DEADLINES & UPDATES
LEA Summary Report from Second Grade Child Find
Deadline: April 21, 2017

EDUCATION DIRECTORY (ED DIR)
The new listing of Gifted Coordinator in the Education Directory was created to ensure all communications reach coordinators regarding gifted education. However, many LEAs have not added their contact person in the directory. Some LEAs entered the gifted specialist in the directory. However, the coordinator from the central office must also be added to the directory. Starting December 2016, all communications will be sent through the Gifted Coordinator email list. Please make sure your LEA has added the coordinator to the directory.

REMINDERS:
DO NOT SEND STUDENT NAMES VIA E-MAIL!
Although e-mail has been used on a regular basis to discuss referrals and eligibilities of students, new rules will change how we share and discuss issues that include Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Reminder: You can no longer e-mail names of students, referral or eligibility data, test scores, etc., for us to review. If you need to submit any information that contains PII to us, please call or e-mail to let us know. Then you can either send a fax or we can send you a link to upload the information to the ALSDE secure file transfer system.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE
February 23-25, 2017
Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center,
Andalusia, AL
This annual conference is located in the heart of the unique longleaf pine forest habitat. Our keynote speaker, Jordan Fisher Smith, will be traveling from the Pacific Coast with a backpack full of wisdom, folklore, natural history experiences, storytelling expertise, and a strong connection to Alabama through one of our own board members, Renee Simmons Raney. His most recent book, Engineering Eden, was inspired by Renee’s Uncle Harry Walker, who traveled to Yellowstone National Park from a small farm in Alabama to find himself, but Harry never returned. The story, though tragic, brings biodiversity, habitat management, and wildlife policies full circle. This story invites us to question our own connections to the wild and our impact on the natural world.

Participants will choose from 12 different breakout sessions that include topics such as outdoor classrooms, honeybees, wildlife of South Alabama, storytelling, tinkering, and art. Choose between four different field trips:
Check out the AAGC Web site with the latest contests and extracurricular opportunities. The Web site is updated frequently, so check it out! [http://www.alabamagifted.org/ @alabamagifted]

Have You Read…?
The Eight Great Gripes of Parents
By Ben Koch and Emily VR.
Posted on September 28, 2016 by The Fissure
[https://thefissureblog.com/2016/09/28/the-8-great-gripes-of-gifted-parents/]
This article is based on the Eight Great Grips of Gifted Students, in the book, When Gifted Kids Don’t Have All the Answers, by Jim Delisle and Judy Galbraith. Ben and Emily asked parents to submit their gripes. They compiled and consolidated the gripes to a list of eight. These gripes are great to initiate conversations and deeper thinking about gifted children and their educational needs.

- **Native American Pottery** - Join this unique environmental arts workshop where participants will take something from the earth and make something with their own hands, building a strong connection to nature and natural heritage.
- **Fire Ecology in Alabama** - Examine a variety of areas and learn how fire has shaped their plant and animal communities. We will discuss how weather, forest conditions, timing, and ignition techniques all play a role in achieving desired effects on the landscape. See what goes into setting an area on fire. Weather permitting participants will get to experience a prescribed burn first hand.
- **Birds in Paradise** - Bust out the old binoculars to take a trip to many of the varied habitats of southern Alabama in search of our feathered friends. Visit hardwood creek bottoms, pitcher plant bogs, and ponds all home to different suites of birds. Along the way, the US Forest Service will demonstrate how they manage for one such species the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.
- **Frogging by ear: Frog Watch Training** - Become a Citizen Scientist at a FrogWatch USA Volunteer training workshop. Workshop topics include: the natural history of frogs and toads, the importance of amphibians and the wetlands they reside in, the identification of Alabama frog and toad calls, FrogWatch USA data collection protocols, and the use of the FieldScope platform for entering, mapping and graphing data. We will also discuss how FrogWatch USA can be utilized in both informal and formal educational settings.

Early bird registration saves $25.00 over regular registration. Lodging is available at the Solon Dixon Center. However, participants may choose to camp at nearby campgrounds or stay in a hotel in Andalusia, about 15 miles away.

For more information or to register online go to [http://eeaa.us/2017-conference/].

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**SIR KEN ROBINSON IS COMING TO ALABAMA!**
March 9, 2017
6:30 PM
Wright Center, Samford University, Birmingham, AL
[http://alabamagifted.org]
You have seen him during regional trainings in different YouTube and TED Talks videos. His most popular talks are about creativity and starting an educational revolution. An internationally recognized authority in creativity and innovation in education and business, Sir Ken Robinson is also one of the world’s leading speakers. Videos of his famous talks to the prestigious TED Conference are the most viewed in the history of the organization and have been seen by an estimated 300 million people in over 150 countries. You don’t want to miss his presentation of “The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything.”

For more information, contact Stephanie A. Maxwell, CFRE, Executive Director of Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation at smaxwell@mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com or 205-414-0042. To purchase tickets [click here](http://alabamagifted.org).
**GREEN SCHOOLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO**

March 21-23, 2017  
Atlanta, GA

This conference is sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council. Every year, the Green Schools Conference and Expo connects green school champions nationwide for two days of learning and collaboration to support the shared mission of equitable, healthy and high-performing schools, where students can learn how to sustain and improve the world around them. National speakers, vendors of green products and teachers from all over the United States attend. This conference includes keynote speakers, breakout sessions, networking, and exhibits. For more information about this conference and articles on green schools and sustainability, click the link above.

**INSPIRATION by VENSPRIDE**

http://krissyvenosdale.com/category/poster/

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong. - Joseph Chilton Pearce

This month’s quote can be used for different topics. This quote can not only initiate discussions on trying new things and taking risk, but can also initiate discussions on perfectionism. This poster can hook the students into discussions and a strategy to introduce the topics. After discussions, students may complete a journal activity to reflect on their own behaviors and feelings and steps to take to overcome that fear of being wrong.

**YouTube Playlist**

Minute Physics  
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL908547EAA7E4AE74

This playlist provides an energetic and entertaining view of old and new problems in physics - all in a minute! You have access to 147 short videos to use at the beginning, middle, or end of your lessons. Topics include what is gravity, Schrödinger's Cat, what is fire, and how to break the speed of light. These videos can be used to explain topics from the Big Bang Theory TV show.

**GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Learning & Leadership Grants**  
http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/learning-leadership-grants/  
Deadline: February 1, June 1, October 15

Our Learning & Leadership Grants support National Education Association (NEA) members who are public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes:
Anim8: 3D Character Animation Made Easy

$4.99
Anim8 lets beginners and hobbyists create 3D Character Animation in a fun and intuitive manner. Animate 3D characters by posing 5 existing characters in 3D space with a simple interface and easy workflow, unlike complex and high-end softwares such as Maya or 3DS Max. Designed by professional character animators to give absolute beginners and hobbyists a plug-n-play tool to animate characters and hone their animation skills.

Grants to individuals can fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes, conferences, or action research.
Grants to groups can fund collegiate study, including study groups, action research, lesson plan development, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff.
The grant amount is $2,000 for individuals and $5,000 for groups engaged in collegiate study. All $5,000 group grant applicants must include partner information. For more information about this grant or to apply, click the link above.

AIAA Foundation Classroom Grant Program
https://www.aiaa.org/Secondary.aspx?id=4184&terms=grants
Deadline: February 12, 2017
The AIAA believes that one of the most significant means to inspire and advance the future of Aerospace is to fund grants to meet the unmet and unfunded educational need of students. This program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum.

Grant Guidelines:
• A clear connection to Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) with an emphasis on Aerospace must be made in the grant proposal.
• Teachers must be current AIAA Educator Associate members actively engaged in kindergarten through twelfth grade classroom education prior to receiving this grant.
• An Educator Associate may apply for up to $250 of grant funding per year.
• Each school is limited to up to 2 grants per calendar year.
• Grants will be considered 2 times per year.

Grants will be considered for up to $250 per team for participation in robotics competitions. The money must be used for “parts” and not for admission registration fees or t-shirts. The AIAA Foundation must be acknowledged as a team sponsor.
For more information or to apply, click the link above.

DIRECTPACKAGES TEACHER GRANTS
http://www.directpackages.com/teachers-grant/
Deadline: February 24, 2017
The way we learn and experience things is ever changing. As technology rapidly introduces and expedites new ways of learning, classrooms often find it difficult to keep up. Directpackages.com understands the importance of technology as a tool for learning and entertainment, and therefore wishes to present three teachers each with a $1,000 grant to spend on classroom technology. How would you implement technology to enhance your teaching methods and address learning challenges? Would you invest in a new computer or mobile devices for your students to use in the classroom? Or perhaps make use of software that streamlines your curriculum and lightens the load of grading papers?

Write 400-500 words about the impact new classroom technology could have for you and your students. The top three submissions featuring the most innovative and beneficial uses for classroom technology will each be awarded $1,000 to spend on new technology for their classroom! To learn more about the rules and requirements, click the link above.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANT
https://mccartheydressman.org/academic-enrichment-grants/
Deadline: May 15, 2017
The McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation offers Academic Enrichment Grants designed to develop in-class and extra-curricular programs that improve student learning. The Foundation considers proposals that foster understanding, deepen students’ knowledge, and provide opportunities to expand awareness of the world around them. The Academic Enrichment Grants provide funding for programs that nurture the intellectual, artistic and creative abilities of children.
from low-income households. The McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation awards grants to individuals in amounts up to $10,000 per year for a maximum of $30,000 over three years, provided the eligibility requirements continue to be met. The online application is available from January 15-April 15. However, click the link above to preview the application questions. To learn more about the rules and requirements, visit the Web site.

Jane Goodall’s
roots & shoots Mini-Grant

http://rootsandshoots.org/minigrant

Deadline: March 31, 2017

Roots & Shoots want to support the work that teachers and the "young Jane Goodalls" students are doing in their communities. U.S. educators are invited to apply for a mini-grant to start, support, or celebrate their service campaigns for people, animals, or the environment. Grants are available in amounts of $200 or $400. For more information or to apply for the grant, click the link above.

TED TALKS PLAYLIST

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?

http://www.ted.com/playlists/71/can_you_believe_your_eyes

DISCLAIMER: All of these talks may not be appropriate for all classrooms. It may be only one talk is appropriate for lower grade levels. Teachers MUST preview to determine what is appropriate for their students.

This month’s videos may be more for the teacher than the students. Witness technology’s transformation over the past decade, and the astounding ways we’ll interact with reality in the future.

- Optical illusions show how we see by Beau Lotto
- Brain magic by Keith Barry
- Two nerdy obsessions meet -- and it's magic by David Kwong
- Art that craves your attention by Aparna Rao
- A performance of "Mathemagic" by Arthur Benjamin
- How I held my breath for 17 minutes by David Blaine
- Visual illusions that show how we (mis)think by Al Seckel
- The magic of truth and lies (and iPods) by Marco Tempest
- Close-up card magic with a twist by Lennart Green
- Using tech to enable dreaming by Shilo Shiv Suleman

CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES

PRESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD (PEYA)

https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award

Deadline: March 1, 2017

This program promotes awareness of our nation’s natural resources and encourages positive community involvement by recognizing outstanding projects by children in Grades K-12. Individuals, classes summer camps, public interest groups and youth organizations are encouraged to submit their projects. For more information or to apply, click the link above.
PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS (PIAEE)

http://www.fromthebowseat.org/contest.php
Deadline: March 1, 2017

This EPA award to teachers recognizes innovative approaches to environmental education and use of the environment as a context for learning with students. Awardees receive a plaque and an award of $2,500. For more information or to complete an application, click on the link above.

Perennial Math

http://perennialmath.com/

Perennial Math has three types of competition for students in grades 3-12: An online competition with two separate seasons to choose from; Live tournaments hosted at colleges or schools; and WebEx Virtual tournaments for classrooms. Math students are COOL and are recognized with our monthly Wall of Fame, cool dog tags for champions, and certificates for all competitors. Math coaches are better prepared because they receive PowerPoints based on specific types of questions that provide students good solid practice. The 2016-2017 Tournament Schedule are for Grades 3-8. For more information contact Dr. Sylvia Dean at info@perennialmath.com.

BOW SEAT OCEAN AWARENESS STUDENT CONTEST

http://www.fromthebowseat.org/contest.php
Deadline: June 19, 2017

Middle and high school students from around the world are invited to participate in the 2017 Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Student Contest! This year’s theme is Ocean Pollution: Challenges & Solutions. Awards will be presented in each of the four categories at both middle school and high school levels. Students must research the topic, create a prose, poetry, artwork, or film that interprets the theme of the contest. Submit your work online. For details about the contest, online application process, and rules and regulations, click the link above.

ALSDE GIFTED WEB PAGE

Deadline: Ongoing

I have received a few photos to add to the ALSDE Gifted Web site. Many of you post photos on Facebook. Please consider emailing a photo or two to us for the state Web site. When you send your photo of students actively engaged in learning or of completed projects please include the following information:
1. Describe the activity/project.
2. Explain how or why the project/activity is appropriate for gifted and not only good for all students.
3. Provide a link to your school or classroom Web page or Facebook page, if you have one.
4. Include an assurance statement that you have parental permission for the children to be on the Internet.

RESOURCES

California Academy of Sciences

https://www.calacademy.org/educators

Browse a selection of online courses, interactive, and toolkits to help you bring science to life in the classroom. Whether you're looking for lesson plans, science videos, or distance learning programs, the Academy has teaching resources galore.
Update

https://getkahoot.com/

Kahoot has added new features. Kahoot!’s new Team Mode nurtures collaboration, teamwork, leadership skills and good communication. It is also the perfect way to play Kahoot! in learning environments without 1:1 devices!

Jumble captures the simple and fun spirit of the classic Kahoot! quiz, but offers a new experience that encourages even more focus from players. Jumble questions challenge players to place answers in the correct order rather than selecting a single correct answer.

ANCHOR

https://www.anchor.fm/

Anchor is a free app for iPhone and Android that makes it easy to broadcast short audio clips to a global audience in seconds. Your listeners can talk back, sparking instant group conversations that were never before possible. Recording your voice in Anchor is incredibly easy; you simply hold your phone up to your ear, just like talking on the telephone. However, your podcast is limited to two minutes. Students must be short and concise with their broadcasts.

BASIC CHROMEBOOK TIPS INFOGRAPHIC

http://tinyurl.com/infochrome

This infographic features eight tips which include: how to uninstall apps and extensions, add apps and extensions to Chromebook, save files to Google Drive, customize the privacy settings of your Chromebook, share your Chromebook with others, save and view webpage bookmarks, add people to your Chromebook, and control who can use your Chromebook. You can print this infographic to use or share with students.

BOUNCY BALLS

https://bouncyballs.org/

This free web site provides a visual of room noise. Click the link and allow access to the microphone. Students can see how loud classroom noise is by the movement of the colorful, bouncing balls. You can adjust the sensitivity of the microphone with controls on the screen.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

The purpose of the field study experience is to enhance and enrich the content and skills from units of study. The trip becomes an embedded activity within the concept-based curriculum unit. This month’s featured trip is a video trip inside a plant cell at https://www.calacademy.org/educators/travel-deep-inside-a-leaf. Take a journey inside a leaf of a redwood tree! Enter the stoma and view the inside of a plant cell, translucent enough to capture light from the sun. Fly by familiar structures like the nucleus and mitochondria, and settle into the chloroplast to watch photosynthesis at work. Reflect on the change in scale as you travel down to the molecular level!

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 Scaffold Questions as they experience the field study? What questions would you add to your “virtual field trip” for other classes to use for research and exploration?
We Found a Hat by Jon Klassen

This is the last picture book in the Hat Trilogy. Two turtles find a hat and it looks good on both of them. However, there is only ONE hat. This cleverly written story takes an unexpected turn. Don’t forget to check out the first and second books in this set: I Want My Hat Back and This is Not My Hat.

CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM
Culminating Performance Task (CPT)
The Culminating Performance Task provides students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of one or more Essential Understandings while thinking/working as a career professional using the appropriate vocabulary and tools. This final performance task contains three parts: WHAT, WHY, and HOW. Frequently, we see the HOW listed but the WHAT and WHY are just as important.

The WHAT + WHY ties the culminating performance task back to the unit. This is more like a student objective. The WHAT tells teachers and students the level at which they will work in the topic. The WHY lists the EUs in which students will demonstrate mastery.

The HOW provides the fuzzy, real-world problem or scenario for the students to analyze, research, create a solution, communicate that solution, and possibly implement the solution.

The template to develop your CPT is:

WHAT =>

Analyze
Evaluate
Investigate
Create

theme/topic/subject

WHY =>

Choose

in order to understand how (or why) ________________

One or more EUs

HOW =>

Students will demonstrate their understanding by

(fuzzy problem/activity that provides students the opportunity to demonstrate why and what of EU)
This month’s CPT is adapted from a project-based learning unit on the government.

**WHAT** => Analyze the current issues of young people

**Topic of study**

**WHY** => in order to understand that governments balance the rights of individuals with the common good, (EU1), and/or governments respond to their citizens needs and interests (EU2).

This CPT will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of one, and/or two EUs, depending on the final project created.

**HOW** => Students will demonstrate their understanding by a video presentation and one page handout.

As a lobbyist representing young people, you must select a current issue to work on (school bullying, gifted education, or etc.). You must research the issue, recommend a position, and prepare a presentation for the legislative committee that oversees the making of laws for that issue. You must research how to pursue legislation at the state level, learning how laws are created as well as what alternative pathways exist to address issues. You will create a video of your presentation for legislators to review. A one page handout outlining the issue, problems, and solutions is required to give the legislators the key points quickly and concisely.

Eliminating the What, Why and How section scriptors, this is how the CPT should look in your concept-based units:

Analyze the current issues of young people to present one to legislators in order to understand that governments balance the rights of individuals with the common good, and/or governments respond to their citizens needs and interests.

As a lobbyist representing young people, you must select a current issue to work on (school bullying, gifted education, or etc.). You must research the issue, recommend a position, and prepare a presentation for the legislative committee that oversees the making of laws for that issue. You must research how to pursue legislation at the state level, learning how laws are created as well as what alternative pathways exist to address issues. You will create a video of your presentation for legislators to review. A one page handout outlining the issue, problems, and solutions is required to give the legislators the key points quickly and concisely.