

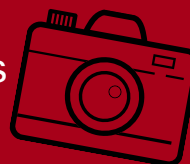
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY CONNECTIONS

Quarterly Publication of the Alabama Association of School Psychologists



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- Marigold Effect
- Member Pictures



Fall Professional Development Opportunities

- **September 7** @11:30am - Virtual Lunch n Learn
- **October 12** @11:30 - Virtual Lunch n Learn
- **November 6-8** - AASP Fall Conference

Use the link below to register online. Check payments should be mailed to the address below. Please note that the address has changed.

AASP

1052 53rd St S.

Birmingham, AL 35222

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- Consider purchasing Best Practices in School Psychology 7 so you have the latest guidance at your fingertips at the beginning of the school year. The new digital edition offers a 1-year access option for the most affordable choice.
- Get ready for the first issue of Communiqué in the new magazine format! The issue should arrive in your mailbox before the end of August. As a little preview of what you'll find in this issue, you'll read the surprising story of how morning arrival duty shaped one school psychologist's year, what AI means for our profession, how to engage families in the IEP process, how to raise awareness about weight stigma, and more. The cover story is the perfect lead-in to a new year, with a focus on phasing out ineffective programs to free up resources for more effective alternatives.
- As we embark on a new school year, you may be thinking about becoming more engaged in the profession at large. Here's one quick and meaningful way to get started:
- The House Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee's FY24 Appropriations bill seeks to dramatically cut vital funding that would affect our students and address workforce shortages. You can use our prewritten letter to contact your elected officials about critical educational investments for FY24. It only takes a minute and, together, our collective voices make a big impact.

WE NEED YOU!

THE **GPR COMMITTEE** IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A CO-CHAIR PLEASE EMAIL CORCORAN@UAB.EDU IF INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE - WE PLAN TO PUT OUT THIS NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY AND WE NEED HELP. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE CORCORAN AT CORCORAN@UAB.EDU.

ETHICS COMMITTEE - HELP SERVE AS AN ADVISOR AND RESOURCE FOR ETHICAL ISSUES. IF INTERESTED, CONTACT ALISTAFFORD1@GMAIL.COM

REGION 7 REP - FILLED! PLEASE WELCOME KIMBERLY HOLMES!!





THE MARIGOLD EFFECT

Many gardeners follow a concept called companion planting: placing certain vegetables and plants near each other to improve growth for one or both plants. For example, rose growers plant garlic near their roses because it repels bugs and prevents fungal diseases. Among companion plants, the marigold is one of the best: It protects a wide variety of plants from pests and harmful weeds. If you plant a marigold beside most any garden vegetable, that vegetable will grow big and strong and healthy, protected and encouraged by its marigold.

Marigolds exist in our schools as well – encouraging, supporting and nurturing staff. If you can find at least one marigold in your school and stay close to them, you will grow. Find more than one and you will positively thrive.

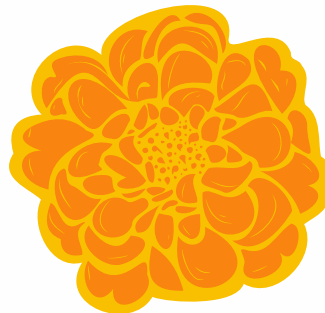
This school year, let's seek marigolds out. You can identify them by the way they make you feel when you're with them: Are you calmer, more hopeful? Excited to get started on tasks? If you feel good around this person, chances are they have some marigold qualities. Once you've identified your marigolds, make an effort to spend time with them. Having a hard day? Go to your marigolds. Confused by something the principal said at the faculty meeting? Marigolds. Make the effort to find your marigolds and to be a marigold.

BEWARE THE WALNUT TREES

While seeking out your marigolds, you'll need to take note of the walnut trees. Successful gardeners avoid planting vegetables anywhere near walnut trees, which give off a toxic substance that can inhibit growth, wilt, and ultimately kill nearby vegetable plants. And sadly, if your school is like most, walnut trees will be abundant. Here are some signs that you should keep your distance: Their take on the kids is negative. Their take on the administration is negative. Being around them makes you feel insecure, discouraged, overwhelmed, or embarrassed.

WALNUT TREES ARE POISON. Avoid them whenever you can. If you don't, they will start to infect you.

Doing this may be a challenge: Your supervisor might be a walnut tree. You might work on a whole team of walnut trees. Touching base with your marigolds will help flush out the toxins that build up from contact with the walnut trees. On top of that, simply identifying certain co-workers as walnut trees can help dilute their power over you. Try to recognize that you are surrounded, hold tight to your roots, and remember your marigolds.



Play heese

