



Concepts!

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PLEASE SUBMIT NEWS FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE OF CONCEPTS BY JUNE 10, 2011 TO: deboraholt@aol.com

Compliance with Gifted Regulations and Standards Added to the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards



MAGC President Sandee Manning and Carol Paola, Executive Director, are pictured above with Dr. Tom Burhnam, State Superintendent, and Paul Sumrall, Associate Superintendent: Communications and Legislation.

At the March meeting of the State Board of Education, the Office of Educational Accountability received approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to add Standard 23.9—Gifted Education to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010*.

At the April meeting the Mississippi Board of Education approved adding Standard 23.9 – Gifted Education to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010*, after it cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment.

MAGC would like to express its gratitude to the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Board of Education for recognizing the importance of gifted education in our State. According to Chauncey Spears, this will go into effect for the 2011-12 school year. More information will be disseminated by MDE in the coming months.

Two Conferences...Close To Home

We have a unique opportunity this fall to attend two conferences addressing gifted education that are in close proximity to most locations throughout Mississippi.

Our state MAGC Conference will be held in Hattiesburg, MS

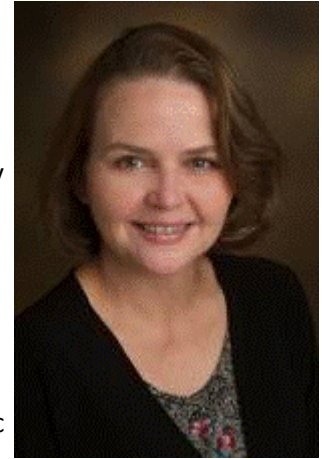
September 28-30, 2011. The national NAGC Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA November 3-6, 2011.



A Message From Our MAGC President...

Dear MAGC Friends,

The current legislative session is nearly in the history books. We have not made any gains in funding for gifted education or education in general. It is disappointing to realize that the feeling of some legislators is increased funding will not help our state prosper academically. Some feel that since education funding has increased through the years, there should now be a significant improvement in academic performance. Perhaps what we are missing in this view is that Mississippi's funding per student is still one of the lowest in the nation – not to mention our teacher salaries. Given the number of children attending rural districts and districts comprised of a majority of children from low economic circumstances, we need to be increasing funding not cutting. Alas this seems not to be the case in this legislative session. However, rather than being bitter, take the time to thank the many representatives who worked not only to maintain level funding, but also to increase it. Check the voting records on the Legislature or Parent's Campaign websites. As Nancy Loomer of the Parent's Campaign so aptly said – our voices are being heard– we must redouble our efforts and make our votes count in the upcoming state elections.



I suggest we use the time between legislative sessions to get to know our representatives and senators on a more personal level especially those running for office. This is the time to build connections and relationships with our elected officials so that when we do ask for specific items regarding education our voices will come through louder and clearer than ever before. Our public servants are individuals with families and responsibilities just like us. We honor them with the privilege of serving the public good. What better reason to get to know these individuals on a personal level.

Another avenue for learning more about our state legislators and building relationships is Facebook. Represent Toby Barker spoke to the MAGC Executive Board a few months ago and told us that many legislators are now using Facebook to connect with their constituents. I sent a friend request to my State Senator, Chris McDaniel, and it has taught me so much. Reading his posts and others' comments (and posting a few of my own) has helped me feel less removed from the political process. I strongly advise everyone to do this. I have also begun following the Parent's Campaign on Facebook. This is really up-to-the minute coverage of what is happening in legislative sessions especially as it pertains to education.

Finally let me say how excited we are to hold the 2011 Conference in Hattiesburg at the Lake Terrace Convention Center. It is wonderful to be able to bring the conference to Hattiesburg and the facilities are excellent. Our conference chair and president-elect, Glenn Nobles, has so many wonderful things in store for us. And . . . we have listened to your comments regarding CEUs and the process will be back to its streamlined ease for the 2011 conference. Additionally, Donna Welborn, is heading up the Pre-Conference Institute for Counselors and Psychometrists and has many wonderful items on her agenda. I encourage you to submit a conference proposal and join us September 28 - 30 in Hattiesburg for the MAGC 2011 Conference.

As always, the MAGC Executive Board covets your input and support. Please build relationships with your state legislators to promote gifted programming and adequate funding for all educational endeavors. Become an advocate in your local district and make plans to take part in the 2011 conference as a presenter and/or participant.

Thank you for all you do for our children in Mississippi,

Sandee

A Message from Carol Paola, MAGC Executive Director

Last year when funding for gifted education was changed from teacher units as an add-on program to inclusion in funding for MAEP, many of us felt it was the “kiss of death” for gifted education in our state. This year we watched from the relative safety of the MAEP as vocational education was the target of the governor’s ax. I have come to realize how much gifted education is valued by the educational leadership of our state! When I thanked Dr. Burnham for his support of the inclusion of gifted education in the accountability standards, his response was that it “was the right thing to do for children.” How fortunate we are to have our leaders at MDE looking out for gifted students. Please be sure you let them know how much they are appreciated!



How this new development will affect gifted programs in our districts has yet to be determined, but it is the first time compliance with gifted regulations and standards has been included in determining a district’s accreditation. We have Chauncey Spears to thank for pursuing this avenue of support.

As we finish another school year, it is time to take stock of what we have accomplished and make plans for next year. Along with your students, parents, teachers, and administrators, you have evaluated your programs. Although we love the positive comments, let’s take the ones that made us feel uncomfortable and establish personal and program goals to make changes.

We know that our programs must be more rigorous and highly visible in order to defend their value. Take every opportunity to “bump it up a notch” and then give the students opportunities to present to authentic audiences to show what they have learned.

As a reminder of what I wrote last year at this time...take this summer to renew your own love of learning and share it you’re your families. Take your children and grandchildren on “Summer Explorations”...museums, hiking trails, train rides, excursions to places you’ve always wanted to go. Often the children we love the most are the ones we slight during the school year because of our many commitments. Make every minute of summer count. You will be glad you did!

Remember, if I can be of service to you or your district in any way, do not hesitate to e-mail or call. Thank you for all you do to serve the needs of gifted children in our state!

Carol Western Paola, Executive Director

Cwp1gab@aol.com

228-864-8520/228-860-1763

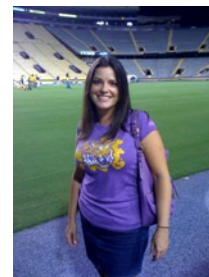
**Meet our
MAGC
Board
Members:
Each issue,
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different
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member so
you can
get to know
them better.
This issue,
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Parent Affili-
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Melissa
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Meet Our MAGC Parent Affiliate Chairperson...

This is Dana's first year on the MAGC board, where she serves as Parent Affiliate chairperson. A native of New Orleans, she holds degrees from Centenary College and Louisiana State University. A former middle school teacher, Dana earned her M.Ed. in Gifted Studies from Mississippi University for Women; she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from MSU.

Dana is the Research Specialist at the Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning on the campus of MUW. Her areas of interest are gifted advocacy, social-emotional issues of giftedness, special programs for gifted students, and the impact of NCLB on gifted education. She speaks frequently to parent groups and has presented workshops at several professional development events for teachers.

Dana is an avid sports fan and cook, and thinks that Saturdays should either be spent in a football stadium or in the kitchen.



Meet Our MAGC Recording Secretary...



Melissa Pierce teaches second grade gifted studies at Petal Primary School. She has taught for ten years with this year being her third year teaching gifted students. She received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education (K-8) from USM in 1997 and M.Ed. in Special Education/Gifted (K-12) in 2009. Maintaining active involvement with gifted advocacy efforts in our state, Melissa presently serves on the MAGC Executive Board as Recording Secretary, and as Webmaster for the Pine Belt Gifted Teachers Association. In 2009 and 2010, she coordinated a community performance of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol", engaging her students in community service through performing arts. She has also implemented several school-wide enrichment initiatives, and was awarded the *2011 Hancock Bank Leo Seal Teacher Recognition Award* for her school-wide *Primary Science-Literacy Project*.

Melissa and her husband, Dean, have been married for 21 years and have two sons, Matt and Jake. As a parent and teacher, she is passionate about excellence in gifted education and committed to the improvement of programs and practices for young gifted children.

Bipartisan Legislation to End U.S. Neglect of High-Potential Students Is Introduced

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2011) – The National Association for Gifted Children applauds the introduction of bipartisan legislation to end the longstanding neglect of high-achieving and high-potential students in the U.S., a neglect that is leaving the nation less competitive against global rivals and ill prepared for the future.

The legislation, known as the TALENT (To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation's Teachers) Act, will require states and local districts to include gifted and talented and high potential students in their plans for using federal funding, require states to report on the performance of gifted students on their annual state report cards and help better prepare teachers to work with this special-needs population.

"As a nation, we have neglected our gifted and talented and high-potential students for far too long, to our detriment. Not only do our students continue to lag behind the world on the most recent international tests, but few U.S. students are reaching the highest levels on state, national and international tests, a sign we are not focusing on developing advanced talent in our schools. The TALENT Act is a meaningful and cost-effective solution to this problem," said NAGC President Ann Robinson. "Achieving excellence in our schools today is necessary to achieve economic recovery and vitality tomorrow. If we fail to identify and develop our most talented students, we fail to prepare for the future," Robinson added.

Introduced yesterday in the Senate by Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Bob Casey (D-PA) and today in the House by Reps. Elton Gallegly (R-CA) and Donald Payne (D-NJ), the TALENT Act will require states and districts to report on the learning progress of high-ability students. It will also require that schools receiving Title I funding – those that serve a high proportion of students from disadvantaged settings – include gifted and talented and high-potential learners in their plans for the federal funds. "For too long, federal education policy has been so focused on preventing failure that we have neglected to promote and encourage success," said Senator Chuck Grassley. "We can no longer afford to ignore the needs of our brightest students and thus squander their potential. TALENT will put our country on track to tap that potential which is so essential to the future happiness and success of the students and the future prosperity of our nation."

In addition to ensuring all high-ability students are rightly identified, TALENT seeks to make sure these students receive the necessary services and support from appropriately trained school personnel – including principals, teachers and counselors – by supporting the development of best practice strategies and getting them into the hands of educators through dissemination efforts and professional development grants. It will also collect appropriate data on high-ability students to enable policymakers and educators to make informed decisions.

"TALENT recognizes the urgent need to better support high-ability students, and goes about doing so in a cost-effective manner. NAGC applauds Senators Casey and Grassley and Congressmen Gallegly and Payne for their leadership, and urges all Members of Congress to support this much-needed bill," Robinson said.

(Article taken from www.nagc.org)



Announcements from the Karnes Center

Leadership Studies Program

June 12-17, 2011

The Leadership Studies Program will be held from June 12-17, 2011, at the University of Southern Mississippi. This is a one-week residential program designed for students in grades 6 -11, who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on campus. Tuition includes room, board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance.

Leadership I is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include those areas necessary for leadership development: fundamentals of leadership, written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem-solving, planning, personal skills, and decision making. Avenues for becoming leaders in the schools, communities, and religious affiliations will be utilized to heighten the awareness and development of leadership potential.

Leadership II is a continuation of the program, with leadership I as a prerequisite for entry. It is an intense study to further develop leadership concepts and qualities. Emphasis is placed on the psychology of leadership, assertiveness training, and situational leadership.

Leadership III is an extension of the program, with Leadership II as a prerequisite for entry. Training will focus on the legal aspects of leadership, developing personal power, and leadership for the future. The students also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders. Financial aid is available based on need, on a limited basis. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2011.

For additional information about the Leadership Studies Program, please write The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, or call 601.266.5236, or e-mail gifted.studies@usm.edu. Information may also be found on our website, <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>.

Summer Gifted Studies Program

June 19-24, 2011

The Summer Gifted Studies Program will be held June 19-24, 2011, at the University of Southern Mississippi. This one-week residential program is designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4 through 8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration activities. Content areas are combined with processing skills to enable students to explore a wide variety of topics. Course selections include: Mind Power, Business Leader: Today and Tomorrow, Inventions, Money! Money! Money!, World Cultural Connections, Design Studio, and Write On!. Students will be housed in dormitories on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. Instructional activities will be conducted in classrooms and laboratories on campus. Recreational activities and cultural events will be included, based upon availability.

Advancing
Potential...
and All That
Jazz!

For more in-
formation on
attending the
NAGC Con-
ference, go
to: nagc.org

Announcements from the Karnes Center

The tuition cost includes room, board, recreational and cultural activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available on a limited basis, based on need. The deadline for application is March 31, 2011. For additional information about the Summer Gifted Studies Program please write The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, or call 601.266.5236, or e-mail gifted.studies@usm.edu. Information may also be found on our website, <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>.

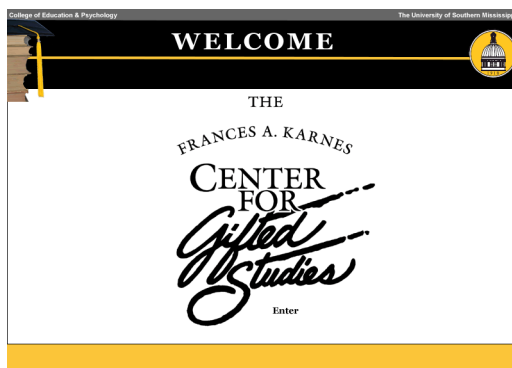
Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth July 3-22, 2011

The Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth will be held July 3-22, 2011 at the University of Southern Mississippi. This three-week residential program serves eligible students currently enrolled in grades 7 through 10. This program is a cooperative effort with the Duke University Talent Identification Program that provides a balance of educational, cultural, and recreational experiences. Students will be housed in residential halls at the Hattiesburg campus where they will be supervised by residential counselors when they are not in class. Students will participate in quality learning experiences that allow them to progress at a rate and a level appropriate for high-ability students. Course selections include: Precalculus Mathematics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Criminal Justice, Creative Writing, Polymer Science, Political Science, Psychology, Forensic science, and Debate.

To be eligible, applicants must have earned qualifying SAT or ACT scores as a seventh grader. Required qualifying SAT and ACT scores differ depending on the academic course chosen. The tuition cost includes room, board, recreational and cultural activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available on a limited basis, based on need. The deadline for application is April 30, 2011. For additional information about the Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth, please write The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, or call 601.266.5236, or e-mail gifted.studies@usm.edu. Information may also be found on our website, <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>.

For more information on programs at the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, call 601-266-5236, or visit their website at:

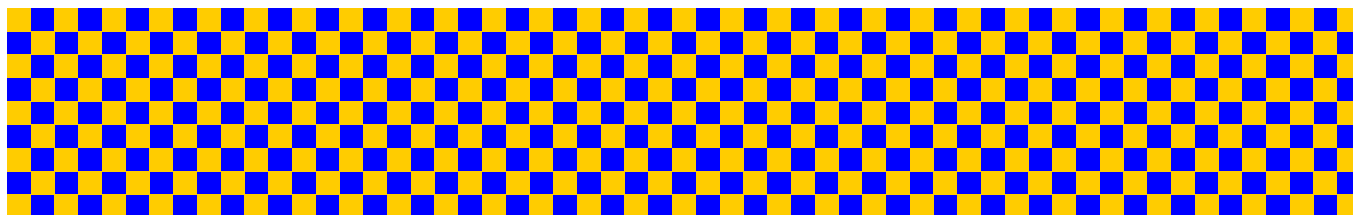
www.usm.edu/gifted



New Books in Gifted Education...

Riley, T. (2011). Teaching gifted students in the inclusive classroom. In F. A. Karnes and K. R. Stephens (Eds.), *Practical Strategies Series in Autism Education*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press

Appropriate learning for gifted and talented students is adjusted in pace, depth, and breadth through differentiated curricula that are both enriched and accelerated. This is often accomplished through segregated programs, within and outside school; however, the reality is that gifted students continue to spend the majority of their education in general classroom settings. This book provides teachers with practical strategies for identifying and meeting the abilities, qualities, and needs of gifted and talented students through differentiation in general classroom settings.



Dr. Frances A. Karnes, distinguished university professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Dr. Kristin R. Stephens, assistant professor at Duke University, have co-edited another book in the Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education published by Prufrock Press. The book, *Teaching Gifted Students in the Regular Classroom*, was authored by Dr. Tracy L. Riley. Tracy specializes in gifted and talented education and teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in addition to supervising postgraduate research. Tracy is the coeditor of the *APEX: The New Zealand Journal of Gifted Education* and is on the editorial board for *Gifted Child Today*. Tracy was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching and was the recipient of a national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award.

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Long Beach Gifted Teacher to Present at the NAGC Conference

Deborah Holt, Long Beach Gifted Contact and teacher of the gifted, will present "Connecting Gifted Students to the Global and Local Community" on November 5, 2011, at the National Association of Gifted Children Conference in New Orleans, LA. Her proposal was only one of 300 program slots selected from over 1200 proposals nationwide. Her session will be an individual session from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm. She is very excited to present her many projects at the 58th Annual NAGC Conference.



Teachers of the Gifted Win the Prestigious Leo Seal Award



Two teachers of the gifted from South Mississippi were part of a special group of five teachers who won the Hancock Bank Leo Seal Award. Each winner received \$1,500 of grant money to fund their project, along with a pewter apple. Melissa Pierce, a second grade teacher of the gifted at Petal Primary School, and Anja Commerford, Ed.D., grades 2-4 gifted teacher at Magnolia Park Elementary in Ocean Springs are the two award-winning teachers.

Melissa's project, "The Primary Science-Literacy Project" is a school-wide enrichment initiative consisting of fourteen literature-based science kits and a WeDo Robotics Center for K-2 teachers to engage their students in hands on, minds-on inquiry integrating literacy development,

The *Primary Science-Literacy Project* is a school-wide enrichment initiative consisting of fourteen literature-based class science kits and a *WeDo Robotics Center* for K-2 teachers to engage their students in hands-on, minds-on inquiry integrating literacy development, math, science, social studies, and technology.

Commerford will use her grant on "Exploring a Home Town Icon: Walter Anderson." At the beginning of the school year, she said she was surprised to learn her students did not know about the Ocean Springs artist Walter Anderson.

"This grant opportunity will allow us the chance next year to look at all of his artwork and be able to look at Horn Island and the ecology there and benefits of Horn Island to folks on the coast," Commerford said.



The Center for Educational and Training Technology at Mississippi State University is offering a “chance of a lifetime” for 4th – 8th grade science teachers through ATOMS^{2XP}.

The 2011-12 ATOMS^{2XP} program begins with **Summer Institute** June 13 – 24, 2011 followed by many professional opportunities in the Fall and Spring!

Goals of ATOMS^{2XP}:

- Increase student achievement by providing teachers with in-depth science content instruction and professional development training that link classroom practices to:
 - National Science Education Standards
 - 2010 Mississippi Science Framework
 - Understanding by Design (UbD) model
- Provide ongoing content and pedagogical professional development throughout the program year
- Provide 4th-8th grade science teachers with the opportunity to grow as professionals including recertification and/or becoming highly qualified teachers

What will participants receive?

- FREE 10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Stipend for performance and attendance
- Summer Institute (All expenses paid!)
- Useful Science Technology Resource Kit
- Great opportunities!
 - 2011 MSTA Conference (All expenses paid!)
 - Professional growth
 - Create network of teachers from MS



Who is eligible?

- Teachers in participating schools who will be teaching 4th – 8th grade science during the 2011-12 school year

Space is limited! Sign up early to reserve your space!

Website: <http://atoms2.cett.msstate.edu>

Email: hcarter@atoms2xp.org OR ssmith@atoms2xp.org

Phone: 662.325.5009

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

C.E.T.T.
CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

ATOMS^{2XP} is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Lights, Cameras, Action!



"Pythagorus and his Magical Pies" – an original opera created by students at Madison Station Elementary – recently premiered in Madison, Mississippi. Students in Elizabeth Gober's 4th grade gifted classes partnered with Connie Starkey's homeroom class to write, produce, and perform an original opera.



Last fall, as part of this annual project, students formed a working opera company and contracted for jobs. Students selected jobs that they felt best fit their unique talents and areas of strength. These jobs – writers, set designers, costume designers, makeup artists, carpentry/lighting, performers, chorus, composers, historians, public relations agents, stage managers, and production manager – were facilitated throughout the year by Mrs. Gober, the school's arts specialists, and experts from the community. By forming their own company, students gained an understanding of their individual roles in the process as well as the importance of teamwork.



Early in the process, the students brainstormed a theme and thesis statement, and from that, developed a story line and character possibilities. Then, they wrote the script to teach the "moral" of the story. Following that, students in each job had to problem-solve how to best communicate the story through costuming, makeup, sets and props, lighting, musical score, and drama.



Venture Students Raise Money to Help Local School

For three years now Venture teachers, Jana Heimer and Melissa Stephens, and their Venture students at Northshore Elementary in the Rankin County School District have raised money to support The Little Lighthouse. The Little Lighthouse is a not for profit school that teaches academic and therapeutic concepts to special needs kids from ages birth to six years old. This year, the Venture students at Northshore put on a school wide talent show. Students, teachers, and parents donated 50 cents at the door in order to see the talent show. By the end of the show, the students had collected \$500 to be given to The Little Lighthouse. Pictured back row, Jeremy Busch, Marueen (director of The Little Lighthouse), Taylor Collum. Pictured front row, Kylie Carruth, Ashlynn Payne, Hannah Richards.



Quest Students at West Lauderdale Elementary Give Back to the Community



Intellectually and Artistically Gifted QUEST students grades 2-4 worked together and gave back to the community at West Lauderdale Elementary School in Lauderdale County by hosting their 2nd annual silent art auction called "Helping Hands" to benefit their local American Red Cross for local disasters. Students created artwork with "hands" as a theme in a variety of art mediums. Teachers, students, parents, and community members were invited to participate in bidding on the artwork from March 21st, 2011 – April 1st, 2011 during school hours. They made over \$1,850 and last school year, I.G. and A.G. QUEST students partnered together to raise money for the American Red Cross for Haiti Relief with their "Hearts for Haiti" silent art auction which had "hearts" as a theme. Last year's auction raised over \$2,700. The QUEST teachers are Sabrina Dalton, Letitia Banks, Mandy Goldman, and Portia Dooley.

(Pictures created by Pierce Loyd and River Dalton)

Robotics: The Wave of the Future at East Flora



Fifth grade Pathways students at East Flora Elementary (from left to right): Alex Kuyrkendall and Hayley Fredrick.

Students in fourth and fifth grade Pathways in East Flora Elementary school have been studying a unit about robotics. Students have learned about the history, functions, kinds, and future of robotics. They also discussed the ethics concerning robots of the future and listened, on-line, to what some of the experts are saying about the inevitability and the implications of having human-like robots in our lives.

Working with Greg Biggs of Madison County 4-H, East Flora Elementary Pathways obtained two Lego Mindstorms kits, from which the students constructed a working, programmable robot. The robot has light, motion, and sound sensors and can be programmed to do a variety of interesting courses and actions. The students will be using Lego software to program a course for this robot.



From left to right: Fourth grade Pathways East students at East Flora Elementary –Jared Gross, Karina Amaro, Shelby Jones



East Flora Robot



ALL PARENT GROUPS MUST REGISTER EVERY YEAR TO AFFILIATE WITH MAGC

Parent Affiliate Registration

Note: There is no charge for affiliation with MAGC

School District: _____ School Year: _____ Parent Group Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Preferred E-Mail: _____

Submit this registration electronically to:

Note: Copy and paste this form into Microsoft Word before emailing.

Dana Seymour

OR

Marla Siragusa

dseymour@ccl.muw.edu

markeg12@gmail.com

C.R.E.A.T.E. Students Make Wishing U Well Packets



The students in Cathi Brennan's, Traci Payne's, and Mary Edelen's C.R.E.A.T.E. gifted classes at North Bay Elementary made Wishing U Well Packets. The packets were for the children waiting for people who were having surgery at Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Helen Donohoe's classes from West Wortham also joined in. The students found out that many children had to wait for long hours at the hospital and that sometimes parents did not have time to pack activities for their children. The students made kits that contained crayons, coloring books, games, toys, and even stories that they had written. The students then wrote letters telling a little about themselves and wishing the recipient well. Finally, the students delivered the hundred plus packets to the hospital.

Biloxi Junior High CREATE Student Places in Promote the Vote Art Contest



Erika Beaupre, a 6th grade gifted education student at Biloxi Junior High, placed 3rd in the Promote the Vote 6-8 grade Art Contest. Erika is in Ms. Holley's CREATE class at the junior high. Students were asked to create and design artwork influencing others to vote. The contest was sponsored by the MS Secretary of State's office encouraging students to become lifelong voters.



Please e-mail news for Concepts to Deborah Holt at:
deboraholt@aol.com no later than June 10, 2011

The latest issue of the Space Place Newsletter: News and Notes for Formal and Informal Educators is available at:

[http://
space-
place.jpl.nasa.g
ov/en/
educators/](http://space-place.jpl.nasa.gov/en/educators/)



Check out these great sites for kids:

[http://
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mate.nasa.gov
/kids](http://climate.nasa.gov/kids)

[http://
scijinks.gov](http://scijinks.gov)

[http://
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place.nasa.gov](http://space-place.nasa.gov)

Doodle 4 Google Contest Winner



Fourth grader Tijah McCrary, a gifted student at Sale Elementary International Studies Magnet School located in the Columbus School District, received top honors for his selection as a state finalist in the kindergarten-third grade category of Google's "Doodle 4 Google" contest.

The contest invited K-12 students from across the country to draw their own versions of the Google logo. The logo was to address the theme "If I Could Do Anything I Would...". McCrary, the son of Tammy and Jerome Sherrod, turned the spotlight on the less fortunate. He drew his inspiration from charitable activities at school.

"We've been helping the poor with a lot of things," said McCrary, before adding he would continue to help the poor. "I plan on donating old clothes I've already had and coins and dollars so they can have shelter and food that they can buy."

McCrary was in Dawn Dawkins' third-grade SPIRIT class when he submitted the picture.

"He's an outstanding student both academically and personally. He's very caring and reaches out to others," said Dawkins. "My students never cease to amaze me. They can accomplish so much."

McCrary received a certificate from the Google Corporation. His artwork can be viewed by visiting Google's website. McCrary was also recognized at the district's September school board meeting.

Congratulations, Tijah!

Hancock County District Gifted Chess Tournament



Educators in the gifted program of Hancock County had a gifted district chess tournament on March 1, 2011 at the Diamondhead Community Center, which proved to be quite successful. Not only did this provide the students with an opportunity to show their strategic skills at the game, but it provided them a social outlet among their peers. The students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of playing chess against known and unknown opponents. They took advantage of the opportunity to meet and make friends with gifted students from other schools in the district, as well. Parents that volunteered with the tournament had the opportunity to meet parents of gifted students from other schools as well.



Meridian Public Schools Gifted Gala April 7, 2011



West Hills Elem.
ArtQuest Display



Alana Ruffin & Mom - T.J.Harris
Elem. Explore 5th grader



Jairus Carlisle- 2nd grade Ex-
plore student from T.J.Harris El-
em. in front of Walter Anderson
Display



T.J.Harris Explore Display



West Hills ArtQuest Bobble
Head dolls and pottery

Apples in the Classroom

By

Teri Watson

Brandon Middle School Venture



I always knew that my students found technology both fascinating and motivating, but until this year, I could only imagine why. This year we have been fortunate to pilot a technology program using the Apple iPad.

Our program began earlier this year when a request for an iPad went through. My students were so invigorated with the iPad and its capabilities that “sharing” became an issue. I quickly looked for monies for another. In the mean time, we learned to research, and I added aps by way of an iTunes card. We discovered that adding aps was a problem, either because I didn’t understand this process or our school account was not yet established.

By then I had ordered our second iPad, and we were awaiting its delivery. So many of my students had an iPod Touch, I wondered how it would work in a classroom. After getting permission from my principal, I allowed my students to bring their Touches to class, if they had one. We discussed, of course, that this was an experiment: there would be rules. The school server would block any texting and facebooking, but games would have to be monitored. We also talked about how their Touches could help them in school, like checking on Blackboard or Edmodo assignments. They were also not allowed to share their Touches with their classmates due to liability issues. Other than that, we were able to use the Touch just like the iPad. Many of my students came back from Christmas with their own iPod Touch. We are presently using both Apple products to conduct research develop divergent thinking skills, and improve personal development.

Now, we are a three iPad classroom, and on good days, there are four to five iPod Touches operating during class. My students love it! I have discovered how to install free aps and even how to use monies to purchase aps when needed. Our classroom conversations now revolve around the latest aps, what levels are appropriate for their thinking skills, and what kind of thinking is involved in each ap.

With the aid of technology, these gifted middle schoolers are barely aware that they are increasing their personal development and communication skills. Through free aps, such as “Abacus Word”, they are increasing their vocabulary. Aps like “Slice” review and revive the knowledge of fractions. Strategy games like “Unblock Me” & “Flood it” are a continuous challenge.

These students are the professionals of the future. Though we may not know what their profession may be, it is important that we prepare them for the new world of technology.



Gifted Classes Earn Top Honors at Project Citizen Showcase

During the week of April 18-23, 2011, the Project Citizen Mississippi Showcase was held in the Atrium of the Mississippi Department of Education building in Jackson.

The following projects were submitted by gifted programs in Mississippi:

Superior Ratings:

Lori Fisher's Sixth Grade Students: "Archway to the Pass" Pass Christian Middle School

Jean Gardner's Fifth Grade Students: "Make the Spray go Away!" East Hancock Elementary

Debbie Holt's Fifth Grade Students-1: "SOS: Stamp out Suicide" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

Debbie Holt's Fifth Grade Students-2: "Delete Cyberbullying" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

Carlie Parker's Fifth Grade Students: "Bearcats' Bad Bus Behavior" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

Kelly Tipton's and Lisa McMillan's Fifth Grade Students: "Protecting Lucedale's Oldest Citizens" George County School District

Exceptional Ratings:

Marian Foster's Fifth Grade Students: "Mend Broken Hearts: Stop Child Abuse" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

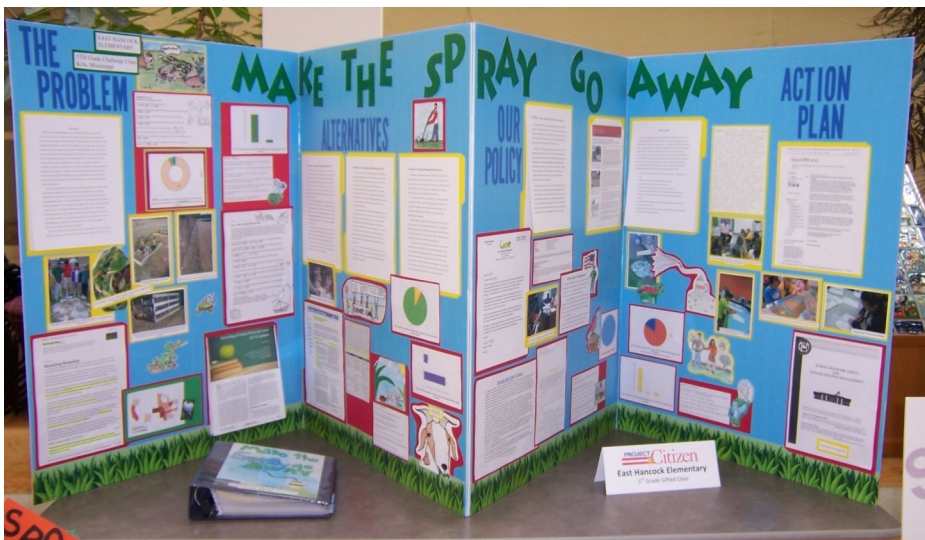
Karen Leitenberger's Fifth Grade Students: "Latchkey Kid Care" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

Dana Wedgeworth's Fifth Grade Students: "Reach for a Smoke-Free Long Beach" Harper McCaughan Elementary, Long Beach School District

Outstanding Rating:

Mary Breland's Third and Fourth Grade Students: "Art for the People" Greene County School District

The portfolio submitted by Jean Gardner's fifth graders was selected by the judges to represent the State of Mississippi at the National Project Citizen Showcase in California this summer.



Mississippi at the National Project Citizen Showcase in California this summer. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this program to identify problems in their communities and find solutions through civic involvement and the creative problem solving process! (CWP)

Pascagoula IDEAS Gifted Students Win National History Day Awards



Attached is a picture of GMS students receiving the Most Outstanding school award at the National History Day in Mississippi contest.

From left to right Jonathan Chatman, Miche Smith, Kevin Hadley, Ian Little, David Tingle (teacher), Cameron Tingle, Veshonte Brown, Justin Jones, Adam McMahon, Taityanna Austin, and Gabbi Humber.

If you are looking for a challenging and motivating project for your students next year, we encourage you to try National History Day. This project helped us engage our students in all of the MDE Outcomes for Gifted children and gave our students an experience they will never forget. Our students described it as the most advanced research project that they had ever experienced.

Kim Jordan and David Tingle's Gautier Middle School IDEAS students participated in National History Day this year. Students created selected topics based on this year's theme of Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences. Then students decided on what type of project they would create. Students could choose from websites, historical papers, exhibits, documentaries or performances. The students spent one class period each week during the first semester researching their topics. The contest places and emphasis on using a wide variety of sources, especially primary sources. Students were able to find newspaper articles and first-hand accounts

from people that were alive during the time of their topics. Also Mrs. Renee McClendon with NHD in Mississippi volunteered several days to help guide students through the process.

After the majority of the research was completed, it was time to start working on the projects. Students spent approximately three weeks of class time to create their projects. The classrooms were full of activity as each student or group began to use their information to tell their stories. Most categories limit the number of student-composed words. This makes it necessary for the students to present the information using quotes, pictures, and other visuals and use their own words only to tie the information together. Students then had to create an annotated bibliography and write a process paper describing how they chose their topic and created their projects.

Finally the students took their projects to their local event held in conjunction with Pascagoula High School's A.P. U.S. History class. Students displayed their projects and had their projects judged. After the local event, many of the students chose to take their projects on to the state event at the University of Southern Mississippi. In between the local and state event, the students used the judges' comments to improve their projects.

At the state contest Gautier Middle School had five students qualify to move on to the national contest at the University of Maryland in June. Gautier Middle School was also selected as most outstanding school at the contest. GMS students placing at the state level in the junior division were: Adam McMahon first place in individual performance for his project on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Jonathan Chatman second place individual exhibit for his project on Native American boarding schools, Veshonte Brown second place individual documentary for her project on Japanese internment camps, Gabi Humber first place individual documentary for her project on the women's suffrage movement, Gabi also won a \$100.00 Spirit of History Day Award, Cameron Tingle first place individual website for his project on sports diplomacy and South African apartheid, Cameron also won a \$100.00 Spirit of History Day Award, a \$50.00 Black Studies Award, and the Junior Division Best in Show Award which also included \$250.00.

Chalybeate Gifted Students Have A Heart

The Chalybeate APEx students, grades second through eighth, have recently launched an on-going school-wide effort to help and comfort the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The entire community has come together and collected pounds of aluminum pull tabs and storage boxes full of food pantry items for the Ronald McDonald House. Chalybeate APEx students, parents, faculty and staff also gathered multiple items for waiting room gift bags for St. Jude patients.

The Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home" for St. Jude patients and their families. The operating budget relies solely on the loving kindness of others. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the only pediatric cancer research center where no child is ever turned away because of the family's inability to pay. The hospital also relies on the generous support of others.

These efforts originated from a culmination of ideas and events. Whitney Wooten, gifted teacher at Chalybeate School, was led to explore affective needs of gifted students, research the use of film and its impact on social and emotional growth, and share findings with others. In elementary school, Whitney was personally touched by Gabriel Robinson, a gifted student who fought a courageous battle with leukemia. In high school, she was among a group of students who toured St. Jude Hospital annually and delivered Christmas stockings. Compassion for others led to the production of video documentaries. This seemed like the perfect combination to pass along to her own students.

The black and white film, "Pride of the Yankees" (The Lou Gehrig Story) was presented to 7th and 8th grade gifted students. It not only captured their interest and attention, but established a common need among the students. They were left with a renewed appreciation of health and an overwhelming feeling to help others.

The APEx students have recently visited St. Jude and Ronald McDonald House where they presented \$114 from the recycled pull tabs and food pantry items. Waiting room gift bags will be delivered to St. Jude in the spring. This summer, the 8th grade APEx students will be sharing their talents by hosting an activity with St. Jude patients at the Ronald McDonald House, at the invitation of Caron Byrd, Executive Director. At that time, another donation will be given for the recycled pull tabs.

The compassion of the students has been outstanding. They encouraged the entire student body and community to get involved in this important project. Pull tabs are brought in each day by excited students who realized they are making a difference in the lives of St. Jude patients and their families. Students have been picking up tabs after ball games and urging businesses to collect. Five packages of pull tabs were mailed to a kindergarten student from her grandmother in New York.

Ms. Whitney says she is proud of the students for all they have done this year. She hopes they will continue to support the children of St. Jude as well as others in need. The students are beginning to realize that giving, caring attitudes, and human kindness contribute to their giftedness. Eight grade gifted students commented that they were motivated to learn about St. Jude and excited to help the patients there. They considered one of the highlights of the year and an eye-opening experience that they will never forget. The students are thrilled about returning to the Ronald McDonald House this summer.

Whitney Wooten would like to thank the Chalybeate APEx students, parents, student body, faculty and staff, Principal Mr. Scott Smith, Superintendent Mr. Junior Wooten, Corinth Recycling Company, and the Chalybeate Community for their tremendous support. Lives have been touched by their generosity.

On a recent visit to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, St. Jude Gift Shop Manager, Chris Potter said, "I'd like to give each of these students an 'I love St. Jude t-shirt. They are true ambassadors." This quote by Danny Thomas has encouraged an entire student body and community to come together and support the brave heroes of St. Jude



Last name (please print) _____ First name _____
 Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female
 Age On Race Day _____ mm / dd / yyyy
 Address : Number and Street , APT # _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email Address _____
 School Name (If student or School Employee) _____
 Participant must sign entry form. If participant is under 18 years of age, signature of legal guardian is required.
 RACE DAY REGISTRATION IS FROM 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the walking track located on the George County Middle School Campus at 330 Church Street.
 Although race day registrants are guaranteed a shirt, size selection may be limited or have to be picked up after the event.
 Liability Waiver and Race Agreement
 I know that running or walking a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I will not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able to do so and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with participating in this event. In consideration of the acceptance of this registration entry, I, the undersigned, assume full responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur during my participation in the race or while I am on the premises of this event, and I hereby release and hold harmless the George County Schools, Supporters of SPIRIT, sponsors, promoters or other persons or entities associated with the event or their agents, employees or otherwise. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photograph, video, motion picture, recording or any other recordings of this event for any legitimate purposes.
 Signature _____ Date _____
 * PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE OF REGISTRATION FORM



1 Mile Fun Run/Walk Course



5K Run/Walk Course



Entry forms should be mailed to :
 Supporters of SPIRIT
 C/O Race Registration
 P.O. Box 1264
 Lucedale, MS 39452
 For More Information:
 Phone: 601-508-0587
 Email: davis@gsad.us

www.supportersofspirit.org



George County SPIRIT Students and SOS: Supporters of Spirit Parent Affiliate Group Sponsor Various Races

Did you know...

By supporting the SPIRIT School's Out... Run!, you:

-Promote Health and Wellness in the schools & community

-Raise awareness for our favorite charities:

* The Humane Society and Dixie Adoptables

-Raise funds to upgrade SPIRIT Technology

"Step Ahead" Sponsor

You can help our schools and community get a step ahead while promoting health and wellness. Help local animals get a step ahead by raising awareness for the local charities. You can also help the SPIRIT Students get steps ahead in technology in their gifted program. If you are interested in donating items or money to help with this event, please check the "Step Ahead" Sponsor on the registration form. Sponsors who donate a \$100 or more in money or items will be recognized on the back of the race t-shirts.

Race Day Registration

Begins at 6:30 a.m. at the walking track located on the George County Middle School Campus, 330 Church Street (start line) and ends at 7:30 a.m. Race day registration does not guarantee a race t-shirt.

Race Course

The course is a fast, flat route through the city of Lucedale. This will be an official race managed by Little Red Hen Productions. The 5K Run/Walk will have official timing. Strollers and wagons are allowed in the 1 mile Fun Run/Walk, but ARE NOT permitted in the 5K race.

Packet Pickup

All participants may pick up their race packets on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the SPIRIT Outreach Building (Entrance on Radford Street) and on race day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the walking track located on George County Middle School Campus.

Vendors

A limited number of vendor booths are available. Please call (601) 508-0587 for details.

Volunteer

Interested in being a volunteer, please call (601) 508-0587.

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony and post-race drawing (items donated by local businesses) will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Awards will be given to the first male and female finisher in each of the following age divisions: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over.

Team Challenge

Students and their families are encouraged to represent their schools in the SPIRIT School's Out... Run!

There will be a special School/Team competition with the winning team determined by the greatest number of participants day of the race. Team participants are also eligible for Top Finisher and Age Group Awards.

Race Results - 5K Only

Finish times will be posted shortly after the race. Finish times will also be sent to The George County Times and The Mississippi Press. Times and event photos will also be posted at www.supportersofspirit.org or www.productionshelter.com.

Entry forms and fees should be mailed to:

Supporters of SPIRIT
 P.O. Box 1264
 Lucedale, MS 39452

Schedule:

All events start and finish at the walking track on George County Middle School Campus at 330 Church Street, Lucedale, MS.

5K starts - 8:00 a.m.

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and Dog Trot - 9:00 a.m.

(All dogs are invited to participate in the 1 Mile—on a leash.)

Awards at 9:45 a.m.

Dachshund Dash - 10:00 a.m.

Pet Costume Contest - 10:30 a.m.

Vendors, Food, Art & Crafts, Music

Pre-registration will end on:

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

\$20 Entry Fee w/ Guaranteed Shirt

Late Registration

May 12th—until May 21st

\$25 Entry Fee /Shirt Not Guaranteed for Pick-up on race day.

Students and school employees race free with the regular registration. Non of two other paid participants and must register at the same time as the two regular participants in any event.

***If you are a participant in the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk,

you may also bring your dog (any breed) to trot along with you.

All pets must be on a leash.

Please check all that you would like to register for:

☐ 5K Pre-registration Fee—\$20

☐ 5K Race Day Registration Fee-\$25

☐ 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and Dog Trot Pre-registration-\$10

☐ 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and Dog Trot Race Day Registration-\$15

*Pet registration fee: please bring one pet item to the race to donate to the Humane Society and Dixie Adoptables. (food, collar, leash, ect.)

T-shirt Size: YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL A2XL A3XL

Participant Fee Includes Dog T-shirt (Dachshund Dash) Participant Fee Includes Dog T-shirt Please circle Size: S M L

"Step Ahead" Sponsor

Donation Items: _____

Amount: _____

Donor Name or Business: _____

Name: _____



Conrad Castle Teacher Grant (CCTG)
Sponsored by
Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC)

The Conrad Castle Teacher Grant was developed in 2010 by Mississippi Association for Gifted Children to honor Dr. Castle's dedicated service to the gifted children of Mississippi and to assist teachers of gifted children in the acquisition of appropriate materials designed to challenge intellectually or academically gifted children.

- The CCTG may be awarded in one of two areas: regular education classroom materials or gifted education classroom materials.
- The total of the grant is \$400.00.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

Regular Education Classroom Materials

- Mississippi regular education classroom teachers who teach eligible intellectually or academically gifted students in the public schools in Mississippi may apply.
- The purpose of the instructional materials must clearly demonstrate the teacher's intent to teach content to the gifted student(s) that is in addition to and different from the regular curriculum.
- It must be demonstrated that instructional materials focus on the interest area(s) of the gifted student(s) and meet the advanced instructional level of the student(s) for whom the grant is being submitted.
- Field trip experiences may be the focus of the grant, if evidence of student interest and need are clearly demonstrated.
- The materials may be technology based.
- Instructional materials must be non-consumable.
- The regular education teacher submitting application for the CCTG must have letter(s) of support from the principal and a gifted education teacher of the school where the applicant teaches.

Gifted Education Classroom Materials

- Mississippi gifted education teachers who teach intellectually or academically gifted students in the public schools in Mississippi may apply.
- The purpose of the instructional materials must clearly demonstrate the teacher's intent to teach content to the gifted student(s) that is in addition to and different from the regular curriculum.
- It must be demonstrated that instructional materials focus on the interest area(s) of the gifted student(s) and meet the advanced instructional level of the student(s) for whom the grant is being submitted.
- Instructional materials must be non-consumable.
- Field trip experiences may be the focus of the grant, if evidence of student interest and need are clearly demonstrated.
- The materials may be technology based.
- The gifted education teacher submitting application for the CCTG must have a letter of support from the principal of the school where the applicant teaches.

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

LAKE TERRACE CONVENTION CENTER

LET'S GET CREATIVE IN HATTIESBURG, MS



**MAGC is heading to
the Hub City!
September 28-30, 2011**

2011 MAGC CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2011 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **September 28-30, 2011**, at Lake Terrace Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 39402. Completed proposals must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2011**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **one** presenter per session. Presenters must be members of the association or paid vendors (Membership Fee: \$25) (Vendor Fee: \$130). **Resumes or vita must be attached for proposals to be considered. This is required in the association's application for CEU's.**

Presenters must provide 100 copies of handouts and be responsible for **all** equipment for their presentations. (projectors, laptops, cords, etc.) Only screens will be provided.

Name: _____ (Attach resume to be submitted in CEU's application.)

Institution Affiliation: _____ Position/Job Title: _____

Home Address: _____
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

The title of my proposed presentation is: _____

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the concurrent session I wish to present.

Co-presenters: _____
(Registration fee will **not** be waived for co-presenters.)

CATEGORY for PRESENTATION

- ___ Social/emotional needs of gifted students
- ___ Differentiating curriculum and instruction
- ___ Creativity and/or the arts
- ___ Evaluating student progress
- ___ Special populations
- ___ Developing leadership
- ___ Other _____

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ___ Elementary Teachers
- ___ Secondary Teachers
- ___ Parents of Gifted Children
- ___ Administrators and/or counselors
- ___ Other _____

Mail or submit in PDF format electronically to: Glenn Nobles; 2605 Sierra Circle, Hattiesburg, MS 39402; Cierra2605@yahoo.com

MAGC 2011 Conference September 28-30, 2011
Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg, MS
Application and Contract for Exhibitors

Company/Organization _____
 Exhibitor Contact _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone () _____ Fax () _____ Email _____
 Description of Product or Service _____

We would like to participate as a vendor/exhibitor at the MAGC Conference at the Lake Terrace Convention Center on September 28-30, 2011 in the following ways:

Exhibit Hall	Quantity of tables	Due \$130 per 8 ft table	Total Amount
Vendor Table(s)			

Conference Program Ad	\$25.00 (one-fourth page)	\$50 (one-half page)	\$100 (full page)	Total Amount
Advertisement total				

Sponsorship	Refreshments for break	Speaker	Total Amount
Dollar Amount			

Door Prizes and Items for Conference Bags	Gift Certificate(s) with catalog	Actual prizes	Total Quantity
Quantity			

_____ Enclosed is my check payable to MAGC in the amount of \$ _____

Please note the following information:

- Neither MAGC nor Lake Terrace Conference Center will assume liability for materials in the display area
- This is a conference center therefore you will be responsible for unloading/loading your materials

PLEASE SIGN AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: Rhonda Denton, 11451 Suqualena Road, Meridian, MS 39305

 (Signature of contact person)

 (Date)

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MAGC

P.O. Box 3545
Jackson, MS 39207





Concepts!

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

SUMMER, 2011

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Don't forget! The NAGC Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA November 3-6, 2011.



Excitement Abounds as We Plan Conference 2011



We are busily planning “your” Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Conference 2011. Excitement is in the air as we think about the new and creative ideas we have in store for you. I think you will fall in love with Hattiesburg and our warm southern hospitality as we embark on the beautiful Lake Terrace Convention Center for our many learning activities and our keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Olenchak.

Dr. Olenchak comes to us from the University of Houston where he is a professor of gifted education and specializes in the area of creativity among gifted students. Other areas of the conference include the Pre-Conference to be held on Wednesday, September 28 for counselors and psychometrists, many exciting break-out sessions, one to include “Ballroom Dancing” and another a unit on Camelot!! Imagination Station has been changed to Imagination Alley. It will have the same format where we share outstanding units of study on a three dimensional scale. Are you ready for the “Academy Awards for Gifted Education”? Well, don your favorite formal attire, glitz and all, and come to the banquet for our yearly presentations to outstanding friends and teachers of the gifted children in Mississippi’s four Congressional Districts. Many interesting vendors will again be there for your choice of educational materials.

Let’s make this conference the best yet, where hopefully you will take a world of new ideas back to your school and make many long-lasting friendships. Also, don’t forget to experience the restaurants we offer and our wonderful Turtle Creek Mall. Welcome to Hattiesburg on September 28-30! We are so glad that you are coming!

~Glenn Nobles, President-Elect

MAGC



Special Conference Issue

MAGC

Conference Notes to You!

Lake Terrace Convention Center

1 Convention Center Plaza Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Pre-Conference Assessment Workshop

Thursday & Friday, September 29-30, 2011

37th Annual MAGC Conference



You are going to LOVE this conference site! No smoke, no rattle of coins, just the sounds of networking and creativity bouncing around the building! To my knowledge, this is the first time the conference has been held in Hattiesburg. We hope you will arrive on Wednesday afternoon and take advantage of the wonderful restaurants and shopping in Hattiesburg. Glenn Nobles, our conference chair, will provide great recommendations for us!

As forewarning, there are some things you will miss. Since MAGC is feeling the pinch of budget woes, (and we didn't want to pass that on to you in registration costs), presenters will be responsible for their own equipment, there will be less food than last year, we'll have a cash bar at the reception, and we will not be attached to a hotel. However, just a short drive from Lake Terrace Convention Center, there are very nice hotels that have promised us excellent rates...and BREAKFASTS! See below.

The Comfort Inn	Microtel Inn	Hilton Garden Inn
6541 Highway 49 NORTH	105 Westover Drive	133 Plaza Drive
Hattiesburg MS	Hattiesburg, MS	Hattiesburg, MS
(Across highway from Lake Terrace Convention Center with full breakfast)	(Very nice and new, but about 3 miles From Lake	(Very, very nice.
	Terrace next to Olive Garden on West Hardy Street.)	In same area as Microtel Inn. Plaza Drive is off Westover.
\$75 per night plus taxes		
601-264-1881	\$65 per night plus taxes	\$99 per night plus taxes
Fax: 601-268-3226	601-450-1592	601-261-770
	Cut-off date for reservations is 8/30.	Fax: 601-261-3703
Cut-off date for reservations is 8/30.		Cut-off date for reservations is 8/30.

And...just WAIT until you hear about all the great stuff we have planned for this year!



Wednesday, September 28: The Pre-Conference Assessment Workshop is for EVERYONE involved in the identification process ...contact persons...counselors...examiners...teachers...administrators. 8:00-4:00...Lunch included ...\$60.00. Dr. Jim Gyurke from PAR, Inc. , will be our opening speaker. Not only will you get **0.8 CEU's**, you will receive certificates to document completion of requirements for **four areas in the Gifted Standards!** See the packed agenda on the conference page of MAGC's website. **MAGCweb.org** If you have questions, contact Donna Welborn at dreyn-oldsw@hotmail.com or Carol Paola at cwp1gab@aol.com.

Wednesday, September 28: On-Site Registration: 4:00-6:00. Dinner and the evening on your own.

Thursday and Friday, September 29-30: Our 37th Annual Conference begins with the opening session at 8:00 on Thursday morning. Dr. Rick Olenchak will be our keynote speaker and will start with the message, "Can we have both Creative Students and a Test-Driven Schoolhouse?" GREAT breakout sessions will be presented by your favorite presenters with hands-on activities to take back to your classrooms. "Imagination Alley" will provide exhibits of creative ideas brought to you from your co-workers around the state. The EXHIBITORS you wait all year to see will be here, and you will find a peaceful environment in which to network with the friends you have made at previous conferences. Read on to learn more about Family Night and our Thursday night Red Carpet Reception. CEU's will be offered this year from MUW. Hopefully all CEU glitches will have been corrected! The conference will end at noon on Friday, September 30th.

The Parent & Kids Night event, Thursday, September 29th from 6:00-7:00: This year's event will feature Rick Olenchak's suggestions for "How to Develop Happy, Hopeful Children". The activities for kids will be led by the Sumrall teachers of the gifted with help from the Pine Belt Gifted Association. See the notice on the website: **MAGCweb.org**.

A Glitz and RITZ Reception! Thursday Evening, 7:30-9:30

Let's have a **RED CARPET EVENT** to honor special people! Our Advisory Board, all Past Presidents, the recipients of the



Award for Excellence, and **NEW THIS YEAR...Special recognition for OUTSTANDING SUPERINTENDENTS, LEGISLATORS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, and PARENTS!**

See the attached form for nomination of the people you feel are most deserving of recognition in these categories! We would like to honor individuals in all congressional districts! See the conference page of MAGC's website for more information and a map of the congressional districts.

MAGCweb.org.

Drag out a fancy outfit for this special night! A favorite dress or suit, a bridesmaid or mother of the bride dress...that bridal gown you only got to wear one day...a Mardi Gras ball dress! Come to the party all dressed up...or the way you are. We'll have heavy hors d'oeuvres, carving and pasta stations as well as desserts. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided, while other drinks will be available at a cash bar. You will NOT want to miss this exciting and fun-filled evening. Entertainment will also be provided.

Call for Proposals...Although the deadline has passed for proposals, there are a few slots still open for your creative ideas. If you have been putting it off, send in a proposal TODAY! Go to the conference page of MAGC's website for the "Call for Proposals" form. **MAGCweb.org**. If you have questions, contact Glenn Nobles at cierra2605@yahoo.com or Carol Paola at cwp1gab@aol.com .

"Imagination Alley" Interested in displaying creative projects and ideas at the Conference? Contact Jerice Williams at giftedsensei@gmail.com for more information. Limited to 20 exhibitors.

More Conference Announcements and Reminders



Announcing...The 1st Annual Tote Bag Swap!

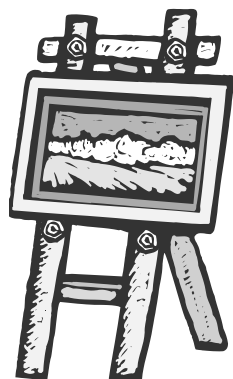
This year, in line with our efforts at recycling and budget-cutting, we invite you to bring old tote bags to swap at the conference. Who will bring the oldest bag to trade with someone else? As another idea, bring a tote bag that represents your gifted program to swap! Have your students fill it with pen pal letters. Let's make every minute of the conference count with creative ways to connect ideas and kids together! For those of you who forget, we have a few bags left from past conferences, but try to remember to bring at least one bag you would like to trade with another teacher.



Gardendale
Gifted Program

Baskets for the Silent Auction

Thanks to all of you who brought a basket last year for the drawings. They were wonderful! Please consider compiling one again this year that represents your community! We learned last year that the process needed tweaking! SO...we will hold silent auctions to let you bid on the basket/s you'd like to win! Remember, all proceeds go to the scholarship fund! Don't forget to nominate a student next year for one of the scholarships to attend a summer program in our state. That is the purpose of our scholarship fund! You also can apply for one of the teacher grants to help pay for a gifted endorsement class or a class for further study in gifted education.



And...Don't forget about the Art Auction!

Many of you have access to wonderful pieces of artwork that you'd like to donate for the silent auction. Please approach artists in your community to help raise money for the special projects we plan at your suggestion. Part of the money earned for the art auction will continue to go for efforts at suicide prevention while some will be used for teacher grants. The Executive Board is also open to suggestion for special projects. Add your ideas to the "Suggestion Box" in the registration area at this year's conference.

Apply for the Conrad Castle Teacher Grant, funded through the Art Silent Auction, to provide special opportunities and materials for your gifted students.

More Conference Announcements and Reminders

Notice of Proposed Amendment to the MAGC Constitution and By-laws

The Executive Board of MAGC proposes the following amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws: The addition of Assessment and Counseling as Standing Chairs on the Executive Board. This proposal will be brought to the floor for a vote of the membership at the Annual MAGC Business meeting on Friday, September 30th, (8:30) during this year's Annual Conference in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.



2011 Conference Registration Form

Lake Terrace Convention Center-Hattiesburg, MS
Sept. 28-30, 2011

Registration Information: Registration includes MAGC membership from the date of conference until 9/30 of the following year. Complete and return this form with your check or purchase order. Make checks payable to MAGC. Purchase order number alone is not a valid payment. You must include the actual purchase order.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing by September 15, 2011, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2011.

Name _____ MAGC Membership # _____

Preferred Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Preferred Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

School District/Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Children _____

Pre-Conference Institute Registration:

The Assessment Pre-Conference Institute will be held on Wed., Sept. 28, 2011, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. All individuals interested in the referral to placement process, including examiners, counselors, contact persons, administrators, teachers, etc., are welcome. CEU's: 0.8 CEUs available separate from the regular conference upon request for \$10.

I am planning to attend the...		
	Assessment Pre-Conference Institute (September 28, 2011)	\$60.00
	Combo: Pre-Institute PLUS Regular MAGC Conference	\$150.00

Conference Registration

The MAGC Conference will open with On-Site Registration on Wednesday, September 28th, 2011, from 4:00-6:00, and end at noon on Friday, March 30, 2011. The Conference Opening Session will begin at 8:00 on Thursday, September 29th, 2011. CEUs for the conference will be available upon request for \$20.00. The number of CEUs is pending.

	Regular Conference Registration Fee	\$100.00
	On-Site Registration Fee (postmarked after 9/20/11 or at conference site)	\$110.00
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee (Must send copy of student ID)	\$50.00
	"Imagination Alley" Main Presenter's Fee	\$75.00
	Main Presenter's Membership Fee	\$25.00
	Total Amount Due	

Paid by ... Personal Check # _____, School District Check # _____,
Parent Organization Check # _____, Purchase Order # _____
(Original purchase orders must be attached)

Mail completed form and payment to Lisa D. Saucier, 144 W. Main St., Florence, MS 39073.

CALL FOR "Imagination Alley" PROPOSALS

2011 MAGC CONFERENCE

(Only 20 proposals for "Imagination Alley" will be accepted.)

Deadline: August 15, 2011

The conference will be held **September 28-30, 2011**, at Lake Terrace Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 39402.

If chosen to present at "Imagination Alley" you will receive a reduced rate for conference registration of \$75.00. Only the main presenter may receive the reduced rate.

If applicable, "Imagination Alley" presenters should provide 100 copies of handouts and be responsible for any equipment needed.

Name: _____ (Attach resume to be submitted in CEU's application.)

Institution Affiliation: _____ Position/Job Title: _____

Home Address: _____
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

The title of my proposed "Imagination Alley" presentation is: _____

Below is a brief description of my "Imagination Alley" presentation. (75 words or less)

CATEGORY for PRESENTATION

- ___ Social/emotional needs of gifted students
- ___ Differentiating curriculum and instruction
- ___ Creativity and/or the arts
- ___ Evaluating student progress
- ___ Special populations
- ___ Developing leadership
- ___ Other _____

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ___ Elementary Teachers
- ___ Secondary Teachers
- ___ Parents of Gifted Children
- ___ Administrators and/or counselors
- ___ Other _____

Submit to: Jerice Williams, "Imagination Alley" chairman, at giftedsensei@gmail.com.



2011 MAGC Conference Hotels

Lake Terrace Convention Center

1 Convention Center Plaza
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

***Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

Pre-Conference Assessment Workshop

***Thursday & Friday, September 29-30, 2011**

37th Annual MAGC Conference

The Comfort Inn	Microtel Inn	Hilton Garden Inn
<p>6541 Highway 49 NORTH Hattiesburg MS</p>	<p>105 Westover Drive Hattiesburg, MS</p>	<p>133 Plaza Drive Hattiesburg, MS</p>
<p>(Across highway from Lake Terrace Convention Center with full break- fast)</p>	<p>(Very nice and new, but about 3 miles From Lake Terrace next to Olive Garden on West Hardy Street.)</p>	<p>(Very, very nice. In same area as Microtel Inn. Plaza Drive is off Westover Dr.)</p>
<p>\$75 per night plus taxes</p>	<p>\$65 per night plus taxes</p>	<p>\$99 per night plus taxes</p>
<p>601-264-1881 Fax: 601-268-3226</p>	<p>601-450-1592</p>	<p>601-261-770 Fax: 601-261-3703</p>
<p>Cut-off date for reserva- tions is 8/30.</p>	<p>Cut-off date for reser- vations is 8/30.</p>	<p>Cut-off date for reserva- tions is 8/30.</p>

ANNUAL MAGC ASSESSMENT PRE-CONFERENCE AGENDA
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8:00 – 8:30	Opening remarks/Overview of the Agenda.....Donna Reynolds Welborn
8:30 – 10:30	Using the RIAS and WRIT.....Dr. Jim Gyurke, PAR, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptions and appropriate uses ▪ Validity and reliability of assessments with short administration times ▪ Assuring diversity in the gifted population ▪ Benefits of direct association and contact with PAR, Inc. representatives
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:30	Meeting social-emotional needs of gifted students.....Leigh Curtis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Characteristics of gifted children ♦ Ideas for specialized services pertaining to gifted students. (Certificate of Completion will be provided to meet Standard V: 1.3)
11:30 – 1:00	Working lunch with Chauncey Spears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ MDE monitoring concerns ♦ Ideas for improvements ♦ Discussion of issues related to repeated referral for assessment ♦ Q/A
1:00 – 1:45	Choosing the most appropriate instrument for assessment.....Teresa Mosley (Certificate of Completion will be provided to meet Standard VII: 4.2.4)
1:45 – 2:30	Career counseling services for gifted students..... Crystal Stapleton (Certificate of Completion will be provided to meet Standard V: 2.3)
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:30	Review of MDE referral to placement procedures.....Donna Reynolds Welborn (Certificate of Completion will be provided to meet Standard VII: 4.3.3)
3:30 – 4:00	Closing Remarks.....Donna Reynolds Welborn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debriefing ▪ Evaluations ▪ CEU paperwork

0.8 CEU credits will be awarded for completion of all scheduled events. Each individual seeking CEU credits must sign in, attend all sessions throughout the day, complete an evaluation at the end of the day, provide a completed application, and provide a personal check made out to Mississippi College in the amount of \$10.00.

**MAGC 2011 Conference September 28-30, 2011
Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg, MS
Application and Contract for Exhibitors**

Company/Organization _____
 Exhibitor Contact _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone () _____ Fax () _____ Email _____
 Description of Product or Service _____

We would like to participate as a vendor/exhibitor at the MAGC Conference at the Lake Terrace Convention Center on September 28-30, 2011 in the following ways:

Exhibit Hall	Quantity of tables	Due \$130 per 8 ft table	Total Amount
Vendor Table(s)			

Conference Program Ad	\$25.00 (one-fourth page)	\$50 (one-half page)	\$100 (full page)	Total Amount
Advertisement total				

Sponsorship	Refreshments for break	Speaker	Total Amount
Dollar Amount			

Door Prizes and Items for Conference Bags	Gift Certificate(s) with catalog	Actual prizes	Total Quantity
Quantity			

_____ Enclosed is my check payable to MAGC in the amount of \$ _____

Please note the following information:

- Neither MAGC nor Lake Terrace Conference Center will assume liability for materials in the display area
- This is a conference center therefore you will be responsible for unloading/loading your materials

PLEASE SIGN AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: Rhonda Denton, 11451 Suqualena Road, Meridian, MS 39305

 (Signature of contact person)

 (Date)

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

LAKE TERRACE CONVENTION CENTER

LET'S GET CREATIVE IN HATTIESBURG, MS



2011 MAGC CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2011 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **September 28-30, 2011**, at Lake Terrace Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 39402. Completed proposals must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2011**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **one** presenter per session. Presenters must be members of the association or paid vendors (Membership Fee: \$25) (Vendor Fee: \$130). **Resumes or vita must be attached for proposals to be considered. This is required in the association's application for CEU's.**

Presenters must provide 100 copies of handouts and be responsible for **all** equipment for their presentations. (projectors, laptops, cords, etc.) Only screens will be provided.

Name: _____ (Attach resume to be submitted in CEU's application.)

Institution Affiliation: _____ Position/Job Title: _____

Home Address: _____
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

The title of my proposed presentation is: _____

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the concurrent session I wish to present.

Co-presenters: _____
(Registration fee will **not** be waived for co-presenters.)

CATEGORY for PRESENTATION

- ___ Social/emotional needs of gifted students
- ___ Differentiating curriculum and instruction
- ___ Creativity and/or the arts
- ___ Evaluating student progress
- ___ Special populations
- ___ Developing leadership
- ___ Other _____

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ___ Elementary Teachers
- ___ Secondary Teachers
- ___ Parents of Gifted Children
- ___ Administrators and/or counselors
- ___ Other _____

Mail or submit in PDF format electronically to: Glenn Nobles; 2605 Sierra Circle, Hattiesburg, MS 39402; Cierra2605@yahoo.com

Announcements from the Karnes Center

Career Exploration for Girls Conference

The Career Explorations for Girls Conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

The conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12 and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do not need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. Distinguished presenters will offer practical information to help girls plan for their education and entry into prospective careers. Careers to be discussed include business, science and technology, health care, communication, education, military service, art, interior design, psychology, law, music, and sports.

The registration deadline is September 30, 2011. There is no charge for the conference and lunch is included. The conference is co-hosted by the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies and the Spirit of Women at Forrest General Hospital. To register for the conference, please call The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at (601) 266-5236 or visit our website at <http://www.usm.edu/gifted/>

Saturday Gifted Studies Program

The Saturday Gifted Studies Program will be held from January 21-March 3, 2012, on the Hattiesburg campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. The program meets on seven consecutive Saturdays from 9 a.m. – noon from the middle of January through March. It is open to gifted students in pre-kindergarten (4- or 5-year olds) through Grade 12. The program is designed to enhance cognitive and affective abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration programming. Emphasis is placed on participation in areas that provide in-depth analysis of specific topics in small group activities with other gifted youth. Courses will be announced in September.

For more information please call the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at (601) 266-5236 or visit our website at <http://www.usm.edu/gifted/>

Advancing
Potential...
and All That
Jazz!

For more in-
formation on
attending the
NAGC Con-
ference, go
to: nagc.org

Announcements from the Karnes Center

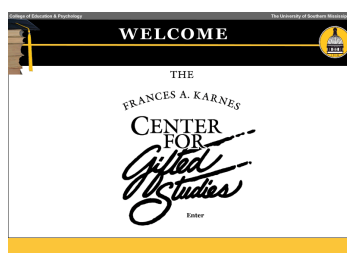
The National Association of Professional Women to include information on Dr. Frances Karnes

Dr. Karnes is a University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies for the University of Southern Mississippi. She is involved in gifted education and programs and services for gifted children and youth. She has co-authored 66 books. She has worked in gifted education for over 30 years. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. She founded the Center for Gifted Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1979, which was renamed the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies in 1988. For more information about Dr. Karnes and her many programs and conferences you can visit www.usm.edu/gifted.

New Publication in the Practical Strategies Miniseries

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, distinguished university professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Dr. Kristin R. Stephens, assistant professor at Duke University, have co-edited another book in the Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education published by Prufrock Press. The book, *Teaching Gifted Students in the Regular Classroom*, was authored by Dr. Tracy L. Riley. Appropriate learning for gifted and talented students is adjusted in pace, depth, and breadth through differentiated curricula that are both enriched and accelerated. This is often accomplished through segregated programs, within and outside school; however, the reality is that these students continue to spend the majority of their education in general classroom settings. This book provides teachers with practical strategies for identifying and meeting the abilities and needs of gifted and talented students through differentiation in general classroom settings.

For more information on programs at the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, call 601-266-5236, or visit their website at:
www.usm.edu/gifted



Space Place News:

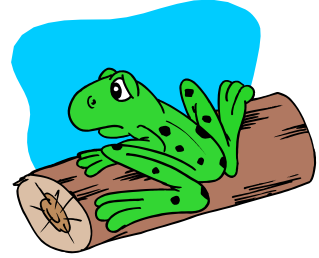
With frogs leaping and butterflies fluttering, kids will race to the Finish in the new “Leaps and Flutters” game at Climate Kids. Along the way, this game (modeled after Chutes and Ladders) will present opportunities to help the environment by such acts as recycling an aluminum can, or to not help the environment by, oh, say, leaving the refrigerator door open too long. Good deeds leap the player up a row or two, not-so-good deeds send the player a-fluttering back down. All the actions—helpful and not—are explained in the accompanying article. And why should we care about frogs and butterflies anyway? That, too, becomes clear. Visit <http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/games/leapsandflutters>.

Check out our great sites for kids:

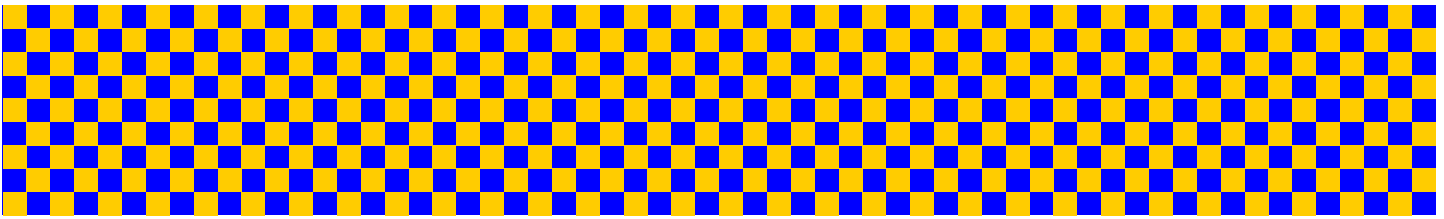
<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids>

<http://scijinks.gov>

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>



Distributed by Laura K. Lincoln, on behalf of the Climate Kids Team.



ALL PARENT GROUPS MUST REGISTER EVERY YEAR TO AFFILIATE WITH MAGC

Parent Affiliate Registration

Note: There is no charge for affiliation with MAGC

School District: _____ School Year: _____ Parent Group Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Preferred E-Mail: _____

Submit this registration electronically to:

Note: Copy and paste this form into Microsoft Word before emailing.

Dana Seymour

OR

Marla Siragusa

ds Seymour@ccl.muw.edu

markeg12@gmail.com

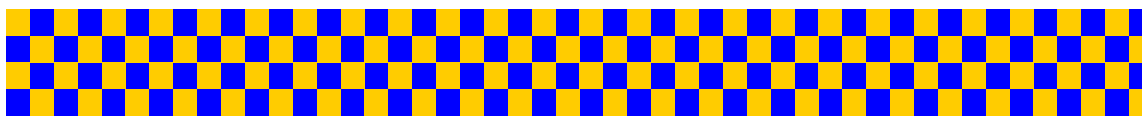
Two Gifted Teachers Win Prestigious Mississippi Power Alan Barton Award



Two of the six Alan R. Barton Excellence in Teaching Award winners for 2011 are gifted teachers on the

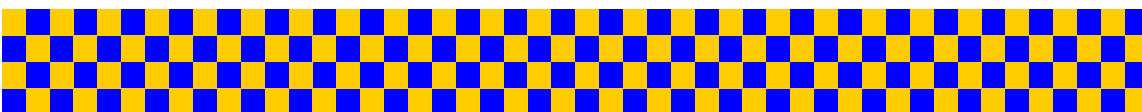


Mississippi Gulf Coast. Kim Clemons from Jeff Davis Elementary School in Biloxi and Kimberly Jordan from Gautier Middle School.



Biloxi Students and Teacher Win Economic Awards

Students in Kim Clemons Create class in Biloxi won multiple awards from the Mississippi Council on Economics Education. Her fifth grade boys won the Stock Market Game in December, 2010. The article with a picture can be found at: www.biloxischools.net. Also, Raegan Rushing, one of her fourth grade girls, won the Merrill Lynch Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Kim was awarded Best Practices and runner up for the MS Economics Teacher of the Year Award. These are wonderful accolades for this young group of gifted students!



Looking for a new background for your desktop? Check out the great wallpapers available at SciJinks.gov today:

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Know where the volcanic ash blows so you can go the other way.

Get your free wallpaper today at: <http://seijinks.gov/wallpapers>.



Glimpses Into the Future...

The seventh and eighth grade Chalybeate School Gifted students recently participate in the Johns Hopkins University Center for Gifted and Talented Youth Global Talent Search. Johns Hopkins is a renowned university that encourages gifted students to embrace opportunities and look forward to their educational journey. This program was developed when research showed there was a significant need in career counseling and exploration for gifted students. Johns Hopkins University hoped to educate and lead gifted students in the career options that were best suited for them.

Chalybeate Gifted Students had to meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for the talent search. Each student had to be ruled as intellectually gifted and be an active participant in the gifted program. They also had to score advanced or proficient on all areas of the MCT2.

Through this global talent search, the Chalybeate Gifted Students were able to take the ACT with high school juniors and seniors. The students went through the same preparation and testing procedures as high school students. The results were then scored and compared to other seventh and eighth grades students tested. The scores were also analyzed to determine options for career exploration.

Each student represented Chalybeate School well. Principal Scott Smith, teachers, and parents were all proud of the scores and the impact this experience had on the students. Gifted Teacher Whitney Wooten commented that these students were excited and embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm. Eighth grade gifted students said, "This experiences was great and challenged us to embrace our future."

All of these students were awarded with certificates from Johns Hopkins University. Seventh grade students, Luke Bennett, Laurie Bell, Ashlyn Inman, Mary Brown and Carley Hughes were awarded plaques on Award's Day. Eighth grades students, Will Quinn, Tanner McCoy, Hunter Wommack, Madison Martindale, Savanna Pulliam, Mariah Morrow and Shelby Stuber were awarded plaques at graduation. Two students received special awards from Johns Hopkins University for their high scores. Mariah Morrow received a score of 21 and Hunter Wommack received a score of 26. These two students will be invited to attend an Awards Ceremony given by Johns Hopkins University.



Teachers and Students at Colmer Middle School in Pascagoula Accomplish Many Interesting Projects

Beth McDaniel was a 2011 Elmer's and Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Tool Kit Grant recipient. Also, her class received a digital Kodak Camera, SD card and 10 flash drives from DonorsChoose.org for a photography unit their class participated in. Additionally, they entered and won multiple winning places in a photography contest sponsored by Vancleave Public Library.

Ms. McDaniel, along with her fellow teacher Ms. Cronier, had students complete independent study projects where they designed the unit based on the IMP plan. Students had to locate and identify professionals in their field of study...as long as it related in some way. They heard from so many interesting people, which the students thoroughly enjoyed. Each day, the students asked if they received an interview back with great enthusiasm. The teachers sent the interviews from school email to protect the students' privacy. Some of the professionals were the owners of yacht factories, attorneys, forensic scientists, paranormal investigators, the professional voice person of Sonic, chemical engineers, professional/amateur poets, specialist for Savants syndrome, architects, soccer coaches, local and state government officials. They even had some professionals agree to be guest speakers for their class. They also stated that they had a student who received an interesting interview back, and then one that was obviously done with little effort. The student was so insulted after all of the hard work that he put into this unit that this person would send such an uninformative response. The teacher was able to make this a teachable moment for him relating it to how communication is very important and how his teacher may feel when she puts lots of energy into a lesson/project and the student may not take it seriously turning in low quality work. This student had an "ah ha" moment and stated that this changed his entire perspective.

Also, students at Colmer hatched ducks with incubators. Students learned many new vocabulary terms related to the study, how eggs are graded by their albumen thickness,, and they researched the types of ducks that hatched. They learned many interesting duck facts/terms such as sexors, who identify the gender of the ducks. Students made a schedule of "ducky sitting" in which students took turns bringing home and caring for them. Based on ducks' appearances, demeanors and characteristics, students assigned them very creative names. They even had one that was crippled that a student designed a "duck-a-round" based on the Hovaround wheelchair device advertised on tv.

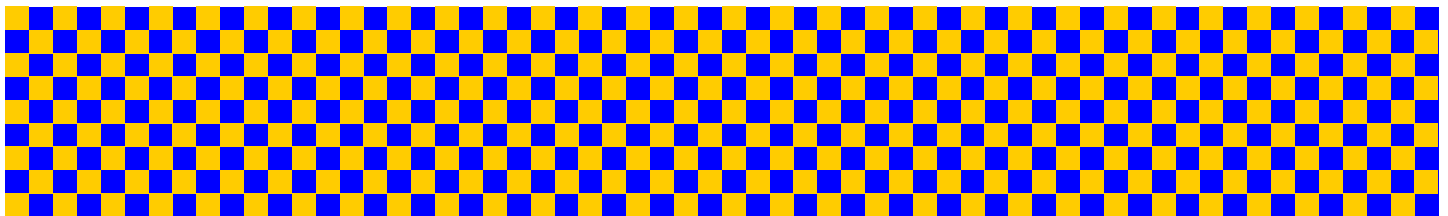
Teachers at Colmer look for opportunities within their community that offer students a chance to excel and be recognized.

St. Martin Gifted Student Wins District and Regional Competition

Congratulations to Allison Tillman, 6th grade gifted student, from St. Martin Gifted Center, for winning the district and regional competition for the Block Kids Competition. The Block Kids Competition is sponsored by the NAWIC Association, the National Association of Women in Construction Gulf Coast Chapter. The goal of the program is to introduce children to the construction industry in an effort to create an awareness of, and to promote an interest in, future careers in one of the many facets of the industry.

The students conducted research in the fields of engineering and architecture. Students were given 100 legos, a piece of string, a rock, and sheet of foil, and a large mat to build on. They used their imagination to create a structure out of the items.

Allison created a structure that was an oil purification refinery to assist areas when an oil spill disasters occurs. This was truly born out of a need that she experienced personally on the Coast during the summer of 2010. She was honored at a dinner at McElroy's Restaurant in Ocean Springs. NAWIC presented her with a trophy, certificate, and a \$100 check. Her project will now move into the national level for evaluation. She will find out in August if her design has placed there. Her gifted instructor is Mrs. Virginia McLaughlin.



Belmont Gifted Student Wins Scholastics "Storyworks" Award



Alexandria "Alex" Norman, won the number one metaphor for the J. Patrick Lewis Metaphor & Simile Contest sponsored by "Storyworks" published by Scholastics. Alex is a student of Cathy Eaton of Belmont School.



Petal Primary Gifted Students' Take Field Trip to Homes of Hope for Children



On May 16, Petal Primary 2nd grade Gifted Workshop students participated in the first school field trip hosted by Homes of Hope for Children in Purvis. After Petal Primary Workshop students and friends presented a musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens last



December and generated over \$2400 in donations for Homes of Hope, students expressed interest in visiting the children's home to learn the impact of their community service. During the visit, Dr. Garrett and his staff conducted a guided tour of the property and spoke to students about the mission of the children's home. Students toured the commissary and boy's cottage, realizing how the children living in the home are very much like themselves. Students also learned the importance of volunteer work and community service as they pulled weeds and picked up litter around the property. Throughout the visit, Dr. Garrett emphasized how the children's home provides a stable, Christian home environment for innocent children experiencing unfortunate circumstances beyond their control. More than 75 students and parent chaperones, including Workshop teachers (Melissa Pierce and Robin Rector), attended the field trip.



tian home environment for innocent children experiencing unfortunate circumstances beyond their control. More than 75 students and parent chaperones, including Workshop teachers (Melissa Pierce and Robin Rector), attended the field trip.



Remember to submit:

- **Your MAGC Conference Registration**
- **Outstanding Advocate for Gifted Children Nomination Form**
- **Imagination Alley Proposal**



MAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

Elected Officers:

President: Dr. Sandra Manning
sandra.manning@usm.edu

Vice President: Rhonda Denton
rdenton@mpsd.k12.ms.us

Treasurer: Pam Pape
ppape@jackson.k12.ms.us

President-Elect: Glenn Nobles
cierra2605@yahoo.com

Past President: Joyce Youngblood
jly1272@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Sherry Willis
sherry@rcrotorworld.com

Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Snider
msnider@jackson.k12.ms.us

Recording Secretary: Melissa Pierce
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Hank Brand
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Advisory Board: Melissa Grantham
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Presidential Appointees: Kim Clemons
kim.clemons@biloxischools.net

Assessment: Donna Welborn
dwelborn@jackson.k12.ms.us

Counseling: Leigh Curtis
lcurtis@clinton.k12.ms.us

MAGC Executive Director: Carol Paola (cwp1gab@aol.com)

Permanent and Founding Member: Dr. Frances Karnes, U.S.M. Hattiesburg

MAGC

P.O. Box 3545
Jackson, MS 39207

