Accomplishments

**Bigwood Summer Leadership Academy**

The inaugural Bigwood Summer Leadership Academy was held in June at Metter Middle School. During the eight sessions, 32 students completed over 30 hours of instruction, activities and volunteer work. The academy was inspired by the leadership career of recently retired Candler Schools Superintendent Dr. Tom Bigwood and was designed to develop leadership skills and a sense of volunteerism in selected students. The Academy featured a combined effort of Archway Professional Betsy McGriff and Candler County Extension Agents Angie Daughtry and Marnie Dekle. McGriff, Daughtry, and Dekle facilitated leadership, decision-making and goal setting activities during part of each session. There are plans to continue with similar activities during “Tiger Time” enrichment periods throughout the upcoming school year.

Academy participants construct a “marshmallow tower”

**Forestry Commission Surveys Candler Playground Sites**

With recent improvements to Jaycee Park and the construction of the new K-8 school facility and accompanying playground, Issue Work Group members identified a need for increased shade at both facilities. Archway Professional Betsy McGriff arranged for a site visit with Mark McClellan, Forester and Arborist with the Georgia Forestry Commission. McClellan evaluated both sites for feasibility and need, clocking temperatures in excess of 115 degrees at 10:00 AM on un-shaded play equipment at the school playground. McClellan believes both sites could benefit from the Commission’s Making the Shade Grant, and will work with community stakeholders and Archway to help secure funding.

The “SOFTEN” method of communicating