

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## *Educational Highlights*



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April 1999

Newsletter No. 8 Volume 54

### Calendar Of Events

#### April

- 2 Good Friday-ROE closed
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 4 Daylight savings time begins;  
set clocks ahead one hour.
- 6 Principals Workshop -  
Changes in School Code  
ROE, 9 - 11 a.m.
- 9 Gifted Level II Training  
ROE, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 11-17  
National Library Week
- 13 "Practical Leadership for  
Effective Schools" Workshop  
Holiday Inn, Rock Falls  
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 18-24  
Reading is Fun Week
- 19-25  
National Volunteers' Week
- 23 Gifted Level II training  
ROE, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 29 Gen. State Aid & Trans.  
Claim Workshop - Room 117  
Courthouse, Morrison  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
- 29 Illinois State Scholars Dinner  
Elks Club, Rock Falls -  
6:00 p.m.

### Certification Registration

Legislation signed by Governor Ryan on January 26, 1999 moved the effective date for the teacher certification system changes from January 1 to July 1, 1999. The purpose of this change was to provide additional time to prepare for the initiation of Certificate Renewal/Continuing Professional Development Procedures. To date, much of this is still to be decided with the likelihood of another postponement to January 1, 2000.

The one thing that I know for certain is that State Superintendent McGee has determined the registration of current certificates cannot begin until July 1, 1999. Therefore, **the Regional Office will not be conducting spring registrations in each of the district schools.** Registration will commence on July 1 with individuals being able to register their certificates at our office, 1001 West 23rd Street, Sterling. Shortly after school starts, I do plan to schedule time when staff from this office will be in each one of the school buildings to register teaching certificates for those who did not register over the summer.

#### "Practical Leadership for Effective Schools"

This workshop will be presented on April 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Rock Falls. It is sponsored by the Whiteside County ROE and the Illinois Principals' Association and meets Administrators' Academy required strand certification.

The presenter, James Burgett, former superintendent of River Ridge School District, is used across the state and has become well known as a dynamic and insightful individual. His workshops are practical and relevant as well as dealing with the latest research.

Learn about simple things that staff and teachers can do to promote a positive image of the school. Jim will also give you a list of books that should be in your personal or school library.

Registration fees are \$60 for IPA members, \$70 for non-members. Please make checks payable to Gary J. Steinert, Reg. Supt. Call this office for reservations.

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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.

## Principals Invited for School Code Clarification

April 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Office of Education in Sterling, Dave Murray of Ward, Murray, Pace and Johnson will address the recent changes in the school code 5/10-20.9a "Final Grade; Promotion" regarding student retention and the remedial assistance which is mandated. This presentation will focus on what school districts are required to do in these cases as they implement their policies of lack of social promotion which were adopted in September, 1998. Gay Hull, psychologist for Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, will also address the implementation of these changes regarding Special Education students.

## UI Technology Class to be Offered in August

The University of Illinois will be offering, through their extra-mural program, a one unit (4 semester hours) graduate level class in the use of technology within the classroom. The class will be held August 2-13 at the Regional Office of Education. Information and registration forms will be sent to each individual who indicated on the software survey that they were interested in this class. Additional registration forms will also be sent to the attention of each building principal for distribution in his building in mid-April. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting approach to teaching, be watching for the arrival of the information.

Two levels will be offered: a beginning level, **Curriculum & Instruction 399**, for persons with limited computer, website, and internet training, and **ARTED 491**, which will be an independent study class for experienced computer users. For a complete course description of the beginning level on line, contact

<http://talon.extramural.uiuc.edu/edtech/e-delacr/399.html>

for a complete course description of the independent study advanced course, contact:

<http://talon.extramural.uiuc.edu/edtech/e-delacr/arted491.html>

Space in the class will be limited to ten (10) individuals in the beginning level and to ten (10) in the advanced level. Any questions, please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

N.B.: **ALL REGISTRATIONS are through the University of Illinois.**

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## IEPA Annual Scholarship

The Illinois Elk Producers Association provides a one-time award of \$200 to a high school graduate majoring in the field of diversified farming. To be eligible an individual must be a U.S. citizen, resident of Illinois, high school graduate in the same year he/she submits the scholarship application, and in the top half of his/her class at the end of their junior year. The applicant should submit a short essay of why and in what area of diversified farming he/she is entering. Application deadline is July 1, 1999. Submit completed applications to Peggy Hogg, IEPA Secretary, RR 1 Box 54, Herod, IL 62947.

## Career Awareness Tours

Teachers in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of public schools will be receiving an invitation to participate in activities planned for June to increase the awareness of careers available to students and the opportunities for employment in Whiteside County. Teachers will be asked to form teams of 2-3 participants who will visit a retail, service, and industry in one of the communities of the county. Reports will be submitted concerning the information discussed with these employers. Copies of all the reports will be distributed to all middle schools in the county to provide a source for continued dialogue between school and community. The number of teams will be limited in accordance with the amount of the grant. Be watching for the registration information to arrive in late April.

## StarNet Programs Available

Programs recorded from StarNet include professional development which are 1-2 hours in length and student enrichment; student enrichment programs are each 25 minutes on a specified topic. All programs are available for teachers to use in their classrooms. Submit a Request To View form to the attention of Betty Clementz at the Regional Office. Any program may be requested in advance of the broadcast and you will be contacted when the tape is ready for pick-up from the office. Tapes from throughout September - March are also available, as are the tapes of programs from the 1997-1998 school year. The programs taped during March are:

### Professional Development

*Leadership For Technology in Our Schools: Part 2: New Ways To Do Old Things*

*Leadership For Technology in Our Schools: Part 3: To Be The Best*

*Essential Advocates: Administrators and Technology Part 7*

*Developing & Managing Interdisciplinary Units in the Elementary Classroom*

*Counting The Stars: Math, Arts and Space Science*

*US Dept. of Ed: IDEA Implementation March 3 & 18, 1999*

*Leadership For Technology in Our Schools: Part 4: Bring It All Together*

*Strategies For Developing Cognitive Academic Language Skills*

### Student Enrichment: Elementary/Middle School

*Why Do Ships Float?*

*Oceans and Us*

*Pre-Colombian Worlds*

*CatPaws: weekly K - 2*

*Passport To The Past: Another Time and Place*

*NASA Connect: Earth From Space*

*Tropical Connection*

### High School Enrichment:

*Living On An Atolls*

*Reptiles*

*Pre-Colombian Worlds*

*Awesome Asteroids*

*How Do Airplanes Fly?*

## Gifted Education: Level II

The last two sessions of Level II of the Gifted Training are scheduled for April 9 and 23. Eight participants are completing the training to receive the certificate of completion which is one of the two possible documentations for salary reimbursement. Joanne Rompel is the instructor who is presenting the areas of program administration, program evaluation, advocacy, and curriculum modifications for the gifted. Each participant will be completing a unit which has been adapted for the gifted students in this class. Special attention is being given to address the needs of the gifted student in the regular classroom setting.

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## **Newsflash! *Lego* Workshops Planned**

*The* Regional Office has just received notice of monies to be distributed in the form of Title II for the areas of Math and Science. The intent is to plan two days of *Lego Workshops* during the summer. One one-day workshop will be for teachers of grades K-3, and the second one-day workshop will be for teachers of grades 4-9. Be watching for registration details in the next newsletter as well as through forms sent to your building in early May. Those teachers who registered last year and were unable to participate in the class due to the limited numbers accepted will receive an advanced mailing. Stipends will be paid to those who are the first 28 teachers to register with registration fee included.

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## **External Review Workshop for Fall**

*Plans* are being made to provide teachers and administrators an opportunity to participate in a two-day training of External Review. Three regional offices are joining to provide this ISBE training which clarifies the role of an external reviewer as well as providing an insight into the internal review process which mirrors it. The end of the training qualifies participants to serve as an external reviewer. Be watching this newsletter for further information.

## **Inservice Training Opportunities**

**PBL Institute: An Introduction to Problem-Based Learning.** This four-day training will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rock Falls June 14-17 and will be conducted by staff from the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA). This training will invite participants to examine current and proposed state standards, and create information, technology strategies, and tools that help us link local and statewide efforts productively and efficiently.

All registration fees, materials, and lunch are provided through ISBE Scientific Literacy Funds granted to IMSA. If you so desire, you may receive 2 semester hours of graduate credit through Aurora University. The total cost of this credit will be \$125 and it is the responsibility of those who choose this option to pick up this additional cost.

To register for this training contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office, or you can register via the e-mail route by sending your name, address, phone number, fax number, school/organization, and your e-mail address to <[pcannon@roe55.k12.il.us](mailto:pcannon@roe55.k12.il.us)> There is a limit of 50 participants, so if you are interested you should register early.

## **Science Literacy in a Standards-Based Education System**

*If* you are looking for innovative strategies for standards implementation and alignment, be looking for further details regarding a one-day workshop to be held in early May. If you are interested, contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office at 625-1495. More details will be forthcoming.

## **Internet Training**

*The* computer lab at the Regional Office will be the site of a week-long Internet training June 21-25. This training, funded through ISBE, will offer teachers opportunities to learn how to integrate technology into the classroom and will also focus on using the engaged learning model for enhancing the classroom curriculum. There will be no cost for this training and participants will receive lunch each day as well as an allotment for classroom materials. Efforts are being made to work with Aurora University to provide graduate credit. These details still have to be worked out.

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## **SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY CORNER**

**Paul Cannon**

### **Science ISAT Update**

Changes are on the horizon for the science teachers of Illinois. There is a good chance that during the next year the ISAT Science test will be introduced, the Teaching Standards, presently being reviewed and modified, and new teacher certification procedures will go into effect.

The Science ISAT for grades 4, 7, and 11 will likely be introduced in February of 2000 instead of a year later as originally planned. It does not appear that open ended questions will appear on the new test, at least for the first year.

In an effort to implement a standards-based education system, ISBE is adding a second piece to the puzzle (the first piece was the Illinois Learning Standards). In November of 1998 standards for teachers and administrators were approved. These educator standards consist of knowledge and skills that all teachers and educational leaders should know and be able to do. The standards clarify the criteria for the knowledge and skills necessary for educators to encourage academic success among Illinois students. In science, educator standards have been developed for early childhood teachers, elementary teachers, and secondary school teachers (middle and high school). Draft copies of the teacher standards have been sent to each school in Illinois and during the month of March, public review hearings were held around the state.

Science teachers should carefully review these proposed educator standards in order to become aware of the knowledge and skills expected of science teachers as we enter the 21st Century.

### **The Hurst Curriculum Technology Grant**

The Hurst Grant Program was initiated in 1999 through a gift from University of Illinois alumni Clay and Marjorie Hurst. It is the intention of this grant program to support those Illinois K-12 teachers who would like to learn new technologies...teachers who aspire to change their curriculum to use technology more effectively in the classroom. The goals of the grant are to: (1) support teachers with basic to intermediate technology skills in developing and implementing those skills; (2) promote the development of innovative curriculum that effectively integrates technology into the classroom; and (3) encourage the sharing of curriculum and technology resources among Illinois teachers.

Applications are invited from K-12 teachers throughout the state of Illinois. Grants from \$200 to \$1,500 will be awarded to support training, equipment purchases, inservices, and curriculum development. Applications will be accepted in four grade level divisions, K-12, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. **Applications are due by April 30.**

If you are interested in submitting an application, contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office for more details and application materials.

### **Environmental Education**

The Environmental Education Association of Illinois will be holding their annual spring conference on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1. The Regional Environmental Center in Pecatonica, Illinois is the site of this year's conference. The setting of this Center is a recently remodeled and refurbished 100 year old limestone barn.

Concurrent sessions will deal with a wide variety of educational topics that should be of interest to teachers. Topics to date include low cost teaching tools, students teaching students, Chicago Park District's Junior Earth Team, and an exciting state-sponsored program linking Illinois school children with research in Antarctica. For more details and registration information, contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office.

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## Unfilled Teaching Positions

The following positions have been posted for Sterling School District No. 5:

Media Specialist  
High School Counselor  
High School French  
High School Home Ec.  
High School Science-Physical/Chemistry  
Middle School Science (physical)  
Middle School Computer/Technology  
Elementary

Contact Sterling School District at 815/626-5050.

Curriculum Director - Eligible for an administrative certificate or working toward, Fulton CUSD #2. Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend CUSD #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

Gary J. Steinert  
Regional Superintendent of Schools  
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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

## Spelling Bee

The Whiteside County Spelling Bee was held on Saturday, March 20 at Morrison High School Auditorium. After 11 rounds of competition, Paul Say, seventh grader at Community Catholic Middle School, was declared the winner; Matt Heid, a fifth grader at Unity Christian School was declared runner-up. For first place Paul Say won an expense-paid trip to the National finals of the Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held May 30 - June 5 in Washington, D.C. He was also awarded the Samuel Louis Sugarman Award - \$100 Series EE U.S. Savings Bond - and Merriam Webster's Third International Dictionary and its Addenda. As runner-up, Matt Heid earned Merriam Webster's Third International Dictionary and its Addenda. Third place went to Selina Varma, a seventh grader at Sterling Christian School who earned a Deluxe Compton's Reference Suite for computer. In fourth place was Staci Sawyer, a sixth grader at Challand Middle, who was awarded Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Heather Morrissey, a seventh grader at Erie Middle School, finished in fifth place and was awarded a gift certificate from Scripps Howard News Service.

A special thanks to Helen Blomberg, pronouncer; Pam Erby, Tim O'Brien, and Lon Richey, judges; and the Morrison School district for the use of their facilities. Local sponsors of the Bee included our office, the Whiteside County Bar Association, the Whiteside County Bankers' Federation, and the Daily Gazette. Thanks to all who helped or contributed in any way and good luck to Paul in D.C.!