

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

NOV/DEC 2003

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- SDE Budget
- School Safety
- ISO Certification
- System Highlight: Troy City
- Section Spotlight: Teacher Education and Certification

FISCAL YEAR '05 BUDGET?

THE \$3 BILLION QUESTION

It doesn't take a certified public accountant to figure out you can't spend what you don't have. **BUT** on the other hand, recent budget action by the Alabama Board of Education sends a strong message, "Education priorities deserve funding, not budget cuts." During its November K-12 meeting, the Board voted 7 to 1 to send a budget proposal to the governor that would spend more than \$200 million more than **GOV. BOB RILEY** estimates is available to spend. **STATE FINANCE DIRECTOR DRAYTON NABERS** has suggested that K-12 expected expenditures exceed revenues by \$199 million. But state Board members disagreed, saying asking for cuts would send the wrong message that dollars weren't needed in important areas slated to be slashed and that the state could afford to lay off 7,000 teachers and support personnel when currently there is a teacher shortage. "I feel it is my responsibility to serve as an advocate for public education, not an advocate for severe budget cuts that will impede the progress that has been made in our schools," said **DISTRICT 7 BOARD MEMBER SANDRA RAY**. "I also feel it is the responsibility and obligation of the governor and the legislature to find the necessary funding for public education."

A very noble gesture perhaps, but **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ED RICHARDSON** is concerned over the approval of a budget exceeding projected state revenues, making it more difficult for legislators to prioritize cuts. Richardson feels the proposed budget will likely mean the state Board will be viewed as not addressing spending priorities.

Once upon a time someone said, "If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, then everyone would have a merry Christmas."

IF the cost of healthcare insurance and fringe benefits hadn't skyrocketed
IF no teachers and school support personnel lost their jobs

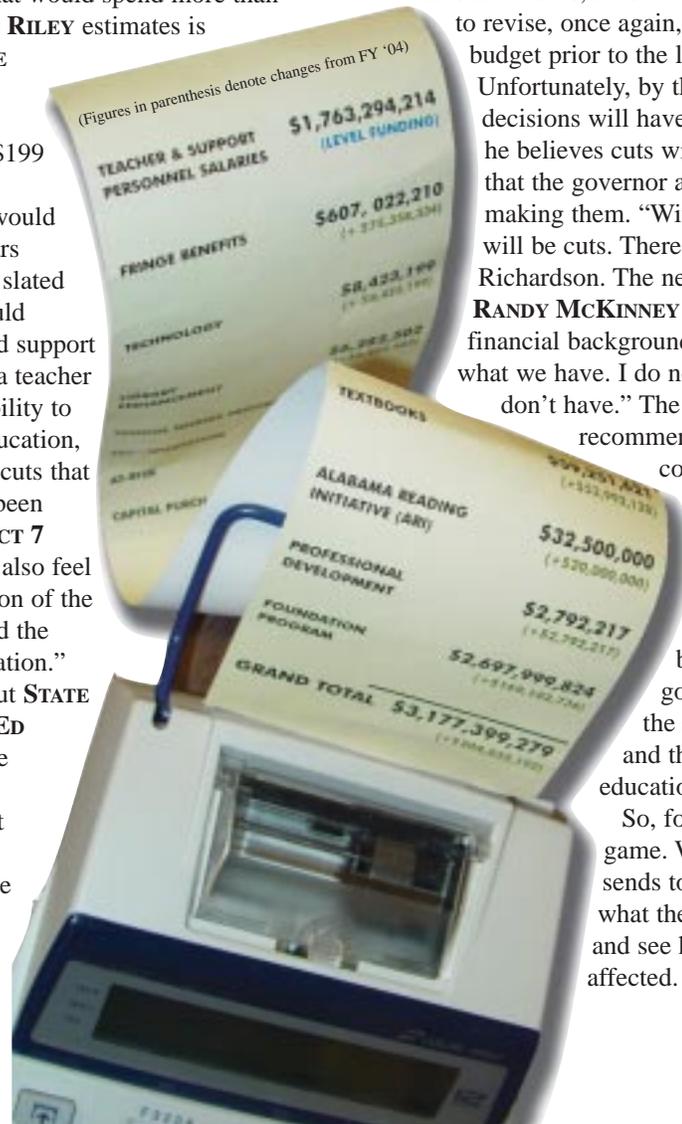
IF technology were fully funded
IF every student had a new textbook
IF funding for education programs and initiatives were not cut
IF there were more money for professional development
 And perhaps the biggest **IF** of all ...
IF we had more revenue ...

BUT sadly today we don't!

In other words, it could be back to the drawing board to revise, once again, the fiscal year 2005 education budget prior to the legislative session in February. Unfortunately, by that time, most budget decisions will have been made. Richardson says he believes cuts will come and there is no way that the governor and the legislature can avoid making them. "Without additional revenue, there will be cuts. There is no doubt about it," said Richardson. The newest state Board member, **RANDY MCKINNEY** from District 1, agrees, "My financial background tells me we can only spend what we have. I do not think we can spend what we don't have." The state superintendent is still

recommending local school systems continue to plan for teacher and support personnel layoffs next year. A spokesperson for the governor's office agreed that cuts to the education budget will have to be made and stressed that the governor will try to work with the state Department of Education and the state Board in determining education priorities.

So, for now it's a wait-and-see game. Wait and see what the governor sends to the legislature, wait and see what the legislature allocates, and wait and see how Alabama schools are affected. 🍎



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS
THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in Washington, D.C., released scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2003 *Reading and Math Assessments* Nov. 13. NAEP, also known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas.

Alabama was one of 48 states and jurisdictions participating in the NAEP 2003 *Mathematics and Reading Assessments*. The study assessed fourth, eighth, and twelfth-graders’ knowledge of mathematics and reading, providing an in-depth look at the achievement of individual states. Results for twelfth graders are only available at the national level.



[CLICK HERE](#) to see the Comprehensive NAEP results. 🍏

**KEY FINDINGS OF THE
 2003 NAEP ASSESSMENTS**

READING ASSESSMENT	MATH ASSESSMENT
Scores of Alabama fourth- and eighth-grade students remained the same at 207 and 253 respectively, as in 2002 while national scores dropped.	Scores of Alabama fourth-graders increased to 223 in 2003, up from 217 in 2000.
Scores of Alabama eighth-grade African-American students increased from 234 in 2002 to 237 in 2003. National scores remained at 244 from 2002 to 2003.	For the past four administrations of the assessment, Alabama minorities have made significant improvements. In 2003, scores of fourth-grade African-American students in Alabama increased five points to 208 from 2000.
Alabama continues to lead the nation in the inclusion of special needs students. Alabama and one other state in the nation – Wyoming – tested the highest number of students with disabilities (SD) and limited-English proficiency (LEP) in the nation. By testing more special needs students, Alabama continues to improve compliance with NCLB.	Alabama continues to lead the nation by testing more students with disabilities (SD) and limited-English proficiency (LEP) than other states.
Achievement levels of Alabama students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program continue to increase. In 2003, scores of Alabama eighth-grade students eligible for free and reduced lunch increased one point to 241 from 2002. National scores in the same subgroup fell three points to 246.	Scores of Alabama fourth-grade students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program increased from 206 in 2000 to 213 in 2003.
The percentage of Alabama students who performed at the advanced level increased in both fourth and eighth grades from 2002.	The percentage of Alabama fourth-graders scoring at or above the NAEP proficient level rose six points from 2000.

BOARD BRIEFS

OCTOBER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED:

- ✦ Adopted Resolution Commending Doris Horne as the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter” for October-December 2003
- ✦ Adopted Resolution Commending Randolph School, Huntsville, Blue Ribbon School Award
- ✦ Adopted Resolution Commending the 1997-98 Social Studies Course of Study Committee and Alabama Department of Education Staff for Developing an Outstanding U.S. History Curriculum
- ✦ Adopted Resolution Commending the Alabama Department of Education for the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation’s *Effective State Standards for U.S. History: A 2003 Report Card* Recognition
- ✦ Adopted Resolution Endorsing October 19-25, 2003 as Alabama School Bus Safety Week
- ✦ Approved a One-Year Extension of Teacher Education Programs, Alabama State University, Montgomery
- ✦ Received Recommendations of the State Textbook Committee for Adoption of Textbooks for Mathematics, Health, and Physical Education
- ✦ Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2004 K-12 Budget

NOVEMBER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED:

- ✦ Approved Resolution Recognizing International Organization Standards (ISO) Registration ISO 9001-2000 Career/Technical Business/Industry Certification (BIC) Process
- ✦ Approved Recommendations of the State Textbook Committee for Adoption of Textbooks for Mathematics, Health, and Physical Education
- ✦ Approved Accountability Subcommittee Reports
- ✦ Approved Recommendation for Uniform School Starting Date for for the 2004-05 School Year
- ✦ Adopted Permanently as Emergency Amended Administrative Code Rules Pertaining to Annual Apportionment of Foundation Program Funds, Annual Apportionment of Transportation Funds, and Annual Apportionment of Public School Fund
- ✦ Approved Fiscal Year 2005 Education Budget Proposal

SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE HELPS EDUCATORS BATTLE SCHOOL CRIME

Warding off violence in schools is an ongoing effort being made by educators across the United States. According to a Sept. 21 story in *USA Today*, 18 violent deaths have occurred in public schools across the nation since mid-August when most schools kicked off the new school year. Experts cite several possible causes, including usage of violent video games, the stress of higher academic standards, high schools, gangs, and even the poor economy. Experts also point out that one of the most effective ways schools can decrease violence is to combat bullying. The Alabama Department of Education has been very proactive about school violence by providing school safety training to the state's educators on many occasions. Two recent conferences sponsored by the state Department of Education, ADT Security Services Inc., and American Dynamics afforded school leaders, guidance counselors, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools' coordinators the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and training to help protect our schools.

Over 600 participants attended School Safety Conferences in Montgomery and Birmingham, Oct. 29 and 30. **MICHAEL DORN**, Executive Director of Safe Havens International, author of *Weakfish: Bullying Through the Eyes of a Child*, and former school safety specialist with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, joined son **CHRIS DORN** to demonstrate how easily weapons can be smuggled into school. Chris Dorn has presented his powerful weapons concealment demonstration on *Good Morning America*, *Larry King Live*, and *ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*.

Other areas of expertise covered at the conference included: training on sudden cardiac arrest and the use of automated external defibrillators, anti-terrorism planning for schools and on school buses, and grant writing.

"The dropping crime rate could be in keeping with the safety scores the schools give themselves," said **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREVENTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR SUE ADAMS**. Fewer than 50 of the nation's 91,000 public schools have been labeled as "persistently dangerous" by their states under a review required by federal law. There were no "persistently dangerous" schools reported in Alabama in the 2002-03 school year. Adams further said, "We are committed to doing all we can to prevent violence in our schools by ensuring our educators are well trained to address any incidents that may occur." 🍏

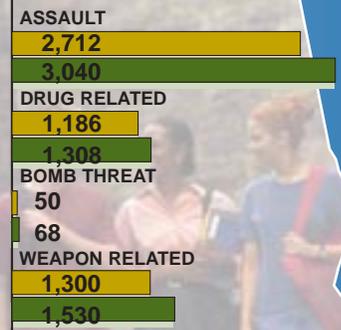
FEDERAL CRIME STATISTICS REFLECT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STILL MUCH SAFER IN SCHOOL THAN ON THE STREET, AND THAT SCHOOL CRIME HAS DROPPED IN RECENT YEARS.

From 1995 to 2001, the percentage of students ages 12-18 who reported being victims of violence or theft at school dropped from 10 percent to 6 percent. The percentage of public high school students who reported being crime victims dropped from 9.8 percent in 1995 to 5.7 percent in 2001.

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Students ages 12-18 were more likely to be victims of nonfatal serious violent crime including rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault when they were away from school than at school. In 2001, students in this age range were victims of about 290,000 serious violent crimes away from school, compared with about 161,000 at school. Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2003 National Center for Education Statistics

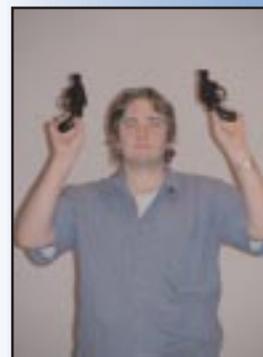
IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS, THE NUMBER OF SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE INCIDENTS HAS ALSO DECREASED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.



2001-02
2000-01

Source: Alabama Department of Education Report Cards 2000-01 and 2001-02

During the School Safety 2003 Conference in Montgomery and Birmingham, Chris Dorn demonstrates how 120 weapons can be concealed under everyday clothing.



ON THE JOB WITH ALABAMA STUDENTS

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS THE FIRST EDUCATIONAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE ISO CERTIFICATION

Alabama career/technical education students are fortunate to have the leadership of major corporations when it comes to providing highly qualified training for the future's workforce. Students in Alabama's public schools will now learn the valuable career skills they need in classroom settings that are internationally certified. The Alabama Department of Education announced that its Business and Industry Certification (BIC) process, used to certify career/technical education programs for industry compliance, has been awarded certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Alabama's Department of Education is the only state-level educational agency in the nation to receive this certification.

The exciting announcement was made at the new **HYUNDAI MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA PLANT** in Montgomery, Oct. 22. "All of us must be totally committed to preparing



Alabama's students for the demands of a rapidly changing economy which places a high priority on academic and technical skills" said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ED RICHARDSON**. "ISO certification is highly respected within the business community and is recognized internationally as a system that produces results. Alabama's students will greatly benefit from this certification because it will help to ensure the instruction, equipment, and facilities used to prepare them for future career success, and to meet the technological standards required of business and industry professionals worldwide."

ISO, a non-governmental organization established in 1947, is the world's largest international developer of business and industry standards. With more than half a million organizations in more than 60 countries currently utilizing programs within its ISO 9000 categories, ISO is concerned with the implementation of quality management systems.

The Alabama Department of Education was awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification Aug. 13. This certification is valid for a three-year period. To remain certified, the department's Career/Technical Education Section will undergo two yearly external audits administered by ISO, and eight yearly internal audits and/or training sessions administered by the Alabama Technology Network (ATN).

(Continued on Page 5)



The new Hyundai Manufacturing of Alabama Plant in Montgomery.



The Tuscaloosa-based manufacturer Mercedes-Benz U.S. International.



Deputy State Superintendent of Education Dr. Joe Morton and teachers tour the Honda Manufacturing of Alabama Plant in Lincoln.



(Continued from Page 4)

Another corporate giant in the automotive field has also climbed on-board with the state's career/technical education program. **HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA**, Alabama Public Television (APT), and Thirteen/WNET New York are sponsoring *What's Up In Factories?* The initiative, which is in its second year in Alabama, will help guide high school students who may be choosing career paths in manufacturing.

What's Up In Factories? was launched in 1994 by Thirteen/WNET New York. The program features images of working factories and interactive classroom exercises along with a thirty-minute educational video and teacher's curriculum guide. The video is narrated by teen actors who make the content relatable to students their age by asking – how do they make all that merchandise you find at the mall? The four-segment video describes how to prepare for a career in manufacturing, the history of manufacturing, production methods, and new industry trends.

"We're helping students identify the choices available by arming their teachers and guidance counselors with new insights and dynamic ways of introducing this subject in the classroom," says **ALLAN PIZZATO**, Executive Director of Alabama Public Television.

Thirteen/WNET's Educational

Services and Outreach Department conducted professional training for teachers and guidance counselors at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln, Nov. 18. Honda is supplying grants to participating teachers and reimbursing their schools for the cost of obtaining substitute teachers. After the curriculum has been introduced to classrooms, Honda will host student tours in Lincoln this spring. Additionally, Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, has agreed to award CEU credits to the teachers participating in the training.

"This is an excellent program to introduce both educators and students to the latest manufacturing developments," said **CHUCK ERNST**, Vice President and plant manager of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. Honda in Lincoln, which manufactures 300,000 minivans and engines annually, will employ 4,300 workers by 2004.



What's Up In Factories?

Nov. 20 – 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 28 – 3:30 p.m.

The video portion will air Nov. 28 and Jan. 16 for schools to record.

The Tuscaloosa-based manufacturer of the Mercedes-Benz M-Class vehicle, **MERCEDES-BENZ U.S. INTERNATIONAL (MBUSI)**, led the way in becoming a corporate partner with career/technical education. Its sponsorship of a high school apprenticeship program provides high-skilled training in automotive production. The need for such a public/private partnership program was made clear by **BILL TAYLOR**, MBUSI President and CEO, who stressed, "Our future products will have more complexity and more technology, so it is critical that we start preparing students to have the skills necessary to

produce world-class automobiles."

The program, which was implemented in the 2003-04 school year, offers classroom activities and industrial training at the Mercedes-

“Our future products will have more complexity and more technology, so it is critical that we start preparing students to have the skills necessary to produce world-class automobiles.”

— Bill Taylor, MBUSI President and CEO

Benz Institute in Tuscaloosa over a three-year period. A total of 20 students were chosen through an application and interview/appraisal process to participate. Students enrolled in the program must be in school full-time, carry a minimum "C" grade point average, and live within a 35 to 40 mile radius of the Mercedes-Benz Institute (MBI) in Tuscaloosa County. 🍏

Section Spotlight –

TEACHER EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

The Alabama Department of Education Teacher Education and Certification Section, under the direction of **DR. JAYNE MEYER**, offers assistance in Teacher Education and Teacher Testing, Teacher Recruitment and Placement, Troops to Teachers, and Teacher Certification to:

- Individuals considering education as a career,
- Members of the U.S. military considering a second career in teaching,
- Students enrolled in teacher education programs,
- Local school systems in need of personnel, and
- Individuals seeking employment.

Dr. Meyer and her staff work with local and state officials to resolve concerns surrounding the federal criteria for Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). “The vast majority of Alabama’s teachers were highly qualified based on state standards adopted prior to the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB),” said Dr. Meyer. “They have completed state-approved teacher education programs to earn initial certification or certificate renewal. With few exceptions, our teachers teach the subjects they were prepared to teach. Our current concern is that many Alabama teachers have not yet documented that they meet the federal HQT criteria under NCLB due to the 19-year absence of subject-specific testing in our state.” Current Alabama teachers may opt, on a voluntary basis, to take the *Praxis II Exam* to help meet HQT criteria. The first *Praxis II* administration is Jan. 10. Another option available to not-new teachers is the Highly Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE), which will allow teachers the opportunity to assemble a portfolio documenting their HQT criteria.

TESTING

Alabama’s prospective teachers receive credits to teach in K-12 classrooms by passing all three sections – Applied Mathematics Assessment, Reading for Information Assessment, and Writing Assessment – of the *Alabama Prospective Teacher Test*. The test is coordinated by the Alabama

Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP), which will expand the assessment to include subject-matter tests as soon as approval is granted by the federal government.

HQT-RELATED TRAINING

One Alabama school system has taken the lead in assisting their teachers with the HQT dilemma. The Montgomery County School System, under the leadership of **SUPERINTENDENT CLINTON CARTER**, has implemented a successful program in partnership with three area universities – Alabama State University (ASU), Auburn University Montgomery (AUM), and Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM). The Montgomery Public Schools Highly Qualified Teacher Plan offers courses in math, science, social science, and English language arts at the system’s Professional Services Center. Additional science courses are offered through distance learning.

EDUCATION

The Teacher Education and Certification Section is also responsible for ensuring Alabama’s approximately 400 teacher preparation programs in 29

institutions of higher learning meet the continuously updated teacher education program approval standards adopted by the Alabama Board of Education. Reviews are conducted on a five-year cycle and state standards are revised as needed. In addition, the Alabama Department of Education issues Higher Education Report Cards to grade colleges and universities. The 2002-03 Report Cards are scheduled for release Dec. 11.

CERTIFICATION

Individuals who meet state Board of Education test requirements, complete approved programs, and meet background clearance requirements are eligible for certification. Certificates are also awarded to those who meet alternative approach criteria adopted by the Alabama Board of Education. State law requires criminal background checks on all current and prospective public and private school personnel with unsupervised access to children. In October, the Department of Education began posting teacher certification disciplinary actions on its Web site at www.alsde.edu.

RECRUITMENT

A relatively new area of teacher recruitment is Troops to Teachers (TTT). Established in 1994, TTT is a cooperative program between the Department of Defense and the Department of Education. To qualify, mustering out or retiring military personnel must receive an honorable discharge and have at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. “Recruiting” posters are displayed in the Montgomery airport, and plans are underway for billboards near Alabama military bases. Currently, there are 121 TTT Alabama public school teachers.

Teacher Education and Certification also administers the Mathematics and Science Scholarship/Loan Program for Alabama Teachers (MSSPAT). 🍏



Meet Your New Troops.

 **Troops to Teachers**
PROUD TO SERVE AGAIN

Funding Available 1-800-723-6841

To contact the Alabama Department of Education Teacher Education and Certification Section, call 1-800-723-6841 or [CLICK HERE](#) to send e-mail.



Reading IS Fundamental

Traveling along U.S. Hwy. 231 between Montgomery and Dothan, motorists are likely to see fertile farmland, grazing cows, the Sikes and Kohn Outlet, the Pioneer Museum, and the city of Troy – home of Troy State University and the Troy City School System.

This south Alabama school system is relatively small with only five schools, but don't be fooled by the size. This school system is big on making things happen for their students.

Troy City Schools has a new superintendent. **DR. LINDA FELTON-SMITH** took over the helm following the Oct. 1 retirement of **HENRY JONES**, who served the system for seven years. Felton-Smith was the former principal of Charles Henderson High School in Troy.

The school system's many activities included a "Kick-Off to Reading" event held at Troy Elementary, Sept. 16. The day-long event, sponsored by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) and the Coca-Cola Enterprises Bottling Operations in Alabama, was part of the Local Champions literacy program. The school is an Alabama Reading Initiative site.

Approximately 1,000 free books were distributed to the children of the Troy City School System (Head Start through Fourth

Grade). **TROY STATE UNIVERSITY (TSU) HEAD FOOTBALL COACH LARRY BLAKENEY** read to students as the TSU cheerleaders and mascot cheered them on.

"We are proud to offer Alabama students the opportunity to have the gift of reading," says **RICK KEHR**, Alabama Area Vice President, Coca-Cola Enterprises. "The Reading Is Fundamental program is a great opportunity for the Coca-Cola bottlers in Alabama to further lend support to Alabama's schools."

According to Superintendent Felton-Smith, the students thoroughly enjoyed the event and were very appreciative to receive new books. "At a time when funding is tight, we are



Troy State University Head Football Coach Larry Blakeney reads to Troy Elementary School students.

so fortunate to have community and business leaders help our schools," said Felton-Smith. "I am proud of what our school system has accomplished and look forward to future successes."

Additional activities in the school system include a culinary arts program at Charles Henderson High School and the addition of an accelerated math program to the curriculum at Charles Henderson Middle School. 🍏



State Board of Education District 8 member, **Dr. Mary Jane Caylor**, received recognition from the Alabama Science Teachers Association for exemplary service and support of science education in Alabama, Oct. 24 . Dr. Caylor was instrumental in securing initial funding for the Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative, which seeks to raise academic achievement for all students.

MADISON CO SCHOOL FIRST IN SOUTHEAST TO RECEIVE AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has awarded Sparkman High School in the Madison County school system, a \$5000 grant to enhance the school's American History curriculum.

The grant will enable the department to add new classes over a four-year period. The first class, "A New Nation is Born", will be offered in the spring of 2004. Other classes being added will focus on the Civil War, the Westward Expansion, and the two World Wars. The grant courses differ from traditional courses in that the entire semester is devoted to a particular era or subject in American History.

Sparkman is the first school in the state as well as the first school in the southeast to offer a Gilder Lehrman High School Program. The principal of Sparkman High School is **STEVE HOLLAND**. **ELAM RAY SWAIN** is superintendent of Madison County Schools.

For more information on the new history curriculum, contact Pam Gothart at (256) 837-0331 or [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏

TWO MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS



Happy Anniversary to MacMillan International Academy and Highland Avenue Elementary School! Both Montgomery County schools passed the 100-year milestone this fall.

Students, parents, and faculty participated in celebrations at both campuses with parades, festivals. MacMillan International Academy offers a traditional curriculum with a focus on international studies, humanities, technology, and communications. The principal is **TERESE GOODSON**. Highland Avenue Elementary is an Alabama Reading Initiative school under the leadership of **PRINCIPAL PATRICIA KORNEGAY**. 🍏



McMillan International Academy students

Starting at the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, teacher **BOBBI MURPHY**'s Roy Stone Middle School eighth-grade gifted class spent the next eight months writing a book titled *Reality Street*. The work consists of their journal entries covering topics such as conflict, family, and daily challenges. The 14 students used their writing to show the world they can aim high and that they will "not be left behind."

HOMER HICKAM, author of *Rocket Boys/October Sky*, visited the class and told them, "Millions of people want to write and be published, but only a few can. You students are among those few and no one can take that away from you." Hickam also wrote the foreword for the students' book. Former Pittsburgh Steeler and recent NFL Hall of Fame inductee **JOHN STALLWORTH** authored the introduction.

Reality Street sells from \$5 to \$8 a copy and can be purchased in

Huntsville area bookstores or by contacting Murphy at the middle school. All receipts from the book sales are being deposited into a nonprofit foundation trust fund for the students' college education.

The first 250 copies of the paperback were printed by Teledyne Brown Engineering at no cost to the class. The book is now in its second printing.

For information, contact Bobbi Murphy at 256-883-0589 or [CLICK HERE](#).



Roy Stone Middle School Teacher Bobbi Murphy (L) and students presented *Reality Street* to USDE officials in Washington.

*Roy Stone Middle School is a Title I school located in the Huntsville City School System. **GUIN GIVENS** is the principal. The superintendent is **DR. ANN ROY MOORE**. 🍏*

STUDENTS BECOME PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Once upon a time, there lived a young Alabama maiden who dreamed of becoming a published author. Seventeen-year-old **Valerie Gribben** is living proof dreams come true.

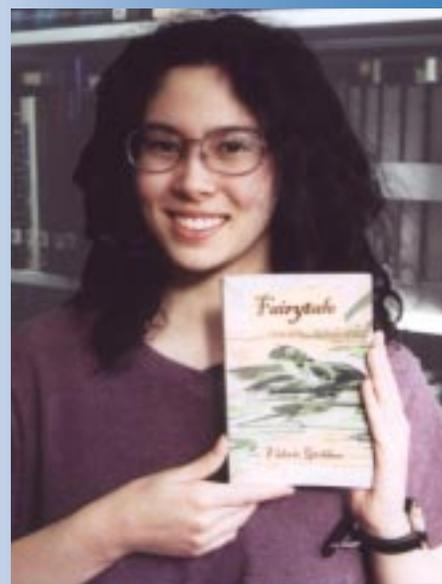
The senior in the Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) in the Montgomery County School System penned her first novel entitled *Fairytale* when she was 16. The book, published by Montgomery's New South Books' JuneBug line, which targets juvenile and young adult readers, has since hit the bookstores and the Amazon.com Web site. *Fairytale* is being sold for \$9.95.

The 160-page fantasy spins a

coming-of-age tale about a young girl engaged to marry a nobleman she has never set eyes on. The heroine's quest to discover her true heritage leads her into a world of magic, sorcery, and romance.

The young author, who is a salutatorian candidate in LAMP, was one of 40 authors selected to participate in the Southeastern Booksellers Association Trade Show held in Jekyll Island, Ga., in September.

Dr. Clinton Carter is the superintendent of Montgomery County Schools. Mrs. Veverly Arrington is the principal of LAMP. 🍏



Valerie Gribben

STRIKE UP THE BAND!



Baste the turkey and turn on the TV. Alabama's Pinson Valley High School Marching Chiefs will hit the streets of New York City to perform in the 2003 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Each year Macy's reviews hundreds of audition submissions from bands across the nation. From hundreds, only 12 bands are chosen to perform in the parade famous for its phenomenal balloon characters. The annual parade hosts over 2 million live spectators along the parade route and is televised to an estimated 65 million viewers.

The Marching Chiefs are directed by **JEFF CALDWELL**. This is the band's second performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The band first marched in this

spectacular event in 1997. The Marching Chiefs also have performed in the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., and Alabama Governor's Inauguration Parade in 1998.

The Marching Chiefs aren't the only Alabama high school band to be selected to take part in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Mobile's Baker High School Band will high-step their way up Broadway during the 2004 event.

*The principal of Pinson Valley High School, Jefferson County School System, is **JUNE HOUGE**. The superintendent of Jefferson County Schools is **DR. ROGER TOMBERLIN**.* 🍏



TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

*Russell County Middle School, Russell County Schools
State Board of Education District 2*

LISA LISHAK is November's Teacher of the Month. Lishak teaches eighth-grade math, including Algebra I and Pre-Algebra, at Russell County Middle School in the Russell County School System. Lishak and her school each receive \$1,000 from ALFA Insurance Co. and the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Lishak holds the honor of being the first National Board Certified Teacher in Alabama. She maintains a rigorous classroom protocol and high expectations for all of her students, and as a result, 96 percent of her Algebra students passed the Math portion of the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam* in 2003.

In 2004, Alfa will honor one teacher from each of Alabama's eight school board districts as well as two principals and two private school teachers. Applications for public school teachers are closed. **The next application deadline is Dec. 15 for K-12 principals.** [CLICK HERE](#) for online application information under the Communication Section. 🍏



LISA LISHAK

UNIFORM SCHOOL START DATE RECOMMENDED

To help the Alabama Department of Education continue to comply with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), the Alabama Board of Education is recommending local school systems don't start the 2003-04 school year until August 9, 2004 or after. "This will allow the state department time to notify school systems of schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) so that school systems can notify parents of transfer options according to the federal law, as well as share all assessment results" said ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON. "This date is a common start date for the 2003-04 school year. Each year we will reevaluate calendars to find the earliest

start date possible." Lack of compliance to NCLB would cause a substantial loss of Title I funding to Alabama schools. 🍏



DECEMBER							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM ADMINISTRATIONS					
14	15	ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING & WORK SESSION					20
21	22	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (State Offices Closed)					27
28	29						



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

VOL 27 • NO 4 NOV/DEC 2003

Alabama Board of Education Members

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- Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
- Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
- Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, Vice Pres., Fairfield
- Dist. 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
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- Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Tuscaloosa
- Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville

Ed Richardson,
State Superintendent of Education
and Secretary and Executive Officer
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

The **Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships** are for distinguished elementary and secondary school mathematics and science teachers. Einstein Fellows usually serve for 10 months in professional staff positions in a congressional office or federal agency. Contact Todd Clark at (202) 586-7174 or [CLICK HERE](#).
Deadline: Feb. 1

The **Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) Outdoor Classroom/Schoolyard Habitat Planning Guide** is now available for use in developing and maintaining a hands-on outdoor education and conservation habitat on school grounds. To order a copy, call AWF at 1-800-822-9453.

AWARD AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The **"Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Society of Plastics Engineers International, is open to all middle school and high school students. A teacher must sponsor the essay. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to contact Vijay Desai. **Deadline: Dec. 15**

The **National Teachers Hall of Fame** is accepting nominations for the 2004 induction. Candidates must have at least 20 years of full-time classroom teaching experience in Grades Pre-K through 12. Call 1-800-96-TEACH or [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: Jan. 6**

The **Presidential Awards For Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching** 2004 program is open to Grades K-6 math and science teachers. [CLICK HERE](#) for applications or contact Cynthia Brown, Alabama Department of Education, at (334) 242-8059.
Deadline: May 1.