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ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

The electronic newsletter of the Alabama State Department of Education

From the Superintendent

In this modern technological age in which we live, texting while driving has become a problem in Alabama and across the nation. Sadly, this practice isn't limited to just teenagers, as statistics reveal that many texting drivers involved in automobile accidents are adults. Legislation has been enacted to help address this dangerous problem but we wanted to go a step further to help educate our public school students and school personnel.



In the very near future, driver education teachers in Alabama will be receiving a DVD entitled *The Last Text* that is the culmination of a partnership between AT&T, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, and three state entities – the Alabama Governor's Office, the Alabama

Department of Public Safety, and the Alabama State Department of Education (see complete story on page three of this AEN issue). *The Last Text* should impact both teenagers and adults due to its presentation of real people who tell how their lives are dramatically different now due to poor decisions they made or that were made by others by texting while driving instead of paying attention to the road. Having actual people instead of actors in the film is far more effective in delivering this important message. The idea to distribute the DVDs to driver education classrooms was initiated by the Alabama Orthopaedic Society. The DVD will also be used as part of annual school bus driver recertification tests in Alabama.

Having three children of my own, I most certainly know that they will emulate many things they see their parents and other adults doing, both good things and bad things. Let's make a pledge as our students' teachers, principals, and administrators to refrain from texting while driving since we know full well that our actions speak louder than our words when children are watching ... and they are watching.

- Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education

October 22-26 is School Bus Safety Week!

Alabama has a school bus safety record of which we can all be proud; however, maintaining this excellent record requires the combined efforts of the entire education family including school staff, students, parents and other citizens. **School Bus Safety Week** is an excellent time to support activities in your schools and communities that emphasize school bus safety and recognize school bus drivers and other personnel who help ensure that Alabama's children are transported safely.



This emphasis coordinates with National School Bus Safety Week, which is an active, continuing public

education program designed to promote school bus safety.

An activity booklet for School Bus Safety Week can be found on the Pupil Transportation [website](#). Questions? contact Brad Holley, Program Administrator, Pupil Transportation, at 334-242-9730.

Alabama National Board Certified Teacher Network

invites you to join us for our Annual Conference

Extending Our Reach

January 26, 2013
8:30 am – 3:30 pm

SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL HOOVER, AL



Registration information go to:
<http://alnbctnetwork.blogspot.com>

Keynote Speaker Ron Thorpe, President, NBPTS

Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education
will address conference attendees during lunch.

Featured Workshop Presenters

Dr. Frank Buck Author of *Organization Made Easy!*
Tools for Today's Teachers

Michelle F. Accardi, NBCT
Director of State Policy and Advocacy, NBPTS

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/alnbctnetwork Join us on Facebook: Alabama NBCT Network alnbctnetwork@gmail.com

October is Parent Visitation Month

Parent Visitation Month's goal is to raise awareness of the importance of parental involvement and the key role parents play in their child's education. It is a time for local school systems to make that extra effort to invite parents to visit their school and learn how they can partner in their child's education.

Visit the [site](#) for tons of information on how to get parents involved (also available in Spanish)!

Click [HERE](#) for Alabama's Statewide Parent Visitation Month Guide.



Follow the Alabama Department of Education on Facebook and Twitter!

Friend or follow the Alabama Department of Education and get access to the most up-to-date information, press releases, event photos, videos, links, and much more! Links to all social media sites can also be found on our [webpage](#).

The Camellia Award Program

Alabama's children's choice book award program

Registration is open now [HERE](#). Unlike the well-known Newbery and Caldecott awards selected by adults, the Camellia Award program allows Alabama's students to pick the winners. It is open to all students in public and private K-12 schools and patrons of public libraries. Many other states have a similar program.

Each spring a select committee of school-based professionals chooses 30 books (10 from each of three grade-level categories) from those submitted by publishers. Most years there are 300 to 400 titles submitted for consideration by publishers.

The books are read by students or read aloud by teachers, parents and librarians to students during the fall and winter. In March, students vote on their favorite book in each category. The grades included in each category have changed over time. Presently, the categories are Grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-6.

Students who have read or listened to all nominated books in a category may vote for their favorite book in that category. The book in each category receiving the largest vote (statewide) wins. There is a winner in each of the three grade-level categories. Winning authors and illustrators receive notification of their winning title. All participating schools receive a certificate of participation. Also, all schools that participate are entered into a drawing for one grade-level set of the books.

Library media specialists try to purchase as many of the books as possible for their library. However, budget limitations keep some schools from participating due to lack of monies to purchase these titles. How can you help? Purchase the Camellia Award nominee books in honor of your children, grandchildren or for area schools. Each book costs approximately \$10-20. Books bound specifically for library use tend to be more durable for multiple uses by students. A grade-level set costs between \$185 and \$225; a full set of all books costs between \$525 and \$625. Please encourage community groups, parents and other stakeholders to donate!

The Alabama Department of Education has managed the program since 1991, although a division of the Alabama Library Association originated the program. For more information, contact [Meg Lowry](#), [Dede Coe](#), or call 334-353-1191, Alabama State Department of Education, Instructional Services.



Alabama Driver Ed Teachers to Receive 'The Last Text,' A Strong Message for Teen Drivers

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has partnered with Toyota, AT&T and several state agencies to ensure students in Alabama driver's education classes get a dramatic lesson on the dangers of texting while driving.

Every driver education teacher in the state will receive a DVD of "The Last Text," an original documentary produced by AT&T. The dramatic production features actual accounts from people who have either lost a loved one or suffered lifelong debilitating injuries as a result of someone texting while driving. The ALSDE also will use the video as part of annual bus driver recertification tests in Alabama.



Students from Wetumpka High School at a press conference for the "Don't Text And Drive" campaign.



Representatives from Toyota, AT&T, the AL. Dept. of Public Safety, the AL. State Dept. of Education, the AL. Rural Development Office, and the AL. Orthopaedic Society at a press conference for the "Don't Text And Drive" campaign.

President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama located in Huntsville. "This documentary from AT&T sends a clear message about the dangers of texting and driving and, at Toyota, we think that's a message every young driver in Alabama needs to hear."

The Alabama Governor's Office, the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama State Department of Education also participated in the project. AT&T gave permission to share the documentary with Alabama schools and Toyota sponsored the production, duplication and distribution of the DVDs to the state's 450 driver education classes.

Alabama driver education teachers also will receive an additional DVD, "Life Behind the Wheel: A Roadmap for Safety," produced by Toyota and Discovery Education. This DVD includes segments for drivers of all ages, parents of teen drivers and educators.

Alabama is one of the first states in the nation to incorporate an anti-texting video into its high school driver education curriculum. "Alabama Don't Text and Drive" is the culmination of many months of effort, spearheaded by the Alabama Orthopaedic Society (AOS) and its Executive Director, Mike Merrill, Esq.

"Learning to drive is an exciting time for many teenagers, but it's important to learn how to be a safe driver," said Jim Bolte,

Russellville Middle School Hosts 'Germ City'

Russellville Middle School

recently hosted a program that enhances the importance of hand washing called "Germ City." This program was hosted by April Burgess from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She set up a tent decorated with neon paintings of germs in a cityscape. Black lights inside lit up the neon designs.

When students entered, Mrs. Burgess led a class discussion on when you need to wash your hands, how to wash your hands effectively and more. The students loved the enthusiasm and were excited and curious.

She 'awoke the germs' by turning on some music. The students rubbed in lotion that was provided that enhanced the germs inside the tent. The students walked in a few at a time and were shocked to see their hands glowing brightly under the lights. Mrs. Burgess shook a student's hand to show how germs transfer. The students then went to wash their hands in the bathroom following the procedures they learned. The students returned and went back

in the tent to see how they did. Most students got rid of most of their germs, but learned that they need to focus on scrubbing their knuckles and fingernails more thoroughly. It was a joy watching students learn and enjoy this lesson.

Contributed by Rachel Agee, Family and Consumer Sciences, Russellville Middle School, rachel.agee@rcs.k12.al.us



2012 Lights On Afterschool

On October 18, communities all across Alabama will be celebrating *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide event organized each year by the Afterschool Alliance to celebrate



afterschool programs and the benefits they provide children, families and communities. These vital programs are keeping our kids safe, helping working families and improving students' academic achievement.

Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort generates strong corporate visibility and has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement. A partnership with the Afterschool Alliance around *Lights On Afterschool* can help corporate leaders demonstrate their concern for today's working families and the future success of our children.

Lights On Afterschool events, like afterschool programs themselves, come in all shapes and sizes. From an open house to a rally of thousands, from a community parade to a week-long celebration across the state, *Lights On Afterschool* brings kids, families and communities together in support of afterschool programs.

Learn more about the program by contacting Cherry Penn, Alabama Afterschool Ambassador, After School Childcare Supervisor & 21st CCLC Programs Manager with Baldwin County Public Schools, at cpenn@bcbe.org.

Celebrate Red Ribbon Week by Entering a National Contest!

The National Family Partnership® (NFP) announces a national contest for its 27th annual Red Ribbon Week®, October 23-31. Here's how to enter to win \$1,000 for your K-12 school and a new iPad for your family:

1. Students bring the Red Ribbon Week message home by working alongside parents to decorate their front door, mailbox, fence, etc., with this year's theme "The Best Me Is Drug Free."
2. Take a photo with the family and your Red Ribbon Week decoration and then upload it to www.redribbon.org/contest or www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek by November 2 (must be parents or 18+ to upload your photos).
3. The voting begins! Ask your family and friends to vote for your entry at www.redribbon.org/vote during November 2-16. Ten lucky winners from regions across the U.S. will win. Winners will be announced at events at their winning schools in December.



"Students will once again take Red Ribbon Week's message of prevention home to their neighborhoods with this national contest," said the NFP's Volunteer President Peggy Sapp. "By decorating their homes together with this year's Red Ribbon theme, families carry the message to their communities." The nation's oldest and largest drug prevention campaign reaches more than 80 million people nationwide.

The DEA is co-sponsoring this year's national contest. "DEA is excited to partner with the National Family Partnership on this contest that empowers communities to come together to talk about the drug problem," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart.



About the NFP and Red Ribbon Week – The NFP was established in 1980 and is a national leader in drug prevention, education and advocacy. Its mission is to lead our nation's families and communities in nurturing the full

potential of healthy, drug-free youth. Red Ribbon Week is the nation's largest and oldest drug prevention campaign, reaching 80 million people. NFP created the campaign in response to the 1985 abduction and murder of DEA agent Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena.



Need ACLD PLUs? Start today!

Professional Development Your Way (PDYW) @ EDVANTIA

To register and participate in the EDVANTIA professional studies, participants must have an active STI PD account to login (<https://pdweb.alsde.edu>). If you need an STI PD account, contact your school system's STI PD Manager. If you are not employed in an Alabama public school, you must contact Lori Newton, State Department of Education, at 334-353-1118 or send an [email](#). Edvantia cannot create an STI PD account for you. If you are interested in other professional study opportunities approved by the ACLD, go to www.leadershipalsde.com.

Reculturing for Student Success

STI PD Title Number: PLUACLD045

This **16-week** online professional study provides participants with the knowledge and ability to promote and monitor a high-performance learning culture that promotes success for all students.

Registration Dates

10/8/2012 – 10/29/2012

12/17/2012 – 1/07/2013

4/1/2013 – 4/15/2013

Start – End Dates

11/5/2012 – 3/01/2013

1/14/2013 – 5/10/2013

4/22/2013 – 8/16/2013

Community Bullying Forums

To help decrease bullying and bring awareness to local Alabama communities, the David Mathews Center for Civic Life has begun Alabama Issues Forums 2012 – 2013. The first of many forums was in Birmingham with the Junior League. The deliberation was truly eye-opening, and the participants seemed to really embrace the materials. There will be several more scheduled forums for the fall and plans for more in the spring.

To learn more about the Forums, view the [Bullying Issues Guide](#).

Contact [Chris McCauley](#), Executive Director, David Mathews Center for Civic Life, for more information.

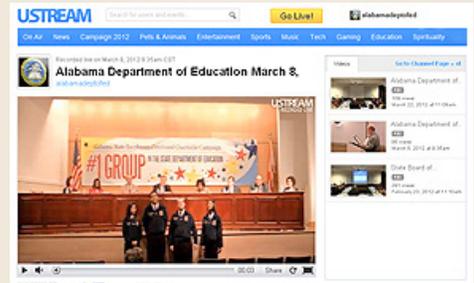
Social Studies Council of Alabama Annual Conference October 15, 2012



The Social Studies Council of Alabama will host its annual conference on October 15, 2012. This year's theme is **'Opening Windows to the World.'** Presentations cover a broad range of topics and grade levels, and professional development credit will be awarded to participants. Civil Rights bus tours

of historic Birmingham will be available. The keynote speaker will be Julie Williams, author of *A Rare Titanic Family*. Come collaborate with professionals, explore the variety of exhibits and vendors as well as teacher resources, and get rejuvenated to open new windows in this election year! For further information and registration, [CLICK HERE](#).

State Board of Education Meetings Now on Ustream.tv!



See your State Board of Education in action - Online at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/alabama-department-of-education>. See LIVE video every second and fourth Thursday of the month or watch the archived videos anytime you want (different days in July, November, and December).

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