

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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January 1998

Newsletter No. 5 Volume 53

Calendar Of Events

January

- 1 New Year's Day; a legal school holiday - Regional Office closed
- 2 ROE closed
- 9 Meeting The Challenge VIII Sauk Valley Com. College
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance; a legal school holiday - ROE closed
- 20-21 Vision and Hearing Challand Junior High School
- 22-23 Vision and Hearing Rock Falls High School
- 27 Vision and Hearing Morrison High School
- 28 Vision and Hearing Newman High
- 28 Commemorative school holiday honoring Christa McAuliffe
- 29 Vision and Hearing St. Mary's School Comm. Catholic Middle School

4TH & 5TH GRADE CONTIG COMPETITION

March 5, 1998 is the date for the annual CONTIG math competition for area 4th and 5th grade students. It will be held at Southside Elementary School in Morrison. This fun math game challenges students to use a combination of mathematical operations using three numbers from rolled dice to cover "contiguous" numbers on a game board. Each district may send two 4th graders and two 5th graders to the county competition. Information has been sent to each building principal. For additional information, contact Lorna Engwall at the Regional Office.

WHITESIDE COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The 16th annual Whiteside County Spelling Bee will be held on **March 28, 1998** at Morrison Junior High School. The district coordinators' dinner meeting will be held at the American Legion in Morrison on January 8, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss this year's bee and distribute materials. We anticipate another fine competition and wish all of the students good luck as they prepare for their district competition.

HOLIDAY HOURS

This office will be **closed** for the holidays December 24 through January 2, 1998. If you need an appointment during that time please call this office before 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 or contact Gary at his home .

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Potpourri of Internet Sites of Interest

<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow/vshadow2.htm>

Civil War History of Virginia and Pennsylvania

This site is an actual archive, updated continually. Available is the "archive map" which allows students to access information about a particular battle from a myriad of perspectives. (This site also contains little-known battles fought on Illinois soil.)

<http://sunsite.unc.edu/ibic/IBIC-homepage.htm>

World-Wide Web Virtual Library

This site contains pointers to libraries and electronic text worldwide. Some links categorized on this site include: authors, virtual review of books, newsgroups relating to books, and world literature.

Web Sites Available

The Whiteside Regional Office of Education encourages districts to take advantage of our Internet Web Server for hosting school web sites.

This service allows schools to have a "homepage" without requiring a dedicated Internet connection or server. Schools taking advantage of this so far include Morrison High School, Montmorency, Tampico Elementary, Tampico Middle School, Rock Falls High School, Bi-County Special Ed Co-op, and Sauk Valley Comm. College Learning Resource Center.

If you are interested in this free service, contact Regional Superintendent Gary Steinert at 815/625-1495.

Grants Information

The NSF (National Science Foundation) is offering grants to promote advancement of disabled students in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. July 15, 1998 is the deadline for preliminary proposals.

Funding will be available in four categories: demonstration projects, research and development projects, information dissemination projects, and institutionalization of experimental projects.

For further information, contact the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, 703/306-1234. Refer to CFDA No. 47.076. Or visit the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

The Department of Education is offering grants to enhance bilingual education for limited English students enrolled in early childhood education, K-12, gifted and talented education programs, and vocational and technology programs. Deadline to apply is January 20, 1998.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave. SW, Room 5090, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-6510.

Survival Spanish For Educators (LAN 163)

Survival Spanish for Educators is a class to be offered for three hours of credit through Sauk Valley Community College for the spring semester on Monday and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. from January 12

through May 11, 1998. Registration is still being accepted at Sauk Valley Community College. If you need further information, please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE, 815/625-1495.

Gifted Education

Level II of the Gifted Education Training will be offered through the ROE in June. Be watching in the spring newsletters for registration information.

Plans will be made to offer a three-hour class in Gifted Education with credit from Aurora University during the summer if there is sufficient interest to warrant it.

Please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE if you would be interested. A decision can be made by April 1.

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New Board Member Workshops

New Board Member Workshops provide an overview of legal, finance, board/superintendent, policy and governance issues. Newly-elected or first-year board members should plan to attend. Workshop dates are January 16-17, Effingham; January 23-24 Springfield, and January 30-31 Oak Brook. For more information contact the ROE.

U.S. Postal Service: *Celebrate The Century*

In January 1998, the postal service in partnership with the U. S. Department of Education will unveil *Celebrate the Century*, an historical stamp program. Teachers may request [free materials](#) for a two-year program, primarily for grades 3-6, that will integrate 20th century history throughout the curriculum by decades beginning with the 1950s, and concluding with an overview of the 1900s through the 1940s.

While *Celebrate the Century* will honor the nation's past with these commemorative stamps, the U.S. Postal Service will also encourage students to illustrate their vision of the future by participating in an international student stamp design contest. In the U.S. the contest will run from September 9 through October 31, 1998. Two finalists will be selected from each state. Four winning stamp designs will be unveiled in the third quarter of 1999 and issued in the year 2000. Teachers interested in receiving these free materials may write to Celebrate the Century, U.S. Postal Service, PO Box 44342, Washington, D.C. 20078-0026.

Meeting The Challenge VIII: Fine Arts Conference

January 9, 1998, is the date of the eighth annual Meeting The Challenge Conference to be held at Sauk Valley Community College for persons who are involved with fine arts curriculum in a fine arts or regular classroom. Workshop sessions will address the areas of music, dance, visual arts, and theatre. Ron Engstrom of ISBE will also address the fine arts section of the IGAP test and its implication to educators who are charged with implementation of the fine arts standards.

Trip for Teachers to Our Nation's Capital

A visit to Washington, D.C., Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Mount Vernon has been planned for June 27 - July 5, 1998 through Corporate and Community Services at Sauk Valley Community College. You can celebrate our Nation's 222nd birthday tracing its history from its earliest beginnings to present time. For full information of itinerary, cost, and registration procedure, please contact Anne Frame at 815/772-7923.

New Report Links Fathers' Involvement with Children's Academic Success

On October 2, Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley released a new report entitled *Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools*. The report describes the extent to which fathers and mothers are involved in their children's learning. Parental involvement was also higher when the school provided a safe, disciplined learning environment and when teachers and students respected each other. The report also found that, while having one parent actively involved in a child's education is important, having both parents involved strengthened a child's chances for academic success.

Key findings of the report included: children are more likely to get mostly A's, and less likely to repeat a grade, if their fathers are involved in their schools; children do better in school when their fathers are involved, regardless of whether their fathers live with them and whether their mothers are also involved; many fathers in two-parent families, as well as fathers not living with their children, have low involvement; single fathers are far more likely to be involved in their children's schools than fathers in two-parent families; the relationships between fathers' involvement and children's success in school are important, regardless of income, race-ethnicity, or the parent's education.

To obtain free copies of *Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools*, call the National Library of Education at 1-800-424-1616 or visit <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs98fathers/index.html>.

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Unfilled Teaching Positions

Speech Pathologist - Bi County Spec. Ed. Cooperative. Contact Bill Urban, 3807 Woodlawn Rd., Sterling, IL 61081, 815/622-0858.

2-Psychologists - Bi County Spec. Ed. Cooperative. Contact Bill Urban, 3807 Woodlawn Rd., Sterling, IL 61081, 815/622-0858.

Physical Therapist - Bi County Spec. Ed. Cooperative. Contact Bill Urban, 3807 Woodlawn Rd., Sterling, IL 61081, 815/622-0858.

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STARLAB CHECKOUT

This is a reminder to all teachers in Whiteside County that the ROE has a Starlab available for checkout on a one-week basis during the school year. This is an excellent tool for teaching astronomy and is a valuable aid in helping to achieve the portion of the new academic standards, just adopted by the State of Illinois, that pertain to environment and earth science.

In order to check out the Starlab, you must have gone through the training in the use of the lab. If you have had this training and you desire to utilize this teaching tool, contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE office by calling 815/625-1495.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Morrison, IL 61270
Permit No. 93

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday
After 4:30 p.m. by Appointment

Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program

ISBE has announced the availability of applications for the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship program for experienced and outstanding teachers. Fellowships may be used for 1) a one-year sabbatical of study, research or academic improvement; 2) consultation with or assistance to other school districts or private school systems; 3) development of innovative programs; 4) projects or partnerships that involve the business community and schools; 5) programs that incorporate the use and sharing of technologies to help students learn and 6) expanding or replicating model programs of staff development.

Awards will be used for projects that demonstrate effective:

1. use of technology in teaching and learning,
2. approaches for professional development supportive of student achievement of high standards,
3. models of meaningful parent/community participation, and
4. models that promote safe learning environments.

Two fellowships, one for FY97 and one for FY98, will be awarded at a maximum of \$36,783 each. Both fellowships must be completed during the 1998-99 school year. Deadline for completing the application is Friday, February 20. Please contact the Regional Office of Education for more information.