

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## *Educational Highlights*



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### Calendar Of Events

#### February

#### American History Month

**9-13** Pride in Food Service  
Week

**12** Abraham Lincoln's birthday;  
a legal school holiday

**15** Commemorative holiday  
honoring Susan B. Anthony

**16** Presidents' Day -  
Regional Office closed

**20, 23-24**  
Vision and Hearing  
Sterling High School

#### March

**5** Whiteside County CONTIG  
Southside School, Morrison

**28** Whiteside County  
SPELLING BEE  
Morrison Junior High

### Teachers' Retirement System Individual Conferences

*This* office, in cooperation with the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System, is pleased to announce the scheduling of a consultation session for Whiteside County. Any member of the system who has questions about his or her credit record or retirement expectations may apply for an individual conference with a representative of the Retirement System's staff. Each conference will be approximately 15 minutes in duration. Spouses and/or financial advisers are welcome and encouraged to attend these sessions with the representative so they also may be aware of benefits available. The conferences will be scheduled from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m., February 26 in the Regional Superintendent's office, 1001 West 23rd Street, Sterling. Every effort is made to schedule individuals at the time they request; however, it is asked that everyone remain as flexible as possible. There will be telephone consultation appointments available between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

In order for the TRS people to secure record information for use in these conferences, individual applications must be sent to the Regional Superintendent's office at least four weeks ahead of the conference date. It is important to secure application forms from the Regional Superintendent's office as soon as possible and return completed applications no later than February 9. Requests for reservation forms can be obtained from the Regional Superintendent's office by mailing in the written request or by telephoning 815/625-1495.

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## Potpourri of Internet Sites of Interest

For grades 4 - 6:

**http://www.eduplace.com/kids/book**

The Reading Dimension is designed to get students in grades 3-8 excited about literature. Houghton Mifflin Company recommends books by grade level. The site offers author information, activities based on the story, and other links. Teacher tips are also provided for before and after the reading activities.

**URL: <http://www.judyblume.com/home.html>**

Judy Blume's Home Page offers your students everything they wanted to know about the author and her famous children's books. She also provides writing tips and explains about censorship.

Think Quest offers a yearly interactive project for students ages 12 -19 to form teams and create innovative educational Web sites. This month try these sites for a new project for your class.

**URL: <http://tqd.advanced.org/3654>**

The Storybook of Geometry: This site takes visitors through the basics of geometry to show how it relates to real world situations, as students solve problems in a fun, entertaining way.

**URL: <http://tqd.advanced.org/3088>**

EduStock introduces students to the stock market and the inner workings of the Stock Exchange, brokerage firms, and mutual funds. EduStock also provides a free on-line stock market simulation.

## ROE Lending Library Has...

1. A series of 10 video tapes entitled *Field Trip*, for grades 2 - 6, each approximately 25 minutes, covering these topics: Fermilab, Washington Post, Whale Watching, Challenger Learning Center, Disney World Animation Studios, Kings Dominion, Denver International Airport, National Museum of African Art & Music, U.S. Naval Academy, and Sea World. This is an Emmy Award winning program.
2. A video, *The Incredible Classroom Eggsperience*, for middle-high school Family and Consumer Science, 16 minutes.
3. Subscription to *Semnet News*, the bi-monthly curriculum plans and resources, for K - 12, on a broad topic for the issue, (e.g. Ecology, Archaeology).
4. Subscription to *Title I Monitor*, a monthly report for Title I personnel.
5. Subscription to *Classroom Connect*, the K-12 educator's practical guide to using the Internet in the classroom.
6. 23 Polaroid Instamatic 600 cameras: Cameras and curriculum plans for photography in the classroom; film is not provided and will be at user's expense.

Come in and browse in the library and check out materials to enhance your teaching. These materials are for you!

## Survival Spanish Starts

Eleven students, guided by the instructor Jenny Garcia-Macko, bilingual teacher at Washington School in Sterling, have begun the process of acquiring Spanish language skills to communicate with bi-lingual parents and students, in a three-hour course offered through Sauk Valley Community College at Sterling High School. The class includes parents, administrators, teachers, and secretaries. When one of the students was asked, "What have you learned thus far?", her immediate response was "Como puedo ayudarle?", translating to "How may I help you?" If there is interest in a summer class as a follow-up or for another beginning class, please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

## Summer Gifted Program

Northwestern University will sponsor a three week summer enrichment program for gifted/talented students currently completing grades 7, 8, or 9, who have tested in the 95% percentile or higher on in-school achievement tests. It will be held July 12-August 2 at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. For further information, contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

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## SERVICES

- **Laminating** - If you would like to laminate your school materials, etc., stop by and use the laminating machine. Cost is \$.50 per foot. If you would like our office to do the laminating for you, the cost is \$1.00 per foot.
- **Ellison Letter Machine** - You may use the Ellison letter machine either at the office for \$2 per use or off-site for \$10 per day with you picking up the machine and returning it.
- **Consultations** - If you have questions pertaining to: (1) school improvement, assessment, quality assurance, REI, gifted, please contact Betty Clementz; (2) scientific literacy, please contact Paul Cannon; (3) Adm. Academy, please contact Bob Marinangeli; and (4) technology, retired professional service core, contact Gary Steinert. Although Bob and Paul are not in the office on a full-time basis, we will be sure to get your questions answered. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.
- **GED Testing** - The Regional Office of Education is a testing site. If you know someone who wants to take his/her GED tests and is qualified, that individual can take the test in our office. For more information, contact this office at 815/625-1495.
- **Even Start Family Education Program** - Even Start is an individualized, home-based family education program that brings parents and children together in learning. If you know of a family that has a parent who wants to work towards a GED or improve English as a Second Language skills, has a child between birth and seven years of age, and lives in Whiteside County, please give the office a call and ask to talk to Mary Gospodarczyk.

## Internal Review: Pilot Program Being Sought

Any school district in Whiteside County that would like to pilot a process for internal review in 1997-98 may apply to the ROE for assistance. By the 1998-99 school year all school districts in Illinois will be required to have in place a process for an annual internal review. To assist schools in developing this process, the ROE has applied for a grant to help schools in planning the process they will use. Details will be distributed to district administrators upon acceptance of the grant.

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## StarNet: Programs Taped Upon Request

StarNet, formerly TI-IN, provides elementary, middle/high school enrichment and professional development programs throughout the school year. The Regional Office of Education is offering to all schools in Whiteside County the service of viewing on site or providing a videotape of the program. The schedule of programs and a request to view form for the fourth quarter will be mailed to all principals in late February. Tapes may be kept until the end of the school year. Contact Betty Clementz at the ROE with your requests for StarNet programs.

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## REI: Regular Education Initiative

Level I teams will be meeting for the fourth training session on February 10th. The focus of the day will be to provide alternative methods of presentation of curriculum to special education students. All team members are being asked to bring all their materials for one unit of curriculum that they will teach in the remainder of the school year. Hands-on preparation of lesson plans should produce curriculum materials for all participants. Three schools with 9 participants are in Level I.

Level II and Level III teams are in the midst of studying or replicating a program of REI that will benefit the students in their building. Mini-grants have been awarded to five teams of 19 participants at Level II and to 3 teams with 8 participants at Level III. All mini-grants are monies reimbursed to participating districts for purchased services and materials and supplies. All Level II and III team contacts should receive a letter by the middle of February finalizing the deadline for expenditures and submission of mini-grant reimbursement forms and procedures to follow.

REI is alive and well in Whiteside County, as thirty-six educators are receiving training in helping students to learn and succeed.

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## **National Rural Education Association Foundation Essay Contest**

**T**his essay contest is open to all students in grades three to twelve who attend a rural school. Any rural K-12 classroom teacher whose school is within a community served by a Rural Electric Cooperative or whose students' homes are served by a rural electric cooperative qualifies for the ten mini-grants of \$250 each to be expended during the 1998-99 school year for classroom-based projects.

Students must address the question: "How can schools and communities work together to improve rural schools?" and be limited to 250 words for the elementary entry and 500 words for each junior or senior high entry.

Projects are to feature student investigation of some aspect of the science of energy or electricity, and should meet the needs (and curiosity) of your students. You may want to study the local geology (as it relates to energy), or the history of hydro-electric generation in your community, or alternative sources of energy for the next generation. The project should be limited only by the imagination of your students and the resources you have available

Funding may be used for anything that will enable you and your students to complete the project, such as buying some time (hiring some help), paying for field trips, or buying some books or software or a piece of equipment. A brief estimate of expenditures totaling \$250 should be included with the proposal.

Entries must be postmarked by June 15. Further information can be obtained by calling Dr. Joe Newlin at 970/491-7022.

## **Starlab Checkout**

**T**his 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.

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## **James Madison Foundation Fellowship**

**S**econdary school teachers who teach about the U.S. Constitution may apply before March 1 for a \$24,000 federally endowed fellowship through the James Madison Foundation. The program provides for master's level graduate study in the teaching of the Constitution. For information, contact Dr. Virginia Leonard, Western Illinois University, 309/298-1053 or 298-1387.

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## **Meeting The Challenge VIII: A Success**

**M**ore than a hundred educators gathered at Sauk Valley Community College on January 9, 1998, for the eighth annual fine art conference sponsored jointly by Whiteside Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College. Workshops provided educators with curriculum and demonstrations in the areas of Visual Art, Drama, Dance, and Music that are adaptable to the classroom. ISBE Coordinator, Ron Engstrom, also gave an update on the Standards and the Fine Art Assessment portion of IGAP. Keynote address was given by Valeria Evans of Peoria, 1997 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Whatever the area of fine art, participants agreed that Meeting The Challenge IX was definitely in their plans for next year.

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## **Young Authors Conference**

Illinois' 24th Statewide Young Authors Conference will be held May 16, at Illinois State University campus in Normal. Registrations are due March 6. For further information, contact this office.

## **Camp Lions**

Camp Lions' goal is the overall growth of the individual child in self-confidence, knowledge, independence, leadership, and creativity through a specialized learning and recreational experience geared to individual needs. The counselor/camper ratio is 1:3. Boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 17 years old who are VISUALLY IMPAIRED or HEARING IMPAIRED are eligible for camp. For camping purposes, a hearing impairment is one that adversely affects speech and language development and the ability to communicate. The camper must be able to communicate with the assistance of a hearing aid or by the use of sign language, finger-spelling, lip reading, or speech. ALL CAMPERS MUST BE AMBULATORY AND ABLE TO PERFORM SELF HELP SKILLS.

This year camp will be from Sunday to Saturday so that parents will be able to transport their child to and from camp without having to take time off from work. There is a Northern Camp in Dixon, July 26-August 1.

Applications for all sessions must be in by May 1. For more information or an application, contact this office at 815/625-1495.

## **Science Corner - Paul Cannon**

Many teachers in the county currently have access to the Internet either in their classrooms or through the school computer lab. I have found some resources that may be of assistance to those teachers who want to find other schools willing to participate in on-line projects with their class.

The following web site (<http://www.athena.ivv.nasa.gov/curri/schools.html>). Type in this web address and click on the link to "Arbor Heights Elementary School." This will give you a wealth of interesting links to check out. If you click on the link entitled "Web 66, School List," you will be provided with a map of the United States. Clicking on a state will provide a list of schools in that state that are participating in on-line projects. Teachers then can contact those schools via e-Mail regarding the possibility of a collaborative project/information sharing. In addition to links to schools in the United States, there are also opportunities to link with schools in Europe, Australia, Japan, Canada, and other parts of the world as well. Check it out!

If you're a middle school teacher looking for some great new web sites for your students, check out Eastchester Middle School's list of Terrific Web Sites Just for Middle School Kids (<http://www.westnet.com/~rickd/Kids.html>). You'll find links to sites for art, computers, English, math, science, and social studies. There also are some links to sites that are just plain fun!

Some other science related sites to check out:

Volcano World, found at <http://volcano.und.nodak.edu>

Tree of Life, found at <http://phylogeny.arizona.edu/tree/phylogeny.html>

Virtual Frog, can be found at <http://www-itg.lbl.gov/ITG.hm.pg.docs/dissect/info.html>

NASA Home Page, found at <http://www.nasa.gov/>

Boston Museum of Science, found at <http://www.mos.org/welcome.html>

The Nine Planets, <http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/nineplanets.html>

WebWeather, <http://www.princeton.edu/Webweather/ww.html>

The Why Files (Science behind the News), <http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu/>

National Science and Technology Week '98 is scheduled for April 26 through May 2, with resources from the National Science Foundation. The theme for the week, "Polar Connections," will challenge students to explore the world's natural laboratories of science and technology in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

To learn about student competition and get a packet of teaching activities, contact NEST Foundation, 201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA 22230; or e-Mail ([tw@nsf.gov](mailto:tw@nsf.gov)).

Wonderful Wildlife is a free K-2 awareness program that expands children's knowledge of plants and animals. Included in this program are hands-on activities and special projects, a teacher's guide, stickers, a classroom poster, and a complimentary of "Your Big Backyard" magazine. This resource is distributed by the National Wildlife Federation. Write to Barbara Carlson, Alba Kids Learning Programs, 8 School St., Bethel, CT 06801.

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## **Unfilled Teaching Positions**

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.

Gary J. Steinert  
Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Whiteside County ROE  
1001 West 23rd Street  
Sterling, IL 61081

### **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

## **Conferences**

### **February 26-28**

ILLINOIS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST ASSOCIATION 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Place: Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza  
Springfield, IL

Contact: Mark Drake  
ISPA Job Placement  
209 Constitution Dr. SW  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

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

## **ATTENTION VOCATIONAL TEACHERS**

***If*** you are interested in updating your skills and curriculum, please consider the Vocational Instruction Practicum which will pay you a stipend to work up to 20 days this summer in the field in which you teach. For further information, please call Lorna at the ROE.