

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



GARY J. STEINERT, Superintendent
LORNA M. ENGWALL, Assistant
BETTY CLEMENTZ, Adm. Assistant
BETH HUBBARD, Truants' Program
PAUL CANNON, Scientific Literacy

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, Illinois 61081
815/625-1495
Fax 815/625-1625

MARCIA S. HAAG, Office Manager
SHERRY R. DYKEMA, Secretary
ROBERT MARINANGELI, Adm. Academy
PATRICIA RHODES, Parenting Program
MARY GOSPODARCZYK, Even Start Program

January 1999

Newsletter No. 5 Volume 54

Calendar Of Events

January

- 1 New Year's Day; a legal school holiday - Regional Office closed
- 6 TLCF Grantwriting Workshop 9:00-11:30, ROE
- 6 Vision and Hearing St. Andrew's School
- 8 Meeting The Challenge IX Sauk Valley Com. College
- 11-12 Vision and Hearing Challand Junior High School
- 13 Vision and Hearing St. Mary's School
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance; a legal school holiday - ROE closed
- 21-22 Vision and Hearing Rock Falls High School
- 25 Powerpoint Training Begins 4:30-6:00 ROE
- 26 Vision and Hearing Morrison High School
- 27 Vision and Hearing Newman High School
- 28 Commemorative school holiday honoring Christa McAuliffe

4TH & 5TH GRADE CONTIG COMPETITION

March 25, 1999 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 17th annual Whiteside County Spelling Bee will be held on **March 20, 1999** at Morrison Junior High School. The district coordinators' dinner meeting will be held at the Forest Inn Restaurant east of Morrison on January 7, 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 **close** for the holidays December 22 at 4:30 p.m. and reopen December 28 at 8:00 a.m. The office will also be closed on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

What's Inside

Meeting The Challenge IX	2	Conference	3
Internal Review Mini-Grants	2	HeartPower Reminder	4
StarNet	2	REI: Levels II and III	4
The Techknowledge Project	3	Reading & Writing Rubrics	4
Science Corner	3		

Educational Highlights - January 1999

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.

Educational Highlights - January 1999

Meeting The Challenge IX:

Meeting The Challenge IX, the workshop planned for fine arts educators, will be held at Sauk Valley Community College on Friday, January 8, 1999, with three workshop sessions on topics in the areas of art, music, drama, and dance/PE. An update on what is happening about the standards for fine arts and how fine arts fits into the Quality Assurance procedure will be presented by Ron Engstrom, Fine Arts Coordinator at ISBE and Judy Dawson of the ISBE Assessment Department. The focus of the conference will be curriculum. This will be the ninth year of this conference which is a joint effort of Sauk Valley Community College and the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education. Contact the Regional Office of Education for further information.

Internal Review Mini-Grants

Eighteen building principals in Whiteside County applied for monies offered through a grant of the Regional Office of Education to reimburse for teacher stipends or payment of substitutes for teachers working on the Internal Review for the 1998-99 school year. These schools will be tracking their progress in this first year of the process and sharing their outcomes on June 15, 1999 when reimbursement forms with receipts and the final report are due. The Internal Review encompasses much more than the gathering of data from tests, IGAP and ISAT included. It is a realistic look at the total school environment, the teaching and learning, and the wider community that it serves. The purpose of this review is to help schools celebrate the successes and prepare plans to address the areas of concern.

StarNet

The following programs have been videotaped during December:

Professional Development:

What TIMSS Tells Us About Curriculum Part I, II, III
Engaged Learning: Using The Internet in the Classroom Part 4
Engaged Learning: Technology Assisted Creative Writing
Part 5
Essential Advocates: Administrators and Technology Part 4
Student Financial Aid
Arts Literacy in a Changing America
Meeting The Year 2000 Computer Challenge

Student Enrichment K-6:

Catpaws: K - 2
Digging The Past
The Science Spectrum
NASA CONNECT: Wherever You Go, There You Are

Student Enrichment 7-12:

National Marine Sanctuaries
Digging The Past
Catfish
NASA CONNECT: Wherever You Go, There You Are

Programs of Professional Development are 1-2 hours in length; student enrichment programs are 30 minutes each. These tapes, as well as those of programs from September through November, are available for use upon request for a period of two weeks. Contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

Schedules of the programs to be broadcast during the third quarter will be sent to all building principals during the first part of January. Be watching for the packet of information to arrive in your school building. Send all Request To View forms to Betty Clementz a minimum of one week in advance of the broadcast. Requests will be honored in the order they are received.

Educational Highlights - January 1999

THE TECHKNOWLEDGE

PROJECT: is a professional development approach that incorporates hands-on awareness workshops with on-line follow-up support and self-paced training modules.

This project, a partnership with ISBE, Technology Hubs 3 and 4, Western Illinois University, and Ameritech, provides educators with the opportunity to learn how to use various technologies through modules which offer competency forms to assess current skill level, lessons, and activities to practice specific technologies. The project also includes an integration component to aid with integrating the technology into the curriculum and a SHARE component which provides a tool for teachers to collaborate with one another on how they are currently using specific technologies in the classroom.

Very soon, FREE hands-on awareness workshops to schools and districts will be available throughout the county.

Visit their web site at <http://www.techknowledge.org>

Conference:

January 31, February 1-2, 1999

Illinois Association for Gifted Children Conference

Chicago, Illinois

Contact: 847/501-6151

Science Corner - Paul Cannon

SCIENCE MINI GRANTS have again been awarded by the Regional Office of Education to a number of schools in Whiteside County, on a competitive basis, and the participating teachers and their students are presently implementing their projects. Participating teachers are using funds from these grants to develop student-oriented projects which involve connecting the teaching of science, mathematics, and technology with the Illinois Learning Standards in an interdisciplinary format. Through participation in this project, teachers, and their students, are developing a better understanding of the importance of integrating science, mathematics, and technology into the classroom. These projects cover a variety of very interesting topics including problem solving involving science, math, home economics, and technology in the development of a science/math quilt. Other projects include engaged learning project utilizing technology to learn more about endangered animal species, utilizing technology for writing reports and developing projects using interactive media, and the study of state and national parks. Participants from each school will be presenting a progress report in February and will showcase their projects with presentations at a Regional Office of Education "Science Fair" in May.

The Fourth Annual CONNECT Conference, entitled "Applications of Learning" in mathematics, science, and technology, is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 1999. **CONNECT** is a part of the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST) which was established at Illinois State University by the board of higher education to promote curriculum development, staff development, research and policy development in the fields of mathematics, science, and technology. **CONNECT** establishes communication links among administrators and faculty of all three types of institutions through conferences, workshops, distance learning, e-mail, and one-to-one dialogs.

If you are looking for ideas about how to implement the Illinois Learning Standards, plan to attend the 1999 **CONNECT** conference, "Applications of Learning." Topics will cover problem solving, communications, using technology, working on teams, and making connections. To find out more about CeMaST access the CeMaST web site: <http://www.ilstu.edu/depts/cemast/>

Registration forms are also available by contacting Paul Cannon at the Regional Office of Education in Sterling.

HAVE A GREAT 1999!!!

Educational Highlights - January 1999

Reminder to K-2 and 3-5 Teachers

With Valentine's Day around the corner, this is a reminder that the Regional Office of Education has an additional HeartPower teaching kit available for use in the K-2 and the 3-5 classrooms. Contact our office to reserve the kit for a period of two weeks.

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

Regular Education Initiative: Levels II and III

Schools in Whiteside County which had begun the three-year cycle in Regular Education Initiative will have the opportunity to complete the training, in spite of the fact that the REI Grant is no longer extended to Regional Offices of Education. Trainings and completion of mini-grants will be held on the following dates:

Level III teams	January 26, 1999
Level II teams	February 4, 1999

Both days of training will include strategies to assist the special education student in the regular education classroom. Teams have already been formed in the following districts: Erie, Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico, Rock Falls Elementary, and Sterling.

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

Reading and Writing Rubrics Workshops: A Success

On November 23, 95 participants attended the two sessions of the awareness workshops of the Reading and Writing Rubrics to be used on the ISAT tests in February. Teachers were introduced to the use of the rubrics and were given samples of reading and writing questions to prepare their own students for this state test now based on the Illinois Learning Standards. The workshop in Reading was presented by Victoria Hammer and the workshop in Writing was presented by Sue Sawers, both of the Assessment Department of ISBE.

A training of trainers will be arranged for in-depth understanding and application of the rubrics used on the ISAT Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. These trainings will prepare persons to conduct the in-service in their own districts, as well as contract outside their districts. Trainings will be delivered by Areas, our Area II having designated the following:

Writing	March 1 & 2	Princeton
Reading	March 15 & 16	Rock Falls
Mathematics	April 29 & 30	Mendota

More information on registration for these workshops will be delivered to superintendents in January. Since it is an Area II workshop, there will be limited seats.