



## Gulfport School District New Administrators



The Gulfport School District is proud to announce seven newly hired administrators. They will make a great addition to the current group of administrators already serving the youth of the Gulfport School District. They are as follows: Bryan Caldwell, Principal of Bayou View Middle; Velma Johnson, Assistant Principal of Bayou View Middle; Dr. Michael Battle, Principal of Gulfport Central Middle; Latisha Sims, Assistant Principal of Gulfport Central Middle; Bidwell Redmond, Assistant Principal of Central Elementary; Boyd West, Assistant Principal of Gaston Point Elementary and Jesse Campbell, Assistant Principal of Gulfport High School.

## GCMS 6TH GRADE ORIENTATION



Ms. Davis, 6<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, writes students' names on puzzle pieces to be displayed on the bulletin board titled, "You are an Essential Piece to our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team."



## National Education Computing Conference



GSD 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers attend the **National Education Computing Conference** in San Antonio. Pictured from left: Annette Hammontree, hristie Cargill, Angela Lane. Top row: Angela August.

Funded by the *Enhancing Education Through Technology* (E2T2) grant, members of the Gulfport School District's 4<sup>th</sup> grade team attended the National Education Computing Conference in San Antonio, Texas. At the conference, one of the largest in the world, there were hundreds of sessions and thousands of exhibits. In fact, there was so much to see and do at NECC, Renee Fairchild commented, "To be honest, I was totally lost at times."

Teachers attended sessions on everything from blogging to Wikis. Most of the sessions were tailored to meet the needs of today's classrooms. Sessions teachers attended included topics such as *Differentiated Instruction-One Click at a Time*, *Digital Portfolios Made Easy with Google Page Creator*, and *Using Podcasts in the Classroom*.

Teachers returned ecstatic about all they learned. Angela Lane exclaimed, "I didn't know that there were add-ons in Microsoft Word and in Mozilla that I can use for differentiated instruction and they are FREE!" Precious Sweat plans to use digital portfolios in her classroom, especially for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Conference attendees were from as far away as Australia and as close as San Antonio. In fact, Natasha Guillot observed "it helps to just talk or listen to teachers across the world to see what they are doing." According to Angela August, "It makes you realize how technology connects us to all parts of the world."

Teachers couldn't wait to get back and tell their peers all they had learned. When asked what they would tell their colleagues about the NECC conference, Natasha Guillot replied, "I think actions speak louder than words...when a co-worker sees what we have learned and how the students respond to the technology that we implement, that will make them want to know too."

"Just saying that the NECC Conference was informative is an understatement," said Annette Hammontree. "This convention was mind-boggling and spirit renewing...I couldn't get enough!"

Fourth grade teachers attending the conference included: Angela August, Christie Cargill, Renee Fairchild, Natasha Guillot, Annette Hammontree, Angela Lane, Kimberly Robins, Jacqueline Ruiz, Precious Sweat. Other GSD educators attending included: Terri Burnham, Tracy Daniel, Scott Powell, and Debra Sivori. Caem Hillman, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at St. John's Elementary also attended the conference with the group.

## What's New at Anniston Elementary

In preparation for the 2008-2009 school year, Anniston Elementary in Gulfport has had a busy summer. On July 23, teachers attended a "Design Your Own Webpage" seminar in Anniston's technology lab. These web pages will be an excellent communication tool for parents and teachers. Two new areas of interest this year are the K-1 hallway and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Commons area. Mrs. Mary Looney, in cooperation with Dependable Storage, has volunteered her time to paint several murals in the K-1 hallway. "What a Wonderful World" is the theme with scenes from outer space, barnyard animals, forest life and an undersea world. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Commons area, several rugs and beach chairs will be used for independent reading time as well as small group book discussions. The entire staff at Anniston hopes that everyone had a refreshing summer vacation and has a truly wonderful school year.

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