

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## *Educational Highlights*



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February 1999

Newsletter No. 6 Volume 54

### Calendar Of Events

#### February

#### American History Month

2 Ground Hog Day

8-12 Pride in Food Service  
Week

12 Abraham Lincoln's birthday;  
a legal school holiday

14 Valentine's Day

15 Commemorative holiday  
honoring Susan B. Anthony

15 Presidents' Day -  
Regional Office closed

#### March

5, 8, 9

Vision and Hearing  
Sterling High School

20 Whiteside County  
SPELLING BEE  
Morrison High School

**CONTIG - CANCELED**

### Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program

This office has received application forms for the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program. These fellowships for experienced and outstanding teachers may be used for 1) a one-year sabbatical of study, research or academic improvement; 2) consultation with or assistance to other school districts or private school systems; 3) development of innovative programs; 4) projects or partnerships that involve the business community and schools; 5) programs that incorporate the use and sharing of technologies to help students learn and 6) expanding or replicating model programs of staff development.

Applicants may submit proposals that include any of the above activities that are focused on at least one of the following priority areas:

1. Effective use of technology for teaching and learning
2. Effective and innovative approaches for professional development supportive of student achievement of high standards
3. Effective models of meaningful parent/community participation
4. Effective models to promote safe learning environments.

Three fellowships for the FY99 year will be awarded at a maximum of \$15,000 each. All fellowships must be completed during the 1999-00 school year.

To qualify, applicants must 1) have completed eight or more years as a full-time public or private school teacher; 2) must not be in default on any federal loans and current in repaying same; 3) must teach in their current place of employment for at least two years following completion in the fellowship or repay any funds granted; 4) must be aware that he/she may be liable for income tax on the amount of the award; 5) must submit all financial and project reports as required and 6) must comply with all other statutory requirements and regulations of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program.

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 26.

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## **I SEARCH is Searching for Third Grade Artists**

I SEARCH, the Illinois State Police based program for missing and exploited children, has announced the First Annual Third Grade Art Contest. Artwork should reflect the I SEARCH program but entries are not limited to that topic.

The winning entry will be honored at a ceremony on National Missing Children's Day in May 1999, and the winning artwork will be included on all missing children flyers disseminated by the Illinois Clearinghouse for one year.

All Illinois students in the third grade during the 1998-99 school year are eligible to enter and there is no entry fee. Only one entry per student will be accepted. Entries must be no smaller than 5" x 7" and no larger than 11" x 14". All entries must be received by April 30, 1999.

An application form is included in the January 8 issue of the *Superintendent's Bulletin* or the form may be photocopied through the regional office.

For further information, or if you have questions, please contact Ms. Cinda Lubich at 217/524-9572.

## **Level II Training in Gifted Education**

Level II Training in Gifted Education will be offered on March 19, April 9, and April 23. Gifted coordinators and participants from the past two sessions of Level I will be receiving the full registration information. Gifted Education training is one of the three possible methods in qualifying to receive salary reimbursement from Gifted monies for over \$300.00 in salary.

Three hours of credit from a university in Gifted Education or teaching Gifted Education for two years with a letter verifying such from the Superintendent in a personnel file are the other two methods. Two of the three requirements must be met. Registration may be completed on the Whiteside County Website or by contacting Betty Clementz.

## **Meeting the Challenge IX: A Success**

Friday, January 8, 1999 more than 125 educators gathered for the ninth annual fine arts conference, Meeting The Challenge IX, at Sauk Valley Community College. This was sponsored jointly by the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College. Presenters from the areas of Drama, Visual Art, Music, and Theater presented topics, many of which were "hands-on". Additional topics of general interest to educators completed the

opportunities for participants to network and return to their schools with new curriculum ideas. Participants also were encouraged to sign up for the distribution of materials from the Illinois State Board of Education regarding the fine arts assessment of IGAP testing. The date for Meeting The Challenge X has been set for Friday, January 7, 2000. Whether you are a fine arts teacher, an elementary classroom teacher, or an administrator, mark your calendars now to participate.

## **Intermediate Word & Excel**

The Regional Office of Education will be the site of computer training in Microsoft Word and Excel on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., from February 16-March 23. This class will be at the intermediate level, for persons who are already familiar with the basics of the two programs. The first six

dates will be for Word; the last five dates will be for Excel. Persons who have completed the Beginning Word and Excel will be contacted for interest. Anyone who would like further information on the class and registration procedure should contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

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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.

## ISBE Training of Trainers for ISAT Rubrics

Day and a half long workshops have been arranged in Area II to train persons to become trainers in their own district in the understanding and application of the ISAT rubrics for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. These trainings are being conducted throughout the state by ISBE members of the Assessment Department. Superintendents were sent information to register a district representative for each of the following workshops:

Register by February 2:	Writing	March 1 & 2	Princeton
Register by February 17:	Reading	March 15 & 16	Rock Falls
Register by April 1:	Mathematics	April 29 & 30	Mendota

Registrations and \$50/participant for the appropriate workshop should be returned to the Whiteside Regional Office of Education. The seats allotted to Whiteside will be opened to other counties if all seats are not filled by the registration due dates. If you have any questions in regard to these workshops, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

## StarNet: Programs Taped for You

The following programs have been taped and may be checked out from the lending library:

### Professional Development:

*Books! Books! Books! Part II*

*Reasoning and Understanding in Mathematics Part I*

*Designing a Technology Integration Plan and Writing Your Own Grant:*

*Part I and II*

*Essential Advocates: Administrators and Technology Part V*

*Apples Magazine Part V: Topics in Early Childhood*

*Rural Facilities Part I*

### Student Enrichment K - 6:

*NASA Connect: Planetary Landers*

*Genetics Part II, III, IV*

*Great White Sharks*

### Student Enrichment 7 - 12:

*Modern Masters: American Artists Made Their Mark*

*NASA Connect: Planetary Landers*

*The Grace Presents: Russian Art*

*A Double Life*

*Great White Sharks*

*Street Smarts*

Programs of Professional development are 1-2 hours in length; student enrichment programs are each 25 mins. These tapes, as well as those from Sept. through Dec., are available for use for two weeks upon request to Betty Clementz. Submit your request on the Request To View form. The schedule of programs to be broadcast in February has been sent to each building principal for posting. Be watching for this information on your faculty bulletin board.

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## Survival Spanish

Through arrangements between the Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College, a second semester of three hours of credit in Survival Spanish is being offered. Jenny Garcia-Macko, bilingual instructor at Washington School in Sterling, is the instructor for this class which focuses on the language needed by educators. Plans are still being considered for a trip to Mexico to offer the opportunity to participants to test their skills in a real-life situation. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

## Parents: Computer Training In Spanish

Ten Hispanic parents of students who are in the bilingual program at Washington School in Sterling attended computer training in Spanish on two Saturdays in December in the lab at the Regional Office of Education. Losing fear of the computer and being able to communicate with the instructor, Jenny Garcia-Macko, made the eight hours of training an enjoyable experience for both the parents and instructor. This was done to strengthen the bond of school and home for the success of the child. Jenny says: "These parents were so interested in learning what their children already know. There is a need to continue this type of instruction with parents to assist them to be supportive of the education of their children."

## ROE Lending Library: Materials for You and Your Classroom

Do you need materials to enhance a unit of study? Look through the bibliography of the lending library of the Regional Office of Education that was sent to your building principal in the fall. There are curriculum and audio-visual materials for every subject area. These materials are available for a period of two weeks, may be renewed for additional time, and may even be reserved. Consider these:

**Social Studies:** 20th Century United States studied through the decades by the US Post Office Education Series which has posters, student handouts, resource guide, and even a ballot for your class to vote for the events most typically identified with the decade. Ballots to vote for the stamps representing the 80s are due February 28.

**Social Studies:** *Votes for Women* - Video and brochure on Woman Suffrage

**Science/Math:** Lego kits (Simple Machines for K-3 and Technic I for 4 - 9)

**Physical Education:** Manual for *Jump Jive and Swing*: curriculum to teach dancing that culminates in a Dance-a-thon.

**Special Education:** *Teaching Kids With Learning Difficulties in the Regular Classroom*

**Classroom Discipline:** *Tough Kid Book: Practical Classroom Management Strategies*

**Music:** Video: *Composers You Should Know*

**Science/Health:** HeartPower kits for K - 2 and 3 - 5

Whatever your needs for supplementary materials, come in and check us out!

## Internal Review: What Is Required

Illinois Administrative Code addresses in Ch. I, Section 1.30 the requirement that all schools that are not undergoing an external review shall conduct an annual internal review and, no later than September 30 of each year, shall notify the regional superintendent of schools in writing that internal review has occurred for the preceding year. The regional superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent of any districts failing to comply with this requirement. This review shall be designed to:

- 1) ascertain the success of the school's programs in terms of student performance and progress with respect to the state Goals for Learning, the Illinois Learning Standards, and local learning objectives;
- 2) identify areas in which improvement is needed;
- 3) plan for the implementation of the changes identified as appropriate; and
- 4) yield a written school improvement plan or revisions thereto.

Since this is the first year for the Internal Review, mini-grants were offered by this office to assist schools with the process. Eighteen schools have applied for mini-grants and will be sharing the results of their first efforts in this process on June 15 at the Regional Office. Any Whiteside County school which needs assistance in this process should contact Betty Clementz.

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## Educational Electronic Mailing Lists

If you have access to e-mail and would like to connect with others who share your interest in a particular curriculum area or topic, there are many, many mailing distribution lists, sometimes called "listservs" available. Some lists are for distribution only, but most provide participants the opportunity for two-way discussion. Participants send their messages to a host computer, which then distributes the messages to the other participants on the list.

When you are trying out a new approach to integrating technology into your teaching, a mailing list can be a great source of support. You and your students can also make use of listservs for research purposes.

To subscribe to a listserv, send an e-mail message containing subLIST-NAME YOURNAME to the subscription address for the list. For example, if Suzi Smith wanted to subscribe to the HILITES list she would address an e-mail message to <listserv@gsn.org> and enter the words: "sub HILITES Suzi Smith" in the message box. Be sure to enclose it in quotes. She would then receive a reply confirming her addition to the list. The posting of messages is done by sending e-mail to the listserv's main address. The following are some lists to check out:

**EDRES-L** - This list focuses on educational resources on the Internet. The address is ([edres-l@listserv.unb.ca](mailto:edres-l@listserv.unb.ca))

**HILITES** - This is a K-12 classroom-based collaborative learning projects on the Net. The address is ([listserv@gsn.org](mailto:listserv@gsn.org))

## Science Corner - Paul Cannon

**Connected Classroom Conference:** entitled "Influence The Course" will be held at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, March 17-20, 1999. This conference is your opportunity to share ideas, network with your peers, and prepare yourself for the important task of the integration of technology and the Internet into your classroom. There will also be special sessions pertaining to incorporating the Illinois Learning Standards. For more information and registration on-line, go to the following web site, <http://www.classroom.com/pd> and click on Chicago. Follow the links and instructions on the screen.

**Web Sightings:** Ants & Spiders...It's a bug's world! Between the ants that invade our kitchens in the spring and the spiders that live in our homes all year round, it seems that hardly a day goes by without an encounter with one or more of these creatures. There is much we can learn from studying the highly organized social life of ants and the webs of spiders. To find out more about ants and spiders and to help your students learn from them visit these interesting web sites:

**Myrmecology: The Science About Ants** ([members.aol.com/dinarda/ant/index/htm](http://members.aol.com/dinarda/ant/index/htm)) Contains everything you ever wanted to know about ants and offers informations about the insect, books, details on how colonies get started, nest building, and a bulletin board for exchanging information.

**Japanese Ants Color Image Database:** ([133.25.20.32/Ant.www/htmlse/index.htm](http://133.25.20.32/Ant.www/htmlse/index.htm)) At this site you can examine the different species of these ants from several different views in GIF and JPEG formats.

**Spiders:** (<http://www.powerup.com.au/~glen/spider.htm>) This is a site designed by kids from Australia where you will find great pictures and interesting facts about the Australian spider (including the poisonous Red-back and Funnel-web). There is even a recipe for "Chocolate Spiders."

**Gander Academy...General Resources on Spiders:** (<http://www.stem-net.nf.ca/CITE/spidersgeneral.htm>) At this site, you will find interesting facts about spiders (there are over 71,000 different species) as well as spider life histories and links to hundreds of pictures.

I found this short poem written by Aaron Yamagata, age 8, from Encino, CA. It comes from the Winter 1998-1999 issue of **Creative Kids** magazine. It is entitled "The Good and Bad of Nature:"

Angry hurricanes turn to calm breezes.  
Deadly avalanches turn to silent snow.  
Furious floods turn to shallow sparkling rivers.  
Cloudy skies turn to sunny days.  
Bare winter trees turn to lush foliage.  
Withered leaves turn to spring flowers.  
Bad always turns to good.  
We can learn from nature.

Oh what we can learn from little children!

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## **Conferences**

**February 28 - March 1**

**ILLINOIS STATE KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCE**

Place: Hyatt Regency Oak Brook  
Chicago, IL

Contact: Illinois State Kindergarten  
Convention  
c/o SDE, Ten Sharon Road  
Box 577  
Petersborough, NH 03458-  
0577

Call Toll-Free 1-800-462-1478

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

## **Starlab Training**

Several teachers have indicated that they would like to use the STARLAB for their students but they lack the necessary training to check out the lab. Also, they find it very difficult to come to a training scheduled during the week. Also, many of the teachers who have gone through a training session have moved on to different districts, again limiting the pool of trained teachers. If there are several teachers within a building who would like to learn how to use the STARLAB, I will come to your building and train you so you can utilize this very valuable resource. If you are interested in making arrangements for such a training, please contact me at the Regional Office of Education at 815/625-1495, and we can discuss a time to do the training. If you are already trained and want to check out the lab, contact Sherry Dykema at the Regional Office.

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

## **REI: Regular Education Initiative**

Although REI is no longer funded by a grant from the state of Illinois, Whiteside County teams from 1997-1998 have been given the opportunity to complete the training at Levels II and III. Those districts which are participating at Level II are: Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico (Tampico Elementary), Sterling Unit #5 (Jefferson), and Rock Falls Elementary (Merrill). Those districts which are participating at Level III are: Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico, Erie (Erie Elementary), Sterling Unit #5 (Jefferson), and Rock Falls Elementary (Merrill). Level II will focus on strategies to be implemented to assist the special education student in the regular classroom setting, while Level III replicates the implementation of strategies with others in their building. A full day of training has been planned for teams of each level.