Welcome back to a new school year! We hope your summer was restful, but fun, and your batteries had time to recharge.

**DEADLINES FOR 2011-2012 School Year**

**October 1, 2011 Gifted Tracking Log**
- Last date to submit the Gifted Tracking is **October 21, 2011** through the State approved process in STISETS. (Report desktop area) for Oct 2, 2010-Oct 1, 2011.
- Dates to enter into STISETS State Report desktop line
  - Start Date: October 2, 2010
  - End Date: October 1, 2011

**Enrichment Child Count:**
- Last date to submit: **October 21, 2011**
- Count of students receiving services on Oct 1, 2011 by race/ethnicity and total

**Second Grade Child Find LEA Summary Report:**
- Last date to submit: **April 20, 2012**

**Four Year Monitoring Cycles**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Gifted Regional Trainings** - Letters regarding the fall trainings will be sent to school superintendents and gifted/special education coordinators no later than next week. We are offering eight trainings this year. Dates and locations for the trainings are:
- August 16-17, 2011 Cypress Auditorium, Mobile County Public Schools
- August 18-19, 2011 Lincoln Center, Birmingham City Schools
- August 23-24, 2011 Enterprise City Schools Service Center
- August 25-26, 2011 Transportation Dept., Tuscaloosa County Schools
- August 29-30, 2011 Shelby County Instructional Services Center
- August 31-September 1, 2011, Marshall County Technical Center
- September 6-7, 2011 Regional In-Service Center & AMSTI Building, Athens
- Sept 13-14, 2011 Bellinger Hill, Montgomery County Schools

Topics include Gifted Updates, Monitoring, and Achieving Racial Equity, Critical and Creative Thinking Skills, Thinking Like a Disciplinarian, and Working with Twice Exceptional Students.

Registration on STI-SETS is now open.

**AAGC Annual Conference-Gifted! Stand Up and Speak Out!** - on September 22 and 23, 2011 has many surprises this year. First, there are three keynote speakers. On Thursday Dr. Jack Naglieri will present in the morning and on Friday Dr. Del Siegle will present in the morning with Dr. Tommy Bice presenting after the morning break. Friday will also feature a few sessions for parents. Breakout sessions will be on both days. Wednesday is the Pre-Conference Workshop. This year AAGC will present “How to Score the Torrance Test for Creative Thinking” with Dr. John Kauffman of...
Check out this Web site which has links to Online Games for Gifted Students:

Send us your favorite resources to share with gifted specialists.

Scholastic Testing. We strongly recommend that you attend this training if you have not been trained on scoring this creativity test.

Door prizes this year are incredible. One lucky attendee will go home with an iPAD 2. However, you must be present to win the prize, which will be given away Friday afternoon.

**Cooking Up Concept-Based Curriculum** - This independent study online course will walk you through the steps to creating a concept-based curriculum unit. The course site is http://atim.cc/course/view.php?id=234 on the Alabama Technology in Motion’s Moodle course management Web site. If you do not have an account on this site yet, create an account by following the directions on the right side of the screen, opposite the login. Nancy and I will monitor and provide feedback for anyone working on units. Upon completion, you can submit your PD through STI-PD history for approval by your administrators. Nancy and I will require a copy of your unit to post on the ALEX-Gifted Web site in the “library” for concept-based curriculum.

**CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES**

**AAGC – Student Contest**
Gifted! Stand Up and Speak Out! September 22 and 23, 2011
Gifted Student Project Contest
In 101 Words/30 seconds or Less: Tell the World What it Means to be Gifted!

**Choose one of these formats for your product:**
- Written Words (comic, essay, poem, rap, song)
- Media (video on YouTube, etc.)
- Graphic Design (bumper sticker, advertisement, poster)

Winners will be announced at the AAGC Conference on Friday, September 23, 2011 and shared at the Conference.

**Contest Rules and Information:**
- Contest is open to all gifted students in K-12. Participants must be students in the state of Alabama. Children of AAGC board members and judges are not eligible to participate.
- Winners will be selected in each of the following grade groups:
  - K-2, Written, Media, and Graphic Design
  - 3-5, Written, Media, and Graphic Design
  - 6-8, Written, Media, and Graphic Design
  - 9-12, Written, Media, and Graphic Design
- Contest registration form and URL and/or Word document must be received by **September 15, 2011**
  - Written Word should be typed in Word and no more than 101 words.
  - Video media should be no longer than 30 seconds and should be posted on YouTube or something similar.
  - Graphic Design should be uploaded to Glogster or some other website for easy viewing.
  - All winners will have their products posted on the AAGC Website (alabamagifted.org).
  - By submitting a product for consideration in the Contest, you grant AAGC a royalty free and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, display, broadcast, stream or otherwise use your product in whole or in part, in any media including the internet.
  - There are no fees associated with this contest.
CONTEST AWARDS:
Grand Prize – Apple IPAD
1st Place in each category, $50.00 Apple Itunes Card
2nd Place in each category, $25.00 Apple Itunes Card
Send the following form with your product URL and/or Word document to:
audrey.fine@gmail.com, President AAGC

The 2011 AAGC Gifted Student Project Contest Registration Form can be downloaded at http://alabamagifted.org

RESOURCES

WANTED: Good Concept-Based Curriculum Units
E-mail your best Concept-based curriculum units to Nancy and Shirley to add to the “library” of units. The units will be transferred into the unit template and may include some revisions. We can work smarter and not harder if we share our units instead of recreating the wheel every time.

Livebinders
To find free RtI resources and fabulous Web 2.0 tools go to Shirley’s Livebinders-online bookmarks. Share resources with classroom teachers to help them meet the needs of our gifted students.
http://www.livebinders.com/shelf/search?search=&terms=shirfarr&type=1
There’s also a P2LN- Professional, Personalized Learning Network-to find professional development opportunities on the Web specific to gifted specialists!

Five Ways to Listen Better Listen
Check out this seven minute TED Talk by Julian Treasure. You might want to share with students.
http://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_5_ways_to_listen_better.html

Infographics as an Assessment Tool
Infographics are visual data and information. Kathy Schrock is at it again. Here is a great way to have students, especially visual students produce a final product, or produce any product. Check out her resources and links.
https://sites.google.com/a/kathyschrock.net/infographics/

FIELD STUDY EXPERIENCES
South Alabama offers an exciting field study experience in which students work side-by-side with archaeologists, helping to uncover the town of St. Stephens at the Old St. Stephens Historical Park. Students use the tools of the discipline as they “dig” for artifacts. Your students would participate as volunteers. They request students be ages 14 or older unless accompanied by an adult. We’ve had a couple gifted pull out programs participate in this project! For volunteer information contact Dr. George Shorter at gshorter@jaguar1.usouthal.edu. For information to visit the historical park, call (251) 247-2622, or email oldststephens@sshc.alabama.gov.

As with any field trip experience, what before, during, and after experiences have you planned for students to further the studies of the concept-based curriculum? What Essential Understandings will students discover through Essential Questions and/or Scaffolded Questions as they experience the field study?