

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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October 1998

Newsletter No. 2 Volume 54

Calendar Of Events

October

- 1 Recycling Day; commemorative holiday
- 5 Vision and Hearing
Prophetstown High School
- 6 Vision and Hearing
Fulton High School
- 9 Leif Erickson Day observance
- 9 Vision and Hearing
Tampico Middle School
- 12 Columbus Day,
a legal school holiday,
regional office closed
- 13 Math Rubic Training
United Methodist Church
Morrison
- 12-16 National School Lunch Week
- 14 Vision and Hearing
Prophetstown High School
- 14,15 Vision and Hearing
Tampico Grade School
- 18-24 National School Bus
Safety Week
- 19 Master's Organizational Mtg.
Sterling High School Library
- 22,23 Vision and Hearing
Dillon School
- 24 United Nations Day
- 24 Make A Difference Day
- 25 Standard Time returns; set
clocks back one hour
- 26,27 Vision and Hearing
Franklin Elem. School
- 29 Integrating Technology Into
The Curriculum, Part I, "Surfing
The Internet, Practical Ideas
Paul Cannon, ROE Office

First Years

The Regional Office of Education is pleased to announce the award of a Prevention Initiative Grant through the Early Childhood Block Grant. **First Years** is the name of this new service which is an intensive weekly home-based family education and support program for at-risk families with children ages birth through three with special emphasis on teen parents. The First Years program joins Parents As Teachers and Even Start in offering an umbrella of parent education and support services which meet the varied needs of families throughout Whiteside County in order to lay a strong foundation for children's future success in school.

A unique feature of the First Years program is the collaboration with the Whiteside County Health Department. In addition to the weekly home visit that will focus on child development, parent/child interaction, and family goals, every enrolled family will also receive 3-4 visits per year from a health department visiting nurse. The health department visits will focus on developmental screening, hearing and vision screening, physician referral and immunization monitoring.

Mary Alice Wentling, who has 15 years of experience in home visiting, is the new First Years home visitor, and Mary Gospodarczyk is the program coordinator.

An open house to introduce First Years will be held on Friday, October 16 from 2-4 p.m. at the Regional Office of Education. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the program and meet the staff.

Masters Program Update

There will be an informational meeting about the upcoming Masters Program on Monday, October 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the Sterling High School Library. All teachers interested in learning more about the program should plan to attend. Representatives from Northern Illinois University will be there to answer questions.

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Gifted Education Update

Six Whiteside County teachers are learning the rules regarding gifted education, characteristics and behaviors of the gifted child, identification procedures, and the skills to modify curriculum to meet the needs of the gifted student. These are topics which are addressed in Level I of Gifted Education Training. Level II will be held in the second semester of the 1998-99 school year. Together these two levels comprise the 50 hours of training that is one-half the requirement for a school district to receive reimbursement for a teacher who earns more than \$300 in salary from the Illinois Reimbursement Program.

Coordinators of Gifted Education will be meeting from 9-11 a.m. on Monday, October 26 at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education. Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education will be addressing the group concerning the requirements for Gifted Education in Illinois and the relationship of Gifted Education to the School Improvement Plan and the internal and external review process. Mark this date on your calendar so your district will be informed. Registration information will be sent to district coordinators in early October.

Mark the dates of December 9-11 on your calendar to attend the 35th Annual Gifted Education Conference to be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. If you need further registration information, contact your district coordinator of gifted education or Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

Curiosity's FreeZone

Curiosity's FreeZone (<http://freezone.com>) invites kids to give adults in their lives the insider's scoop on the Internet.

On November 19 *Curiosity's FreeZone* and Magnet Interactive debut FLIP (<http://flipzone.com>), an online experience that encourages web-savvy kids to teach less digitally adept adults how to use the Internet. The program engages and rewards kids' technical knowledge and creativity while promoting cyber-literacy among adults.

With FLIP, kids ages 8 to 14 are empowered to teach adults a wide range of Internet skills. Kids and adults will construct home-pages, research topics online, participate in chat groups, and discuss Internet safety. Most importantly, kids and adults will simply spend time together, learning to relate to each other through the online world.

New Teacher Workshop: A Success!

On September 15, 22 teachers new to Whiteside County met to receive information to assist them in adjusting to the role of a teacher. Topics addressed included instructional models for reaching all students by Frank Copi of Springfield; student discipline and classroom management by Jeff Brown, principal of Rock Falls Middle School;

and parent-teacher conferences by Dr. Don Kachur of Illinois State University, Normal. Services of the Regional Office of Education were also explained. To quote one of the participants: "Today's presentations were very useful and applicable. Speakers were REAL PEOPLE AND EASY to relate to."

External Review Workshop in Mendota

Whiteside County was represented by 18 participants from the districts of East Coloma, Erie, Montmorency, Morrison, River Bend, and Sterling at a workshop on September 16-17 at the Mendota Civic Center. The workshop was arranged by the Regional Offices of Education in Whiteside, Lee/Ogle,

and LaSalle/Marshall/Putnam/Woodford Counties. This workshop focused on the process of an external review and how that mirrors the internal review process that all schools are required to initiate during the 1998-99 school year.

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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.

StarNet Programs Available

Tapes of programs delivered through StarNet are available for a checkout of two weeks. Programs taped during the preceding month include:

Student Enrichment K - 6:

Earthwise--4 parts (25 mins. each) Presents basic ideas of influences of weather, terrain, and natural resources;

Weather: What's The Forecast?--(25 mins.) Explores the science behind weather reporting;

NASA Connect: Flight Direction--Presents test designs and materials to make the best airplanes;

ELDLN: Learn/Teach/Learn--(25 mins.) Showcases celebrities as role models and the need to read well to succeed;

Catpaws weekly--(25 mins.) For K-1 which combines music and movement to develop interactivity.

Student Enrichment 7 - 12:

Power of Advertising--2 parts (25 mins. each) Explore purpose of advertising and strategies to deal with its impact on our lives;

It's Your Money--2 parts (25 mins. each) Which presents practical information about money - acquiring it, spending it, and saving it.

Professional Development:

Professional Portfolios--(2 hours) Explores purposes and types of portfolios to monitor professional growth;

Engaged Learning Part I: Producing Instructional Videos for the Classroom--(1 1/2 hours);

Engaged Learning Part II: Technology Aided Presentations--(1 1/2 hours);

Essential Advocates: Technology and Administrators Part I--(2 hours);
Science Applications in the Classroom: NASA--(1 hour) Presents math and science as used at NASA daily;

Improved Teaching and Learning--(1 hour) Research findings related to instructional strategies, curriculum, and the learning process.

Any school employee may request StarNet programs to be taped. Use the request to view form and send to Betty Clementz in advance of the program. The programming for the second quarter and another form will be sent to all principals the end of October. Be watching for the information so you too may request a tape for use in your classroom.

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WEBSITES FOR MATH AND SCIENCE

<http://www.mste.uiuc.edu:591/mathed/queryform.html>

This site has a searchable database for math lessons that incorporate the web...algebra/trig/calc/statistics/probability, etc. Primarily for high school.

<http://www.themailbox.com/misc/samplepprev.html>

This is a link from *The Mailbox* magazine where you can download activities. It is divided into Early Elementary, Primary, and Intermediate levels. Lots of interesting math items found here and it changes every month.

<http://funbrain.com/math/index.html>

This site is a Math Baseball game.

<http://bang.lanl.gov/solarsys/homepage.htm>

This site gives a complete educational tour of the solar system and includes information on the sun, the planets, asteroids, meteors, and comets, as well as images and animations of every celestial phenomenon. This would be a great site to supplement the use of the STARLAB.

<http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/WEATHER/weather.html>

This is a complete on-line interactive unit integrating math, science, reading and writing, social studies, geography, art, music, and drama. A great cross curricular weather unit that is **ready to use!**

Lending Library is For You!

The Regional Office of Education has a lending library of materials to assist teachers and administrators. Many curricular supplements, as well as professional development materials, are available for loan for a period of two weeks. Each Whiteside County School was sent a bibliography of all materials. Plan now to come in and check out materials to assist you in your next unit of study or class project.

This Month's Featured Whiteside County Website: Montmorency School

Kelly Hoagland, second grade teacher at Montmorency School, is the featured participant of the University of Illinois summer technology class arranged this past June at the Regional Office of Education. Kelly wanted to design a web page that would be of benefit to both her students and their parents. There are clickable links to the list of spelling words for the week, the "Stars of the Quarter", a gallery to display the students' work, and a page for students to talk to someone who cares, entitled "Help me, Hannah!" This site may be found at Whiteside County Regional Office of Education site: roe55.k12.il.us/mgs/mgsh

Kelly stated, "For the second summer in a row, I had the pleasure of participating in a class offered from the U of I in the construction of web pages. I have participated in numerous workshops and inservices on technology in the past, but the knowledge I gained from this experience far surpasses the others. I would highly recommend this class to anyone who would like to learn more about computers and the making of web pages."

AHA HeartPower Kits to be Distributed

The American Heart Association is providing a free curricular kit which contains a video, stethoscope, cassette tape, lesson plans, and posters to any school in Whiteside County with grades 3-5. For each building to receive this educational kit about a healthy heart, a representative must attend a 20-30 minute in-service at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education on either Tuesday, October 6 or Thursday, October 8 at either 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. If your school has not yet registered to receive these materials, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

Fulbright Teacher Exchange

K-12 teachers and administrators can take salaried leaves and trade classrooms with teachers from other countries for one year through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.

To be qualified, you must have at least a bachelor's degree and a full-time teaching position, be in at least your third year of full-time teaching, fluent in English, and a U.S. citizen. Participants are encouraged to bring their families.

Application deadline is October 15. Applications and more information are available through the Internet at www.grad.usda.gov/International/ftep.html or contacting Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 320, Washington, DC 20024, 1/800-726-0479.

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Starlab Checkout

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 pertaining to the environment and earth science. The STARLAB has just undergone an extensive refurbishing process and some new resources have been added for teachers to use along with the STARLAB.

In order to check out the STARLAB, you must have gone through the training in the use and care of the lab. If you have had this training and you desire to utilize this teaching tool, contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE by calling 815/625-1495. If you have not had this training, one is scheduled for November 3.

Math Assessment Workshop

Changes in the testing format for math will occur this year in the ISAT assessment program. In the new format, in addition to the regular multiple-choice items, the test will include two open-ended, performance type items. These items will be scored by means of an ISBE developed scoring rubric. ISBE is encouraging teachers of mathematics, especially for grades 3, 5, 8, and 10, to familiarize themselves and their students with the types of assessment items and also the scoring rubric.

Because of ISBE's encouragement and because the performance part of the test is introducing a new concept, the Regional Office of Education is providing training designed to assist teachers with the implementation of this process. The training will familiarize teachers with the kinds of items to expect and will also cover the scoring rubric. Time will be given for teachers to practice and discuss using the rubric with sample performance items at the 3rd, 5th, 8th, and 10th grade levels.

This training is being offered October 13 and is being held at the Morrison United Methodist Church in Morrison. The training will be from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. You will need to register for this training by October 9. The cost of the training is \$6.

Science Corner - Paul Cannon

Science ListServe Available from ISBE

The State Board of Education has created a Science ListServe and teachers from around the state can join and share information. In addition, many interesting and helpful bits of information are posted by ISBE regarding science and math. If you are interested in joining this ListServe all you need to do is to send a message to the following e-mail address: sclead@list.isbe.state.il.us and in the text of the message write "I would like to join sclead." This will add you to the list, and you will receive all communications until you decide to drop the service.

On-Line Resources

Seven educational resource companies will provide on-line services to local school districts this school year at no charge or at drastically reduced prices, through the leadership of the Illinois State Board of Education. School officials and their staff members are urged to review these services as soon as possible. These services are: **Chicago Academy of Sciences; Educational Structures; Scholastic Network; Britannica Online; Lightspan; Illinois Education Place; and Electric Library.**

Regional training will take place this fall on each of these services for those districts who sign-up. For more information on the individual services, see the following website: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/learn-technology/technopages/olir/main.html>

The first regional training for our area will be for the **Scholastic Network**. This training is scheduled on October 15 at the KIDS Office in Rockford and on October 16 at the Regional Office at Annawan. Both of these training sessions are from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and there is no cost involved.

Power Your Imagination

The 17th Annual Duracell/National Science Teachers Association "Power Your Imagination" Scholarship Competition will award more than \$100,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds to winning students in grades 6-12.

To enter, a student or a pair of students must design and build a working device that is educational, useful or entertaining, and is powered by one or more Duracell batteries. Qualifying entries must include a descriptive two-page essay, a wiring diagram, photos of the device, and an official entry form. The deadline for entries is January 15, 1999.

For entry packets, or for more information, call **1-888/2155-4242** or visit the NSTA website at www.nsta.org/programs/duracell.shtml

In-Service Opportunities

Recently each school within the county received a booklet outlining some in-service opportunities regarding science literacy. These trainings cover such topics as: STARLAB training; Using the ISBE Math Rubric; Integration of Technology into the Curriculum; Use of Multi-Media tools such as HyperStudio and PowerPoint; Utilizing Interactive Technologies such as digital cameras (the Regional Office has two that can be checked out after the training), scanners, and video cameras; and training in MicroSoft Word and Excel. You are encouraged to read over these opportunities and register for these trainings. Since most of the trainings occur in the Regional Office Computer lab, there is a limit to the number of participants in each training. So check it out and send in your registration form!

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Unfilled Teaching Positions

Spanish/English Teacher - Fulton High School. Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend CUSD #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711

CONFERENCES

October 13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Presenter
Barb Bancroft, RN, MSN, PNP

Place: Brookens Auditorium
University of Illinois at Springfield

Contact: Theresa Waters
Nursing Continuing Ed.
and Allied Health
Lincoln Land Comm. College
5250 Shepherd Rd.
PO Box 19256
Springfield, IL 62794-9256

October 28

CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

Place: Bone Student Center
Illinois State University

Contact: Dr. Donald Kachur
College of Education
Illinois State University
Campus Box 5300
Normal, IL 61790-5300

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
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

Software Training Continues

Eighteen persons are enrolled in the Intermediate Microsoft Word and Excel classes being offered at the Regional Office on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. during September and October. Nancy Slonneger is the instructor. Software trainings will continue as long as there is interest. Those areas most in demand will be the next classes offered. If your name is on the waiting list, you will be called as the class is being formed. It is not too late to add your name to the waiting lists. Please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office if you are interested in software training.

Meeting The Challenge IX: A Conference for You!

Meeting The Challenge IX, a conference for teachers and administrators of grades K-12, will be held at Sauk Valley Community College on Friday, January 8, 1999. The breakout sessions will focus on curriculum for the fine arts in the areas of dance, drama, music, and visual arts. This conference will also provide sessions of general interest to educators and is intended to benefit both the fine arts specialist as well as the regular classroom teacher. The flyer for the conference will be mailed in October with registrations due by December 4. Mark this date as a must-attend event.