

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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March 1998

Newsletter No. 7 Volume 53

Calendar Of Events

March

- 1-7 Severe Weather Preparedness week
- 2 Casimir Pulaski birthday observed - schools closed
- 2-6 National School Breakfast week
- 5 Whiteside County CONTIG Contest - Southside School, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 National Agriculture Day
- 21 County Spelling Bee - Morrison Jr. High, 10:00 a.m.
- 29 Vietnam War Veterans' Day - Commemorative Holiday

CONTIG

The Whiteside County CONTIG Math Contest will be held Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m. at Southside School in Morrison. Good luck to all participants.

SPELLING BEE

The Whiteside County Spelling Bee is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. at the Morrison Junior High School. Each school district in the county is encouraged to send their local winner and runner-up to the county finals in Morrison. We wish to take this opportunity to wish all participants good luck.

Fellow Educators,

You may or may not know that Eileen Miller lost her battle with cancer on February 3, 1998. For those of you who did not know Eileen, she worked in the regional school office for 38 years, a remarkable accomplishment for anyone. For those who knew her professionally, she will be remembered fondly as one dedicated to her work and ever grateful for the services she provided to them. Eileen was more knowledgeable in school affairs than most but never pretentious in her dealings with those she served.

I had the pleasure to work closely with Eileen for six years before she retired in 1987; hers was a friendship to treasure. I owe her a debt of gratitude for helping me to understand the workings of the regional office and the importance of helping those who needed our help.

Eileen never wanted any more than to be appreciated. I can assure Don, her husband, that for those 38 years she was appreciated by those she touched in so many ways. We have all lost, but will never forget, a true friend of education.

Gary J. Steinert

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Illinois Governmental Internship Program

The Illinois Governmental Internship Program, which is co-sponsored by the State Board of Education and the Springfield Public Schools, provides high school seniors an opportunity to earn a semester of credit while working for a government agency in Springfield. Monday through Thursday, Illinois Governmental Interns work under the guidance of management level personnel in agencies such as the Attorney General's Office, Governor's Office, Illinois Information Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Children and Family Services, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and State Board of Education. On Fridays the interns meet as a group for seminars on executive behavior and organizational analysis in which they discuss readings, meet with officials, make site visits, and often make their own presentations.

As further evidence of the serious educational nature of the IGIP, interns are required to develop performance goals identifying areas of anticipated and personal growth, to keep analytical logs of their activities, and to present a final summary of their experiences. Students must also demonstrate what they have learned in the IGIP through written or oral exams and submission of a portfolio.

High school juniors from any public or private high school in the state may submit an application now for participation in the IGIP during the fall or spring semester of their senior year. Application forms and more information can be obtained from high school counselors or from this office. Applications and all related materials must be received in Springfield by May 4.

Science Corner - Paul Cannon

There is something special about winter with its crisp nip in the air! It is a special time because the stars sparkle and shine so brightly. I love stargazing in the winter. Constellations like Orion, Taurus, Gemini, and the Pleiades are easily seen, if you know where to look. That's where one of my favorite programs can help. At the ROE Office we have a great portable planetarium, the STAR-LAB. It can present a wonderful view of the winter night sky, along with constellations seen in other seasons. Your students can learn the story of the night sky, and then go outside that evening and practice finding them in the real night sky.

You need to receive training in the use of the STARLAB before checking it out for your class. If you would be interested in such training, please call me at the ROE office and if enough people are interested, we can schedule a training for this spring or summer. Also, if you have already received the training and want to schedule the lab for your class, call Sherry Dykema at the ROE office.

Many of you will recall the science resources available through the ESC #8 when it was located in Sterling. When that structure was dissolved by ISBE, many of those resources were left in our library. They are still available for checkout. We have laser discs (Windows in Science), videos, books, lesson plan guides, kits with materials, and other resources as well. Why not come in and see what is available.

Some interesting places to check out on the Internet

<<http://www.starport.com/places/forKids>> This is an ongoing compilation of pointers to things that might be interesting to kids with access to the Web. Check out the link to science and math. You will find a number of interesting sites that I am sure you will want to Bookmark.

<<http://info.ex.ac.uk/~gjramel/six.html>> There are well over 1,000,000 different known species of insects in the world, and some experts estimate that there might be as many as 10,000,000. They are divided up into 32 orders (depending on whose taxonomic system you use) of which the largest is the Beetles (Coleoptera) with 125 different families, around 500,000 species. Check out this interesting site.

<<http://www.ex.ac.uk/bugclub/>> Do you want to cuddle a cockroach, stroke a stick insect or hug a harvestman? Do you find earthworms, beetles, bugs and other creepy crawlies fascinating or even exciting? The Bug Club is a club devoted to young people and the "young at heart" who find insects and other creepy crawlies interesting and even fascinating. Check out this Web-Site.

Other interesting Resources

<http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/TUA_Home.html> Lesson plans by grade level and subject.

<<http://www.ceismc.gatech.edu/BusyT/TOC.html>> Help obtaining lesson plans and other resources online.

<<http://teams.locoe.edu>> Links to online sites with lesson plans and projects.

<<http://www.gsh.org>> Education projects and resources online.

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Regional Center for Change

*T*he Center currently has an enrollment of seven students (ages 13-16) from seven districts. These students have been transferred from their local districts due to acts of violence, chronically disruptive behavior or possession of drugs/alcohol on school premises. Five of the students have been found eligible for expulsion from their local schools and two were transferred as a result of suspensions.

The program focuses on changing students' behaviors and attitudes and learning effective anger management techniques through the use of the P.E.A.C.E. Curriculum and an economy system with levels of responsibilities and corresponding privileges. The academic curriculum is individualized for each student. Parents and students are required to attend eight evening Parent Empowerment sessions which will be held weekly beginning in March.

If you would like more information about the Center, contact Lorna Engwall.

Illinois State Scholars Announced

*T*he Illinois Student Assistance Commission recently announced the 1998-1999 Illinois State Scholars. Of this year's scholars, 79 are Whiteside County students. Although program participation by high schools is voluntary, nearly all participate and Illinois' top students elect to have test scores on the ACT and/or the SAT I and high school class ranks sent to ISAC for consideration in this popular program. Statewide about 10% of Illinois' high school seniors are designated State Scholars and receive a Certificate of Achievement for the accomplishment.

The Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College in cooperation with service organizations throughout the county are sponsoring an Illinois State Scholars' Recognition Dinner to be held this spring. This annual event is our way of paying tribute to these excellent students for their achievements!

Internal Review

*E*ach school district is to have in place by the 1998-99 school year a process for an annual internal review of the school. To assist districts in setting up the process, the Regional Office will be offering a one-day workshop on March 31 at the Holiday Inn in Rock Falls. Each interested district should organize a team of a maximum of five persons (one administrator, three teachers, and one board/community member) per district. Superintendents have been given the registration information. If you have any questions, contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

External Reviewer Training

*W*hiteside, Lee, Ogle, and LaSalle counties will be joining to bring a training for External Reviewers to our part of the state. The dates which have been set are September 16, 17, and 18 at the Mendota Civic Center. Teachers, administrators, and community/board members are encouraged to participate in this training. Further information will be distributed to each district as the final details are completed.

REI: Regular Education Initiative

*L*evel I participants in REI met on February 10 for their fourth day of training. The activities of the day focused on the student with Learning Disabilities and applications in the classroom to help the student to overcome them. A half-day was devoted to the concept of Multiple Intelligences presented by Betty Clementz of the ROE. Level I participants were asked to develop a curricular unit of study based on this concept, teach the unit within the month, and report back the effects of this presentation of curriculum.

Level II and III participants have been completing the study of and /or implementing strategies within their schools to address the needs of the special student. Each team also received a summary of the many materials in the ROE lending library for special education. Come in and check out the many new items which have been added.

NCGE Distinguished Teaching Awards

*N*ational Council for Geographic Education recently named Linda and Glen Weatherwax as recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Awards at the NCGE convention in Orlando. Linda is a fourth grade teacher with 27 years of experience at Franklin School in Sterling. Glen is a sixth grade teacher at Chaland Middle School in Sterling. Congratulations to both of these Whiteside County teachers!

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Potpourri of Internet Sites of Interest

URL: <http://121.ed.psu.edu>

Entitled *Link To Learn*, this site is a Pennsylvania initiative to link educators with on-line learning experiences. Self-paced tutorials center on helping teachers to explore the world wide web, integrate technology, and learn HTML. Workshop kits also help trainers of internet usage to prepare a workshop. There is an enormous collection of Internet-enriched lesson plans available for each subject and grade level. It includes a plan for the lesson, an activity sheet for the student to work through the lesson, and branching out tips.

URL: <http://www.cut-the-knot.com>

This site, *Interactive Mathematics Miscellany and Puzzles*, is a collection of challenging and intriguing math puzzles and games. Whether your student is studying algebra, geometry, or probability, these puzzles will help them to learn theorems and formulas.

URL: http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

This site presents 3000 years of world history with a combination of graphics, lifelines, timelines, and maps. Timelines of famous people, events, history, science, culture, religion, and politics are all here. The history chart shows what was happening on each continent during a particular year.

Gifted Education Update

Level II of Training in Gifted Education has been set for Wednesday, June 17, Friday, June 19, and Monday, June 22. Any person who has completed Level I of Training of Gifted Education is encouraged to complete the training offered by the Regional Office of Education. Registration information has been sent to gifted coordinators/contacts. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15. If there is insufficient interest to warrant the class, it will be cancelled. Ed Mulvaney, coordinator of gifted education, is the instructor for the class.

The three-hour class in Gifted Education which was to be offered this summer with credit extended from Aurora University will not be offered because only five individuals expressed an interest. An attempt to offer this class during the summer of 1999 will be pursued in the fall of the 1998 - 1999 school year.

Several brochures have been received in our office for summer programs offered by universities for two-three weeks for gifted/talented students. If you have students who might take advantage of such an experience, please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

For Sale: Polaroid Instamatic 600 Cameras

Any district or teacher that may be interested in purchasing a Polaroid Instamatic 600 camera may do so by contacting Betty Clementz at the ROE. Cost of each new camera is \$20. Take pictures of student projects, performances, students or teachers of the month, displays, and/or sport and extra-curricular activities! Or better yet, incorporate photography into a unit of study. What a great way to show students their work is important by providing a photo to them! Limited number of cameras available; orders will be filled in the order received.

Spotlight on ROE Lending Library

Recent additions have been subscriptions to these three publications:

Education Grants Alert: The weekly reporting on funding opportunities for K-12 programs nationwide.

Title I Monitor: Monthly update on Title I funding.

Better Teaching: Tips and Techniques to Improve Student Learning: Bi-weekly eight-page newsletter filled with tips to ease classroom management skills

Come into the office and check out these publications. They are for you!

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StarNet: Curriculum Enrichment and Profes- sional Development

The schedule of programs to be broadcast during the final quarter of the year has been mailed to each superintendent and principal. Programs will be taped in the order as the requests are received. All tapes must be returned to the ROE at the end of the school year. These programs cover a broad range of topics with many of them focused on the use of technology in the classroom. To date, 71 tapes have already been distributed to educators in Whiteside County. Many of these tapes represent three- and four-part programs. Please direct all requests to tape to Betty Clementz at the ROE.

Staff Development Workshops

Several foreign language teachers attended a workshop to share teaching strategies and to present to the public a county-wide awareness of the importance of teaching foreign languages. This Global Awareness Week will spotlight the languages and activities in the schools. Be watching in your area for this focus on our schools.

Home economics teachers will be meeting on March 4 to develop skills in the operation and maintenance of the brand of serger in use in their school. David Gillette from Galesburg Sewing Center will be presenting this hands-on workshop.

School Improvement: An On-going Process

IGAP

As the month of March arrives, so also does attention turn to the testing of the IGAP. Some changes in the 1998 IGAP include:

- Science test for 4th, 7th, and 11th graders will be six items shorter and in the place of those items will be six Health/PE pilot questions.
- Social Studies test for 4th, 7th, and 11th graders will be six items shorter with six Fine Arts pilot questions in their place.

In the 1998-99 school year there will be some major changes in the IGAP. They include:

- Students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 will be taking the Mathematics, Reading, and Writing IGAP tests.
- Students in grades 4, 7, and 11 will be taking the Science and Social Studies tests of IGAP.
- Scores of high school students will become a part of their permanent record. IGAP scores of all other grades will be a part of the temporary record.
- All IGAP tests will be based on the Illinois Learning Standards.

In the 1999-2000 school year, 12th graders will be given two opportunities to take the new Prairie State Achievement Exam during the semester in which they will graduate.

Illinois Learning Standards

The IGAP will be based on the Illinois Learning Standards for each grade level.

It is important that all school districts align their curriculum to the Illinois Learning Standards to offer students the best opportunity for success. Have you compared the curriculum in your school in a content area with the the state standards/benchmarks? Are major concepts taught in the grade in which they will be tested on IGAP? Teachers should be aware not only of the curriculum of the grade level of their instruction, but also of what was taught in the preceding year as a foundation and what will follow as the concept is mastered and extended.

Packets of the Illinois Learning Standards have been sent to every teacher in Illinois. Use them, for your students will reap the benefit of your awareness and implementation of these standards.

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FY99 Grant Application Workshops

The Illinois State Board of Education's Grants Management Division has scheduled the dates for their FY99 Grant Application Workshops throughout the state. Area 2 will meet on March 24 at South Point Center in DeKalb. These workshops are designed to inform districts about changes in the applications and to make staff available to answer specific questions regarding each of the programs included in the applications. Districts should be receiving the flyer soon.

Gary J. Steinert
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Whiteside County ROE
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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

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.

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

Industrial Arts & P.E. Teacher - River Bend CUSD #2. Contact Emmett Aubry, prin., Fulton HS, 815/589-3511. Send application with resume, etc. to Kent Hammer, supt., 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

Conferences

March 9

ILLINOIS ASSOC. FOR YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION

Year-Round Education-What Does It Mean?

Place: Central Administration Building - Dist. U46
355 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120

Contact: Pat Tamburrino

Funston School

2010 N. Central Park Avenue

Chicago, IL 60647

773/534-4125, Fax 773/534-4551

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

High School Math & Science Teacher - River Bend CUSD #2. Contact Emmett Aubry, prin., Fulton HS, 815/589-3511. Send application with resume, etc. to Kent Hammer, supt., 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

EMH/LD Teacher (One yer position) - River Bend CUSD #2. Contact Jerry Fagle, prin., Fulton Elem., 815/589-2911. Send application with resume, etc. to Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend CUSD #2, 1110 Third St., Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711