

MARCH 7TH 2005

# ABBOTSFORD TRADITIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- IMPORTANT DATES
- UPPER SUMAS AND BARROWTOWN GRADE 7 ORIENTATION – MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>



- ANNIE JR – MATINEES MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>, EVENING PERFORMANCE MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, DINNER THEATRE AND SILENT AUCTION MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>
- RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY – MARCH 18 – 11:30
- SCHOOL WEBSITE LOTS OF GREAT INFORMATION [WWW.ATSS.CA](http://WWW.ATSS.CA)

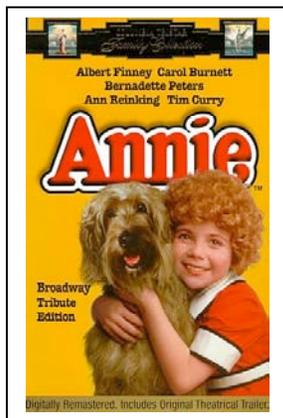
REMINDER  
OUR NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ATSS.CA](http://WWW.ATSS.CA)  
FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ATSS



## Buy Your Tickets Today!

# Musical Theatre

## March 15 & 16



Parents are urged to purchase their tickets for dinner theatre as soon as possible so that we can organize the amount of food we need to prepare!

### Show Times – don't miss out on our very first ATSS Musical Theatre

- Monday March 14 at 12:30 – pre performance – there will be a small audience
- Tuesday March 15– 12:30 matinee performance – students from other schools will join us for this performance
- Tuesday March 15 – 7:30 evening performance – tickets \$3.00 – all ATSS parents and students are invited to see the show
- Wednesday March 16 – 9:30 our first performance for 300 King students and 150 Simpson students.
- Wednesday March 16 – Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction – 6:30 – dinner, 7:30 performance – tickets –

# Silent Auction

We need your help – we are looking for donations for our silent auction. Donations of a variety of items, both large and small (small items can be put into baskets) would be most appreciated. We would also appreciate services (eg. an oil change, the use of a cabin for a weekend, yard work, a portrait sketch, etc). Please bring items to the school office – thank you.

# \$69.9 Million iBook Deal in Georgia

Superintendent Joe Redden is recommending a \$69.9 million lease agreement with Apple Computer to provide more than 63,000 wireless laptops to teachers and students in Georgia's Cobb County School District. If approved by the school board on March 9, Cobb County's "Power to Learn" program will be among the largest one-to-one learning projects in the United States.

The price tag for the program, scheduled to be implemented in three phases, could amount to more than \$88 million, but in March, the Cobb County school board is being asked to consider the \$69.9 million commitment expected to take the program through its first four years. Additional funding would be needed in the out years. Redden told *eSchool News* he is asking the board to approve the program one phase at a time.

Redden and his team announced the selection of the Apple product on Feb. 9, citing a tentative four-year agreement that reportedly would provide 63,000 iBook G4 laptop computers, including software, maintenance, and training at \$350 annually per machine.

One-to-one computing could become the standard in Cobb County, Ga., if the district gets an expected 63,000 wireless iBooks. Inspired by a handful of large-scale, one-to-one initiatives currently under way in such places as Maine, Michigan, and Henrico County, Va., the Cobb County venture would be among the first in the nation to provide laptop computers to both middle school and high school students. Though such programs have usually been launched in lower grades--thanks to smaller enrollments and more structured learning environments--officials in Cobb County want to get laptops into the hands of older learners, many of whom will rely on the technology as they enroll in college and enter the workforce.

Starting in 2006, the district will distribute the wireless notebook computers to every high school student in the district, providing that their schools have met the necessary readiness requirements, including the proper amount of staff training and infrastructure development. The last phase of the program would put laptops in the hands of every middle school student in the district.

"The Power to Learn program represents a tremendous step forward for education in Cobb County," he said in a statement. "Our school board members have demonstrated that their vision of educational excellence goes beyond doing things the way that they've always been done. Real leadership is about using the best technology available to help students learn in new and better ways."

It's "anytime, anywhere learning," each machine will be equipped with a bundled software package that includes Apple's versatile iLife suite, an array of editing tools used to manipulate digital photographs and movies for use with classroom presentations and other learning assignments. The computers will also feature the Microsoft Office productivity suite and AirPort Extreme for high-speed, wireless connectivity.

The machines will be powered by the latest Mac OS X operating system--one Cobb County service technicians have touted as secure and largely resistant to crippling computer viruses. The program will require those who use the computers to obtain insurance for damaged or stolen machines. Redden said the insurance will cost \$50 per year per machine.

The Power to Learn is a new means of achieving a longstanding goal. "This isn't a technology project ... that's not the focus here. It's a whole new way of teaching and learning," said superintendent Redden. He believes it's only a matter of time before the technology makes believers out of the opposition. While the technology presents its share of challenges, he says, the potential benefits far outweigh the risks.

"Research shows you can keep adding more and more computer labs and not have much effect on learning," Redden said. "But when you match each child to his or her own computer, one-to-one, you provide more opportunities for individualized instruction and the results are almost immediate. This generation has grown up in a digital world, and the children acclimate to technology very quickly. It gives many kids a whole new focus on school because the technology makes learning more engaging and interactive, and the fact that it's wireless means students have access anywhere, anytime."

**Compare with our ATSS program...**

## The Key to Better Reading

Ever get to the bottom of a page and wonder what you just read? You are not alone! Most people's reading comprehension is not very good. Our minds wander. In fact, studies show that average retention is 2% after 30 days. There is a secret to doing much better. A brain secret!

Your brain works best from the big picture to the details. Not the other way around. Ever do a jigsaw puzzle? That picture on the lid helped! Could you have put the puzzle together without the picture? Probably. Would it take longer? Yes. Is there a greater chance you would become discouraged and stop working on the puzzle? Certainly. Again, have you ever got to the bottom of a page that you just read and asked, "What did I just read?" Odds are your brain went sideways for the same reason....no picture. When you pick up something and just start reading it is pretty much the same as trying to put a jigsaw puzzle together without the big picture.

So what is the secret of much better reading comprehension and retention? SCHEMA.

Schema is a word that means mental map. It is what you know about a topic before you read about it. That is what determines comprehension! Good schema equals good comprehension.

Here is a great way to get improved schema when you read any non-fiction material. Read the first sentence of each paragraph only all the way through the chapter. This is one of my very favourite learning strategies that I teach people in my speed-reading seminars! The first sentence of each paragraph contains the main idea or the topic sentence. When you read the first sentence of each paragraph you get the big picture. When you read the details later they have a place to "stick" in your brain.

Try it now. Get a book. Turn to a chapter that you have not read. Quickly read the firsts sentence of each paragraph. I think you will be quite surprised at what your brain does. Now when you read the chapter notice the improvement!!



Interested in a computer security cable. Contact Mrs. McDonough in the main office.

# National Institute on Media and the Family MediaWise e-News

Dr. David Walsh to appear as expert on 60 Minutes  
Segment on Video Games

Dr. David Walsh, president and founder of the National Institute on Media and the Family, will appear on CBS's *60 Minutes* as a psychological expert on Sunday, March 6, 2005. Dr. Walsh will participate in the news magazine's segment on the role of the video game series "Grand Theft Auto" in the killing of two police officers and a dispatcher in Alabama.

Dr. Walsh was invited to appear based on his book *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen* and his standing as the country's foremost authority on the impact of violent video games on children.

The lawsuit alleges "Grand Theft Auto" led a teenage boy obsessed with the video game to fatally shoot two police officers and a dispatcher in 2003. The lawsuit is being brought by the families of the slain officers against the manufacturer of "Grand Theft Auto," Take-Two Interactive Entertainment, Wal-Mart, and Gamestop. The defendant, who was under the age of 17 at the time, purchased "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" at Wal-Mart and "Grand Theft Auto III" at Gamestop. All of the video games in the "Grand Theft Auto" series are rated M for Mature by the Entertainment Software Rating Board.

*60 Minutes* is broadcast on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. CST. Please check your local listings for times and stations in your area

## DRESS CODE

A REMINDER  
THAT ALL  
STUDENTS ARE  
EXPECTED TO  
WEAR SCHOOL  
DRESS CODE AT  
ALL TIMES.

WE HAVE  
NUMEROUS  
ITEMS IN OUR  
CONSIGNMENT  
STORE IN CASE  
YOU ARE HAVING  
DIFFICULTIES  
FINDING DRESS

# We need your help with our MUSICAL THEATRE PRESENTATION OF ANNIE



## Annie Dinner Theatre March 16th

We need  
your help with our  
musical theatre production  
of Annie Jr.

How can  
you help?

1. Buy your tickets  
for dinner theatre  
**EARLY!**



2. Bring in items for our  
**SILENT AUCTION!**

3. Sign up to help with the  
evening performance and  
serving at our **DINNER  
THEATRE!**

**Do you  
have any  
items for  
the silent  
auction?  
We need  
your help!**



### **COURSE FEES**

Course Fees for  
Semester Two  
are due now..

If you have not  
paid your first  
term fees,  
please do so as  
soon as  
possible in the  
school office.