

# ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

MAY 2005

## WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- Torchbearer Schools
- Good News
- Presidential Scholars
- Principal of the Year
- What Parents Want
- New ELL Test

## Effective School Bus Maintenance Combats High Fuel Costs

If what goes up must come down, gravity-defying fuel prices across the country would have even Sir Isaac Newton perplexed. For months, the cost of fuel has continued to increase, cutting into budgets of motorists nationwide and causing particular concern for school systems with thousands of school buses.

With diesel fuel averaging \*\$2.28 per gallon, up more than 62 percent from last year, many school systems are re-examining their bus fleets to find more ways to conserve fuel. In Alabama's 130 school systems, there are 8,390 school buses that travel more than 333,600 miles every day transporting children to and from school. That's almost 58.5 million miles traveled each year. In fiscal year 2004, the Alabama Department of Education spent approximately \$10.1 million on fuel. One year later (fiscal year 2005), the department already has spent more than \$16.4 million. With these numbers, maintaining fuel efficiency is a must.

JOE LIGHTSEY, program administrator for the Alabama Department of Education's Student Transportation Section, said the state's fleet renewal program works to rotate out older model buses, making sure the best buses stay on the road. This rotation system helps with fuel efficiency as well as emissions. Currently, 94 percent of Alabama's bus fleet is only 10 years old or less. With constant monitoring and state-of-the-art mechanical maintenance, Lightsey said, school bus transportation personnel are doing their part to lessen the pinch at the pump.

"Our schools buses are inspected every month to make sure they're getting the best mileage possible. Tire pressure, hoses, and leaks are checked on a regular basis," Lightsey said. "Buses are connected to laptop computers that electronically monitor the buses' operations, trouble shoot, and look for peak efficiency." He said newer buses, which primarily run on diesel fuel, are averaging 8 to 10



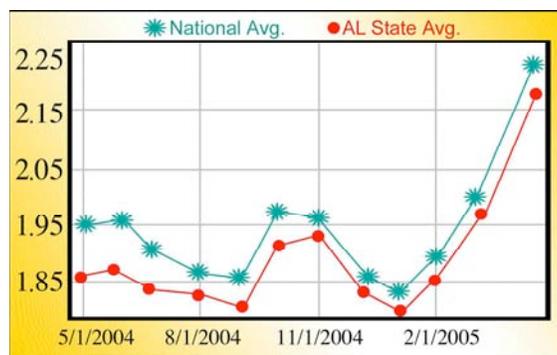
miles per gallon – up from 4 to 5 miles per gallon used by the older buses. Everything from monitoring routes and considering ways to consolidate, to letting bus drivers park the school buses at home as opposed to bringing them back to the bus lot is being considered to conserve fuel.

Lightsey said many school systems are being caught in situations where all allocated fuel funds

have been absorbed and school officials have to find alternative ways to fund fuel costs while waiting for federal reimbursement. The economic hang-up is the time it takes for federal reimbursement to occur. "School system cost levels for fuel are funded on the basis of how much they spend, but it takes about two years for them to receive their reimbursement for the increased cost," Lightsey said. "So with fuel costs increasing so rapidly, it hurts a lot of

school systems because they have to front the money."

With fuel prices still on the rise, conservation and efficiency appear to be school systems' main defense in the effort to stifle the economic crunch caused by record-breaking fuel costs.



Fuel costs continue to rise in Alabama and across the nation.



Alabama's 2005 Teacher of the Year Cynda Fickert visits with President and Mrs. George Bush in the White House in April.

(Continued from page 1)

One such school system in Alabama sites teamwork as a means to minimizing budget woes. Recently featured in *School Bus Fleet* magazine for having one of the top 10 maintenance programs in 2005 nationwide, Autauga County Schools transportation staff work together to solve everyday maintenance issues. According to **PURVIS JOHNSON**, transportation supervisor for the Autauga County School System, every bus undergoes a thorough inspection by each of the six shop staff members every 20 days.

Autauga County has a fleet of 101

buses (133 total vehicles) that serves over 5,300 students daily.

While current gas prices are causing officials to pay careful attention to maintenance, Johnson said this level of care is nothing new to Autauga County's shop. Long before fuel costs became a political hot button, Johnson said they were doing their best to make sure all buses got the best mileage possible. It's the consistent upkeep that earned the accolades in *School Bus Fleet* magazine. That same consistency adopted by other systems in the state could collectively offset the rising cost of fuel. 🍏



## ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

**357,723 Students (Daily)**

**8,390 School Buses**

**333,608 Daily Miles**

**58,494,412 Miles Annually**

**\$213,015,176 Annually**

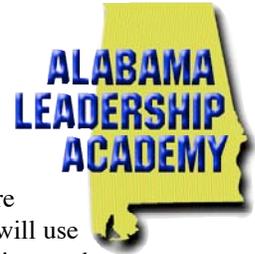
# BOARD BRIEFS

## APRIL BOARD BRIEFS

- ❖ Repealed Existing *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter Pertaining to Teacher Education and Adopted New Chapter Pertaining to Teacher Education as a Permanent Chapter
- ❖ Passed Resolution Commending Leigh Ann Kyser for the "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award," April-June 2005
- ❖ Passed Resolution Commending Janis Stewart, Principal, Meadowview Elementary School, Selma City Schools, 2005 Winner of the National Distinguished Principal for the State of Alabama
- ❖ Passed Resolution Commending Murphy High School, Mobile County Schools, for National Recognition by ACT and The Education Trust
- ❖ Approved Ad Interim Appointment, 2005-06 Alabama State Textbook Committee
- ❖ Passed Resolution to Appoint Substitute Members to the Arts Education and Foreign Languages State Courses of Study Committees
- ❖ Passed Resolution Commending Alabama's 2005 National Achievement Scholars
- ❖ Passed Resolution Recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1-7, 2005
- ❖ Passed Resolution Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month
- ❖ Announced Intent to Amend *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule Pertaining to Supervisory Body
- ❖ Passed Resolution Adopting the Praxis II Tests as a Precondition for Initial Certification
- ❖ Adopted Emergency Rules Pertaining to Basic Principles, Certificates, Glossary, Definitions, and State Department of Education as Permanent *Alabama Administrative Code* Rules



# TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS LIGHT UP STUDENT PERFORMANCE



In Feb. 2005 the Alabama Leadership Academy (ALA)\* in the Classroom Improvement Section of the Alabama Department of Education began a new recognition program called Torchbearers. The program identifies high-poverty schools that have overcome odds and stand out as high-achievement schools. Torchbearer schools have a common denominator as having more than 70 percent of the student population receiving free/reduced-price lunch, yet students perform above the national average on the *Stanford 10* and above the state average on the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test*.

Initially, 13 elementary schools statewide were recognized and named Torchbearer schools. According to

**DR. ANITA BUCKLEY-COMMANDER**, Director of Classroom Improvement, the program will be expanded next year to include secondary schools.

“Leadership and quality instruction are at the main core of this program,” said Buckley-Commander. “The dedication these schools exhibit proves that children from every background can be successful in school.”

Principals from the 13 Torchbearer schools recently completed a sur-

vey to help determine why their schools have had the success where other schools have not. The ALA will use the survey results to uncover practices and skills contributing to all 13 schools’ collective success.

“This program is truly making a difference in these 13 Torchbearer schools, and I believe it can truly benefit other schools in the state with similar demographics,” said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to contact Tony Thacker at the Alabama Department of Education or call 334-353-4810. 🍏

*\* The ALA prepares principals to lead the learning in Alabama’s schools.*

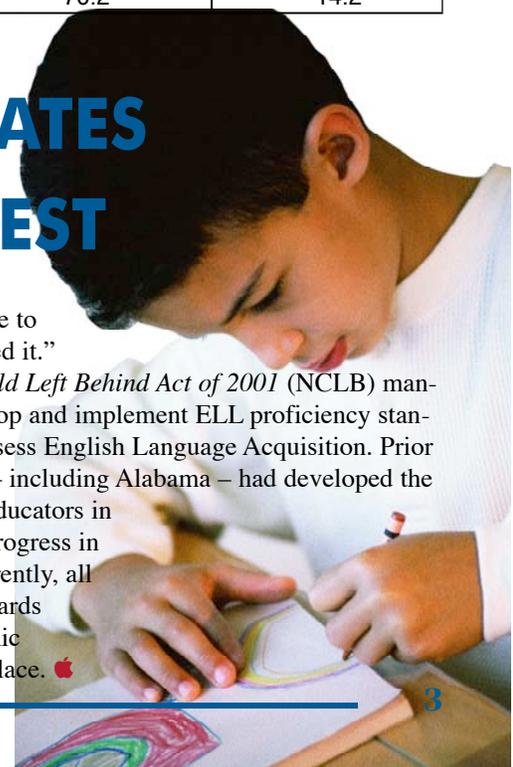
SCHOOL	SCHOOL SYSTEM	FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PERCENTAGE	MINORITY PERCENTAGE
Calcedeaver Elementary	Mobile County	95.5	91.4
Maryvale Elementary	Mobile County	94.4	99.2
West Jasper Elementary	Jasper City	87.2	53.2
Highland Avenue Elementary	Montgomery County	86.6	81.2
Huxford Elementary	Escambia County	76.7	44.8
Midland City Elementary	Dale County	76.4	26.1
Asbury School	Marshall County	74.6	4.2
Foley Intermediate	Baldwin County	72.5	44.3
Western Heights Elementary	Eufaula City	72.5	49.8
Dutton Elementary	Jackson County	72.0	15.7
Highland Elementary	Etowah County	71.8	0.0
Saint Elmo Elementary	Mobile County	70.2	13.7
W.C. Griggs Elementary	Mobile County	70.2	14.2

## ALABAMA AMONG FIRST STATES TO ADMINISTER NEW ELL TEST

Alabama is among the first group of 10 states using the new Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) for English Language Learners (ELL) assessment. ACCESS is a state assessment for English language proficiency specifically designed to measure a student’s level of English proficiency. It is currently being administered to all ELL students in Alabama. Test results will become available in July. **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FEDERAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR MAGGIE RIVERS** said ACCESS in Alabama is a work in progress. “Testing coordinators and ELL teachers have been trained on administering ACCESS and, so far, things are going smoothly,” said Rivers. “We anticipate being able to use the test results to better

help us in offering instructional assistance to ELL students who need it.”

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) mandates that states develop and implement ELL proficiency standards and annually assess English Language Acquisition. Prior to NCLB, few states – including Alabama – had developed the standards that assist educators in measuring students’ progress in learning English. Currently, all states have ELL standards linked to state academic content standards in place. 🍏



## FESTIVAL BOOSTS STUDENTS READING SKILLS

A recent week long (April 10-16) reading festival held in the Houston County and Dothan City School Systems helped students assist other students in sharpening their reading skills. One school, which has sometimes been described as struggling, has really turned its reading program around with the help of a new principal. **LARRY NORRIS** took the helm of Beverlye Middle School at the beginning of the school year with one goal in mind – to increase student achievement, no matter what it took. “Our school’s reading coach, **MARIA JOHNSON**, really is committed to making sure our students are prepared when it comes to reading,” said Norris. “She has combined reading with students’ everyday activities and even has a group that meets at school to read during breakfast.”

During the festival, local businesses and parents participated by speaking to students about the value of getting a good education. Additionally, workshops are held for parents to learn literacy programs that help them help students at home with reading skills.

*State Board of Education Member: Betty Peters, District 2*  
*Houston County Schools Superintendent: Tim Pitchford*  
*Dothan City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Leon Hobbs*  
*Beverlye Middle School Principal: Larry Norris*



## PEER TEACHERS NEVER FALTER FROM THE LEARNING PROCESS

Forty educators are participating in the Alabama Department of Education’s Priority Schools PEER Assistant Program. PEER Assistants include former state Teachers of the Year and other top educators who are committed to sharing their expertise with their peers in the classroom. The program allows PEER Assistants to take their expertise into low-performing schools. PEER Assistants are teachers on loan from other school systems.

The PEER Assistants were in Montgomery in the state Department’s computer lab recently researching the Internet to develop teacher resource materials/modules. Additional tasks include assisting school personnel in:

- Improving achievement
- Collecting, analyzing, and interpreting school data and reports
- Developing, implementing, and evaluating School Improvement Plans
- Using the most effective resources
- Facilitating the development and implementation of a school curriculum that aligns with the Alabama Courses of Study
- Assessing and assisting teaching and learning in the classroom
- Promoting necessary school consensus for change
- Summarizing and reporting progress to the Alabama Department of Education



## SAFETY PITCHED TO STUDENTS AT LOCAL BALLPARK



Take 900 students to a baseball stadium, add fun activities mixed with safety information, throw in hot dogs and a drink, and what do you have? In this case, the answer is 900 very happy and informed kids who will most likely remember the safety tips they learned while at Montgomery’s Riverfront Stadium on April 18.

Fourth-graders from Montgomery, Lowndes, Elmore, and Autauga Counties gathered at the new home of the Montgomery Biscuits baseball team to take part in the Montgomery Area Safety Fair, organized by the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Injury and Prevention Division. Students received safety tips about biking, school buses, fire prevention, bullying, swimming, accidental poisoning, talking to strangers, domestic violence, and much more. Educators used the experience to reinforce safety measures needed at school and at home.

*State Board of Education Members: Stephanie Bell, District 3 & Ella Bell, District 5*  
*Autauga County Schools Superintendent: Larry Butler*  
*Elmore County Schools Superintendent: Jeff Langham*  
*Lowndes County Schools Superintendent: Dr. William Covington*  
*Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell*

## POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE MARKS SCHOOL'S FIRST GRADUATION

**F**riday, May 27, will indeed be a day that will mark history for Florence High School with the new school's first commencement ceremony. Three hundred students will graduate from the newly consolidated school, marking an era of new traditions. Many new programs began as a result of the consolidation such as the creation of a dance team, swim team, and award-winning choir and band. Additionally, Advanced Placement courses were added to the school's curriculum, and the career technical education program was expanded to include a new facility.

Coffee and Bradshaw High Schools, in the Florence City School System, merged last fall to form one high school to serve the area's students. The campus is located on the old Coffee High School campus. "Merging the two schools last August has accomplished many goals," stated **FLORENCE CITY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENDY BEHREND**s. "Students and faculty all pulled together to make the merger work both academically and in the extracurricular areas. This first year was spent laying the groundwork for the new school, and we will spend next year perfecting the implementation."

*State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray, District 7*  
*Florence City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Kendy Behrends*  
*Florence High School Principal: Ricky Sizemore*

### FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

- From 1914-1917 high school students in Florence attended Florence High School (which was held in a large house that the local board of education rented).
- From 1917-1967 high school students in Florence attended Coffee High School (which was named for the family that donated the land for the first Coffee High School building).
- From 1967-2004 high school students in Florence had two choices of high schools – Coffee High School (a new building that was built in the 1950s on a lot that was down the street from the original Coffee High School building) and Bradshaw High School (which was named after a prominent attorney who assisted the school system and the Florence City Board of Education with legal advice for a great number of years).
- Beginning in the fall of 2004, the Coffee High School facility became "Florence Middle School/Freshman Center" (two schools under one roof: one serving students in Grades 7-8 and another serving students in Grade 9). The Bradshaw High School facility became "Florence High School" for students in Grades 10-12.

## SCHOOL WILL OFFER SHELTER FROM HURRICANES

**A** South Alabama middle school has been named the state's first official special-needs shelter by the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Cranford Burns Middle School in the Mobile County School System will be used as a hurricane shelter during future storms. The system received a \$25,000 grant made possible through the federal Corporation for National and Community Service in partnership with Home Depot. The money will be used to rewire the school's electrical system to accommodate the necessary emergency equipment such as a generator. "As with any crisis, there are always lessons to be learned. One lesson learned from Hurricane Ivan is we've got to make sure there is adequate power in shelters for those with medical needs," **GOVERNOR BOB RILEY** said.

Burns was selected for several reasons, both logistically and structurally. It is located close to the interstate and a local hospital, and is built soundly enough to sustain high winds.

*State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney, District 1*  
*Mobile County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Harold Dodge*  
*Cranford Burns Middle School Principal: John Dean Adams*



## STARBASE SENDS STUDENTS INTO LEARNING GALAXY

**A** math, science, and technology academy for fifth-grade students in Autauga County has turned out to be a win-win situation for all involved. STARBASE, in its first year, is a five-week program allowing students to take a weekly class at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery.

Students at Autaugaville School really benefited from being involved with the program this year according to **AUTAUGA COUNTY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT LARRY BUTLER**. "Our students are fortunate to be involved in such an exciting and educational program that combines the rigor of math and science curriculum with the wonders of technology and aerospace," said Butler. "We are grateful to the 42nd Air Base Wing for its sponsorship and commitment in this project. The program is well-designed, enabling students to gain an enormous quality of instruction in a fun environment."

Classes held on the base include instruction in physics, algebra, and aerodynamics, taught by qualified personnel. Schools in Montgomery and Elmore Counties have also participated in STARBASE.

*State Board of Education Member: Ella Bell, District 5*  
*Autauga County Schools Superintendent: Larry Butler*  
*Autaugaville School Principal: John Clay*

Submit your school's or school system's Good News story to *Alabama Education News*. If we use your story, you will receive a new Educational Ruler mousepad. Send your stories and photos to: [Rebecca Leigh White at rwhite@alsde.edu](mailto:Rebecca_Leigh_White@alsde.edu). For further information, call 334-242-9952.





### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

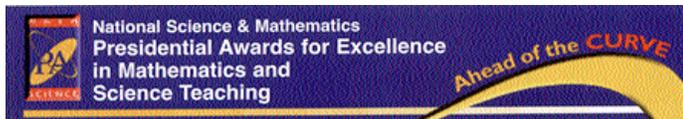
**JANIS STEWART** has been the principal of Meadowview Elementary School in the Selma City School System since 1998.

Recently, she was named Alabama's 2005 Distinguished Principal, the highest award a principal in Grades K-8 can achieve. The

National Distinguished Principal program honors outstanding elementary and middle school administrators who ensure that American children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement.

The veteran educator was honored with a resolution by the state Board of Education during its monthly K-12 meeting in Montgomery on April 14. Stewart has been instrumental in creating an environmental wonderland at her school, which has hosted numerous Earth Day activities.

Stewart will represent Alabama on the national level in Washington, D.C., in November. 🍏



### PRESIDENT HONORS ALABAMA TEACHERS

Out of 95 teachers nationwide, two from Alabama have been



**LINDA K. JONES**

honored as Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. **LINDA K. JONES** teaches science at Fairhope Elementary School in the Baldwin County School System. **KATHY SNYDER** is a math teacher at Riverchase Elementary School in the Hoover City School System. Both were presented with

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching by **PRESIDENT BUSH** at the White House on April 14.



**KATHY SNYDER**

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognize exemplary K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Excellent teachers perform miracles every day with little or no recognition.

The Presidential Awards demonstrate the value and appreciation the nation has for the teaching profession. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details. 🍏



### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

Seven Alabama public high school seniors are semifinalists in the 2005 Presidential Scholars Program. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selected 550 semifinalists nationwide based on academic and/or artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and community. Alabama's 2005 Presidential Scholars semifinalists are:

**LANCE J. COLLINS**, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham

**ALICE B. EVANS**, Huntsville High School, Huntsville City Schools

**JACOB W. LYNN**, Foley High School, Baldwin County Schools

**SINI M. MATIKAINEN**, Hoover High School, Hoover City Schools

**CASEY L. RAYMOND**, Mountain Brook High School, Mountain Brook City Schools

**STEVEN M. SEARCY**, Virgil I. Grissom High School, Huntsville City Schools

**NAOMI L. WOLF**, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham

The 550 semifinalists were chosen from nearly 2.8 million graduating high school seniors in the United States. Alabama's semifinalists have the opportunity to become one of 141 Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. One Alabama semifinalist, **NAOMI WOLF**, is also recommended for Scholar in the Arts. 🍏

### ALABAMA TEACHER NAMED TO NATIONAL BOARD CONSORTIUM



**HUNGSIN CHIN**

A teacher in the Mathematics & Science Department at the Alabama School of Fine Arts was recently named to the 2005-2006 National Board of Directors for the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (NCSSSMST).

**HUNGSIN CHIN** is a National Board

Certified Teacher with more than 19 years of classroom experience. Originally from Malaysia, the ninth-grade Honors Geometry teacher describes herself as an ambitious lifelong learner who was an English as a Second Language learner throughout her college career.

The goal of the Consortium is to foster support and advance the efforts of those specialized schools whose primary purpose is to attract and academically prepare students for leadership in mathematics, science, and technology.

The Alabama School of Fine Arts is a public, tuition-free school for Alabama students in Grades 7-12. The school offers instruction in six specialty areas: Creative Writing, Dance, Mathematics & Science, Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. 🍏

# SCHOOL SYSTEMS CONSISTENTLY RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD

Congratulations to 24 Alabama public school systems nationally recognized for meeting the needs of families choosing schools for their children. The 14th annual *What Parents Want Award* for 2005, chosen by *SchoolMatch* of Columbus, OH, honors only 2,528 of the nation's 15,573 public school systems. *SchoolMatch*, the nation's largest school selection consulting firm, helps corporate employee families find schools to match the needs of their children. Because relocating parents often focus on finding a school system that produces a certain quality of high school graduate, only school systems with secondary school programs are eligible for the award.

The majority of Alabama's recognized school systems have consistently received the *What Parents Want Award* for most of the last decade. One system – Mountain Brook City Schools – has ranked all 14 years.

Only 16 percent of the nation's public school systems earned this distinction in 2005. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏

Your Source for Reliable Information



ALABAMA SCHOOL SYSTEMS RECEIVING THE 2005 <i>WHAT PARENTS WANT AWARD</i>		
SCHOOL SYSTEM	TOTAL YEARS	YEARS RECOGNIZED
Arab City	10	1996-2005
Athens City	10	1996-2005
Auburn City	10	1996-2005
Baldwin County	6	1998 and 2001-2005
Daleville City	11	1995-2005
Decatur City	11	1995-2005
Dothan City	8	1998-2005
Enterprise City	11	1995-2005
Florence City	11	1995-2005
Hartselle City	10	1996-2005
Homewood City	12	1992 and 1995-2005
Hoover City	10	1996-2005
Huntsville City	12	1994-2005
Jacksonville City	2	2004-2005
Jefferson County	9	1992 and 1998-2005
Madison City	2	2004-2005
Madison County	8	1998-2005
Mobile County	8	1998-2005
Mountain Brook City	14	1992-2005
Muscle Shoals City	11	1995-2005
Ozark City	10	1996-2005
Shelby County	8	1998-2005
Tuscaloosa City	10	1996-2005
Vestavia Hills City	12	1992 and 1995-2005

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

**The 2005 Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) – Classrooms: Then and Now** will be held June 15-17 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. For further information, call 850-906-0099 or [CLICK HERE](#).

**The Alabama Association for Gifted Children's Annual Summer Conference** will be held July 11-12 at Oak Mountain Middle School in Birmingham. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**The Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference** will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN, July 13-16. More than 7,000 high school, middle grades, and postsecondary educators will be instructed on methods to raise student performance, increase graduation rates, and prepare students for further learning and work. For information, [CLICK HERE](#).

**The 2005 Mega Conference – Teaching With One Voice** will be held July 19-22 in Mobile. For conference information, contact Hubert Staley at the Alabama Department of Education at 334-242-8114 or [CLICK HERE](#).

## AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**The Panasonic Academic Challenge** is a national high school competition that awards scholarships to winning teams. This year's event will be held at Disney World in Orlando, June 18-21. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Peggy B. Harrod at 863-968-5168 or [CLICK HERE](#).

**The Computers for Learning (CFL)** program provides schools with free, available computer equipment. Federal agencies and private sector entities transfer unneeded computers and related equipment to schools while giving special consideration to those with the greatest need. To participate in CFL, [CLICK HERE](#).

**The Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association** has established a new scholarship program for Alabama students interested in pursuing manufacturing careers. The program is open to students pursuing a career/technical education certificate or associate degree in designated programs of The Alabama College System. Applications are available at all Alabama public community colleges, or [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: June 30**

# SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS DIRECTOR PENS DRAMA HIGHLIGHTING BIRMINGHAM'S RACIAL HISTORY

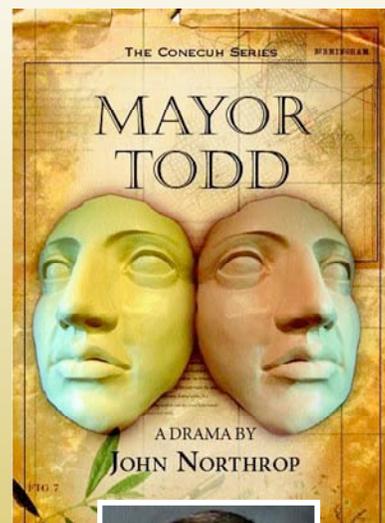
**M**ayor Todd, a drama written by ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS (ASFA) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN NORTHROP hit bookstore shelves the week of May 2, bringing with it an open forum for discussion about Birmingham's history of racial tensions and political conflicts. Using fictional characters based on **MAYOR DAVID J. VANN** and **MAYOR RICHARD ARRINGTON JR.** the drama transports the

reader back to 1979 to events that altered the political landscape of Birmingham.

The author, John Northrop, grew up in Andalusia and graduated from Birmingham-Southern College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Since 1997, he has served as the Executive Director of the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham. 🍏

*State Board of Education Member: David Byers, District 6*



## The Alabama School of Fine Arts hosts "An Afternoon with John Northrop"

Wednesday, May 18th, 4:30 pm

The event will include an author talk, book signing, and reception. Admission is free and copies of *Mayor Todd* will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the Randy Marsh Memorial Scholarship Fund at ASFA.

For more information call 205-252-6617.



## \$10,000 RECYCLING REWARDS FOR 10 ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**W**hat's black and white and re(a) all over and worth \$10,000? Recycled newspapers!

Recycling everything from newspapers and cell phones to cans and grass clippings, 10 Alabama public schools won \$10,000 in grants in the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation's 2005 Excellence in Recycling Awards. As recycling award

winners, schools received \$1,000 each from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, which sponsors the awards in partnership with the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Recycling Coalition.

The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation funds the school recycling awards as part of its mission to improve the quality

of life in communities with a Weyerhaeuser presence. For more information about Weyerhaeuser, contact Jackie Walburn at 334-963-2270, or [CLICK HERE](#). To learn more about environmental education in Alabama public schools, contact Sallye Longshore at 334-353-9767 or [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏

### WINNERS OF THE 2005 EXCELLENCE IN RECYCLING AWARDS:

- Delta Elementary School, Baldwin County Schools
- Highland Gardens Elementary, Montgomery County Schools
- Winterboro High School, Talladega County
- Billingsley High School, Autauga County Schools
- Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School, Montgomery County Schools
- Fairhope High School, Baldwin County Schools
- Northside School, Opelika City Schools
- Silverhill Elementary School, Baldwin County Schools
- Smith's Station Elementary School, Lee County Schools
- Wellborn High School, Calhoun County Schools

# More Good News ...



## MATH TOURNAMENT READIES STUDENTS FOR STATE TESTS

*Submitted by Sharon Dye, Covington County Schools Curriculum Coordinator*

Students in Grades 4-6 in Covington County really have a neat way to practice for state assessments. To prepare to take the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test (ARMT)* and *Stanford 10* tests, students participated in the sixth annual Covington County Schools Math Tournament.

One hundred and sixty-five students participated in this year's event held at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College on April 29. Participants took an online written math exam at their respective schools prior to April 29, then math teams were chosen by their math sponsors to compete in the tournament by solving problems from the Alabama Course of Study. Medallions were awarded to all participants and trophies were given to 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd-, and 4th-place winners and team winners from each grade level. 🍏

**State Board of Education Member: Betty Peters, District 2**  
**Covington County Schools Superintendent: Ronnie Driver**

## TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

Alfa Jefferson County school-teacher has been named the Teacher of the Month for May. **GLEND A BICE**, a teacher at Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, is an Advanced Placement/IB language and composition teacher. Bice also sponsors the Poetry Festival and National Honor Society and serves as liaison for character education.



**GLEND A BICE**

Bice believes effective teachers are committed to all students and their learning and must know and understand the subjects they teach. Bice is known for her high standards and ability to command the best from her students.

As Alfa Teacher of the Month, Bice will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance Company, and her school will receive a matching gift from the Alabama Farmer's Federation.

During the 2005 school year, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation will honor one outstanding teacher from each of the eight state school board districts as well as two principals and two private school teachers. 🍏

# JEFFERSON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL IS NATION'S TOP HIGH SCHOOL



The Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School (IBS) is the number one high school on the List of 1,000 Best U. S. Schools in *Newsweek* magazine. The school, a part of Shades Valley High School, has taken top honors in a ranking of the best U. S. Schools according to a ratio devised by Jay Matthews, a senior *Newsweek* contributing editor. IBS senior **CARRIE MCGAHEE** is featured on the cover of the May 16 issue. The school is in the city limits of Irondale, but is a part of the Jefferson County Schools System led by **SUPERINTENDENT PHIL HAMMONDS**.

Matthews' formula involved taking the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students at a school in 2004 and then dividing by the number of graduating seniors.

Additionally, the Jefferson County IBS was recognized in January by the International Baccalaureate National office in America for having the best scores in the world for its AP European History courses for an IBS having less than 500 students.

## ALABAMA HAS 5 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS ON THE LIST OF 1,000.

PLACE	SCHOOL	SYSTEM
61	Alabama School of Fine Arts	
211	Auburn High School	Auburn City
248	Mountain Brook High School	Mountain Brook City
434	Loveless Academic Magnet Program	Montgomery County
631	Virgil Grissom High School	Huntsville City

MAY						
2-8	Teacher Appreciation Week					
3	National Teacher Day					
11	State Teacher of the Year Announcement					
12	Alabama Board of Education Meeting					
26	Alabama Board of Education Work Session					
30	Memorial Day (STATE HOLIDAY)					

JUNE						
6	Jefferson Davis Birthday (STATE HOLIDAY)					
9	Alabama Board of Education Meeting					
14	Flag Day					
14-17	Alabama Education Technology Conference (AETC)					
23	Alabama Board of Education Work Session					



ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

## SCHOLARSHIP HONORS GOVERNOR'S LATE DAUGHTER

The Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) is pleased to announce the second annual Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship, benefiting kindergarten through sixth grade teachers. This is a professional development opportunity for teachers to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to enhance his or her teaching abilities by attending a seminar or institute, purchasing classroom materials, or offering a class field trip. Scholarships will be awarded exclusively in the subject areas of history and civics.

The Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship is named for the late daughter of **GOV. BOB RILEY** and **FIRST LADY PATSY RILEY**. Initial funding for the

scholarship is provided by **EDGAR WELDEN** of Birmingham as a means of honoring the memory of Miss Riley and her dedication to the teaching and nurturing of Alabama's most important citizens – young children.

The recipient(s) will be announced at the AHF's Annual Humanities Award Luncheon in Birmingham each fall.

Applications with a short essay should be mailed to: Alabama Humanities Foundation, Attn: Riley Scholarship Selection Committee, 1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101, Birmingham, Alabama 35205. Please contact the Alabama Humanities Foundation at 205-558-3980 to receive a copy of the application and examples of past projects. 🍏

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2005.**



## ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

VOL 28 • NO 9

May 2005

### Alabama Board of Education Members

Gov. Bob Riley, President

- Dist. 1 - Randy McKinney, Gulf Shores
- Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
- Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, V.P. Emerita, Fairfield
- Dist. 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
- Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Pres. Pro Tem, Tuscaloosa
- Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville

Joseph B. Morton,  
State Superintendent of Education  
and Secretary and Executive Officer  
of the Alabama Board of Education

### Editorial Staff - (334) 242-9950

Managing Editor - Mitch Edwards  
Editor - Rebecca Leigh White  
Contributing Editor - Anne Graham  
Contributing Editor - Michael O. Sibley  
Graphic Artist - Mary Nell Shaw

The Alabama Department of Education publishes *Alabama Education News* (USPS 387-290) monthly except for June, July, and December. Editorial offices are located in the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery 36130-2101. *Alabama Education News* is composed by the Department of Education's Communication Section and printed by EBSCO Media of Birmingham. Periodicals are postage paid in Montgomery and at an additional mailing office.

This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the Code of Alabama, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Alabama Education News*, Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.