

# MEDIA MATTERS

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

United States Department of Education Grants

The Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (LSL) Program focuses on providing funding to school library media centers. Funds are used to improve reading achievement through updating the library collection, expanding Internet connections, purchasing new technology, providing professional development for library media specialists, and extending school library hours. Approximately \$19.8 million will be distributed to eligible local education agencies (LEAs) in an estimated 200 awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$350,000. Only LEAs in which at least 20 percent of students served are from families with incomes below the poverty line are eligible to apply. To see if your system qualifies go to:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/eligibility.html>

Applications for the 2004 Improving Literacy Through School Libraries competition are now available online. The deadline for submitting an application is **May 20, 2004**.

The application package is available at:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html>

The program received an increase in funding, up from \$12 million in FY03 to almost \$20 million in FY04.

Specific questions regarding this program can be sent to [LSL@ed.gov](mailto:LSL@ed.gov).

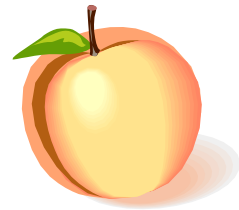
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*It is great to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.*

*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

### Georgia Peach Book Award for Teens



The lack of a Young Adult Literature award in the state was of concern to teachers, public librarians, and library media specialists. A committee of public and school library media specialists has compiled a list of 20 outstanding books for high school aged students to consider for the 1st annual Georgia Peach Award.

The purpose of the Georgia Peach Award is to highlight and promote the best current young adult literature for Georgia high school age students, to encourage young adults to read, and to promote the development of cooperative school and public library services for young adults.

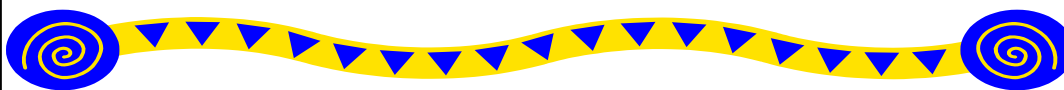
A core mission of this group is to promote reading and literacy skills. To bring an awareness of reading to teens, an ad-hoc committee has formed to develop the Georgia Peach Award. The criteria for this award, dedicated to promoting quality literature for young adults, were developed using modified guidelines developed for the Georgia Book Awards. **The Georgia Peach Award** will be administered by the Georgia Library Media Association, Georgia Library Association, Georgia Public Library Service and the Georgia Association of Educators.

Information on the book list, the committee members, how to participate, how to become a member of the committee for next year, and more is available at:

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/pandp/media/homepg.htm>

Media Specialists are Teachers! Congratulations to:

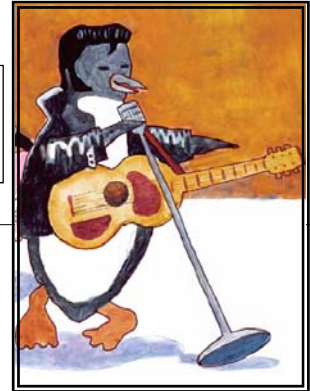
<b>Linda Beeman</b>	Mountain Park Elementary School (Fulton) TOTY
<b>Ruth Berberich</b>	Livsey Elementary (DeKalb) TOTY
<b>Patricia Biemiller</b>	Trickum Middle School (Gwinnett) TOTY
<b>Susan Brown</b>	Cedartown Middle TOTY and Polk TOTY
<b>Gay Culp</b>	Margaret Fain Elementary TOTY (Atlanta)
<b>Kristi Crumpton</b>	New Hope Elementary (Whitfield) TOTY
<b>Glenn Hudson</b>	Irwin County TOTY
<b>Kathren Inman</b>	Dickerson Middle (Cobb) TOTY
<b>Beth Martinez</b>	Fort Daniel Elementary (Gwinnett) TOTY
<b>Michelle Miller</b>	Cohutta Elementary (Whitfield) TOTY
<b>Suzanne Mize</b>	Hart County TOTY
<b>Linda Mullen</b>	Kemp Elementary: (Cobb) TOTY
<b>Lametric Patterson</b>	Creekside High School (Fulton) TOTY
<b>Pamela Rivers</b>	Sandy Springs Middle School (Fulton) TOTY
<b>Sharon Russell</b>	Norton Park Elementary: (Cobb) TOTY
<b>Wendy Smith</b>	Evansdale Elementary (DeKalb) TOTY
<b>Amy Steward</b>	S.L. Lewis Elementary (Fulton) TOTY
<b>Marie Yelvington</b>	Haynes Bridge Middle School (Fulton) TOTY



<b>Becky Beal</b>	Glynn County Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Lynn D. Futch</b>	Bulloch County Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Michelle Lenderman</b>	Bibb County Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Donna Milner</b>	District IX Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Ruthie Tucker</b>	District I Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Ruthie Tucker</b>	Rockdale Media Specialist of the Year
<b>Laura Whatley Gunn</b>	Valdosta City Media Specialist of the Year

**Barbara Barton** Westlake High School (Fulton) Media Parapro of the Year

### Georgia Public Libraries “Step to the Beat” for Vacation Reading Program 2004



Kids of all ages are getting ready to “step to the beat” with the Vacation Reading Program 2004 at Georgia’s public libraries. The theme for this year’s Vacation Reading Program is “Step to the Beat ... READ!” Public libraries around the state have fun activities planned for children and teens that link music, dancing, and reading.

The goal of the Vacation Reading Program is to encourage children to read for pleasure at times when they are not in school. Georgia public libraries offer special programs and incentives to encourage children of all ages, from infants to teens, to read what they enjoy, and to read often. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are also invited to participate and to help pre-literate children enjoy books and develop a love of reading.

This year, public libraries in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia will all sponsor vacation reading programs with the same up-tempo theme. This regional cooperation began with a partnership between Georgia and South Carolina for the Vacation Reading Program in 2002. Alabama and Mississippi joined the partnership in 2003, and Virginia joined this year.

The artwork reflecting the “Step to the Beat...READ” theme was designed by children’s book illustrator and author Peter Catalanotto. Catalanotto has illustrated many children’s books and is the author of *Dad & Me*, *Matthew ABC*, *Daisy 123*, *Mr. Mumble*, *Dylan’s Day Out*, and many others. The “Step to the Beat...READ” artwork features penguins stepping to various beats – forming a conga line, break dancing, and even rocking with “The King.”

The Vacation Reading Program is supported in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Georgia Public Library Service.

Check out <http://www.vacationreading.org>



## Best Wishes to Our 2004 Retirees

Page 5

**Linda Banks:** Oglethorpe County High

**Marla Bourne:** Eastside Elementary School  
(Coffee)

**Susan Brown:** Cedartown Middle (Polk)

**Genese Bryant:** Lanier County Middle/High

**Judy Capie:** Comer Elementary (Madison )

**Gloria Chandler:** Riverside Elementary  
(Evans)

**Clarice Church:** Avondale High (DeKalb)

**Lois Cliett:** Broxton Elementary School  
(Coffee)

**Ann Compton:** Whitfield County

**Phil Coventry:** Columbia High (DeKalb)

**Gena Daniel:** Wayne County High

**Nancy Davis:** S.E. Bulloch Middle

**Frankie Darby:** Garrison-Pilcher Elementary  
(Thomas)

**Terri Dupriest:** Harper Elementary  
(Thomasville)

**Janice Franks:** Medlock Elem. (DeKalb)

**Carole Gentry:** Barnwell Elem. (Fulton)

**Olivia Goodwin:** Palmer Middle (Cobb)

**Betty Greenhaw:** Valdosta Middle

**Ginger Guthrie:** Druid Hills H.S. (DeKalb)

**Ernestine Harper:** Glynn Academy  
(Brunswick)

**Barbara Havick:** Stone Mountain Elem.  
(DeKalb)

**Jim Henley:** Harris County High

**Shirley Hicks:** South Cobb High (Cobb)

**Joan Johnson:** Harrison High (Cobb)

**Willie Mae Keels:** Big A Elementary  
(Stephens)

**Elizabeth Killingsworth:** Pike County Middle

**Connie Kone:** Pope High School (Cobb)

**Ray Lee:** North Forsyth High

**Lauren May:** Troup County

**Brenda Myers:** Paulding County

**Wanda Paulk :** Ambrose Elem. (Coffee)

**Becky Peace:** Chattahoochee High (Fulton)

**Becky Prince:** Thomas County High

**Shannon Reeves Ward:** Jenkins County Middle/  
High

**Carol Rowe:** Teasley Middle School (Cherokee)

**Mary Lynne Rowe:** Cook County Primary School

**Sarah Sanford:** Memorial Middle (Rockdale)

**Rosemary Scalessa:** Montgomery Elem.  
(DeKalb)

**Jane Shelnut:** Cherokee High School

**Diana Simmons:** Califf Middle (Jones)

**Carolyn Sparks-Leachman:** Madison County  
High School

**Marcia Stefansen:** Emanuel County Institute

**Patricia Stoica:** Russell Elem. (Houston)

**Doretha Swindell:** Miller Grove Middle (DeKalb)

**Gail Van Liew:** Flat Shoals Elem. (DeKalb)

**Sydney Vandiver:** J.P. Nix Primary (White)

**Wanda Kay White:** J.D. Dickerson (Vidalia)

**Sherry Whitton:** H.A. Jones Elementary (Bremen)

**Candice Wright-Denney:** Troup County

**Millie Yaun:** Jeff Davis Middle (Jeff Davis)

(Please see Page 9 for a special story on a special media specialist)

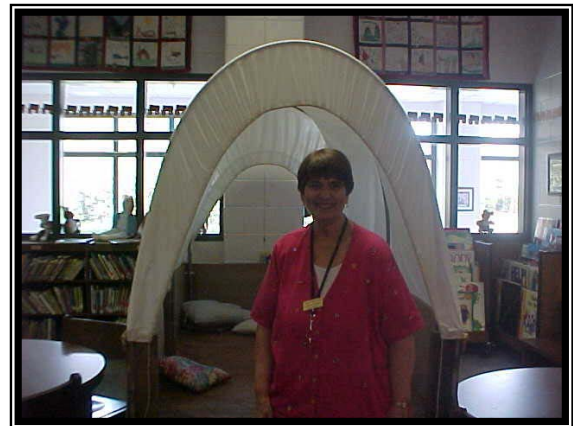


## **Exemplary Media Programs Announced**

Congratulations to the outstanding media programs recently chosen by the Department of Education as the 2004 Exemplary Media Programs. They will be honored at the Georgia Board of Education meeting in Atlanta on May 13, 2003.

### **Carrollton Elementary: Exemplary Media Program 2004**

**Jane Toth**, Media Specialist at Carrollton Elementary (Carrollton City) stands in front of her covered wagon in her Exemplary Media Center.



### **Bonaire Middle: Exemplary Media Program 2004**



**Lisa Hill**, Media Specialist at Bonaire Middle School in Houston County in her Exemplary Media Center.

Gordon Central High School:  
Exemplary Media Program 2004



Media Specialist **Sue Gable**,  
Parapro Christy Gallman, Media  
Specialist **Cawood Cornelius** and  
Principal Allan Fort welcome  
students, staff, and visitors to  
Gordon Central High School  
(Gordon County).

**Nada Aswad** of Kennedy Elementary Center in Winder has information published  
on GALILEO. Check out her Media Center Lessons based on GALILEO at:

<http://www.galileo.usg.edu>

Choose "About GALILEO"

Choose "Resources for Teachers and Faculty"

Choose "Other Resources for Teachers"

Choose "Media Center lessons based on GALILEO."



Have a restful, wonderful, and  
safe summer.

The next issue of Media  
Matters will be August 2004.

Questions? Comments?






Email **Judy Serritella** at [jserrite@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jserrite@doe.k12.ga.us).

Georgia Department of Education  
Kathy Cox, State Superintendent



# MAY 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<a href="#">Clean Air Month</a>	<a href="#">Get Caught Reading Month</a>	<a href="#">National Book Month</a>	<a href="#">Reading is Fun Week (May 2-9)</a>	<a href="#">Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-12)</a>		<b>1</b> Birthday of Bobbie Ann Mason: 1940-
<b>2</b> Dr. Benjamin Spock born: 1902-1998	<b>3</b> Birthday of Yehuda Amichai: 1924-2000	<b>4</b> Horace Mann born: 1796-1859	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo Leo Lionni born: 1910-1999	<b>6</b> Willie Mays born: 1931- Theodore White born: 1915-	<b>7</b> Birthday of Robert Browning: 1812-1889	<b>8</b> Harry S Truman born: 1884-1972 
<b>9</b> Birthday of Eleanor Estes: 1906-1988	<b>10</b> Mandela inaugurated: 1994 	<b>11</b> Irving Berlin born: 1888-1989	<b>12</b> Birthday of Yogi Berra: 1925	<b>13</b> Birthday of Stevie Wonder: 1950-	<b>14</b> Jamestown founded: 1607	<b>15</b> Birthdays of: L. Frank Baum, Katherine Ann Porter, Paul Zindel
<b>16</b> Birthdays of Studs Turkel and Elizabeth Peabody	<b>17</b> Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education: 1954	<b>18</b> Mt. St. Helens erupts: 1980 	<b>19</b> Johns Hopkins born: 1795-1873	<b>20:</b> Birthday of John Stuart Mill: 1806-181873	<b>21</b> American Red Cross founded: 1881	<b>22</b> Arthur Conan Doyle born: 1859-1930 
<b>23</b> 1st kindergarten in United States: 1827	<b>24</b> Brooklyn Bridge opens: 1883	<b>25</b> Birthday of Ralph Waldo Emerson: 1803-1882	<b>26</b> Birthday of Sally Ride: 1951- 	<b>27</b> Golden Gate Bridge opened: 1937	<b>28</b> Ian Fleming born: 1908-1964	<b>29</b> Patrick Henry born: 1736-1799
<b>30</b> Joan of Arc martyred: 1431	<b>31</b> 1st U.S. Copyright Law: 1790	<a href="#">National Egg Month</a>	<a href="#">Be Kind of Animals Week (May 2-8)</a>	<a href="#">National Historic Preservation Week (May 3-9)</a>	<a href="#">Mother Goose Day (May 1)</a>	<b>School Principal's Day (May 1)</b>

## A Salute to Willie Mae Keels

Story by Connie Worley

Mrs. Willie Mae Keels, media specialist at Big A Elementary in Stephens County, retiring after 52 years in education.

After graduation from Morris Brown in 1953, Mrs. Keels began her teaching career at the Whitman Street School in Toccoa, Georgia. She taught middle grades and high school in Social Studies. It was also at the Whitman Street School that she began her career in the library. The school did not have a library at the time. When she was asked to become a teacher-librarian, she attended Atlanta University in Atlanta for certification in Library Science.



In 1968, Mrs. Keels became the librarian at Toccoa Elementary School. In 1972, she moved to Big A Elementary, where she has been ever since. Mrs. Keels has seen a lot of changes in the media center, and not just the name change from library to media center and librarian to media specialist. She has also witnessed the introduction of computers into the media center, automating the media center, and has learned two library management software programs over the years – Alexandria and Winnebago Spectrum. During her tenure at Big A, she had the daunting task of moving the entire library into a new school building. The faculty at Big A Elementary has shown their respect of Mrs. Keels by selecting her as Teacher of the Year for Big A School on two occasions. "Many changes have come about since being a Media Specialist," says Keels, "especially learning and using the many technologies, Accelerated Reader Program, library scheduling, books fairs, and many other programs."

Besides influencing the students and teachers at the schools where Mrs. Keels has worked, she has also inspired others to follow in her footsteps as a media specialist. Mrs. Connie Worley, who is now a media specialist at Liberty Elementary, and Mrs. Nancy Fleming, a media specialist in Gwinnett County, both had the privilege of volunteering for Mrs. Keels where they were mentored in the ways of librarianship.

Mrs. Keels is a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where she serves as a Sunday School and Church Secretary as well as an advisor for the Youth Department, a member of the Busy Bee Club, Pastors Aide Club, Senior Mission, and Chairman of the Busy Bee Program Committee.

Mrs. Keels is also very active in the community, where she is a board member for the Boys and Girls Club and board member for the Toccoa-Stephens County Literacy Council, where she has served as President for 2 years. She is also Worthy Matron of Aquarius Chapter 334, OES and Secretary for Amvets Ladies Auxiliary.

"I will miss this job," says Keels, "because I enjoy working with people, especially children." After retirement Mrs. Keels plans to travel, volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club, be a tutor at the Toccoa-Stephens County Literacy Council, and continue to work with the youth in her church and community.