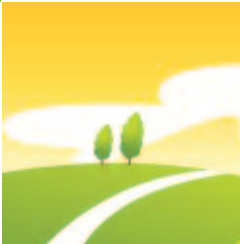


# FROM THE EDITOR

## The Dog Days of Summer



**G**rowing up, I was not a big fan of August. Other than the fact that it's the month my mom and sister were born, there wasn't much to recommend it, unless you are one of those people who loves heat, humidity, and wet vacing the walls.

But, in terms of producing a magazine, I love the August issue. It seems like we do some of our best work in this month as a staff, even with a much larger "Back to School" issue on the horizon for September.

Last year, Senior Editor Del Stover examined the 40th anniversary of the Detroit and Newark riots in his award-winning story, "Summer of Fate" (available online in the ASBJ.com archive). This year, our August cover story is "The Risk Paradox," where Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy takes a new twist on an old theme—"school reform."

Some administrators and board members no doubt transpose those words when discussing how their roles have changed, but there is no question that school reform is an ongoing conversation in schools, board rooms, and central offices across the country. The perspectives from our panel of experts, combined

with examples of how various reforms have affected local districts, make for compelling reading.

Also this month, we present our third annual guide for new school board members, with additional advice for new administrators. The section is chock-full of good advice for school leaders, with a few war stories and lessons learned, some harder than others.

We would especially like to thank members of the *ASBJ* Reader Panel and the local board members who are serving at the state level for their contributions. My first issue in the transition to editor-in-chief coincided with our first new board member guide in August 2006, and I'm glad that we have continued to find ways to evolve and grow the section.

And perhaps you'll agree with me—August isn't such a bad month after all.

Coming in September: An exciting and timely look at how immigration and diversity issues are affecting your schools, plus the start of a year-long multimedia project on school consolidation.

Until then...

*Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief*