were selected for this honor! Students showed significant improvement in science achievement and obviously enjoyed using the technology. Kindergarten students loved watching animals in real time from the National Zoo in Washington to the San Diego Zoo in California. One student commented that he "loved everything about having this equipment," and another said, "It's more fun when you see it on the laptop and projector." Principal Miriam Wilkins said she was "amazed at how this project has facilitated the use of research-based instructional practices in the classroom."

As a result of being named a high-performing team, the teachers, accompanied by Assistant Principal Lynne DiNardo, were invited to attend the National Educational Computing Conference in Washington D.C. where they presented their winning HP project. Covington, Georgia, became a familiar name as educators from throughout the nation were fascinated by the team's project and solicited



information and ideas on ways to integrate technology in their own classrooms. In addition to presenting their project, teachers attended three days of sessions on using technology in the classroom, as well as Capitol Hill Visits sponsored by HP. During the visits, teachers met with congressional staff from Georgia, sharing with them the compelling work they are doing to transform teaching and learning in the classroom and spotlighting the importance of continued funding for technology in our schools.

The conference was an amazing opportunity for the team to glean information and ideas from other award-winning schools throughout the country. They learned new and better ways to use whiteboards, laptops, and projectors in their classrooms. Project Leader Kristen Emerson reported that “the team is eager for the new school year to begin as they return to the classroom armed with even more ways to integrate technology into their lessons and enrich the learning experience for their students at Ficquett Elementary School.” Grants Coordinator, Dr. Kathy Garber, expressed gratitude to HP, which has provided a total of nearly \$350,000 in cash and technology for the students of Newton County through three grants awarded to Ficquett Elementary School and Veterans Memorial Middle School in 2008 and Newton High School in 2009.
