

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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May 1999

Newsletter No. 9 Volume 54

Calendar Of Events

May

- 2-8 National Teacher Appreciation Week
- 4 National Teacher Day
- 9 Mother's Day
- 16-22 National Transportation Week
- 31 Memorial Day observed; legal school holiday - Regional Office closed

June

- 7-17 Beginning Word & Excel
- 14-17 PBL Institute - Holiday Inn Rock Falls
- 21-25 "EnterNet" 99 Training-ROE
- June 28-July 12 Beginning Word & Excel
- June 29, 30 Career Awareness Tours

Summer Office Hours

Beginning June 4 this office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday. Regular hours will resume on August 20. If you need to make an appointment for another time, please call the office.

Middle School to be the Focus of Career Awareness

Teachers of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are the targeted group for generating an awareness of careers and the needs in education for those careers. The Regional Office of Education has written a grant to receive monies to provide activities for that purpose.

All middle school teachers should have received an invitation to form teams of two - three for the purpose of visiting retail, service businesses, and industry in the district in which they teach. These visits will be held on Tuesday, June 29, with all arrangements scheduled by the ROE. Each team will be visiting three different sites. Questions will be provided to guide the discussion during the tour.

On Wednesday, June 30, there will be a visit of a large center of employment in the morning, followed with a sharing of the visits. Each team will be asked to submit a report of their visits for the purpose of distribution of these summary reports to all middle schools in Whiteside County for use in their classrooms as a reference. Stipends will be paid to participating teachers with the minimum possible being \$150.

Final date to register for these activities is Friday, May 21. If you need further information after receipt of the registration materials, please contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

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1999-2000 Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year Program

The Those Who Excel Awards Program annually recognizes and honors people who have made outstanding contributions to public and nonpublic elementary and secondary education. Nominations can be made in Student Support Personnel (Certificated), Educational Service Personnel (Noncertificated), School Board Member/ Community Volunteer, Classroom Teacher (Certificated), School Administrator, Team, and Learning Organization categories. The awards of Excellence, Meritorious Service, and Special Recognition will be presented at the Those Who Excel banquet on Saturday, October 16, 1999 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois.

The Illinois Teacher of the Year is selected from among the Award of Excellence winners in the Classroom Teacher Category. During the spring 2000 semester, the Teacher of the Year will serve as an Ambassador for Teaching for the State Board of Education. That individual will also receive one year of paid leave for graduate study and a lifetime tuition waiver at state universities.

Nomination forms may be secured from Communications and External Relations Unit, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777-0001; 217/782-4648 or fax: 217/524-8585. Nominations must be post-marked by Wednesday, July 14.

Illinois Arts Council College for Kids

Sauk Valley Community College, Department of Community Services is offering an *Illinois Arts Council Artist in Residency Program for College for Kids*. The dates are Monday-Thursday, June 14-24 from 8:30 a.m. til noon at Sauk Valley Community College at a cost of \$85.

Katrin Blucker of Walkabout Puppets will be instructing an 8-day workshop, for students with an interest in drama, art and puppetry. The program is open to students entering the 4th-8th grades in Fall 99. She will teach you lots of interesting things about puppets.

You will learn about puppets that come from foreign lands, different types of puppets, and how puppets work. If you love designing and making things, writing, comedy and drama, performing, and fun, then SVCC's College for Kids Puppetry Workshop is the place for you to be this summer.

Advanced registration for the program is required and space is limited, so register NOW!

Lego Workshop: July 14 - 15

Math and science teachers of grades K - 3 and teachers of grades 4 - 9 have received information concerning two one-day workshops to be offered in Morrison on July 14 and 15 through funds of Title II. Teachers are encouraged to register for this hands-on workshop integrating science, math, and technology. The workshop registration fee is the cost of the materials and curriculum.

The Regional Office of Education has received a Title II grant which will offer stipends to teachers who attend these workshops. Stipends will be limited to 28 participants. Registrations will be accepted in the order received. However, teachers will have the opportunity to participate without a stipend if they so wish. If you have any questions after receipt of the registration information, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office. Final date to apply is Friday, May 28.

Gifted Training Completed

Gifted Level II was completed by eight (8) Whiteside County educators during the month of April. This training was delivered through Regional Offices of Education under the guidelines of the Illinois State Board of Education. Teachers who have completed the first 25 hours of training (Level I) need to complete the second 25 hours (Level II) within a two-year window of the completion of the first half in order to complete the process.

Gifted training will again be offered in the 1999-2000 school year. Be watching next fall for the announcement of the dates for both levels.

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Four Semester-Hour Graduate Class

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be offering an introductory level computer class (Curriculum & Instruction 399) and an advanced level (Art Education 491) independent study class for those with computer and html experience.

Elizabeth Delacruz, Assoc. Prof. of Art Education, will be the instructor.

Classes will be held at the Regional Office Monday through Friday, August 2 - 13, 1999. Each class will be limited to ten (10) students. Flyers were sent to each school building in Whiteside County for posting.

The classes are intended for **any** teacher, in **any** subject area, at **any** grade level. The courses will focus on the skills to use the computer and to incorporate the use of the internet in the classroom through the development of a website for your classroom use. Prior computer experience is not necessary for registration in the beginning level. Registration must be completed through the Division of Extramural Programs at UIUC. If you need further information, contact Betty Clementz.

StarNet Tapes Available

Programs that have been taped in April, as well as from the total 1998-1999 school year, are available for check-out to educators for a two-week period. If some of the titles have intrigued you and the academic year was too busy to preview these titles, why not check out some of the tapes as an addition to a study unit you already present in your classroom. Contact Betty Clementz if you are interested in checking these out during the summer.

Programs added from April to the tape library are:

Professional Development:

Classroom Proven Techniques to Enhance Vocabulary Development Reasoning & Understanding in Mathematics, Part II
Essential Advocates: Administrators & Technology, Part 8
Motivating Student Success
A Guide for the Standard Course of Study for Limited English Proficient Students
Writing Assessment: Issues and Answers
Professional Portfolios
Looking at Student Work

Elementary/Middle Enrichment:

Fishing Resources
Earth Trek
Future Outlook
Hurricanes
How Do Airplanes Fly?
Risks Associated with Pet Ownership

High School Enrichment:

Flounder
Earth Trek
Genetics Part I, II, III, IV
Navigation
Hurricanes
The Modernists as Inventors

Student Enrichment programs are 25 minutes in length and professional development are from 1 - 2 hours in length. To request any of these, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

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Software Trainings Planned for the Summer

The survey which was distributed to all educational employees in Whiteside County has produced large numbers who are interested in a variety of software trainings. Persons who indicated an interest in several software applications will be contacted individually to enroll in each. Some trainings will be during the day for teachers who are on vacation; some trainings will be offered after work hours to provide services to those who are employed throughout the summer. The first software training to be offered will be Beginning Word and Excel which has the largest number of persons who indicated an interest.

NIU Offers Three Hour Gifted Education Summer Class

District Coordinators of Gifted Education have been sent a flyer announcing a new three-hour class to be offered at Northern Illinois University during the summer. This class requires all participants to have computer and internet skills, have access to a computer, and have completed the Level I and Level II training of Gifted Education.

If interested in this class, contact the website:
www.physics.niu.edu/~windelborn/gifted/gifts.htm

To register, contact Dr. Augden Windelborn at 815/753-6416 to apply and get the permit number. Any questions, contact your district gifted coordinator who has the flyer with full information.

Internal Review: June 15

All school building principals are encouraged to be completing the Internal Review process in their buildings resulting in an Internal Review Report and/or a School Improvement Plan. No later than September 30 of each year school districts shall notify the regional superintendent of schools in writing that internal review has occurred for the preceding school year. Format for Internal Review Summary Report and for a School Improvement Plan or a combination of both as one document is left to the decision of the individual district, but there are requirements for both that include:

- gathering of information and data to ascertain the success of the school's program in terms of student performance and progress with respect to the Goals for Learning Standards and local learning objectives; inclusion of test trend data, observations, interviews, IGAP/ISAT scores, shadowing of students, school report card demographics to explain the district;
- identifying areas in which improvement is needed, by using the data gathered from Teaching and Learning, Student Progress and Achievement, and the Learning Community from above; data must support the identification of these areas;
- planning for implementation of changes to bring about improvement in the form of an action plan that includes strategies, timelines, and participants who will be responsible for each, as well as a budget to implement the changes;
- planning the professional development component to bring about the school improvement.

The building principals, who are a part of the Regional Office of Education Internal Review grant, will be receiving the Final Report of Internal Review form and the reimbursement form in mid-May. Be sure to attach records of monies expended to the reimbursement form. Those forms should be brought by a member of the Internal Review team to the Regional Office of Education on June 15 at 1:00 p.m. for a sharing of the process. If you have any questions about the internal review process, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

External Review Training to be Offered in Fall

Three regional offices of education of Area II are planning to offer training in the External Review process on November 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn in Rochelle. The purpose of this training is to prepare educators for an external review in their school as well as to train them to be members of an external review team. The external review and the internal review, which is completed by staff and community members of schools annually, mirror each other in the purpose, activities, and reports. This training will provide a thorough understanding of the entire school improvement framework. Mark these dates on your calendar for next 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.

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.

The following positions have been posted for Whiteside Area Vocational Center:

Assistant Director
Computer Repair &
Maintenance Instructor
Auto Mechanics Instructor
Student Services Instructor
Contact Robert Grisolano, Whiteside Area Vocational Center, 1608 Fifth Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081, 815/626-5810

H.S. English Teacher - River Bend C.U.S.D. #2. Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend C.U.S.D. #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

H.S. Spanish Teacher - River Bend C.U.S.D. #2. Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend C.U.S.D. #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

H.S. Physical Ed. Teacher - River Bend C.U.S.D. #2. Contact Kent Hammer, supt., River Bend C.U.S.D. #2, 1110 Third Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-2711.

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher - Prophetstown-Lyndon C.U.S.D. #3. Contact LeRoy Hooks, supt., Prophetstown C.U.S.D. #3, 310 Riverside Drive, Prophetstown, IL 61277, 815/537-5101.

Part-time H.S. Language Arts Teacher - Prophetstown-Lyndon C.U.S.D. #3. Contact Jerry Klooster, prin., Prophetstown High School, 310 Riverside Drive, Prophetstown, IL 61277, 815/537-5161.

Junior High History/Science/Math (one position) - Morrison C.U.S.D. #6. Contact Lawrence Eggleston, supt., 643 Genesee Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270, 815/772-2064.

Half-time Math, Science, Art (Any of the these vacancies could be combined for full-time positions) - Morrison C.U.S.D. #6. Contact Lawrence Eggleston, supt., 643 Genesee Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270, 815/772-2064.

Full-time Special Education (High School/Grades 3-5) - Also Assistant Girls' Volleyball Coach (Differential only) - Morrison C.U.S.D. #6. Contact Lawrence Eggleston, supt., 643 Genesee Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270, 815/772-2064.

Half-time LD and/or EMH teacher - Morrison C.U.S.D. #6. Contact Lawrence Eggleston, supt., 643 Genesee Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270, 815/772-2064.

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(PBL Institute Continued)

This four-day workshop is being facilitated by the Center at IMSA and is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. This professional development and networking opportunity is open to all K-12 educators from various disciplines with diverse experiences. Administrators committed to the exploration and use of PBL are also encouraged to attend.

The training will be held June 14 through June 17 at the Holiday Inn in Rock Falls. Registration fees, materials, and lunch are provided through ISBE Scientific Literacy funds granted to the Illinois Math and Science Academy. If they so choose, participants can register for two (2) semester hours of college credit through Aurora University. The cost for receiving graduate credit for this training is the responsibility of the participant at a total cost of \$125.

To register for this training contact Paul Cannon at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education either by phone 625-1495 or by e-mail at <pcannon@roe55.k12.il.us>

1999 "ENTERNET" PROJECT--June 21 through June 25

As more schools connect to the vast world of electronic resources, a demand has emerged for models to structure classroom activities. Be a part of a core group of teachers this summer who will participate in "EnterNet 99." The Illinois State Board of Education, the Area 2 Technology Learning Hub, and the Whiteside Regional Office of Education are offering this ISBE-funded professional development opportunity for K-12 educators, from various disciplines and with diverse experiences, who are a step above the level of a technological novice.

Participants will explore various structures for designing on-line projects for use in their classroom in the fall of 1999 and will collaboratively develop a classroom activity that will help both the teachers and their students "Enter" into the world wide web learning network. Each participant will receive \$200 worth of materials to support implementation of their projects. Potential participants **MUST** be actively engaged in a certified position at a K-12 public school; have technology skills above the level of a novice; have an active E-Mail account; be able to use a Browser such as Netscape or Explorer; and be comfortable navigating the world wide web. In addition, potential participants must have Internet access and a modern computer capable of accessing the world wide web available in their classroom in the fall of 1999 to continue collaboration with their "EnterNet 99" partners as they implement the learning activities into their individual classrooms.

There is **no cost for this training but there is a limit of 12 participants**, and participants are asked to send a \$50 check (either personal or school district) as a deposit with their registration. Payment of this fee is your guarantee that you will be attending the training. **Enrollment is not complete until this \$50 deposit is received. Upon completion of the training, this check will be returned to the participants.**

Participants may choose to register for two hours of graduate credit from Aurora University for \$120. This expense is the responsibility of the individual. More information will be in each building early in May, or you can contact Paul Cannon at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education either by phone 815/625-1495 or by e-mail at <pcannon@roe55.k12.il.us>

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Science/Technology Corner - Paul Cannon

SCIENCE LITERACY MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

During the 1998-1999 school year, teachers from six schools in Whiteside County received mini-grants totaling \$9,300 from the Regional Office of Education to implement student-oriented science and/or math projects into their classrooms. Teachers wrote applications outlining their projects and their connection to the learning standards and submitted them to the Regional Office. Each of these projects were teacher-developed and involved the integration of technology as an aspect of the project. On May 13, recipients of these mini-grants will be meeting to showcase their projects and to share information about the projects.

These projects will be on display at the Regional Office of Education in Sterling from 1:00 p.m. until about 4:00 p.m. and any interested teacher or administrator is welcome to attend this teacher "Science Fair."

SCORE SCIENCE

K-12 SCORE (Schools of California Online Resources for Education) maintains Web sites in four disciplines: math, history, language arts, and science. The science page is organized into: Kids' Corner, a selection of interactive science based Web sites; Teachers' Corner, featuring lesson plans and activities, collaborative projects, and frameworks and standards; Ask A Scientist; and Science Networks, including links to the National Teachers Association and the National Science Foundation. The list of interactive Web projects, all of which are rated by age group, is particularly fun, whether you choose to interact with the frogs, the whales, the bats, or another group entirely! You can access this interesting sight from the world wide web at this address: <http://scorescience.humboldt.k12.ca.us/>

EXTREME SCIENCE

This site is fun, educational, and entertaining. "Extreme" fits this collection of facts about the largest, highest, oldest, and greatest creatures and formations of the natural world. Each record is accompanied by detailed information and related Web links. A collection of scientists who are involved in actual hands-on scientific discovery is featured. Students will be encouraged to get excited about careers in science as they travel to the edges of the globe, from the peaks of the Himalayan Mountains to the depth of the Marianas Trench. This site can be found at <http://www.extremescience.com/>

PBL INSTITUTE: AN INTRODUCTION TO PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING--June 14 through 17

Are you searching for ways for your students to learn in an authentic context as they construct their own meaning? Problem-Based Learning (PBL) confronts students with an ill-structured, "real-world" problem that is messy and unclear and has more than one pathway to multiple solutions. As stakeholders in the problem scenario, students gain knowledge and skills driven by their genuine need to know. Throughout the process, teachers are facilitators and resources for the students.

Workshop participants will learn the advantages of this powerful approach to teaching and learning. Participants will learn about the critical components of problem-based learning; design a PBL scenario for classroom use; experience the teaching and learning events defining PBL; and come to understand means of assessing problem-based learning. In addition, this four-day workshop 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.

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REI: Regular Education Initiative

Schools that are a part of the REI mini-grants from the Regional Office of Education are reminded that the submission of the final report and all bills for reimbursements under the guidelines of the mini-grant which was written by your Level II and III teams earlier this school year are to be completed by May 15. REI Coordinator, Virginia Johnson, will be contacting each team to set up a time for submission of these items.

Although REI monies were no longer available to Regional Offices of Education, Whiteside County REI teams which had started the three-year cycle were afforded the opportunity to complete the process. This year three teams are at the Level II, and four teams are at the Level III. REI (Regular Education Initiative) is providing strategies to assist the special education student in the regular education classroom.

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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