



Credit: The Algiers Charter School Association

It's Carnival Time...Everybody's Having Fun?



Photo Credit: Caroline Roemer for Landry Walker High School

With less than a week to go, it is almost Carnival Time. Many schools across the state will be on vacation for some or all of the week of Mardi Gras, and it's fun to see the varied ways that our students and teachers learn and celebrate this cultural heritage.

It's very tempting to say, "Laissez les bon temps rouler" in the hopes that like the festivities of Mardi Gras, things in the charter school landscape will just fall into place. Unfortunately, that's not the case. The legislative session begins on April 13th and we have to continue Coach K's mantra of practice that we began in January -- "Somewhere, he is out there training while I am not, and when we meet, he will win."

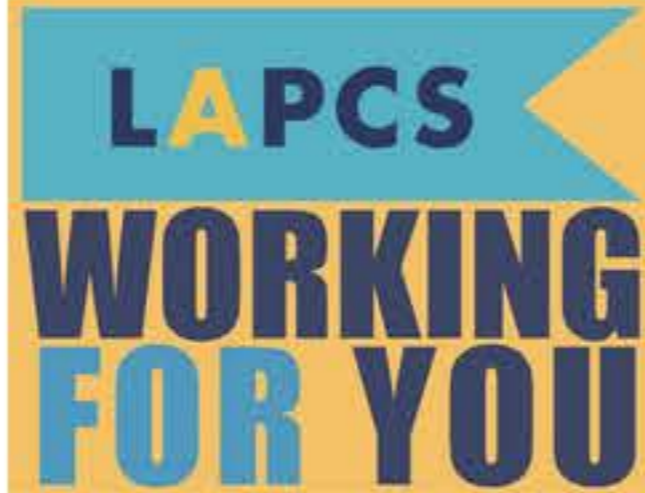
Our preparation includes a series of state delegation meetings spearheaded by Policy Director Veronica Brooks. Beginning February 27th in Jefferson Parish, LAPCS is reaching out to facilitate meetings between charter schools and their legislative delegations.

So enjoy this Mardi Gras season and know that LAPCS will be working to ensure that when the 2015 legislative session rolls around, charter school issues will be at the forefront of our legislators' minds. Sign up at chartersupporter@lacharterschools.org to be a Voice for Choice in Louisiana!

In this month's newsletter:

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- Educating Louisiana: New Season Coming Soon!
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LAPCS: Working for You!



February 13: DFOs-Working Smart and Efficiently with Your Finance Committee Webinar. Sponsored by The Bottom Line and hosted by LAPCS' Director of Finance & Operations, Melissa Carollo, this webinar will tell you what your school's DFO and Finance Committee should be doing now to prepare for next year. Melissa is one of the leading charter school and non-profit finance experts in Louisiana, and will share with you various budget-troubleshooting best practices. This webinar is free for LAPCS members and \$30 for non-members. To register, click [here](#). [Return to top of newsletter.](#)

In the News



- Louisiana Charter School Laws Rated 2nd in US
- School Choice Week is Freedom Week
- School Choice Week Recognizes Kenilworth
- New Orleans Public School Enrollment Grows Slightly to Almost 46,500
- New Morris Jeff Community School has Everything Kids Need Except a Playground
- State Should Learn from Charters

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Educating Louisiana: New Episode March 5!



New episodes of *Educating Louisiana* will air on Cox 4 Thursday nights at 7:00 pm (repeating on Monday evenings at 10:30 pm) in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette beginning on March 5. New episodes will also now air on Northshore Channel 17 on Sundays at 7:00 pm (repeating on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Mondays at 4:30 pm) beginning on March 1. As always, you can view past episodes on our [Vimeo page](#).

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OPSB Selects New Superintendent



The Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) unanimously elected Dr. Henderson Lewis as its new Superintendent on January 20. Dr. Lewis currently serves as the Superintendent for East Feliciana Parish and also holds a seat on the St. Bernard Parish School Board. This marks the first time in over two years that OPSB has had a permanent Superintendent and will bring an end to Stanley Smith's tenure as interim superintendent. Dr. Lewis's start date is currently unknown.

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The Top Shelf: Customized Board Training



What do Beekman Charter School in Bastrop, Bayou Community Academy in Thibodaux, and Crescent Leadership Academy in New Orleans all have in common? These are three of the schools that have contracted with The Top Shelf for customized board development training. Interested in bringing The Top Shelf directly to your board members? Check out the [menu of services](#) and then contact [Makiyah Moody](#) to schedule.

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The Bottom Line: Charter Funding Lawsuit Update



The Iberville Parish School Board and LAE lawsuits, which challenge both the state's ability to fund Type 2 charter schools through the MFP and the funding formula itself, are set for trial on Monday, March 2, 2015, in the 19th Judicial District Court in East Baton Rouge. Judge Wilson Fields is presiding and the trial is expected to last two to three days. LAPCS will provide in-depth updates and analyses of the trial. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact LAPCS' Legal Director [Sarah Vandergriff](#) with any questions or concerns.

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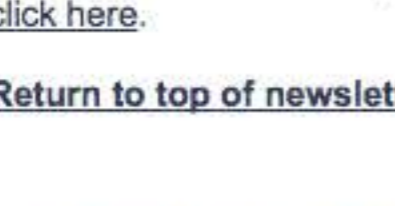
Marching Bands and Mardi Gras!



Mardi Gras krewes throughout the metro New Orleans area will be fortunate to have several bands from the Algiers Charter School Association (ACSA) marching in their parades! For more information on the parades ACSA schools are participating in, click [here](#).

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Just the Facts: Bullying in School

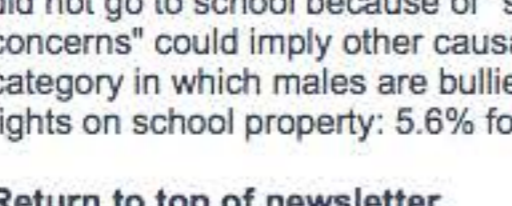


According to [Forbes.com](#), statistics collected by The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention show that 27.3% of high school females - in comparison to 15.6% of high school males - were bullied on school property. The comparison for electronic bullying in high schools is starker: 21% of females compared to 8.5% of males. More troubling, 8.7% of high school females and 5.4% of males did not go to school because of "safety concerns" (though "safety concerns" could imply other causalities besides bullying). The only category in which males are bullied more than females is in physical fights on school property: 5.6% for females and 10.7% for males.

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Featured School: Beekman Charter School

Each month, LAPCS will feature a different school (or school system) and share highlights, milestones, and good news for that school. This month we're featuring Beekman Charter School, but we would love to feature your school in the coming months! [Email us](#) and let us share your good news!



Beekman Charter School traces its roots back to 1914 when a group of one room schoolhouses was consolidated to form Beekman Consolidated School. The school was a two story wooden building with four rooms. In 1940, a brick building housing grades 1-8 replaced the wooden structure and the name changed to Beekman School. That building burned on January 20, 1977 and was replaced by the current structure which housed grades K-8 and had become known as Beekman Junior High School.

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Best Practice Tip

Beekman Charter School's master schedule is designed so that teachers have common planning time by grade level and department. Teachers are afforded the opportunity to collaborate with other teachers through both planned professional development and informal group meetings. The impact on student achievement is becoming more and more evident as teachers share ideas and practices that help students perform better in the classroom.

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Partner Connection Spot



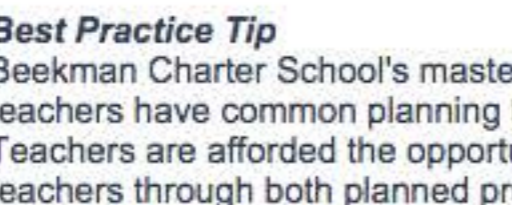
From curriculum materials to prospective teacher counseling programs, we've got you covered! Check out some of our vendor partners.

INTERNET STORY CLUB OF AMERICA



Free K-12 Character Ed. Resource! New Orleans Public Library is hosting the Internet Story Club of America, a free online K-12 supplementary, social and emotional learning resource titled *Fables to Grow On*. Visit: [InternetStoryClub.org](#). See how the program builds literacy and students of character.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS



Troops to Teachers (TTT) assists current service members and veterans in transitioning into new careers as public school teachers. We provide counseling in certification requirements, certification providers and employment leads. TTT is not a teacher certification program. TTT participants must meet all state teacher certification requirements like any other candidate.

Check out our entire list of partners by visiting our [website](#). Don't see something you're searching for? Help us pick the partners you desire by completing a short feedback [survey](#).

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Donate to LAPCS by Shopping Online!



You can donate to LAPCS just by shopping online! Visit [Amazon Smile](#) or [iGive.com](#) and make LAPCS your charity of choice. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to LAPCS.

[DONATE NOW!](#)

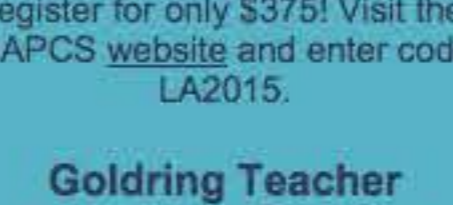
NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

NAPCS Conference Discount Code for Louisiana Residents!



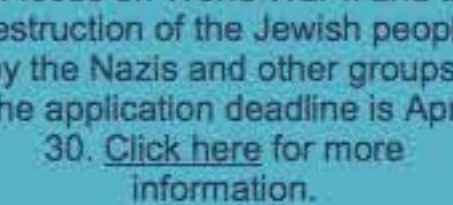
The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) conference is in New Orleans this June, and Louisiana residents can register for only \$375! Visit the [NAPCS website](#) and enter code LA2015.

Goldring Teacher Fellowship Program Accepting Applications



The Southern Institute for Education and Research is currently accepting applications for its Goldring Teacher Fellowship Program in July, which will focus on World War II and the destruction of the Jewish people by the Nazis and other groups. The application deadline is April 30. [Click here](#) for more information.

Free Books for Read Across America Day!



LEF Books is providing free books to teachers for Read Across America Day on March 2. Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to apply is February 22. Visit their [website](#) to order.

Red Stick Robotics Announces Competition for Girls in Grades 3-5



Red Stick Robotics offers an animation and robot puzzle competition for students in grades 3-5. The competition, software and training are free. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Applications for the Louisiana Scholarship Program Now Available



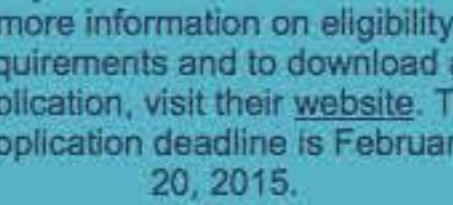
The Louisiana Scholarship Program provides low-income families with the financial resources to choose a school that will prepare their child for a lifetime of success. Students must be enrolled in a C, D or F rated school for the 2014-2015 school year or entering kindergarten. For more information or to obtain an application, visit their [website](#).

Louisiana Bar Foundation Kids' Chance Scholarship Program



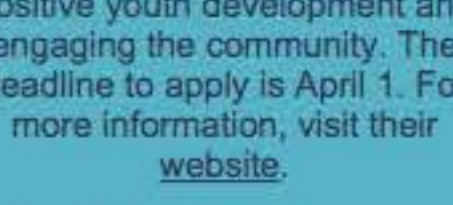
The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Kids' Chance Scholarship Program awards scholarships to dependent children of certain workers killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident. For more information on eligibility requirements and to download an application, visit their [website](#). The application deadline is February 20, 2015.

OAH Grant Opportunities



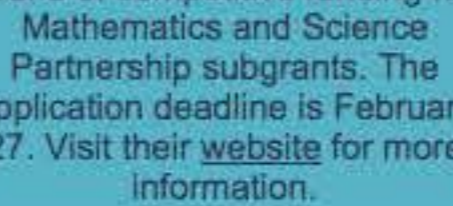
The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) recently announced a new grant opportunities to fund programs that fight teen pregnancy while promoting positive youth development and engaging the community. The deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Math and Science Partnership Grant Opportunity



The Louisiana Department of Education is announcing a new round of competitive funding for Mathematics and Science Partnership subgrants. The application deadline is February 27. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

LAA-SCD Conference



The Louisiana Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development will host its Spring conference on Friday, March 27 at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie. E-mail kavery@mlknola.org for more information.