



South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education Newsletter

Legislative Luncheon to be held on January 20 at Blatt Building

The South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education will hold its third annual Legislative Luncheon on January 20, 2010 at the Blatt Building. All members of the General Assembly are invited to attend. The luncheon is a way for the Board of Directors and district coordinators to communicate the importance of gifted education to our legislators.

The mission of the Consortium, since 1978, continues to be: "to promote the education of academically and artistically gifted and talented students and to provide professional development for teachers of the gifted."

This year's program will feature the principal of Wando High School, Ms. Lucy Beckham, National High School Principal of the Year. According to the *Seattle Times* Wando High School played a part in luring Boeing Industries to South Carolina.

The Camden Middle School Jazz Band, under the direction of Nancy Neal, will entertain during the luncheon.

When debates over the state budget for education were beginning in 2009, SCCGE mailed a card to each state legislator containing the following statement:

"While SCCGE understands the current need for flexibility in funding, flexibility in regulations would result in reduction or elimination of services for academically and artistically gifted students. The South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education believes it is criti-

cal that we protect the integrity of programs and services for gifted and talented children through the maintenance of regulations that establish criteria for the statewide identification system, the accountability of district plans, as well as the program models and time requirements.

To do anything less for our students is unacceptable."

*Genius without education
is like silver in the mine."*

Benjamin Franklin

SHS students sweep awards at poetry competition

Congratulations to Sumter High School for sweeping the 9-12 division of the 2009 Santee Wateree Writing Project's Fall Poetry Contest. Four poems were selected as winners, and they all came from Sumter High School students.

Congratulations to Aaron Jefferson - "My World," Julia Dingle - "The Idyllic Field," Shavondria Carter - "Cluttered Girl," and Taylor Hill - "Love Me, You Give Me Strength."

Compiled by
Linda Shaylor and Betty Sanders,
SCCGE, Regions 3 and 4

Monthly Issue

Winter 2009

Dates to Remember

- © January 20: Legislative Luncheon
- © March, 2010—Performance Task Administration
- © November 29-December 1, 2010—SCCGE Gifted Conference in Charleston

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Rick Blanchard

Happy Holidays! This has been a fast and furious fall for all of us. Let me try to recap a few of the resources for you.

The Gifted and Talented Professional Development Outreach Series – make sure you are using these primarily as introductory sessions. The target audiences are: administrators, art teachers, all (non-GT endorsed) teachers, guidance counselors, district GT coordinators, and GT teachers. Most of the videos for the GT teachers are a little more advanced and assume some basic GT knowledge. We will be adding to these over the next year to develop some more mid-level GT videos. These are available through ITV broadcasts and Streamline videos. We will get each district a DVD copy in the near future.

For those of you wearing the AP hat, Lynn Demmons and I are trying to create a teacher network for AP teachers statewide. The idea was suggested in Charleston and Greenville earlier this fall. We have had a few brainstorming sessions via Elluminate

so far. Right now, we have the Elluminate sessions set up and the idea is after a brief introductory meeting, the teachers will place themselves in “break-out rooms” by subject area.

Teachers can share teaching tips, resources, lesson plans, and other information with each other across the state. We are working on getting the word out, finding some teacher leaders, and setting up the basic structure needed to support the teachers.

The NAGC web site has been constantly adding resources as well. www.nagc.org. Check out the new information on the home page and then delve into the resources pages. The NAGC is doing a national media push based on the data from the 2009 State of the States survey. We hope to tap into some of their initiatives in this area.

Finally, the South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education is trying to compile some anecdotal information on how the budget cuts have impacted

GT programs and services in your district. They hope to use these resources when they speak with legislators and others about the current situation with GT in South Carolina. Please email these

to me at rblancha@ed.sc.gov so we can send these to SCCGE. For instance, there are several districts where the GT Coordinator position may have been reassigned to two others as the district faced budget cuts. Other GT coordinators have had to take on additional duties. The flexibility bill has increased class sizes in our district. Try to write these from a factual basis rather than a gripe session.

May you have blessed and restful holiday season with your loved ones. Try to take time to count your blessings and let folks know how much they mean to you. I appreciate all you do to serve the GT students in your charge and to support our work together. Warmest wishes to all!

Rick

Virtual Community News class to showcase positive aspects of life in Sumter

Students at Sumter High School have created and are managing the first online newsletter written by students in South Carolina (<http://isumter.sumter17.k12.sc.us>). The vision of Superintendent Dr. Zona Jefferson, the class has launched a website that will provide the citizens of Sumter with access to positive information about all aspects of life in Sumter. The class is new this year at Sumter High School, but already the students, teacher and community are embracing the concept.

The class is composed of juniors who gather information from the community regarding education, the military, health and fitness, government, churches, businesses and the arts. In the beginning, the website will highlight local events. In the future, the plan is once a month to have more in depth information that highlights a particular event, organization or business in Sumter.

“We are learning skills that will be helpful in our next stage of learning and in our future career plans,” said Anna Ortmann, a junior at Sumter High School.

Mr. Chad Hoshour, a social studies teacher at Sumter High School, oversees the class where students will earn an elective credit in social studies for their work. “The purpose of this class is to provide a place where the people of Sumter can find information on the positive events, people and places in Sumter.”

To submit information, please email isumter@sumter17.echalk.com.

Arts Education News from Scot Hockman

PICCOLO SPOLETO RISING STARS

A Showcase of South Carolina Artistically Gifted Students

What is Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars? The goal of Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars is to provide artistically talented youth of South Carolina with a high profile performance venue that recognizes their exceptional artistic talent. The programs will be presented on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the 2010 Spoleto USA/Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina being held from May 28th through June 13th. Each of the seven Rising Stars programs will feature four to five young artists and/or ensembles in a conversation and performance format. The programs will receive special recognition and be listed in the Festival program.

Who is eligible? The programs will feature South Carolina students between the ages of 9 and 18 years of age who are not full-time college students. Students who are gifted visual artists, actors, dancers, writers, solo musicians (instrumental and vocal), and ensemble groups, of no more than six members, may apply.

How does a student apply? There is an application form that applies to each arts area. Each solo/ensemble and arts area has a different application form. The student must create a CD/DVD to showcase artistic talent.

When are applications due and when will the student be notified of acceptance? Applications, including the CD/DVD submitted in one envelope, must be received by Monday, March 1, 2010. All applicants will be notified of their application status by March 31, 2010.

Who will select the Rising Stars' participants?

A three-person panel for each of the arts areas will select those to be featured. Each panel is composed of representatives from higher education and professional artists. The three panel members also are chosen to represent the geographic areas of Upstate, Midlands, and Low Country.

Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Applications Available Online

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program. This annual program offers **public school twelfth-grade** students the opportunity to compete for a scholarship worth approximately \$2,500 in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. The purpose of the competition is to encourage and recognize academic and artistic excellence.

Students should submit one original composition and a process folio for the visual arts area and an original and two copies of the original composition and process folio for the creative writing, dance, music, or theatre categories. These entries **must be received by 5:00 p.m. or post-marked on or before February 5, 2010**. Applications are available on the SCDE Web site, <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Academic-Standards/Archibald-Rutledge-Scholarship/ArchibaldRutledgeScholarship.html>.

We hope that you will encourage participation in the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program. Please pass this information on to school staff and eligible students. For additional information, please contact me at 803-734-0323 or shockman@ed.sc.gov.

Kershaw County SEAGUL students produce Coloring Book

Coloring Camden and Kershaw County's Past, is a project done by Kershaw County gifted and talented seventh graders. The project incorporated the research on the historically significant homes and buildings in Camden and Kershaw County with the South Carolina ELA and Social Studies curriculum standards taught in grade three. The students created a coloring book for third graders in the county.

In the Kershaw County School District Gifted and Talented Program, SEAGUL, seventh graders explore ways to develop an appreciation for the past and its contributions to our present and future as well as preserve what is best about our community and help guide development into the twenty-first century.

"Progress vs. Preservation" is part of the study of Foundations, the overall theme for year. Students learn that foundations are: universal, defy time, are essential

to society and cultural development. Essential understandings that are developed as a result of the study include

- Archaeology provides clues to the past.
- Preservation involves keeping the past.
- Information must be drawn from many, varied sources.
- Preservation takes many forms.
- ♦ Conflicts may emerge in the struggle to preserve the past while building the future.

The exhibits in the coloring book teach the third grade students about the history of the area, through the descriptions and drawings by the seventh graders. Third grade social studies standards address the history of South Carolina. Not only is this a learning experience for the third and seventh graders, it is a documentation

of the history of Kershaw County.

By joining forces, the City of Camden Historic Landmarks Commission Education Committee and the SEAGUL Gifted Program have created a working document that will encourage both progress and preservation.

All third graders in the district received a coloring book this fall that will encourage an appreciation of their heritage. Third grade teachers will incorporate the information in the coloring book in the South Carolina history/social studies lessons.

The project was funded by Central Carolina Community Foundation through a grant written by Linda Shaylor. Printing was done by KCSA Applied Technology Campus students.

A second grant has been approved for the spring of 2010 and will feature historic people, battles and monuments. This coloring book will also target third grade ELA and Social Studies standards.

District Gifted programs suffer as a result of budget cuts

The South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education is surveying districts to see the impact of the economic downturn on gifted education across the state. Districts in Region Three have experienced major reductions in their gifted programs as a result of budget cuts and flexi-

bility legislation. From the loss of teaching positions and loss of the director of gifted position to no funding for materials or resources to the lack of professional development or GT graduate courses, the districts have had differing levels of impact. Districts have seen the elimination of

IB Programs, a reduction in offerings for artistically gifted students, Brain Boosters, as well as a decrease in Mentoring Mathematical Minds implementation.

With regard to excellence, it is not enough to know, but we must try to have and use it.

Aristotle

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Change is good! We'll go first!



SCCGE

The South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education is an organization whose objectives are:

- ◆ To promote high quality education for gifted students in South Carolina
- ◆ To promote staff development for professionals working with the gifted
- ◆ To promote a closer working relationship among professionals working in gifted education
- ◆ To promote communication and cooperation among G/T professionals and parents of gifted students

Membership is open to any public school district, institution of higher learning, professional G/T educator, or organization that supports gifted education.

Jasper County students Selected for honor

Five Ridgeland Middle School Band members Alexandria Bealer, Jasmine Cuylear, Tiara Eady, Alexis Gadson, and David Morgan were chosen to participate in the University of Georgia Midfest Honor Band Clinic Thursday, December 10 thru Saturday, December 12, 2009.

These students will travel to the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia on Thursday morning. They will audition for a chair in one of the seven honor bands, participate in a masterclass and take part in hours of music rehearsal to prepare for the concert that will take place on Saturday afternoon

Over 700 other middle school students from the southeast will be participating along with these five students.

Hand Held Academy serves Jasper County students

To nurture students' interest and love of technology, middle and high school gifted students are provided a Hand Held Computer Tech Academy. Students are involved in a two week program during the summer and three days per week after school to gain competencies in the use of a Hand Held. If their parents agree to the terms of the Assumption of Responsibility Agreement, students are allowed to use the computer throughout the school year. The summer and after school academies have operated for two years. The future of the academies are uncertain at this time due to budget cuts, but we hope that with support from the community, we will continue to make this opportunity available.

Dr. Beckett is involved in film project

On July 30, Dr. Tonya R. Beckett, Coordinator of Advanced Programs for Hampton County School District 2 (HCSD2), answered the call to film a professional development session at ETV to share HCSD2's gifted and talented restructuring initiative with coordinators across the state. The session is entitled "Restructuring a Program in a Rural District with a Small Gifted and Talented Population." This ½-hour session highlights the district's past, present, and future by explaining where the academic and artistic programs were, what measures were taken in preparation of restruc-

ture, and how the district restructured to revamp and invigorate its academically and artistically gifted and talented pro-

grams. The information presented in this session is a work in progress, but several monumental restructuring efforts have occurred within the last two years. For additional information about HCSD2's restructuring initiative or for assistance with restructuring a gifted and talented program, please contact Dr. Beckett by phone at 803.625.5022 or by email at beckton@hampton2.k12.s.us.

Jasper County has Young Scholars Program

Jasper County School District serves its elementary gifted and talented students and other high achieving students (district identified) through the Young Scholars' Program. These students are placed in special classes for grades one through five. Middle school students are served in ELA and/or math honor classes based on their area(s) of strength. High School Students are served through honor classes, dual credit courses, and also have the option of Advanced Placement Courses on line.

Estill Elementary student attends NYSP in North

During the week of July 5, 2009, a high-achieving Estill Elementary School student, Martha Newton, took part in the National Young Scholars Program (NYSP), sponsored by the National Center for Early Academic Excellence, an independent educational organization dedicated to identifying, inspiring, and honoring the nation's most promising elementary school students. Held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, the NYSP inspires outstanding 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students to explore,

invent, learn, and think creatively. The NYSP provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on interactive learning, while challenging them in an intellectually stimulating environment outside of the regular classroom.

The NYSP gives students the chance to unleash their full learning potential as they further their interest in specific areas of study such as environ-

mental science, architecture, forensic science, and medicine. The program culminates with student-created projects tying in leadership skills with the discoveries made in their specific area of study. Simulation activities and role play encouraged scholars to grow in maturity and character as well as develop leadership skills, while introducing them to the concepts of effective communication, team building, problem solving, public speaking, and goal setting.

*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful,
May you have all three this Christmas.*