



## THREE GULFPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS ACHIEVE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION



Wanda Brown



Paulette Drake



Cindy Johnson

“Earning certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is a very rigorous process,” said Dr. Hank Bounds, state superintendent of education. “Teachers who earn this designation demonstrate a commitment to excellence and a dedication to their students.

“National Board Certification is the most prestigious credential a teacher can earn. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review,” said NBPTS President and CEO Joseph A. Aguerrebere. Research is consistently positive about the impact of National Board Certification on improvements in teacher practice and areas of school improvement critical to raising student achievement.”

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers and make them better. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, NBCTs have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. For more information about NBPTS and National Board Certification, visit the BBPTS Web site at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

## A.A.E.'s Indescribable Surprise - Adjective Lady

### A.A.E.'s Indescribable Surprise

We all know that adjectives describe a noun or pronoun. Well, A.A.E. third graders had an unexpected visit from the Adjective Lady this week that was almost 'indescribable'. The students were anxious to use their bubble maps to capture the surprise event. As she made her merry way through all the third grade classrooms, we couldn't help but ask, "Who is the Adjective Lady anyway?"



## "Holiday Sharing and Best Wishes"



Students at Anniston Avenue Elementary participated in the United Way's Stuff a Stocking campaign. Students exemplified the school's character trait of the month, generosity, by filling Santa's sleigh with new toys. Pictured from left to right are: Haley Gritzman, Caroline Howard, Selena Francisco, Tori Anglada and Maeshun Frost.



## AmeriCorps Boys and Girls of the Gulf Coast

The AmeriCorps Boys and Girls of the Gulf Coast came to Central Elementary Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> as part of *Make a Difference Day*. Tawana Banks of AmeriCorp orchestrated the day of service at Central Elementary as 10 volunteers began work on the LEAF Outdoor Learning Lab (Learning Environments Affecting Futures). The AmeriCorps Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast were instrumental in removing sod and plants from the southwest side of the Central Elementary's kindergarten playground as part of LEAF's groundbreaking.

The LEAF Outdoor Learning Lab will give students at Central Elementary hands-on experience in life and earth science and will offer students a chance to develop real world skills outside of the regular classroom setting. In the LEAF Outdoor Learning Lab, students will learn about life cycles, migration, weather, composting, recycling, biomes, and food chains.

The LEAF Outdoor Learning Lab is a volunteer project that is being spearheaded by the following educators at Central Elementary: Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Cornier-Rivera, Ms. Gambill, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Taylor, and Mrs. Turner. If anyone is interested in learning more about the LEAF Outdoor Learning Lab, please contact Central Elementary at 865-4642.



## Gulfport Central Middle School Math and Science Departments Awarded ExxonMobile Grant

Gulfport Central Middle School has received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program to support the school's math and science program. Juanita Benson of the Fast-Trac Station #23 worked with the school to secure the grant which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grants were made possible by funding from the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

"Gulfport Central Middle School works hard to make learning interesting and fun," said Benson. "As an Exxon retailer, I am proud to help young people in the Gulfport Community."

The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Juanita Benson met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.



## BVMS Welcome to the Wax Museum

Several Bayou View Middle sixth grade students participated as characters in a Wax Museum. Students portrayed great women from history such as: Princess Diana, Anastasia, Jacqueline Onassis, Amelia Earhart, Margaret Tobin Brown, Cleopatra VII, Anne Frank, Sacagawea, Bronia Beker, and Josephine Baker.



## GSD News

**Gulfport High School SkillsUSA**

On November 30th, the Gulfport High School officers of SkillsUSA traveled to Hinds Community College to attend a Fall Leadership Conference. Officers attended breakout sessions to learn more about district, state, and national competition.



Front row (l to r): Rochelle Walker, president; Mrs. Sandra Crowley, SkillsUSA State Coordinator; Matthew Pierce, secretary

Back row (l to r): Mrs. Susan Bush, Co-Advisor; Daniel Ornsbey, Vice-president; Mr. Robert Caylor, Co-Advisor; Anthony Johnson, treasurer

**West Elementary Clean Up Day!**

West Elementary had a garden clean-up day on Saturday, October 20. Twenty parents, students and staff were on hand to spruce up the grounds. These are a few of the helpers!

**CENTRAL ELEMENTARY'S FIRST GRADE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

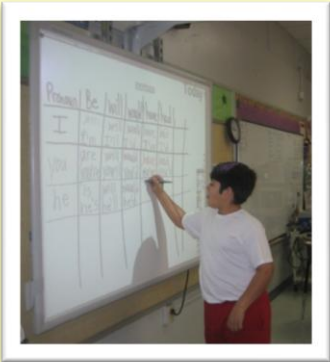
"THE LITTLEST CHRISTMAS TREE" presented by the first grade class at Central Elementary.



## GSD 4TH GRADE TEACHERS RECEIVE PROMETHEAN BOARDS

The fourth grade teachers in the Gulfport School District, St. James Elementary, St. John Elementary, and Westminster Academy have received Promethean ActivBoard systems. The Activboard systems were purchased using funds awarded by the E2T2 (Enhancing Education Through Technology) Competitive Grant as well as local, federal, and private resources. Each activboard system includes an interactive whiteboard, a video projector, a wireless control device for the teacher, one interactive classroom response device for each student in the class, and the Activstudio lesson development software.

These fourth grade teachers join the district's fifth grade teachers, sixth grade teachers, and high school English teachers using the Activboard systems to improve student achievement and to enhance students' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.



4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Central Elementary  
Angela Augusts' class

## GSD AWARDED \$200,000 GRANT

The Gulfport School District is one of nine districts in the state of Mississippi that have been awarded the \$200,000 Year 5 Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant. Funds from this grant will focus on integrating technology into the curriculum and daily instruction of 4th grade students within the district and three local private and parochial schools.

This grant has helped the district launch Phase III of project ACTIVATE (Assisting Children Through the Inclusion in Vigorous Activities with Technology Everyday). Through collaboration with teachers, students, parents, and educators, the district has launched a long-range plan to incorporate the use of interactive whiteboards and student response devices into every classroom in the district. Using funds from local, federal, and private sources, the district has completed Phases I and II of project ACTIVATE and is in the final stages of the implementation of Phase III.



## BVMS Mohegan Tribal Visit

Mr. Dan Romano and Mohegan tribal elder, Running Water, presented Daniel Keating an authentic Mohegan flute at a special ceremony at Bayou View Middle School. As a fifth grade student, Daniel became involved with the Mohegan tribe while researching the tribe for his class report. They took a special interest in Daniel when he went above and beyond the regular internet research and made phone calls to the actual tribal elders to gather his information. They made a surprise visit to present him with the authentic flute this year at his middle school as a sixth grade student.



## BVMS Bug Club

The Bayou View Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy is participating in a unique and fun program known as the BUG Club, or Bring Up Grades. Through a partnership with Kiwanis volunteers from the community, the Academy implemented this program to challenge students to improve academically and reward those students who show growth on their report card.

The goal is to motivate all students to do their best to improve academic achievement. In order to be recognized as a BUG Club member, students must raise a letter grade in at least one subject area, while maintaining all other grades on the report card at the end of the nine weeks. Hopefully all students will be members of the BUG Club at some point during the year!

Derrick Anderson  
Lindsey Anderson  
Melanie Appel  
Mikal Barrett  
Alex Bergin  
Sarah Broussard  
Catherine Bruni  
Peyton Burnett  
Jacob Carruth  
Claire Champagne  
Alex Cockrell  
Emily Cox  
Mary Dimitriades  
R'Hana Gooden  
Gelana Groce  
Luke Haney

Raeyata Jack  
Krystal Johnson  
Sterling Jones  
Daniel Keating  
Annalee Kesler  
Sarah Lovell  
Savannah Metz  
Zachary Mozingo  
Adrian Mullins  
Raina Parker  
George Perkins  
Kyle Peterson  
Anton Price  
Brian Schilling  
Armin Shenias

## BVE Reading Fair Winners



## Central Elementary Awarded the Mississippi Arts Grant

Central Elementary of Gulfport, MS has been awarded a \$900 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission. This grant is a portion of the \$1 million in grants the Commission will award in 2007-2008 and will be used to construct a tile mosaic with guest artist, Elizabeth Veglia. Ms. Veglia is designing a 5' X 5" panel using the text of R. Kelley's song, "The World's Greatest." Each student at Central will be involved in this project as well as parents and staff. Upon completion, the tile mosaic will be hung in the school foyer. This work of art will be treasured for many years to come.

## AAE Reading Fair Winners



### Family

1<sup>st</sup> - Madison and Owen Streetman



### Kindergarten

1<sup>st</sup> - Haley Gritzman  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Abby Chambliss  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Tori Anglada  
Hm- John Mozingo



### 1st Grade

1st - Julia Penny  
2nd - Elizabeth Pringle  
3rd - Grant Williams  
HM - Briana Chambers



### 2nd Grade

1st - Millie Eubanks  
2nd - Mason Campbell  
3rd - Jeffery Glocke  
HM - Garrett Dean



### 3rd Grade

1st - Finn Hewes  
2nd - Hannah Nasworthy  
3rd - A'Niya Steele  
HM - Emily Edwards



### 4th-5th Grade

1st - Tylor Davis  
2nd - Taylor Chambliss  
3rd - Gaberial Williams  
HM - Jovonne Carr  
Savannah Alewine  
Cade Caver