

# Curriculum reView

CIA Director - Dr. Joe Pierce

## A New Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

*I am pleased to introduce you to our curriculum department's newsletter, "The Curriculum reView." This new project is designed to help keep you better informed and updated on a variety of issues, events, and activities related to our department.*

*Our department-- nicknamed the "The CIA" (Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) is responsible for coordinating many district initiatives and events. The CIA is responsible for all of the core subject content areas, fine arts, world languages, ESL/ELL, career tech, many federal programs, gifted/talented, and professional development. The specialists in our department are experts in their field and are very well connected to state and national level associations, serving on numerous appointed committees and task forces. This level of involvement enables us to keep PC Schools at the forefront of the latest developments in all these areas.*

*My goal is that our department is a support and resource to all the PC educators. We are here to serve you and assist you as we all work together to improve teaching and learning for all of our students. Please call upon us if we can assist you in any way.*

- Dr. Joe Pierce

Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence

## Barbara Gabel Honored

Barbara Gabel, Putnam City's Fine Arts curriculum specialist, is being honored by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence as one of the state's top educators. Gabel will receive the foundation's Medal for Excellence in Elementary/Secondary Administration at the organization's 23rd annual Academic Awards Banquet on May 16 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman.



Gabel and four other medal of excellence winners will receive a \$5,000 cash award and a glass "Roots and Wings" sculpture created by Oklahoma artist Ron Roberts.

"Her passion in support of a high-quality education for all children and her tenacious drive for excellence have been an inspiration for

countless professional educators in our state," says Glen Henry, director of arts education for the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Gabel, a 38-year veteran of public education, became Putnam City's visual art and arts in education coordinator in 1989, a position which in 1997 transitioned into fine arts coordinator. Before overseeing the district's fine art programs she spent 18 years as a classroom visual art teacher.

Gabel is a leader in her field, someone that Oklahoma City Public Schools Fine Arts Director Susan Gabbard refers to as "a legend in arts education." Her professional history includes dozens of affiliations and leadership in local, state and national arts organizations, scores of presentations she's made to other

“... a legend in arts education”

## Something to Celebrate!

Mr. Hurst has received the AMAO report from the State Department of Education for the school year 2007-2008. We met all three Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for the 2007- 2008 academic year. We have achieved these rigorous state and federal requirements two years in a row. This is something to celebrate!

Goal 1: ELL students' Yearly progress in learning English: the state's goal was 70%. We achieved 77%

Goal 2: Attainment of English language proficiency on Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State – to - State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs): the state's goal was 16%. We achieved 26%

Goal 3: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English -language arts and mathematics: ELL students met all AYP targets for 2007-2008 in Reading and Math.

I want to take this golden opportunity to express my appreciation to all ESL teachers, bilingual instructional assistants, and principals who have worked arduously to support English language learners in the district. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the support of my supervisor and all the stakeholders in the Administration Building for supporting my efforts in establishing an ESL program that works. The ultimate goal is to help all teachers in the district in their endeavor to meet the academic needs all our linguistically and culturally diverse students.

### Science - Bob Melton

## MSP

Recently, Putnam City Schools was awarded a \$239,000 grant as the lead school district in a US Department of Education Math/Science Partnership grant. The new project, titled "Creating Critical Connections in Math and Science Through Engineering" is geared to middle school teachers and brings together as partners Putnam City Schools, Norman Public Schools, Newcastle, Noble, Little Axe, and Robin Hill Public Schools along with the Colleges of Education and Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. Forty-eight participants will attend a two-week institute in June and four follow-up workshops next school year as they work with OU scientists and pedagogy specialists to integrate mathematics and science in their middle school instructional practice. Twenty-two Putnam City math and science teachers are currently enrolled as participants in this project.

This is the fifth MSP grant awarded to Putnam City Schools as the lead school district over the past six years. Two previous grants were focused on using Lesson Study to improve math and science instruction 6-12 in partnership with Moore Public Schools and St. Gregory's University and two other grants were designed to infuse inquiry into elementary science teaching in partnership with Norman, Noble, Little Axe, Moore, and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

## Do You Know How to Get There?



Do you have the latest Curriculum Map for the classes you teach? Teams of teachers from across the district are constantly working to develop and revise the maps which are posted on [www.curriculummapper.com](http://www.curriculummapper.com). Check with your favorite Curriculum Specialist or Principal for the district login and password for curriculum mapper. You don't have to be trapped in your own little world.

Check out the curriculum map to see the big picture for your class.

### Barbara Gabel (continued)

arts educators, an impressive record of community service, and awards stretching back into the 1980s.

More recently, Gabel in 2008 was one of 20 educators in the state to receive an "A+ Oklahoma Schools "Spark of Creativity" Award. In February 2007 she was named the National Supervision/ Administration Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association, and she received an award of commendation for service on the National Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Leadership Committee. In 2001 she received the Marion Quinn Dix National Leadership Award from the National Art Education Association, and in 2000 she received the Governor's Arts Award.

Gabel is a member of the National Art Education Association, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, the Oklahoma Art Education Association, and the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education. She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and arts education from the University of Oklahoma and a master's in education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

"Barbara's passion for her work has remained unchanged in nearly four decades, and her willingness to translate this passion into support of arts education efforts is well known throughout Oklahoma and the nation," says Dr. Linda Everett, a former Putnam City colleague of Gabel's who now teaches at Southern Nazarene University.

(This article originally appeared in the March 11 issue of PC NOW, )

## A Busy April for Social Studies

FREE - Remembering Holocaust Month Video from the Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) for becoming a member. Membership in OCSS is FREE! OCSS is your state's professional organization, representing the interests of all social studies disciplines, offering resources on its website and through its conference. There will also be an Earth Day video and resources to come to all OCSS members. Consider joining NOW (the price is right) by accessing the membership form online at [www.okcss.org](http://www.okcss.org) or contacting Brenda Chapman.

"Deadly Medicine" Educator ONLY Preview - Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race is set to open and will be at Science Museum Oklahoma through July 5, 2009. From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to "cleanse" German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation's "health." Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the Nazis implemented racial health policies based on the ideals of eugenics that began with the mass sterilization of "genetically diseased" persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewry. This landmark traveling exhibition, from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, challenges students to connect the past to the present, and, as a result, become more responsible and responsive human beings. On April 7, 2009 from 3 PM - 7 PM, you and one guest are invited to attend the preview of the exhibit free; however, you must register to attend. RSVP by email [communications@sciencemuseumok.org](mailto:communications@sciencemuseumok.org) or by phone 405-602-3760. Please include your name, school name, school address, and the grade you teach. Field trips for your students may be set up by calling 602-3760.

Oklahoma City National Memorial: Free Museum Admission and Resources

The Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum is able to offer free admission for student groups and provide many educational resources at no cost. To schedule a field trip or to request a Hope Trunk or other resources, please visit <http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org> or contact Lynne Porter at 235-3313.

Harn Homestead - April 20-24

The Harn Homestead is hosting a hands-on learning program for K-6th graders about territorial Oklahoma and the Land Run of 1889. There are scholarships available and incentive programs if your school brings volunteers. The program is April 20-24 from 10:00 - 1:30 each day. For information contact Sha Buchanan at 405-235-4058 or [sbuchanan@harnhomestead.com](mailto:sbuchanan@harnhomestead.com).

Earth Day

Take the Are You Living Green Quiz at <http://just-for-mom.quiz.kaboose.com/30-are-you-living-green>

Other resources - <http://earthday.gov/>

<http://network.earthday.net>

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day/earth-day-recycle-reuse.html>

Climate Change - What Can You Do - [www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/index.html)

## Celebrate National Poetry Month during April

Join the Academy of American Poets to participate in the world's largest literary celebration.

• Events include Poetry and the Creative Mind Celebration on April 1 with guest readers Wynton Marsalis and Joan Baez among others.



- On April 30 participate in Poem in Your Pocket Day: Select a poem you love during National Poetry Month; then, carry it with you to share with students, teachers, principals, staff, family, and friends on April 30.
- Enjoy a "Poem a Day" each day during April
- For more poems and more ideas on how to celebrate National Poetry Month, go to <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>
- Go to Poetry Out Loud at <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/> for great poetry and for its audio collection. Hear N. Scott Momaday recite "Fire and Ice" and "Ozymandias," Rita Dove "We Wear the Mask," James Earl Jones "Sonnet 55," and more. Great resource for copies of poems.

Professional Development - Ann Bradshaw

## Putnam City Mentor/Mentee Celebration

Day 5 of the 2008/2009 Mentor training program will hold an end-of-the-year celebration including both mentors and mentees. May 6th has been planned for the elementary group. May 13 is the day planned for the secondary group. Morning sessions for the mentors only and will include wrap-up activities, planning for year 2 and possible restructuring of the training.

Afternoon sessions will be for mentees only and will include evaluations of the program, what did we really need, and plans for year 2. An entry year advisory committee will be discussed as well.

If you are interested in being a part of the 2009/2010 Mentor group contact your principal. You must have 2 years teaching experience (preferably at the site you are in now). Third year teachers who have been in our program from the beginning stages are highly encouraged to apply. Applications will be available in early May.

The Arts - Barbara Gabel

# DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL

The results of "Planting Seeds of Creativity" will be seen in full force on May 2nd, 2009 when the District will hold its 28th Annual Visual and Performing Arts Festival. The event will be held at Putnam City North High School on 11800 N. Rockwell. Student exhibits will be on display from all of the 27 school sites showcasing the best each program has to present in Visual Art.

Continuous entertainment will be on stage for everyone to experience from the Putnam City District schools and community in the fine arts disciplines of General and Vocal Music, Band, Drama, Orchestra and Dance. There will be both individual and group performances beginning with opening ceremonies starting at 10:00. Everyone who attends will also be able to enjoy visiting artists who will be sharing their talents also.

An arts activity area will be provided where visual art specialists will challenge every one of all ages to discover their imaginations and inner selves. Opportunities will be available also to dabble in a variety of materials to make and take home. Of course, we can't forget the food that will be available to partake onsite.

Putnam City Schools have created fantastic, innovative oversized "Seed Packets" and "Flower Pots." They created them in honor of the fine arts programs that have contributed so much toward nurturing the talents in each child's life. These special

projects will be showcased on festival grounds and mark each school's visual displays.

Original donated goodie baskets and items provided by each site participating will be apart of a silent auction that will go on during the duration of the festival.

If you are interested in providing entertainment or a commercial booth during the festival contact Barbara Gabel, Fine Arts Coordinator for official sign-up forms at [bgabel@putnamcityschools.org](mailto:bgabel@putnamcityschools.org).

Secondary Math - Tammy Gambrell

## Math Success

We had great success in the Fall with our Math End of Instruction Tests. Here is a list of our teachers who scored either 100% or was the top % in the subject tested. Not only did we have great success with our pass rate, we also had a high % of students who scored advanced.

PCH

- Erica Nilsson 100 % - Regular Algebra 1 (68%advance)
- Debbie Ocker 100% -Regular Geom and Honors Geom (73%advance)
- Natalie Jonhston - 93% PCH Honors Alg 2

PCN

- Lorie Kennedy 100% - Honors Geom (91% advance)
- Tricia Kordis 100 % - Honors Alg 2 (81% advance)
- Peggy Rooks - 100% Reg Algebra I (63%advance)

PCW

- Beth Thompson 100 % Honors Alg 2 (53% advance)

Bill Wakeham - 98% Honors Geometry

CIA - Dr. Joe Pierce

## Websites for Teachers

Websites for teachers – Teacher Professional Development Sourcebook, a new magazine from Education Week, recommends these websites as good sources of materials for teachers:

- Wiki-Teacher – <http://www.wiki-teacher.com> - Created by the Clark County Schools in Nevada but open to all, this website features K-8 lesson and unit plans that are searchable by topic, level, and textbook. There are also short video clips.
- Teach-nology – <http://www.teach-nology.com> - This site has 28,000 free lesson plans for K-12 teachers and a variety of tips, printable worksheets, and games for all subjects.

- Curriki – <http://www.curriki.org> - This site has searchable collections of math, science, language arts, and social studies lesson plans and activities for all grades. Teachers can also contribute resources.



# Upcoming Inservice

Looking for an Inservice to attend? Here is a list of some of the opportunities in the next few weeks:



<http://www.genome.gov/10506367>

## OSTA

Oklahoma Science Teachers Association Spring Field Trips:

Lake Tenkiller S.P., April 4th

Go to [www.oklahomascienceteachersassociation.org](http://www.oklahomascienceteachersassociation.org)

## PASS it on!

2009 State Superintendent's Regional Curriculum Conference featuring presentations from members of the Oklahoma Master Teachers Project.

All Curriculum Areas

All Grade Levels

Wednesday, June 17  
Putnam City High School

Registration information go to [www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)

## HS & MS Science Teacher Fire Extinguisher Training

April 7 - @ PCW (MMS & WOMS)

April 8 - @ PCH (CMS & KCMS)

April 9 - @ PCN (HMS & KCMS)

4 PM each day



## Summer Personal Finance Academy

The Oklahoma Council on Economic Education will hold its 2nd annual Summer Personal Finance Academy June 15-26 at UCO in Edmond. The Academy will provide participants with free curricula, materials, and tools to teach the Personal Finance Literacy standards.

<http://www.ocee-ok.org/>

## Language Arts Curriculum Update Meetings

Administration Building,  
Central Conference Room

- 6th Grade English Teachers, April 29, 1:15-3:15



- 7th Grade English Teachers, April 30, 3-5 PM
- 8th Grade English Teachers, May 6, 3-5 PM
- High School Curriculum Meetings To Be Announced

## Department Chair and Vertical Team Leader Meetings

Middle School: April 6, Hefner Middle School, 3:15 PM

High School: April 13, Putnam City High School, 4:30 PM

Elementary School: April 20, Math and Science - Apollo

Language Arts - Hilldale

Social Studies- PDC, 3:45 PM

**Oklahoma PASSages Master Teachers Project**

**PASS it on!**

**2009 State Superintendent's Regional Curriculum Conferences**

Sandy Garrett  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Office of Standards and Curriculum  
(405) 521-3361

Registration information:  
[www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)

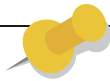
**Tuesday, JUNE 16** | Lawton McAlester

**Wednesday, JUNE 17** | Oklahoma City Tulsa

**Thursday, JUNE 18** | Grove Woodward



AP\* and Pre-AP\* Summer Institute  
June 22- 26, July 6-10, July 13-17, July 20-24, 2009  
Register NOW, tuition is waived for Oklahoma teachers  
go to <http://www.utulsa.edu/ap-tulsa/>



### Common Myths About Gifted Students

- Gifted students are a homogeneous group, all high achievers.
- Gifted students do not need help. If they are really gifted, they can manage on their own.
- Gifted students have fewer problems than others because their intelligence and abilities somehow exempt them from the hassles of daily life.
- The future of a gifted student is assured: a world of opportunities lies before the student.
- Gifted students are self-directed; they know where they are heading.
- The social and emotional development of the gifted student is at the same level as his or her intellectual development.
- Gifted students are nerds and social isolates.
- The primary value of the gifted student lies in his or her brain power.
- The gifted student's family always prizes his or her abilities.
- Gifted students need to serve as examples to others and they should always assume extra responsibility.
- Gifted students make everyone else smarter.
- Gifted students can accomplish anything they put their minds to. All they have to do is apply themselves.
- Gifted students are naturally creative and do not need encouragement.
- Gifted children are easy to raise and a welcome addition to any classroom.

### Truths About Gifted Students

- Gifted students are often perfectionistic and idealistic. They may equate achievement and grades with self-esteem and self-worth, which sometimes leads to fear of failure and interferes with achievement.
- Gifted students may experience heightened sensitivity to their own expectations and those of others, resulting in guilt over achievements or grades perceived to be low.
- Gifted students are asynchronous. Their chronological age, social, physical, emotional, and intellectual development may all be at different levels. For example, a 5-year-old may be able to read and comprehend a third-grade book but may not be able to write legibly.
- Some gifted children are “mappers” (sequential learners), while others are “leapers” (spatial learners). Leapers may not know how they got a “right answer.” Mappers may get lost in the steps leading to the right answer.
- Gifted students may be so far ahead of their chronological age mates that they know more than half the curriculum before the school year begins! Their boredom can result in low achievement and grades.
- Gifted children are problem solvers. They benefit from working on open-ended, interdisciplinary problems; for example, how to solve a shortage of community resources. Gifted students often refuse to work for grades alone.
- Gifted students often think abstractly and with such complexity that they may need help with concrete study- and test-taking skills. They may not be able to select one answer in a multiple choice question because they see how all the answers might be correct.
- Gifted students who do well in school may define success as getting an “A” and failure as any grade less than an “A.” By early adolescence they may be unwilling to try anything where they are not certain of guaranteed success.

### A Fact or Two About Textbooks

- Each site has a textbook coordinator – contact that person for any questions you have regarding textbooks.
- This year we are adopting Foreign Language, Health, and Career Tech./ Computer Ed. As well as buying grades 3-5 Literature.
- If a student destroys or loses a textbook, he/she is responsible for reimbursing the school for that book. Contact your site textbook coordinator for cost. If the book can be rebound, the cost this year is \$11.00.

### Benchmark Testing

- Next year data changes will be in ‘real time’ both in PowerSchool and in Pearson.
- Testing scores will also be in ‘real time’ so as we scan your scantrons the results will automatically update.
- Every teacher should log-on to Pearson Benchmark one week before every benchmark test and check to be sure that every student in your class is listed and has a log-in if you will be online testing. If you will not be online testing, be sure all students are listed and not in BOLD text. Bold text indicates the student is inactive. If you have any concerns, contact Deanne Rowe xtn. 1237.



Have you joined a .pc Learning Community?

<http://www.putnamcityschools.org/.pc>