

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## *Educational Highlights*



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November 1998

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### Calendar Of Events

#### November

- 2-3**  
Vision and Hearing  
Morrison Northside School
- 4-5**  
Vision and Hearing  
Lincoln Grade School
- 9**  
Vision and Hearing  
Sterling Christian
- 10**  
Korean War Veterans  
Commemorative holiday
- 11**  
Veterans' Day; a legal  
school holiday & Regional  
Office closed
- 10-12**  
Vision and Hearing  
Washington Grade School
- 15-21**  
American Education Week
- 16-17**  
Vision and Hearing  
Merrill School
- 16-22**  
National Children's  
Book Week
- 23-24**  
Vision and Hearing  
Fulton Grade School
- 26-27**  
Thanksgiving holidays,  
schools and Regional  
Office closed

### Meeting The Challenge IX

**Meeting The Challenge IX**, a fine arts conference for all educators, has been planned for January 8, 1999 at Sauk Valley Community College. The flyers with the registration information have been mailed to all fine arts teachers. Three workshop sessions will be available to each participant in the areas of drama, visual arts, music, and dance. Many of the sessions are hands-on and will provide curriculum which participants should be able to duplicate in their classrooms. Registrations are due to the Regional Office of Education by Friday, December 4, 1998. Ron Engstrom, Fine Arts Consultant at ISBE, will also address the ISAT assessment of fine arts. If you are responsible for fine arts instruction, this is a conference for you! An Administrators' Academy is also available. Contact Betty Clementz if you need a flyer giving the full details and registration information.

### REI: Still Alive in Whiteside County

Those schools that began the REI training as Level I and Level II schools will have an opportunity to continue the training through the Regional Office of Education during the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school years. Since awareness is the focus at Level I, study of the process and its application to the participant's home district is the focus of Level II, and implementation is the focus of Level III, Whiteside County has decided to offer the opportunity to complete the cycle, in spite of the fact that funding for REI has been eliminated to regional offices. Those school districts that were involved at the Level I and II during the 1997-1998 school year will be contacted soon about participation.

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## **SCHOOL NURSES LUNCHEON**

The annual luncheon meeting sponsored by the Regional Office of Education for all school nurses in Whiteside County will be held on Tuesday, December 2 at the Candlelight Inn in Sterling. The Whiteside County Health Department will provide current health-related inservice to the nurses beginning at 10:00 a.m. Registration information has been mailed to all schools. Please contact our office by November 25 to confirm your attendance.

## **Illinois Reading Educator of the Year Award**

The Illinois Reading Council proudly presents an Educator of the Year Award to three classroom teachers. One teacher is chosen from each of the following grade levels: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions teachers make in promoting literacy among their students, colleagues, and school communities. Each award winner will receive \$500, an engraved plaque, and recognition at the annual Illinois Reading Council conference in April, 1999.

Deadline for applications is December 1; the Awards Committee decision will be made by mid-January, 1999. Applicants are encouraged to apply at their earliest convenience. For application materials, please contact this office.

## **Reading & Writing Rubrics Workshops**

Plans are being made to provide a workshop on Monday, November 23, to teachers to explain the reading and writing rubrics which will be used on the ISAT tests in February. Public building principals will receive the registration information in early November. One half of the day will

be spent on the reading rubrics and one-half of the day will be spent on the writing rubrics. Teachers will be divided into two groups, K-6 and 7-12. Be watching for this information to arrive in your building.

## **Those Who Excel Winners Announced**

Nearly 300 individuals who have made exemplary contributions to public and private schools in Illinois were honored in the 25th annual Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year awards program. Teachers in Whiteside County who were honored were Joyce M. Carney, classroom teacher at Sterling CUSD #5 with an Award of Merit, Jose F. Gal-

legos, educational service personnel at Sterling CUSD #5 with an Award of Recognition, and Judy Thome, classroom teacher at Rock Falls Township High School #301 with a Certificate of Appreciation. Congratulations to all the Whiteside County winners!

## **History and Stamps: A Marriage Continuing at US Post Office**

Celebrate the Century Education Series has just released the 70's series of curriculum, posters, etc. prepared by the United States Post Office. Take a vital step back into time to the opening of China, Women's rights, Monday Night Football, VCRs, Sesame Street, platform shoes and leisure suits.

What a neat way to introduce the 70s to your class through this kit which is available to you through our lending library. Come in and check it out!

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## **November: Career Development Month**

Governor Jim Edgar has proclaimed November as Career Development Month for Illinois. Schools are encouraged to plan events to highlight this important part of Education-to-Careers. A Career Development packet is available to you which includes suggestions, ideas, and activities by grade levels. Contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office or Nancy Harris at ISBE at (217)782-4620.

The National Career Development Association is sponsoring the Illinois Poster and Poetry Contest for students at K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and postsecondary. The topic is "Career Development for the 21st Century". Deadline for submission by students is December 12. For full details, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

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## **HeartPower Kits Distributed**

The American Heart Association distributed 23 HeartPower curriculum kits through the Regional Office of Education to schools that had a representative present for a short in-service on use of the materials. CGH and an anonymous donor provided these kits for use by Whiteside County teachers of grades 3-5. Locate the kit that was brought to your building and enjoy the lessons to help students understand the effects of life styles upon a healthy heart.

## **StarNet Programs Taped from October**

The following programs have been taped for checkout for a two week period of time. A program schedule for the next quarter has also been sent to your principal. Use the Request To View form sent to your building principal to request a tape, either in advance of the program or after it has been taped. Send the Request To View form to Betty Clementz at the ROE.

### **Student Enrichment K-6 Programs of 30 minutes:**

**Catpaws**--weekly program for K-2 of movement and music;  
**NASA Connect: Weather and Aviation**--math, science, and weather influences upon flight;  
**Crayon Man**--All you need is a box of crayons and you are on your way to a masterpiece.

### **Student Enrichment 7-12 Programs of 30 minutes:**

**Arachnophobia**--Take a look at 8-legged creatures of our world;  
**Printing Plate**--Professional artist shows how to make pictures on a plate, a printing plate;  
**Planning The Future** (2 parts)--Guide students in making informed choices for careers.  
**Wild Things**--National Wildlife Refuge

### **Professional Development Programs of 60-120 minutes:**

**E-Rate Funding Teleconference**  
**Engaged Learning #3--Interactive Multimedia in the Classroom Beyond Learner Differences**  
**Essential Advocates: Administrators and Technology Part 2**  
**Enhancing Learning About Art Through Writing**  
**Using the School Grounds as a Resource (Part 1): Mini-Ponds**  
**Accelerated Reading Achievements with Reading Styles**  
**High School Success for Limited English Proficient Students**  
**Meeting Learners' Needs Through Multiple Intelligences**  
**What Every School Board Should Know**

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## WebSites To Check Out

[http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/  
WEATHER/weather.html](http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/WEATHER/weather.html)

This is a complete, on-line interactive math, science, reading and writing, social studies, geography, art, music, and drama site.

[http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/  
interactive/index.html](http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/interactive/index.html)

This is a NASA K-12 Internet Initiative with on-line interactive projects.

[http://www.c3.lanl.gov/  
mega-math/welcome.html](http://www.c3.lanl.gov/mega-math/welcome.html)

This is a project designed to keep your students' interest piqued. Full of activities and games, this site encourages ever reluctant mathematicians to explore. Try the "Algorithms and Ice Cream for All" activity with your students. Increase their problem-solving skills by making a plan to efficiently distribute ice cream to an entire city.

## Internal Review Grant

The Regional Office of Education has received confirmation of grant monies for the purpose of internal review implementation. Building principals will be contacted to determine if they would like their building to participate in a mini-grant for the 98-99 school year. The information will be sent to building principals in early November. If you have questions when the information arrives, please contact Betty Clementz.

## This Month's Featured Whiteside County Website: Erie High School

Erie High School is the November featured website. Look at the Whiteside County homepage for the link to school websites, and you have arrived at the site of Brad Storm, Erie High School Science teacher. At the site will be information for parents, teachers, and students. Email addresses for all instructors, departmental information, posting of athletic and extra-curricular events, and contact for reporting absences are all available. The environmental science class has used the MUC System (Land type classification) training and quiz on this website. The students agreed that this method of learning about this system was more fun and in fact, easier to understand. Brad Storm stated, "I came into the University of Illinois class knowing nothing about html language or how web pages were developed. This class was entirely responsible for my knowledge base and excitement for developing the website." Keep checking back; the site will be under perpetual construction as more teachers at Erie High School begin to use the site.

## Fine Arts Web Sites

Fine arts teachers, take a look at these sites on the web! These can enhance your instruction as reference sites for you and for your students.

Getty Center for Education in the Arts--<http://www.artsednet.getty.edu/>  
National Endowment for Arts--<http://arts.endow.gov/>

Art Institute of Chicago--<http://www.artic.edu/>

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago--<http://www.nga.gov/>

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York--<http://www.guggenheim.org/>

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York--<http://www.metmuseum.org/>

National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.-- <http://www.nga.gov/htm>

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York--[http://www.echonyc.com/  
~whitney/](http://www.echonyc.com/~whitney/)

Incredible Art Department--<http://www.artswire.org/kenroar>

The Art Teacher Connection--<http://www.primenet.com/~arted>

Art Sites--<http://www.bastille.gatech.edu/adam/art.html>

Christo--<http://www.nbn.com/youcan/christo>

Egyptian Artifacts--<http://www.memphis.edu.egypt.artifact.html>

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## Science ListServe Available from ISBE and NSTA

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, simply send a message to the following Email address: <[sclead@list.isbe.state.il.us](mailto: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 unjoin.

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) also has a ListServe of legislative updates regarding education issues related to science. To join the free NSTA Legislative Update, send an e-mail to the following address: <[ann.wild@nsta.org](mailto:ann.wild@nsta.org)> Please give your e-mail address, name, and state. When your e-mail address changes or you want to unsubscribe, send a message to <[ann.wild@nsta.org](mailto:ann.wild@nsta.org)>

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## Unfilled Teaching Positions

Curriculum Director/Teacher, Fulton CUSD #2 - Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend CUSD #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711

## Science Corner - Paul Cannon

### In-Service Opportunities

In early September of this school year, each building within Whiteside County received a booklet outlining some in-service opportunities regarding Science Literacy. These trainings covered several different topics related to technology and the integration of technology into the curriculum, as well as introductory courses regarding the use of MicroSoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and ClarisWorks. Since these trainings occur in the Regional Office Computer Lab, there is a limit of ten (10) participants in each training session. Several of the sessions are either full or almost full, but you are encouraged to read over these opportunities and register for the remaining slots.

Remaining slots open for the Internet related trainings:

Session II, November 5--one slot left  
Session III, December 3--one slot left  
Session IV, February 18--one slot left  
January 13--9 slots open  
February 16--9 slots open  
January 7--10 slots open  
March 16--10 slots open

The second sessions are contingent on having enough participants interested.

The ClarisWorks training is still open, although you should be aware that ClarisWorks is no longer being published. As of October of this year, it was taken over by Apple and is now called AppleWorks. This is the version that I purchased and the one we will be using for the training. It is supposed to be the same as ClarisWorks 5.0.

The training for Microsoft is basically full with only one (1) slot remaining for the Excel training beginning November 16 and six (6) slots for the PowerPoint training beginning January 25.

So check it out and send in your registration form! Incidentally, registration for ROE workshops will soon be available on-line at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education Web Page located at <<http://wside.k12.il.us>>

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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.

## Teacher Shortage Areas

The following areas have been designated as teacher shortage areas for the 1998-99 school year:

### Special Education

Art Therapy  
Bilingual Special Education  
Cross Categorical  
Occupational Therapist  
Speech & Language Impaired

### Specialized Personnel

Bilingual Teachers  
English as a Second Language  
Pre-Kindergarten  
Early Childhood Education  
(not Special Education)

Individuals should contact the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) at 1/800-899-4722 for application forms and information.

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## History Fair

Illinois history fairs are an established part of the way many teachers can engage their students in studying state and local history. One of these fairs will be held at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb on February 20, 1999. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, one of the co-sponsors of this statewide activity, has a packet of material available describing the rules and the awards for the History Fair and information about the National History Day Contest. If you wish to have this packet sent to you, please contact Keith A. Sculle, Head, Research and Education, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, phone 217/785-6916

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## Gifted Education

Six teachers in Whiteside County have completed the Level I training in Gifted Education. The characteristics, behaviors, identification process, curriculum modification, program models, and curriculum development were all topics presented. To complete the training there will be a Level II section which will be offered in the middle of the second semester. To receive the certificate of completion of training, the 50 hours of instruction should be completed within a three year timeframe. Be watching for this information to arrive in your building in 1999.

All district coordinators of gifted education were invited to a meeting on October 26 to hear Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education address the requirements of gifted education in Illinois and the relationship of gifted education with the internal review process.

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## What's New at the ROE Lending Library?

The Regional Office of Education has a lending library of curriculum and professional development materials that are available to you to use for a two-week period of time. These materials include magazines, books, videotapes, big books, manipulatives, classroom sets of literature books, posters, and lego sets for K-4 and 5-9 with curriculum guide, and the list continues.

How about a project after the first snowfall of looking at the animal tracks in the snow? Twelve copies of *Track Finder* are available to identify the mammals of Illinois.

Or how about handling a certain type of discipline problem? *You Can Handle Them All* by Robert L. DeBruyn and Jack L. Larson will identify the behavior, its effect upon the teacher, students or parents of the child, many possible actions to eliminate this negative behavior, and the common mistakes in handling this problem that often intensify or perpetuate the behavior.

Are you planning a unit on the coins of the United States currency? Overhead projector coins are available and "play money" for students to make change and show an understanding of the system of values. Come and check us out. We have materials, will loan!

## On-Line Resources

Another reminder regarding the on-line services available to schools through ISBE:

Seven educational resource companies this school year will provide on-line services to local school districts at no charge or at drastically reduced prices. These services are: **The Chicago Academy of Sciences; Educational Structures; Scholastic Network; Britannica On-line; Lightspan; Illinois Education Place; and Electric Library.** For additional information regarding these services refer to the ISBE Web Page at <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>. When you get to this site, click on the link entitled "**Sign-up For On-line Internet Instructional Resource**", and you will find descriptions for each of the programs. Many of these programs will allow you to have a free trial period to check them out before signing up for the service. These are all good resources if you are looking for a way to integrate the Internet into your instruction.

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## Family Reading Night 1998

Libraries, schools, and literacy programs should be putting the final touches on arrangements for Family Reading Night 1998 to be held Thursday, November 19. Whether they promote families turning off the TV and reading together at home or host a special event for families to read together, these groups are encouraging reading.

The Illinois State Library will provide materials, free of charge, for a successful program. In fact, orders are now being accepted for the 1999 materials with a deadline to submit the order of December 1, 1998. These materials include Family Reading Night posters, bookmarks, brochures, postcards, and stickers. The theme of the 1999 event will be a family of robots reading and enjoying books together. The brochures will again be bilingual. An order form is available through the Illinois State Library, 300 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1796 or on-line at <http://www.library.sos.state.il.us/isl/reading/frn.html>

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## Scotland and Ireland: A Trip for You

A group tour is being organized by Ned Nesti and Anne and John Frame of Morrison for Thursday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 23, 1999. Fourteen days--five in Scotland, seven in Ireland, and two of travel--will open your hearts to the warmth of the people in these countries. For full information, please contact Anne Frame at (815)772-7923.

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## **Technology Specialist Needed**

Applications are being accepted for a full time Technology Specialist. Experience with Routers, DNS, Windows NT, Network development, and Pop mail. College degree preferred. Good communication and technical skills required. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of application and resume to Gary J. Steinert, Whiteside Reg. Supt. of Schools, 1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling IL 61081.

Gary J. Steinert  
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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