



## Newest Member of the Preschool Program



Gulfport School District's Preschool Program would like to welcome the newest member of their team, Jeanne Chandler. Jeanne is a Speech-Language Pathologist from Laurel, Mississippi.

## Gulfport School District Preschool Program

The Gulfport School District's Preschool Program provides services to children age 3 to 5 (not yet enrolled in kindergarten) who reside within the district's boundaries. The Preschool team is made up of Speech-Language Pathologists and Early Intervention Teachers. This team of professionals provides screenings, evaluations and treatment for children with delays in development. Developmental areas include speech development (sound development), pre-academic skills, social-emotional development, self-help skills, motor skills (fine and gross), and language development. All services are provided at no cost to the parent.

To set up an appointment to have your child screened, please call (228) 865-4678. The screening will include hearing, vision, pre-academic, language, motor, self-help, social-emotional and speech.



## 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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## Junior Achievement Recognizes Outstanding Administrator of the Year for 2008



Junior Achievement of Mississippi, Inc. is proud to recognize outstanding educators and volunteers from across the state of Mississippi for the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

Educator of the Year awards are presented in four distinct categories: Administrator, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School.

“The awards go to educators and volunteers who have gone above and beyond in the classroom to implement and teach Junior Achievement financial literacy programs,” said Scherry Gilliland, president and chief executive officer of Junior Achievement of Mississippi.

The 2008 Administrator of the Year is Rose Tournillon from Gaston Point Elementary School in Gulfport. Tournillon is a member of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), National Certified Counselors (NCC), and National Certified School Counselors (NCSC). She has been an integral part of Junior Achievement on the Gulf Coast and coordinates all teachers and volunteers for Gaston Point Elementary School.

## Gifted Program Offered at Gaston Point Elementary



With the increasing number of gifted children, Gaston Point Elementary was eligible for their own Gifted teacher in the 2008-2009 school year. Mia Jackson, a former second grade teacher at Gaston Point, has been selected for the position.

Gulfport School District offers an Intellectually Gifted Program for eligible students of grades second through sixth. In grades second through six, the gifted programs are pull-out programs in which students receive services for a minimum of five hours a week. Ms. Jackson’s program will offer a qualitatively differentiated curriculum that focuses on the specific and unique needs of gifted students to promote higher-order thinking skills. Gifted classes will incorporate the process of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation that encourages lifelong learning. The students will take an active role in their lessons by using their abilities to formulate higher-order responses. The focus of the gifted program is advanced and complex themes that go beyond the regular curriculum to reach each student’s interest and needs.

## WE LOVE OUR PARTNERS!

Gaston Point Elementary celebrates the new school year! Community members who work together with the school to help students achieve excellence in education were welcomed at the annual Partners In Education Fall Breakfast. These businesses and organizations play a leadership role in promoting success for all students.

