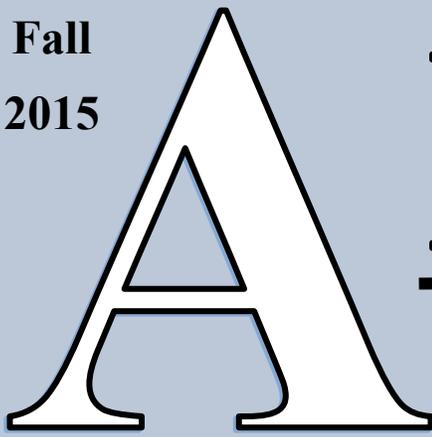


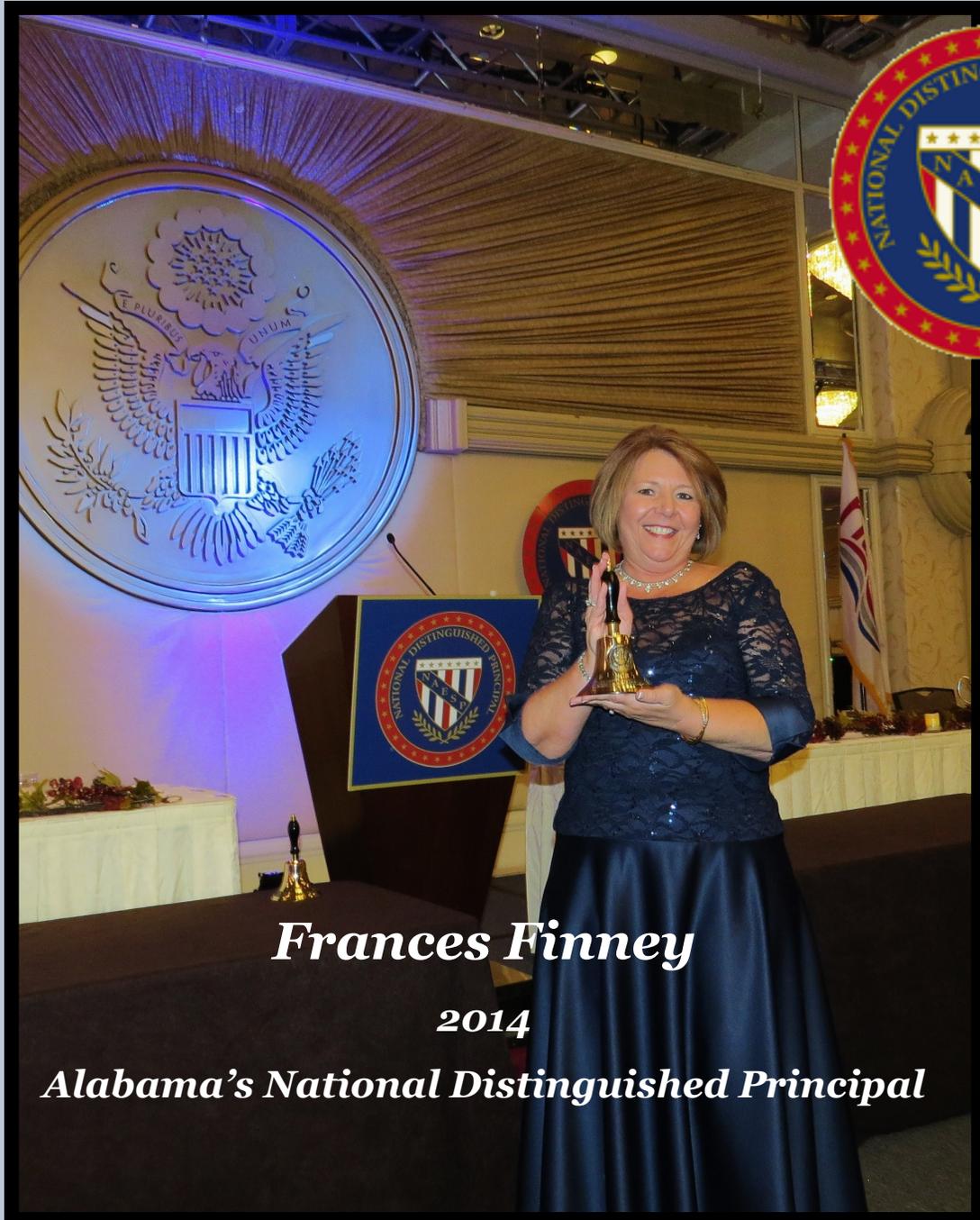
Fall
2015



Alabama

Elementary Administrator

Vol. 64 No. 1



Frances Finney

2014

Alabama's National Distinguished Principal

President's Report



Laurie King
Crestline Elementary
Mountain Brook City

In thinking about an interesting and useful article for this publication, I remembered studying the Seven Survival Skills for the 21st Century from: **The Global Achievement Gap** by Tony Wagner. These skills are not only important as we contemplate preparing our students for the future, but are also important in leading our schools and for AAESA.

Survival Skill #1 :Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – the ability to ask good questions; being curious about why things are the way they are; understanding how a problem evolved – being able to understand a situation from different angles and not accepting things at face value; approaching problems and challenges as a learner as opposed to a knower; the ability to see past the present, see beyond, think about the future and think systematically, connect the dots; the ability to conceptualize and synthesize a lot of data; the ability to think broadly and deeply to apply abstract information to solve a problem and develop a solution.

Survival Skill #2 :Collaboration Across Networks and Leading by Influence – the ability to work fluidly and effectively with networks of people across boundaries and from different cultures; to think strategically, to understand and appreciate diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, and community contexts not just in our own country but around the world; the ability to work in teams or with physical and virtual networks of individuals to solve problems and create better products and services; to be a team contributor; to lead by influence rather than authority, using trust, reasoning, and persuasion to influence others; to function in a structure that is reciprocal and relational rather than hierarchical; the ability to let go and trust people to do the work, to truly empower people to achieve results, not just to complete tasks.

Survival Skill #3 :Agility and Adaptability – the ability to be flexible and adaptable and a lifelong learner; to be able to use a variety of tools to solve problems; the ability to deal with

ambiguity, to learn on the fly, to be strategically agile; the ability to deal with new and rapidly changing environments and adapt to change, unsatisfied with the status quo, and to thrive in this environment to deliver results; to be able to understand that there is no one right answer.

Survival Skill #4: Initiative and Entrepreneurialism – the ability to seek out new opportunities, strategies, and ideas for improvement; to be able to self-directed to find creative solutions to very tough, challenging problems; to be able to understand the problems of the customer; to have an achievement orientation and a drive for results; to take the initiative and trust oneself to be creative; the ability to set stretch goals and strive to meet them.

Survival Skill #5: Effective Oral and Written Communication – the ability to express one's views clearly in a democracy and to communicate effectively across cultures; to be able to communicate clearly and effectively: both written and oral presentation; to have verbal skills, written skills, and presentation skills; to be clear and concise; to create focus, energy and passion around the points one wants to make; to communicate one's thoughts effectively; to be able to crystallize one's points into what one wants the listener to take away; the ability to communicate with one's *voice*.

Survival Skill #6: Accessing and Analyzing Information – the ability to manage large amounts of information one receives and find the important details to use; the ability to analyze information in order to discern new challenges and opportunities; to access information and evaluate it as to its usefulness.

Survival Skill #7: Curiosity and Imagination – the ability to take issues and situations and problems and go to the root components; to look for the reasons behind why things are the way they are; to wonder how a system, product or service might be improved or reinvented; to be inquisitive; to be able to develop one's capacity for imagination, creativity, and empathy.

During the 2015-2016 year as AAESA President, I hope that our organization can embrace, encourage, and facilitate our work around critical thinking, collaboration, adaptability, initiative, analysis, communication, and imagination. I look forward to serving AAESA this year and am committed to staying focused on our organization in the 21st century! Thank you in advance to all of the principals in Alabama for your service and commitment to AAESA.

**INFLUENCE AND
LEAD LIKE A
SUPERHERO...**



**FIND YOUR
SUPERPOWER!**

**FALL 2015
NOV. 1-4, 2015**

Perdido Beach Resort - Orange Beach, Alabama

Sponsored by

*Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) and
Alabama Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (AASCD)*

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____

Position: _____

Preferred Name on Badge: _____

School System: _____

School: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Bill To: _____

Billing Address: _____

City, ST Zip: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____
(if registering)

1. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(includes all scheduled meals, breaks, door prizes, etc.)

	Pre-Registra- tion by Sept. 7	Registration Sept. 8 - Oct. 30	After Oct. 30
Member	\$210	\$220	\$235
Non-Member	\$335	\$360	\$385
Retired Member	\$95	\$95	\$95
Aspiring Admin Member	\$160	\$175	\$200
Aspiring Admin Non-Member	\$220	\$235	\$250
Spouse/Guest	\$85	\$85	\$85

Total Section 1: _____

2. MEALS (no charge for paid registrants, but you must make reservations)

LUNCHEON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- I will attend the AAESA Luncheon (no charge, included in registration)
- I will attend the AASCD Luncheon (no charge, included in registration)
- My spouse/guest will attend (no charge if paid spouse registration)
- I need _____ extra ticket(s) at \$30 each

BREAKFAST, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- I will attend (no charge, included in registration)
- My spouse/guest will attend (no charge if paid spouse registration)
- I need _____ extra ticket(s) at \$25 each

Total Section 2: _____

Grand Total (Section 1 & 2): _____

3. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- I will need special accommodations for a disability
- I have special dietary requirements _____

4. EMERGENCY CONTACT

In case of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

5. PAYMENT (Circle One)

Check or Purchase Order # _____
(payment or valid PO Number is required before registration can be processed)

Credit Card (circle one): Visa MasterCard Discover Card

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholders Address: _____

Cardholder's Phone: _____

Signature

Refunds granted only upon written request. No refunds granted after October 23, 2015. Send registration by 24-hour fax line to (334) 265-3611 or mail your payment and registration form to:

AAESA
P.O. BOX 428
MONTGOMERY, AL 36101-0428
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL (800) 239-3616

CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Registration - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting - 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Registration - 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Opening General Session - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Breakout Sessions - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mini Clinic Sessions - 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Seafood Fest Sponsored by Bill Miller Photography - 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Continental Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Second General Session - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Second General Session (continued) - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Affiliate Business and Awards Luncheons - 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Breakout Sessions - 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Closing General Session & Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE EVENT GUIDE
FOR EVENT INFORMATION & HANDOUTS
<http://bit.ly/myclasapp>

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call the Perdido Beach Resort at (800) 634-8001 or go to www.perdidobeachresort.com and identify the 2015 Fall Instructional Leadership Conference (Booking ID 10127). The group rate is \$111/night for single/double standard rooms. Reservations are subject to availability. Reservations received after September 30, 2015, may not be eligible for the discounted room rates. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Check-out time is Noon. All room rates are subject to taxes and fees.

Executive Director's Report



L. Earl Franks, CAE, Executive Director

The Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) applied for a grant and was selected by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) as an Anti-Hunger state partner in the

Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom program funded by the Walmart Foundation. This worthy initiative affords the AAESA the opportunity to help publicize and emphasize the importance of childhood nutrition and its potential for improving educational outcomes and child health.

Additionally, the AAESA, through its member school administrators and partner organizations, will help coordinate and facilitate efforts designed to increase participation in the federal School Breakfast Program.

According to information released by the AAESA's national organization, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP),

Most U.S. schools participate in the School Breakfast Program, but less than half of the low-income children who are eligible for a free or reduced-price breakfast are eating it, according to Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom. Bus schedules, late arrivals to school and reluctance to be labeled "low income" are among the reasons that many students don't partake in cafeteria-based school breakfast.

The benefits of eating breakfast at school are well documented and expansive, including:

Improvements to math and reading achievement, performance on standardized tests, and vocabulary;

Improvements to concentration, alertness, comprehension, and memory;

Reduced absenteeism and school nurse visits;

Reduced obesity and improved eating habits, including increased consumption of fruit, milk and a wider variety of foods; and

Improved behavior, decreased tardiness and fewer referrals to the disciplinary office.

According to the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom, as more schools move to the Breakfast in the Classroom approach, federal School Breakfast Program participation will increase, thereby reducing hunger and improving educational achievement nationwide.

A 2013 report by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and The National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation (NAESPF) found that principals were embracing Breakfast in the Classroom as the best way to increase the number of students starting the day with school breakfast. According to the report, *Start the School Day Ready to Learn with Breakfast in the Classroom: Principals Share What Works*, more than three in four principals would encourage their peers to consider this program.

For the report, FRAC and NAESPF surveyed 276 school principals from 15 school districts whose schools operate Breakfast in the Classroom programs. The survey assessed their experience with their schools' Breakfast in the Classroom programs, including challenges they encountered and factors that contribute to successful programs.

Findings from the report include:

Seventy-eight percent of principals surveyed said they would encourage other principals to consider Breakfast in the Classroom; 17 percent were neutral (neither encouraging nor discouraging); and only 5 percent disagreed.

Principals noted an increase in breakfast participation (85 percent), fewer reports of student hunger (61 percent), fewer tardy students (40 percent), improved student attentiveness (37 percent), and an improved school (34 percent) and classroom (35 percent) environment.

Nearly half of principals surveyed (47 percent) cited no challenges with starting up a Breakfast in the Classroom program. Those who did report challenges – clean-up, limited janitorial staffing, or concerns from teachers – often found that these issues were

Executive Director's Report Continues

easily addressed by providing additional cleaning supplies and by working closely with teachers during implementation.

Participation in school breakfast provides countless educational and health benefits, yet only half of the low-income children who participate in school lunch eat school breakfast. Breakfast in the Classroom erases barriers to participation by making breakfast part of the school day and moving it out of the cafeteria and into the classroom.

"Getting more children to eat breakfast at school means less hunger and more children ready to learn," said Crystal Fitzsimons, FRAC Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs. "Breakfast in the classroom is a key strategy to improving participation in this important program, and it is exciting to see how more and more principals are making it a priority in their schools."

"Successful Breakfast in the Classroom programs ben-

efited from strong leadership by principals to bring this program to their schools," said Gail Connelly, NAESPF President and NAESP Executive Director.

"Given all of its benefits to education and health, we urge more principals to consider ways to bring Breakfast in the Classroom to their schools.

The report notes that it is never too late in the school year to make the transition to Breakfast in the Classroom. Principals can start taking important steps and reach out to other school leaders to start building a path toward implementing Breakfast in the Classroom in their schools.

(Information provided by the NAESP)

The AAESA is well suited to aid Alabama schools to advance the goals and objectives of this very worthwhile program with the ultimate goal of enhancing the educational opportunities for all students. Please join us in spreading the news about the benefits of the school breakfast program.

Past President's Report

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president last year. Quite possibly, this is an apropos time to revisit characteristics of an effective elementary administrator. If asked, we all could list qualities of our best teachers. What might parents and students include in a list describing an outstanding principal? Loving, concerned, creative, fair, consistent, a disciplinarian, trustworthy, listens, and puts kids first. The list might look like this if educators created it: exhibits leadership qualities, a visionary, instructional leader, sets high expectations, conveys the school mission, data-driven, cultivates partnerships, communicates a clear vision, and manages their time wisely. There are a vast number of traits associated with successful administrators. In the end, it all equates to doing the best we can to educate our students.

Let me encourage districts to plan winter and spring meetings as soon as possible. I realize meetings are a challenge for many districts, but don't let that hinder you in building strong bonds and relationships. Please call on me, if I can help in any way.

The best part of being an AAESA member for me is the friendships I have made over the past decade. Schools are as unique and diverse as the communities they represent. It is important that we as principals embrace the ideas that our colleagues from different areas of the state have to offer. I have learned so much by observing, discussing, and visiting with principals all over Alabama. We all have the same challenges and goals: Provide high-quality instruction to the students we serve while keeping them safe. I appreciate each of you and the roles you play in AAESA. Alabama is a great place to be, and Alabama schools are even better because of the effective principals we have in our public schools. If I can ever be of assistance to you, feel free to call on me. Berry Elementary School is easy to find. You are always welcome.

Highest regards,
Debbie Deavours

National Distinguished Principal Celebration



Frances Finney Gresham Elementary Jefferson County

Frances Ritchey Finney wins honor of a lifetime as Alabama's National Distinguished Principal

Representing Alabama in the 2014 National Distinguished Principal celebration in Washington, D. C. on

October 16th and 17th has been an awesome experience. I truly believe that this award is not for me, it is about US, the 400 Gresham Elementary students, 59 teachers and staff members, parents, partnerships we developed, and the Jefferson County School System. I am honored and humbled to represent Gresham who is now on a national level of recognition – something that they deserve. I want to thank VALIC and Lifetouch who were the NDP sponsors along with NAESP. Special thanks to AAESA and CLAS for believing in Gresham and our leadership. To my dear friends and colleagues in AAESA District IV – I'm so blessed to be a part of this dynamic group of educators! Our organizations do support us and we should always be an advocate for them. It was so special to have Earl Franks and Jim Chesnutt with us. They have so many responsibilities in supporting our organization, but they were there with us! I will always remember the state department tour with the beautiful view on the upper level porch, and visiting the floor of the senate.

From the moment my husband, John and I walked in to the Capitol Hilton, we were treated like royalty. Well wishes from the NAESP Board of Directors and officers welcomed us as congratulations were expressed for this special honor. The hotel is just two blocks from White House, a traditional building with architectural beauty that was beyond compare. The floor was illuminated with the NDP emblem and a welcome banner hung above our heads. Touching lives is part of our business and the stories that were shared by the hotel staff about their own principals or their children's principals proved even more how important school leaders are to families.

Thursday, my day began with an early morning focus group meeting with a few principals and one of the president's staff to discuss ways to promote the Educational Excellence and Educational Achievement Presidential Awards. On a side note...if all schools are not requesting this free service, you need to look into

it. A letter from the president and certificate for our achieving fifth graders is an awesome was to congratulate excellence during your awards or end of year recognition day.

District IV NAESP Board of Director is Brian Partin from Tennessee. Brian's hospitality made each event very special. He and the other zone directors met with us bearing gifts...all with the NDP symbol on them. Then in our first group session, we each had two minutes to share about our school, and an interesting event that happened to us. I could talk days about great things at Gresham. Two minutes was difficult, but I did it! Each state NDP share-out made us laugh, and made us cry, but all reaffirmed why leading students together with our teachers, staff, and community is so important and essential. Upon completion, we received our NDP pin which we will always wear proudly.

Thursday night we were supposed to attend a reception at the United States Department of State, but instead we loaded a bus in our cocktail attire for Bethesda Maryland, and dined at the Congressional Country Club, another very traditional building with a huge brick porch overlooking the 18th hole. The State Department would have been wonderful, but the country club was exquisite!

Friday was very busy...we learned, and laughed, listening to Janine Driver, a motivational speaker. She is a body language expert who has taught the FBI how to read people during interrogations. Another highlight was participating in panel discussions with U. S. Arne Duncan's Fellow principal, Jill Levine. We met to share our thoughts about standards, testing, principal preparation, and teacher leadership in round table sessions. There were so many similarities but yet some differences...how states are



NDP Celebration Continued



return from DC, my new school, Fultondale Elementary, threw an amazing assembly and beautiful reception with Dr. Craig Pouncey, Jefferson County superintendent, Fultondale's Mayor Jim Lowery, family, principal friends, central office representatives, and even teachers and students from Gresham! What a surprise and delight! A new tradition...when the NDP bell rings something good is happening at FES!

It is a true privilege to be Alabama's 2014 National Distinguished Principal, I have made long lasting friendships, and I can beyond doubt say this was a true year of a lifetime. Thank you.

using CCRS to benefit students, our dedication, commitment, love of children, our and willingness to do anything for our schools. We have some of the same issues of attendance, discipline, AND of course the occasional parent concern.

We shared state mementos...there were so many stories behind why each NDP chose their items, which touched our hearts... blueberry jam—did you know that was Idaho's state fruit? Old Bay Seasoning from Maryland; a Coca Cola shirt, Braves baseball hat and peanuts from Georgia; from Hawaii - a live orchid lei, and Hawaiian coffee; a Pez candy dispenser from the factory across the street from the Connecticut school; the hand-made traditional doll, that is Protector like a guardian angel from Belarus; and from Kentucky - Jesse Stuart book "The Thread That Runs True" which talks about the faith and power of education...his timeless proof that "good teaching is forever, and that it is the best profession because all other professions stem from it" – just a few of the items I received...You may be asking yourself, what did I bring to share? A "cotton boll" angel, created by my family and I who hand-picked the cotton, and hand-make the angels – a true act of love and support!

Just like prom....tuxes and formals...formal portraits made, a reception, ice sculptures...then the curtain opened and WOW-the beautiful banquet was spectacular...being from Alabama, I received our award first...a beautiful plaque and school bell..."Oscars for our Principals" - as one teacher told me. There were goose bumps when all of the NDPs stood after dinner and rang our bells together for all the children in the nation....the ones that we go to school every day with the expectation that great learning will take place and touching the lives of our students to help them become productive citizens. Celebrating my



Frances and Gail Connelly, NAESP Executive Director



NDP Celebration Continued



The Changing Pace of Instructional Leadership



*David McCollum
Brindlee Mt. Primary
Marshall County*

“Change is the price for survival,” Winston Churchill once said, and that has never been more

true for 21st century school leaders. Gone are the days where principals are charged with simply keeping the halls clear of wandering students or giving a stern glare to the disruptive classroom to restore order.

With more rigorous standards—which were absolutely necessary—given the simple truth that public schools in America need to get better, true instructional leaders must embrace the changes and work to implement new and engaging ways to help classroom teachers understand that being “good” isn’t good enough anymore.

The good news for 21st century leaders is that the research is clear regarding “absolutes” that work in schools. By building a strong foundation with these absolutes—which include but are not limited to—protecting instructional minutes, high expectations for all students (and teachers), and data-driven instruction, school administrators can lead schools effectively.

It’s easy to point to the obstacles that stand in the way of creating effective schools—lack of parental involvement, poverty, lack of funding....the list goes on and on, but it is also important to note that factors over which we have little or no control should not be used as excuses to not do the hard work over which we do have control. This work includes leading professional development for teachers, utilizing both formative and summative assessment data to identify gaps and areas for growth, and investing time in learning what standards-based instruction looks like in classrooms.

While it’s important to acknowledge that change takes time and creating an “overnight sensational school” is a farce, we must begin to think differently. By first looking in the mirror, identifying our own core values, and using them as a springboard for positive growth, we can accept the truth of the 21st century educational landscape that Dorothy spoke so eloquently to Toto years ago—“I’ve a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.”



Fall Happenings with AAESA



Jim Chesnutt
AAESA Assistant
Executive Director

Fall is the time that so much happens in your schools and the same is true with AAESA.

I'll take a quick looking at happenings with AAESA so you'll know where you can go or what you can do to be a part of your professional association.

First, there is membership in AAESA/NAESP. If you know of new administrators or others who are not members ask them to join. We need them in AAESA plus there is a \$25 "recruited by" award for any new member you get for CLAS.

There are fall district meetings to attend and nominations for National Distinguished Principal from each district to be made. This is a great time to network with colleagues from your area and possibly have some great PD in the meantime. If you can't make the first meeting of the year look for more as the year goes on and make plans to attend.

Our Fall Instructional Leaders Conference is approaching fast with registrations coming in to the office and final plans being made. You don't want to miss this year's conference! A registration form is in this magazine and the CLAS website under AAESA. The conference will be November 1 – 4, 2015 at the Perdido Beach Resort.

Next, many of you are participating in Student Council workshops back in your AAESA District. If your district doesn't have one let me know and I'll help you get one going. This is a great way to provide a service for the schools in your district and to make a little money for your district as well.

We hope to have applications coming in for the Glenys Mason NAESP Convention Scholarship that goes to one of our members who has never attended a convention. All the member has to do is complete the application which is on the CLAS website under AAESA. This scholarship has new meaning this year with the passing of Glenys. She was the embodiment of AAESA and what it should mean to all of us as Elementary principals. She is missed.

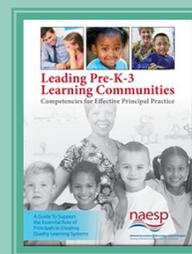
This is also a great time to encourage those in your school who are working on their administrative certification to apply for one

of our scholarships to aid in their studies. AAESA has two, the Michael Carr and Marie Taylor Scholarships, for these folks both worth \$1000.

In October, AAESA will be represented by our National Distinguished Principal Laurie King in Washington DC as part of the NAESP NDP program. We all look forward to hearing about her trip at the Awards Luncheon at the fall conference. This is a special event an even more special award for one of our members each year. Without NAESP this would not be possible. Another reason to be a member of your professional associations.

All these activities have gotten us through the fall, but let's not stop there. As the year goes on you will continue to find more ways to be involved in AAESA/NEASP. Watch for the magazine and updates on happenings around the state.

We need your involvement in AAESA, you are who make this association go! We hope you see the value of AAESA in helping you be a better principal.



Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice (Hard Copy Version) by NAESP

As the federal role expands to support increased state investments in school-based prekindergarten programs, NAESP has released an updated, principal competency guide: *Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice*. Developed by a panel of leading practitioners, this standards document defines new competencies, and outlines a practical approach to high-quality early childhood education that is critical to laying a strong foundation for learning for young children from age three to grade three, or Pre-K-3.

Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities encompasses what principals believe:

- Learning starts early
- Supporting children to be prepared when they start school is essential to helping them get on the right track
- Developing appropriate skills, knowledge and dispositions is fundamental to children's future success
- Getting children on grade level by the time they leave third grade, particularly in reading and math, is essential to ensuring they graduate from high school ready for college, careers and life

This groundbreaking work sets forth a strategy to help principals develop and expand their instructional leadership with a child-centered focus and acquire the practical skills necessary to address the academic, social, emotional and physical development needs of all young children.

NAESP Member Price: \$24.99

NAESP Booth Report



Charlotte Beasley Stapleton Elementary Baldwin County

Last year, as we closed the Alabama Booth, some of the NAESP Staff came by and gave us emery boards as simulated surfboards announcing the 2015 Conference in Long Beach, California. Our excitement resounded as we made plans to head to Long Beach. Some could be heard singing the Beach Boys tune:

excitement resounded as we made plans to head to Long Beach. Some could be heard singing the Beach Boys tune:

“We’ll all be planning that route

We’re gonna take real soon

We’re waxing down our surfboards

We can’t wait for June

We’ll all be gone for the summer

We’re on safari to stay

Tell the Teachers we’re surfin’

Surfin’ U.S. A.”

The year passed quickly and we arrived in Long Beach. We surfed through the Conference Bag, the agendas, classes, receptions, special events, the bookstore, and the exhibit hall. On-and-on everybody was surfin’; surfin’ USA at NAESP 2015.

We had about 32 Alabama Principals and Administrators surf through the networking and professional development opportunities. We met many wonderful, dedicated professionals as the conference attendees visited our booth. John Christensen helped me carry the Alabama Peanuts to our booth. As we talked, I learned that he created the Fish Philosophy in 1998 and co-authored ***Fish!*** He certainly lived the Fish Philosophy and “made my day” as he volunteered to carry the two boxes of Alabama Peanuts from the entrance of the Convention Center to the Exhibit Hall. Mike, from Utah, was one of “us” before the conference ended. Ron, also from Utah, won a gift bag. When his story ended, we were part of his face-time conversation with his niece. He chose to pass the gift bag on to his niece. Why? His niece received a scholarship to the University of Alabama so he thought she would enjoy the Alabama (pink) cap, Alabama satin robe, and the book about the Jack Kubiszyn story. His niece was so appreciative of the Alabama gift! What a great

way to build relationships and friendships!

The waves of exhibits and sessions for this conference came to an end and the booth closed. Alabama Administrators were once again very kind to work and use the booth as a place to network with others from across the nation and from other countries. We shared Alabama Peanuts, Mardi Gras beads, Moon Pies, stickers, lapel pins, key rings, and other trinkets. We had over 90 people to register for gifts donated by Alabama authors and Chris and Christie Mitten. We gave away 12 gift bags and gift cards. We send a big thank you to Page & Palette Bookstore, Terry Beasley, Jack Kubiszyn’s Family for donating one or more books, Dothan Peanuts for donating peanuts, and Chris & Christie Mitten for donating Starbucks gift cards. We enjoyed speakers who spoke to common core, assessments, grit, mindset, attitude, apathy, compassion, & the arts. However, the strongest message we carried away from the 2015 NAESP Conference is the same message we learn annually at our booth---“**It’s all about RELATIONSHIPS!!**” As we took the Alabama Banner down and packed up the Alabama table Cloth, we could hear Dr. Seuss’s words “**Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.**”

Thank you to the following people who worked our booth:

Chris and Christie Mitten, Abby Hamilton, Earl Franks, Terry Beasley, Debbie Deavours, Corvetta Vann, Marshae Pelt, and Laurie King.

Make your plans to join us July 6-8, 2016 at National Harbor, Maryland at the next NAESP Conference!



Glenys Mason NAESP Convention Scholarship Application

This scholarship is available to AAESA members who have never attended a National Association of Elementary School Principals annual Convention. The scholarship is awarded to pay for the expense of attending an NAESP Convention.

The selection will be made at AAESA Fall Conference Executive Committee Meeting and announced at the AAESA General Business Meeting at the Fall Conference Breakfast.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Cell or other contact number: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School City, State, Zip: _____

Other Application Materials:

- Attach a vita or résumé
- Attach a 50 word essay stating why attending the national convention will benefit you in your principalship role.

Please send application materials and application to:

**Jim Chesnutt
AAESA
P.O. Box 428
Montgomery, AL 36101-0428**

**The deadline to apply is October 15, 2015.
Please mail documents in time to be received by the deadline.**

NAESP Representative Report



*Christie Mitten
Holly Hill Elementary
Enterprise City*

At this time of the year the most important topic is always membership. It is vital that all current members recruit their colleagues in order to grow our state and

national organization. I cannot encourage all of you enough to work to recruit new members. The message of membership and recruitment is not only a state issue, but a national issue as well. Gail Connelly, Executive Director for NAESP took some time while at the national conference to meet with our state officers to discuss different membership options and ideas. Many of these items will be discussed by the AAESA board at the fall conference with recommendations to follow. Additionally, our national organization continues to work with a newly formed membership committee that is comprised of a representative from each zone in NAESP. We are fortunate that Chris Mitten is a member of that committee representing Zone IV. The membership committee is tasked with looking at varying ways to build membership throughout the national organization.

Now that the start of school is under our belt we need to work hard to be sure that every new elementary administrator is a member of AAESA. Remind them that not only do our members get all the benefits of CLAS, they also receive the benefits of being an NAESP member. To steal the old American Express slogan, “Membership Has its Privileges.” Be sure that potential members know that they receive \$2,000,000 in liability coverage. Also be sure to tout the resources that are available on the NAESP website. These include, The Principal Help Line, Principal Magazine, and many professional development opportunities. Help us grow our organization, recruit new members today.

Gear Up for the School Year

Meet this school year head-on with these game-changing strategies, culled from NAESP’s annual conference in Long Beach, California.

1. Hold a Ten-Minute Meeting

Todd Whitaker and Annette Breaux presented a session titled “The Ten-Minute In-service,” based on their recent book. If

you’ve seen these two present before, you know that they bring a level of honesty and frankness to everything they do. Some of the most relevant ideas from their session include the idea of limiting staff meetings to only 10 minutes (hence the title). If the meeting concept is clear and engaging, you shouldn’t need any more time than that. Whitaker and Breaux also explained that principals should aim to be models for their teachers, not just executives. Read more [here](#).

2. Ignite Student Health and Wellness

Through leadership and innovative programs, Wendy Ellen Starwalt moved her school in northern Illinois toward a healthier culture focused on wellness and exercise. One bright idea from her presentation: Add health and wellness activities to the school calendar. Ideas like these are becoming more and more important as schools take the approach that a healthier child, more often than not, results in a more successful student. Read more [here](#).

3. Get Creative With Improving School Climate

In perhaps the fastest-paced session of the conference, principals Becky Roth and Abi Van Regenmorter from South Dakota shared a treasure trove list of ideas for improving school climate—everything from providing opportunities for teachers to visit each other’s classes to book studies to making a video that celebrates your school to sharing staff baby pictures on a bulletin board—and everything in between. Read more [here](#).

4. Learn to Manage Your Twitter Stream

Leveraging Twitter was a big topic throughout the conference, but one particular session focused on how principals can extend their professional learning communities using the social network. Attendees learning about the best tools for Twitter, like [TweetDeck](#), as well as how to participate in chats using hashtags. Read more [here](#).

5. Bring a Maker Space to Your School

With the nation abuzz about STEM and STEAM initiatives, principal Kimberlie Linz from Manhattan Beach, California, actually brought a maker space to her school as an extracurricular activity. In this lab, students are encouraged to experiment with common items in a series of projects that explore creativity, engineering, and problem-solving skills. The program was so popular that over 40 students were willing to come in at 6 a.m. to take part!

These are all concepts that require few resources. Mainly they just need a leader willing to think outside the box in an effort to improve schools. Read more [here](#) —Dateline NAESP

Meet your District V President



Chris Hanson
Piedmont Elementary
Piedmont City

I bring you greetings from Piedmont Elementary School in District V. I have had the honor and privilege to serve as Principal and Transportation Director for the past nine years. Before entering the elementary world, I taught middle school PE and History for two years and high school History and Alternative school for eight years.

I grew up in Piedmont, Alabama and graduated from Piedmont High School. Also, played baseball at Snead State and graduated with General Education degree. Next graduated from Jacksonville State University with a Physical Education and Social Science degree. Later, I returned to JSU to earn a Master's degree in Educational Administration and a Educational Specialist degree.

My wife, Kim, and I live in Piedmont, Alabama with our three children. Kim, teaches within in the Piedmont City School System. My daughter, Macy, is a sophomore at Piedmont High School. Max, my oldest son, is a sixth grade student at Piedmont Middle School and Mitch, is my youngest son, is a Pre-K student at Piedmont Elementary School.

I love spending time Coaching and Officiating Youth Sports, and participating in the church my family attends First Baptist Church of Piedmont. The past couple of years I have been able to travel and coach the students at Piedmont Elementary School across the state in a lot of District and State tournaments in Baseball and Softball. Also, I am currently a Deacon at FBC where I have served as the Chairperson of the Deacon board, Personnel, and Finance.

Lastly, the majority of my day is spent at work, and I am proud to be the Principal at Piedmont Elementary School. Our school continues to strive to produce the best students around in our area. Also, I am proud of MPOWER our Digital transformation of technology within the Piedmont City Schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AAESA/AASCD Fall Instructional Leadership Conference

November 1-4, 2015
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, Alabama

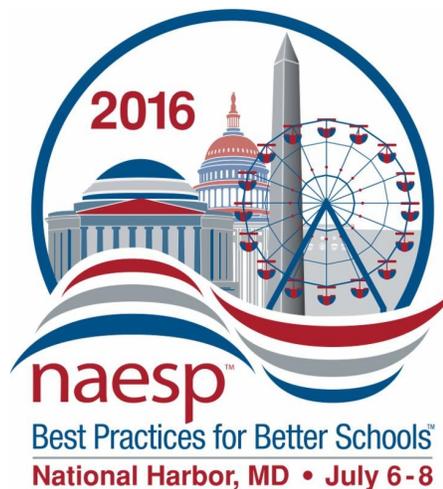
AAESA Spring Planning

March 10, 2016
CLAS Office
Montgomery, Alabama



NAESP Convention

July 6-8, 2016
Gaylord National Resort
National Harbor, Maryland



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