

## Lucius named Distinguished Principal

BY GINNY MILLER  
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ECRU - Known for her smart suits and high heels, "prissy principal" Lisa Lucius has a new title - Mississippi's National Distinguished Principal.

"You are the sum of all the people and things that touch your life, and my staff and my students have done that," Lucius, principal of North Pontotoc Elementary School for six years, said at a surprise celebration Thursday in the school gym.

"Every day, boys and girls, you fascinate me," Lucius said. "I love each and every one of you."

The award comes from the Mississippi Association of Elementary School Administrators, which director Carolyn McGehee said also considered principals from Olive Branch, Jackson and the Gulf Coast.

"It was a pretty rigorous process," McGehee said. "You're looking for integrity, character and leadership both in your school and community."

Among the gifts for Lucius were two binders full of letters about what makes her special.

One student's letter referred to the principal's penchant for pearls and shiny high heels. Another student called Lucius the "prissy principal" and wanted to know "Do you ever get hot in your suits?"

Her nickname came from a fourth-grader's essay, Lucius said. "They can hear my heels clicking down the hall."

Also at the ceremony, Mayor Tom Todd gave Lucius a key to the city and proclaimed the day "Lisa B. Lucius Day" in ECRU. And the staff and PTO chipped in with money for Lucius' upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony.

"She is a sweetheart, a dedicated teacher," said second-grade teacher Debbie Edge. "She wants only the best for these babies, whatever it takes."

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