



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

MAY 2006



IN THE NAME OF CHILDREN

Alabama lawmakers are sending this message to motorists who unlawfully pass stopped school buses unloading or picking up students.

On April 5, 2006, ALABAMA GOV. BOB RILEY signed into law a bill that will help keep students getting on or off school buses safe from irresponsible motorists. The new

bill increases penalties for drivers who illegally pass stopped school buses on any road – including highways, roadways, school property, or private roads – and penalties will increase incrementally with each new offense.

Riley signed the bill with hopes that public knowledge of more severe penalties will curb this deadly violation. “The most dangerous part of a school bus ride is when the bus stops. Motorists who illegally passed a stopped school bus have killed four and injured seven Alabama children since 1998. No child or family should ever experience such a tragedy,” Riley said. “This new law is one I know our parents welcome, our school bus drivers welcome, and certainly our children welcome.”

The bill was sponsored by **REPRESENTATIVE RANDY DAVIS**, R-District 96, and **SENATOR TED LITTLE**, D-District 27. One of the fatalities resulting from an illegal passing violation was the death of 5-year-old **MEAGAN TOOMEY** in May of 2000.

Meagan’s untimely death, along with the other victims, deepened Little’s resolve to help bring this bill to fruition. “One of the reasons we set these higher standards is in Meagan’s honor so that her life will continue to be meaningful to future

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TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS LIGHT THE WAY TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Torchbearer Schools are high-poverty public schools that have overcome the odds to become high-performing schools. On April 11, **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** announced 22 new Torchbearer Schools at a special recognition luncheon and work session in Montgomery where he applauded principals for their dedication and commitment

CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE TORCHBEARER SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY ARE:

-  SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE STUDENT POPULATION RECEIVES FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEALS.
-  SEVENTY PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORE AT LEVELS 3 OR 4 ON THE *ALABAMA READING AND MATHEMATICS TEST (ARMT)*.
-  STUDENTS EXHIBIT ABOVE AVERAGE PERFORMANCE ON THE *STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST –TENTH EDITION*.
-  ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

to Alabama students. “Torchbearer Schools have really caused a big problem for us,” said Morton. “Now naysayers cannot claim that children from high-poverty schools can’t learn and excel when given the right guidance and instruction.”

Torchbearer Schools in Alabama were conceived following a study conducted by the Alabama Leadership Academy of the book *No Excuses: 21 Lessons from High-Performing, High-Poverty Schools* by Samuel Casey-Carter. The research-based book outlined methods used for raising achievement levels in 21 high-poverty population schools around the nation.

Torchbearer Schools are designated annually based on objective student achievement data. Eight of the 22 schools also earned this distinction in 2005.

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS STAFF KEEP ON TRUCKIN’ FOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS

On a bright April morning, Alabama Department of Education Federal Programs Section staff showed up for work dressed in jeans and T-shirts and sporting sun visors and ball caps. Not exactly business attire...

But, this particular day in April was different. It was the day these staff members worked to unload a tractor-trailer truck filled with children’s books, notebooks, pencils, crayons, notebook paper, rulers, scissors, highlighters, staplers, and many other classroom supplies being donated to local Alabama public school systems.

Hundreds of boxes packed with school supplies and elementary school-level reading books arrived at Montgomery’s Paterson Field all the way from Oklahoma on April 5, thanks to the international charity Feed The Children. The estimated value of the donated items is \$150,000.

Representatives from 33 systems responding to a statewide invitation drove to Montgomery to pick up their boxes. The amount of supplies allocated to each system



was based on enrollment.

Many systems will use the items to replenish supplies used by the overflow of displaced students enrolled in Alabama schools after Hurricane Katrina. Alabama is one of 12 initial states Feed The Children has

offered similar assistance to as part of its ongoing disaster relief efforts and expanded education literacy initiative. “We are so happy that these supplies and books can be used to help the children of Alabama,” said **LARRY JONES**, president and co-founder of Feed The Children. “We know how important it is to feed the mind as well as the body.” For more information, [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏

36 SCHOOL SYSTEMS RECEIVING SUPPLIES

ALBERTVILLE CITY	EUFAULA CITY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ATHENS CITY	FAIRFIELD CITY	PERRY COUNTY
AUTAUGA COUNTY	GADSDEN CITY	PHENIX CITY
BIBB COUNTY	GENEVA CITY	PIKE COUNTY
CHILTON COUNTY	HARTSELLE CITY	SELMA CITY
DALLAS COUNTY	HENRY COUNTY	SHELBY COUNTY
DECATUR CITY	HUNTSVILLE CITY	ST. CLAIR COUNTY
DEKALB COUNTY	LAWRENCE COUNTY	SUMTER COUNTY
DEMOPOLIS CITY	LINDEN CITY	TALLADEGA CITY
ELBA CITY	MARION COUNTY	TUSCALOOSA CITY
ELMORE COUNTY	MIDFIELD CITY	YOUTH SERVICES



(continued from page 1)

young girls and boys who are taking advantage of the school bus opportunity,” Little said. “Motorists need to know when you see a school bus it is not the time to be in a haste, it is not the time to be speedy, and it is not the time to be cool. When you see the lights of a school bus, you’ve got a law to abide by and you need to do so or the punishment will be severe.” Little said with more days added to the school calendar next year, there will be that many more opportunities for motorists to encounter school buses, and hopefully act accordingly. He sees the standards set in the new legislation as a tribute to Megan and a life gone too soon.

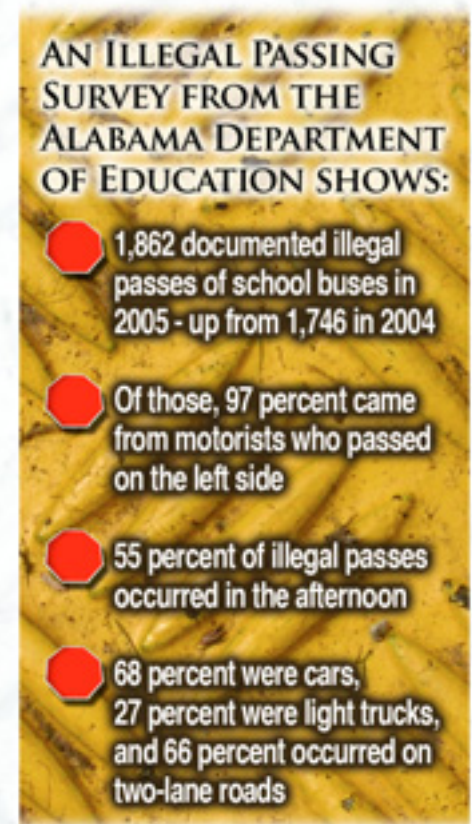
Another incentive embedded in the new legislation is that the law enforcement agency issuing the citation will keep 90 percent of the fine. This encourages the authorities to watch for illegal school bus passing even more keenly than before. It also puts motorists on notice that they are being watched.

DON INGRAM, transportation director for Auburn City Schools, said this incentive, along with a good relationship between school officials and local police, might make a significant difference. “Hopefully [the financial incentive] will inspire police to make even more of an effort to be watchful for violators,” Ingram said. “We have a great rapport with our police here. I ask our drivers to report back and tell us areas and times where illegal passing is frequent. We then pass those locations on to local authorities so they can be there to patrol and witness any infraction.”

Ingram said awareness of the offense is also important. He said there are many inexperienced drivers who just don’t know what the rule is when it pertains to a stopped school bus. Getting the word out and making sure motorists understand are most important. He said when you have a college town like Auburn, a lot of students are from other states where the laws are different, and maybe some drivers just don’t know.

Little said one good thing about this law is that it now unifies the entire state regarding the penalty.

“We have more than 7,000 school buses on the road in Alabama every school day, with more than 350,000 students going to and from school daily. In one day, there could be more than 2,000 infractions throughout the state. Now the law is uniform so if school bus safety standards are violated, the judge will have the same punishment upon conviction in all areas of the state,” said **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR JOE LIGHTSEY**. “The law will be uniform throughout the state and progressive in its punishment. The more you violate the law, the more severe the penalty.” 🍏



PENALTIES FOR ILLEGALLY PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS



GOOD NEWS IN

STOP THE PRESSES!



NORTHRIDGE HIGH NEWSPAPER WINS TOP AWARDS

Taking journalism in high school helps prepare students for adulthood in many ways. Whether it is newspapers, magazines, or broadcast media, journalism teaches students the “who-what-where-when-why-how” of life in general. You know what they say, “Inquiring minds want to know.”

Students at the Northridge High School newspaper gain significant training and recognition for their writing, editing,

Students on the newspaper staff:

Editor: Meghan Menard • Staff writers: Maggie Bell, Katie Brown, Chris Gattozzi, Caroline Hulsey, Jessica Kelly, Kate Lawrence, Jodi Lee, Annie Leonard, Sam Martone, Aida Noriega-Toledo, Alex Perkins, Michael Santina, Rebecca Searcy, Josh Scholl, Hayley Strong, Caroline Taylor, Kweku Ulzen, Gillian West, Molly West, and Miranda Wilson.

and graphics layout efforts. For the third consecutive year, *The Northridge Reporter* was named the Best Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA) state newspaper. Additionally, it won the prestigious SIPA All-Southern award. Both awards were received at the annual SIPA convention in Columbia, S.C., on March 5.

SUSAN NEWELL, faculty advisor for *The Northridge Reporter*, said her students exhibit a very high degree of professionalism and creativity when working on the paper. “I am so proud of their accomplishments and desire to venture into the many facets of good journalism,” said Newell.

Senior **KATIE BROWN**, Entertainment Editor for *The Northridge Reporter*, won first place in the nation for her news story “*Snacking in Class Causes Controversy*” published in the May 2005 issue of the paper. Only one news story per publication could be entered in the contest, co-sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association and The American Society of Newspaper Editors.

SIPA is a non-profit organization of public and independent middle, junior, and senior high schools. Its purpose is to encourage a high degree of professionalism in scholastic journalism and mass communications in the Southeast. For info [CLICK HERE](#).

State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray, District 7
Tuscaloosa City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Joyce Levey
Northridge High School Principal: Margaret O’Neal

STUDENT EXHIBIT “BLOWS AWAY” VIEWERS



Contributor: Denise Berkhalter, Director of Public Relations, Alabama Association of School Boards

Powerful photographs taken and poems written in the wake of Hurricane Katrina by 16 students from Bayou La Batre are set to be displayed in Colorado this summer. The exhibit consisting of 50 black-and-white photos and 16 poems, titled “Eyes of the Storm,” shows the wrath Katrina took in the southern portion of Mobile County.

The student artists from Alba Middle School partnered with Elm Place Middle School in Highland Park, Ill., to create a traveling exhibit that tells the story of the Hurricane Katrina tragedy in pictures and words. The project resulted after seventh- and eighth-graders in the Future Problem Solvers program at Elm Place asked what they could do to help in the hurricane relief efforts.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Elm Place students visited Bayou La Batre and witnessed firsthand the destruction and loss that took place. That’s when the two schools decided to team up to show the rest of the nation what happened through artistic creation and interpretation by different cultures.

The “Merging Culture” exhibit greeted thousands of National School Boards Association members at the annual



conference in Chicago on April 8-11. Alba students traveled to the Windy City where they were recognized for their work. Additionally, they got the chance to visit their Elm Place partners and experience their school climate.

State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney, District 1
Mobile County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Harold Dodge
Alba Middle School Principal: James Gill



FESTIVAL TEACHES ALABAMA'S PRECIOUS RESOURCES ABOUT EARTH'S PRECIOUS RESOURCE – WATER



Taking a hot shower, drinking a tall glass of refreshing ice water, swimming on a sweltering summer's day, fishing, wearing clean clothes, washing the car, watering the lawn and plants... all things a lot of us do but often take for granted. Where would we be if we didn't have access to the one common element needed for having or doing all those things and more?

Clean water and quality-educated students are two of our most precious resources. Both are needed to ensure Alabama's future. The two came together of sorts at the first Covington County Groundwater Festival at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in



Andalusia on March 10.

Educators and community members from across the state teamed up for

an exciting and interactive day of learning for fourth-grade students in the Covington County School System. **ENID PROBST, PH.D.**, with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, was program coordinator.

Students participated in hands-on learning activities focusing on what groundwater is; the importance of water to all life; the water cycle and groundwater's role in it; the interdependence of plants, trees, wildlife, soil and water; the effect of human actions on water and all nature; and the need for responsible action. The water festival used the Alabama Science Course of Study objectives to educate students to conserve and protect Alabama's most precious resource.

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

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS



By Mona Taylor-Davis, Public Information Manager, Montgomery Public Schools

When 11-year-old **CARL FLEETING JR.** arrived at Seth Johnson Elementary last September, he had no reason to think the day would be any different from any other day. Sure, it was the beginning of the school week and he and his friends were still getting into the routine of things, but little did he know that on that day he'd become someone's hero.

"We were doing our practice fire drill and Carl found \$22," said **SETH JOHNSON PRINCIPAL JACQUELINE CAMPBELL**. "He gave it to his teacher who was able to find the student the money belonged to."

As a result, Carl was recognized with Seth Johnson's first Good Citizenship Award during a school assembly. It's just one of several ways the school teaches students that character counts through its Positive Behavior Plan.

"In the halls, in classrooms, and in other areas around the school, we place signs promoting respect and kindness toward teachers and their peers. When students exhibit acts of kindness or act respectfully, come prepared to learn on a

consistent basis, and enter and exit rooms quietly, we reward the positive behavior, which in turn serves as a model for other students," said Campbell. "The children are kinder and more supportive of each other, and our suspension rate has dropped as a result of our rising school spirit." Students who



Carl Fleeting Jr. is joined by his mom Tyies Fleeting, teacher Norma Bishop, and Seth Johnson principal Jacqueline Campbell

exhibit good behavior are recognized at monthly programs, designated as Student of the Week or Month, and receive a positive phone call to their parents.

State Board of Education Member: Ella Bell, District 5
Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell
Seth Johnson Elementary School Principal: Jacqueline Campbell

MORE GOOD NEWS

"IN TUNE" IN TUSCALOOSA



Submitted by: Melissa Hickok, Strings Teacher, Tuscaloosa City Schools

String Education in public schools has become a reality for Tuscaloosa City Schools with the creation of Strings in Schools. Beginning strings classes are now being offered in all three of the middle schools as a part of the regular school day. Over 100 businesses and individuals made donations to make this dream possible for Tuscaloosa students.



On March 6, the beginning string students in the program had the opportunity of a lifetime. These young middle school musicians performed part of the fourth movement of *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. They were able

to work with professional musicians from the orchestra under the direction of world-renowned conductor **SHINIK HAHM**.
State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray, District 7
Tuscaloosa City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Joyce Levey

GOVERNOR VISITS SATSUMA HIGH SCHOOL



Submitted by: Cathy Taylor, Mobile County Schools

Satsuma High School (SHS) played host for a very special guest on Thursday, April 6. **GOV. BOB RILEY** took time out of his very busy schedule to visit the school that serves as a disaster relief shelter



for hurricanes that batter the region. SHS served as a shelter for eight storms during 2005 despite sustaining damages from those storms. The school received roof damage, downed power poles and lights, and concrete bleachers and restrooms in the football stadium were

blown apart. However, during Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, the school opened its doors to evacuees. Child Nutrition Program staff also worked around the clock to prepare meals.

Mobile's Azalea Trail Maids were on hand to greet the governor and other distinguished guests. While he was here, he chatted with administrators, faculty, and students.

State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney, District 1
Mobile County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Harold Dodge
Satsuma High School Principal: Deborah Altman

PAINE PRIMARY CELEBRATES THEIR YOUNG AUTHORS



Submitted by: Gina Gamble, Trussville City Schools

Paine Primary School acknowledged the hard work of their young authors in April with a visit from author, **MICHAEL SHOULDERS**, who has written several titles including: *V is for Volunteer*; *M is for Magnolia*; *1 Mississippi*, *2 Mississippi*; *Count on Us*; *N is for Natural State*; and his new book *D is for Drum*. He shared with students how authors gather information for their books and explained that authors are real people with houses, families, and pets.

Our young authors submitted some of their best writing to be judged for the Young Author's Conference, and six winning entries were selected. These lucky students were each treated to an autographed book and lunch with Shoulders, where he read each of their stories aloud to them.



YOUNG AUTHOR WINNING ENTRIES WERE SUBMITTED BY:

Bess Gordon, Grade K – Teacher, Mrs. Brooks
Grayson Byram, Grade K – Teacher, Miss McConnell
Joseph Taylor, Grade 1 – Teacher, Mrs. Herndon
Emily McMahon, Grade 1 – Teacher, Mrs. Johnson
Kelsie Ho, Grade 2 – Teacher, Mrs. O'Brien
Sydney Childers, Grade 2 – Teacher, Mrs. Ashley

State Board of Education Member: David Byers, District 6
Trussville City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Suzanne Freeman
Paine Primary School Principal: Betsy Schmitt

MORE GOOD NEWS

GARRETT ELEMENTARY STUDENT CREATES AN AWARD-WINNING ANTI- SMOKING MESSAGE



Garret Elementary fifth-grader **LAURA ANNE LAMBERT** knows how to tell a good story. Just ask officials at the Alabama Chapter of the American Lung Association who recognized the young writer for her anti-smoking messages during the 2006 “Don’t Start Smoking” Storyboard Contest.



“Laura’s story board was really good,” said **KIM PERRY**, Director of Development for the Lung Association. “It included lots of well-illustrated messages about why people shouldn’t smoke.”

Perry said more than 50,000 students statewide competed in the contest, and only three students were selected from Grades K-5. Lambert’s story board included pictures with several anti-smoking messages such as “smoking makes your breath stink,” “smoking makes your teeth rot,” and “secondhand smoke puts others at risk.” Lambert was recognized at an awards ceremony at Vulcan Park on April 15, where she received a portable CD player and other prizes. “We are really proud of Laura because she worked hard on her storyboard. It sends a strong message that tells others about the dangers of smoking,” said **LEE NICKLES**, Lambert’s teacher. “I think she did a great job!”

“It’s great to see the amount of creativity and effort that has gone into these projects. We hope more students will get involved and will encourage their peers not to smoke,” Perry said.

*State Board of Education Member: Stephanie Bell, District 3
Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell
Garret Elementary School Principal: Sherri Herring*

CARVER ELEMENTARY TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Carver Elementary teacher **LEEANN McFEELY** was awarded Reading Renaissance Model Classroom Certification by Renaissance Learning, a Wisconsin-based company. Model Classroom Certification indicates her efforts to adopt Reading Renaissance methods have resulted in measurable improvements in student reading performance. “Leeann exemplifies the kind of commitment to the success of every student that is at the heart of effective teaching,” said **JUDI PAUL**, co-chair of the board at Renaissance Learning.

To receive Reading Renaissance Model Classroom Certification, a teacher must demonstrate that their students received a minimum of 60 minutes of reading practice time daily. Additionally, teachers must be actively working with individual students to meet Renaissance-recommended standards for reading achievement.

In addition to national recognition, Carver Elementary School will receive a merchandise certificate for \$50 and a discount on educational staff development opportunities.

Renaissance Learning Inc. is a leading provider of computerized assessment and progress-monitoring tools for Pre K-12 schools and school systems. Adopted by more than



68,000 schools, Renaissance Learning products give students and teachers continuous feedback to improve instruction, motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, and improve test scores.

*State Board of Education Member: Ella Bell, District 5
Montgomery County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Carlinda Purcell
Carver Elementary School Principal: Cathey Hendricks*

Special thanks to Mona Davis, Montgomery County Schools for submitting these Good News stories!



WHERE'S THE BEEF, HOW DO YOU SAFELY COOK IT, AND THEN WHIP UP A GOURMET FEAST?

Many students in Alabama's Career/Technical Education Agriscience and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) programs can show you the beef, prepare a sumptuous meal, wow you with the overall presentation, and win awards for their talents to-boot. Let's start at the beginning of the process...

THE 2006 ALABAMA JUNIOR BEEF EXPO AND STEER SHOW



In March, hundreds of Alabama middle and high school students traveled to Montgomery to compete for "best in class" honors at the 2006

Alabama Junior Beef Expo and Steer Show. Competing students participate in or belong to Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Alabama 4-H; or FFA.

JACOB DAVIS, FFA Executive Secretary, feels students gain useful knowledge that will help them succeed in the future. "These students not only learn competitiveness, they also learn how to raise and care for their animals and learn what a valuable commodity beef is to our nation," said Davis. According to the National FFA Organization, one of every five Americans is employed in the critical food, fiber, and natural resources industries of agriculture.

STUDENT WINNERS AT THIS YEAR'S STEER SHOW WERE:

Grand Champion

Caleb Elrod, Holly Pond High School, Cullman County

Reserve Grand Champion

Amie Hill, Holly Pond High School, Cullman County

Grand Champion Alabama-Bred

Shayne Pinyan, Holly Pond Elementary School, Cullman County

Reserve Grand Champion Alabama-Bred

Jamie Heflin, Verbena High School, Chilton County

Supreme Champion Showmanship Winner

Randa Owen, Fort Payne High School, Fort Payne City

STATE SENIOR HIGH BEEF COOK-OFF COMPETITION

High school students with a knack for cooking beef spent a Saturday morning in January waiting anxiously for judges to decide if their recipes were among the best in Alabama. The students, FCCLA members, competed in the 45th Annual State Senior High Beef Cook-Off, sponsored by the Alabama Cattlewomen's Association in Montgomery, on Jan. 28.

The students who competed are

enrolled in FACS programs statewide. The event drew competitors from high schools throughout Alabama.

The event's overall top prize, the "Best of Beef" Award, went to **ANNA MARTIN** of Sylvania High School in the DeKalb County School System for her "Beef Croquettes & Walnut Pomegranate Sauce."

The cooking contest was created to educate students about the nutritional

value of beef and the importance of America's beef industry, various cooking methods, and safe food-handling procedures.



FCCLA STATE HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Culinar, the Culinary Institute of Virginia College, hosted the competition for students enrolled in FACS programs statewide on March 25.



Of the six Alabama teams competing, FCCLA students from Bob Jones High School in the Madison City School System took home the top prize and will now go on to represent the state at Culinar's FCCLA National Culinary Arts Event in July. Additionally, the top three teams from the championship will compete in Culinar's Iron Chef-like Teen Cuisine Competition, which will be held at

Culinar on May 20.

"This culinary event is a wonderful opportunity for high school students not only to extend their early knowledge about cooking, but also to provide them with a chance to get involved in their local FCCLA chapter," says **CHEF ANTONY OSBORNE**, Dean of Culinar.

Teams were judged on planning, food production and presentation, an evaluation period, and kitchen cleanup.



LAVERAL GRAF, principal of W.C. Griggs Elementary in Mobile County, shared her thoughts about her students with fellow educators. "All of you know what I mean when I say we must love them into learning," exclaimed Graf. "Children who attend schools like ours must be nurtured and motivated to achieve the success that is due them."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ALABAMA'S TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS?

Each continues focusing on specific goals and challenges.

Principals respond to a survey outlining specific reasons and programs contributing to their schools' success.

Alabama Leadership Academy on-site visits will identify the specific values and programs accounting for the success in meeting goals and overcoming obstacles.

—Torchbearer Schools serve as mentors for each other and for other schools. A video highlighting success stories will be shown to other schools so they can learn by example and become a Torchbearer School as well.

For more information, contact **DR. TONY THACKER** of the Alabama Department of Education's Alabama Leadership Academy at 334-353-4180 or [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏



SCHOOL SYSTEM

Athens City
Birmingham City
Cleburne County
Cullman County
Dothan City
Dothan City
Escambia County
Eufaula City
Eufaula City
Gadsden City
Jackson County
Jasper City
Mobile County
Mobile County
Mobile County
Mobile County
Mobile County
Montgomery County
Phenix City
Talladega County
Walker County

SCHOOL

Athens Elementary
Council Elementary
Fruithurst Elementary
Jones Chapel Elementary
Heard Elementary
Cloverdale Elementary
Huxford Elementary*
Western Heights Elementary*
Bluff City Elementary
Walnut Park Elementary
Dutton Elementary*
West Jasper Elementary*
Peter F. Alba Elementary
Caldecaver Elementary*
McDavid-Jones Elementary
W C Griggs Elementary*
Saint Elmo Elementary*
J E Turner Elementary
Highland Avenue Elementary*
Westview Elementary
Childersburg Elementary
Townley Junior High

*Denotes 2005 Torchbearer Schools

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE SILVER LINING PROGRAM recognizes and honors young people ages 14-19 affected by catastrophe yet were still able to have a positive impact on others. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Deadline: May 15.**

THE HORACE MANN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDUCATORS help teachers continue their education. Applicants must have a minimum of two years' teaching experience. [CLICK HERE](#) or call 1-800-999-1030. **Deadline: May 16.**

THE TOOL FACTORY/OLYMPUS STUDENT PHOTO CONTEST AND TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM awards digital cameras, software, grant money and more. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Deadline: June 2.**

THE PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS recognize K-12 students across America for projects demonstrating their commitment to the environment. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. **Deadline: Oct. 1.**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (TAASRO) 7TH ANNUAL SAFE SCHOOLS TRAINING CONFERENCE will be held June 5-9 at the Island House Hotel in Orange Beach. Contact Information: David Thompson at 205-901-2940 or [CLICK HERE](#).

THE CLAS ANNUAL SUMMER CONVENTION - *Building Leaders* will be held June 25-28 at the Riverview Plaza Hotel and Mobile Convention Center in Mobile. Contact Information: Debbie Lee at 800-239-3616 or [CLICK HERE](#).

THE 2006 ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (AETC) - *Technology Infusion-Taking Education Outside The Box* will be held June 27-30 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. Contact Information: 850-906-0099 or [CLICK HERE](#).

THE 2006 MEGA CONFERENCE will be held in Mobile, July 10-14. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

THE FALL SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be held Aug. 17-18 at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery. Contact Information: Khristi Goodwin at 256-831-0139 or [CLICK HERE](#).

CALENDAR

MAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH • SAFE KIDS MONTH
PHYSICAL FITNESS MONTH • AMERICAN BIKE MONTH

8-14 TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
9 NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY
11 ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
25 ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
29 MEMORIAL DAY (STATE HOLIDAY)

Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Commissioner John Houston's message for Mental Health Month... "We need more resources in our communities such as: acute crisis care, housing, and children's services. The greatest investment we can make is in our children."

JUNE DAIRY MONTH • SAFETY MONTH

5 JEFFERSON DAVIS' BIRTHDAY (STATE HOLIDAY)
8 ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
14 FLAG DAY
22 ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
26 TOOTHBRUSH INVENTED IN 1498

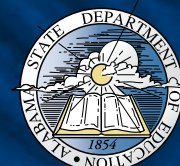
FY 07 EDUCATION BUDGET AT A GLANCE

TRANSPORTATION
\$316,697,013 (\$52.3 million)
ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE
\$56,018,668 (\$16 million)
TEXTBOOKS
\$51,151,041
SCHOOL NURSES
\$26,637,596 (\$19.8 million)
TEACHER MATERIALS/SUPPLIES
\$25,365,538
ALABAMA MATH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE
\$22,000,000 (\$7 million)
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
\$16,910,359 (\$8.35 million)
DISTANCE LEARNING
\$10,325,000
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
\$4,348,397

ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE
\$4,339,800 (\$2.99 million)
SCHOOL REWARDS
\$2,467,250 (\$2.35 million)
(Increase from FY06)

NEW APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION & PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS
\$23,600,000
FIVE ADDITIONAL DAYS OF SCHOOL
\$79,000,000
OTHER CURRENT EXPENSE
\$32,000,000
ARTS EDUCATION
\$300,000
ADVANCED PLACEMENT
\$1,000,000



ALABAMA Education News

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- ✓ Passed Resolution Commending Cynthia C. Brown, "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter," April-June 2006
- ✓ Passed Resolution Recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7-13
- ✓ Passed Resolution Commending Alabama's 2006 National Achievement Scholars
- ✓ Approved Career/Technical Education LPN Pilot Program
- ✓ Passed Resolution to Appoint Substitute Members to the English Language Arts State Course of Study Committee

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TEACHER OF THE MONTH



SHEKEDIA BRIGHT, a fourth-grade teacher at Knox Elementary School in the Selma City School System is the April Teacher of the Month. "Ms. Bright is known as a challenger - not only because she challenges her students but because she challenges herself as well," said Dr. James H. Carter, Superintendent of the Selma City School System. According to Carter, Bright is a dedicated teacher. Her day is not over until the bell rings. "To ensure all of her students' educational needs are met and that they experience success, she conducts after-school tutorial sessions," he said. In addition to catering to her students' academic needs, she strives to help them grow personally. Problem-solving skills, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills are taught and reinforced daily to foster lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

As Teacher of the Month for April, Bright will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance, and her school will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation. Alfa Insurance and Alabama Farmers Federation will be recognizing one teacher from each state school board district as well as two private school teachers and two principals.