

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## *Educational Highlights*



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September 1999

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### Calendar Of Events

#### September

- 1 Vision and Hearing - Sterling Christian School
- 2 Vision and Hearing - Fulton Middle School
- 6 Labor Day; legal school holiday - ROE closed
- 7, 8 Vision and Hearing - Unity Christian School
- 9, 10 Vision and Hearing - Thome Grade School
- 13, 14 Vision and Hearing - Prophetstown Grade School
- 14 Evaluation of Principals - Adm. Academy; ROE 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- 14 School Safety & Security - Adm. Academy; ROE 12-3:30 p.m.
- 15 Vision and Hearing - Morrison Middle School
- 16 Practical Leadership For Effective Schools - Adm. Ac. Holiday Inn, Rock Falls, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 17 Vision and Hearing - Albany Grade School
- 21 Vision and Hearing- Morrison Southside School
- 21 School Safety Workshop - Sterling High School, 1 - 3 p.m.
- 22 New Teachers Workshop 7:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church, Sterling
- 23 Level I - Gifted Ed. Whiteside ROE
- 23 School Safety Workshop- Morrison High School 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- 23 Vision and Hearing - Christ Lutheran School
- 24 American Indian Day

Dear Colleagues,

As we get ready for this new school year, I want to wish you all the very best. A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings--new classes, new faces, new assignments and often, new materials. Summer can be a great healer, and those end-of-year pressures that plagued us in June seem quite remote and less threatening.

This next year will bring many new challenges. From the advent of continuing professional development and ensuring that we all provide a safe school environment for our students to determining what impact the ISAT results will have on our local schools, we must stand ready to meet the challenges brought before us. Whether one's responsibility is administering, supervising, teaching, preparing lunches, maintaining a building, or managing an office, we all are involved, and there is always room for improvement and for new ways to do a good job even better.

The Regional Office staff stands ready with you to meet these new challenges. If there is anything we can do to make this year any easier for you, please do not hesitate to give us a call. This year, as in the past, the Regional Office staff will concentrate on the process that provides continuing services to our clients, evaluating what we provide, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying what we need to make those improvements possible.

Gary J. Steinert

#### NEWSLETTER

This issue of the Whiteside County newsletter is being sent to all active teachers for the 1999-2000 school year. If you wish to continue to receive our newsletter, please detach as noted on the back page and return to our office by September 10.

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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.

## Certificate Registration

All teachers in public schools must have their certificate(s) registered annually in the office of "the Regional Superintendent of Schools having supervision and control over the school where the teaching is done..." **School districts may not legally pay those teachers who have not registered their certificates.**

## Library Book Selection Service Workshops

The Library Book Selection Service, Inc. has scheduled a book selection workshop for the Whiteside County area on Thursday, September 16, at the Mississippi Bend AEA, 729 21st Street, Bettendorf, IA. Books on the newest lists will be exhibited and discussed. Those people interested in attending should make reservations two weeks prior to the workshop with the Library Book Selection Service, Inc., Box 277, Bloomington, IL 61704, telephone 309/663-1411. Registration and luncheon fees for all school (public and private) librarians and teachers will be paid by the Regional Superintendent's office.

## Software Trainings Continue.....

During June and July, Whiteside County school employees completed 16 hours of training in beginning Microsoft Word and Excel. In August, training in PowerPoint was completed with eight hours of instruction. Future trainings will be offered to educators and the general public in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, Internet, and Windows 95/98. Trainings are half day or full day in length at the Regional Office of Education on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the morning, afternoon, all day or evenings. Each district superintendent and building principal in Whiteside County has received the schedule of classes to be offered as well as a registration form. For registration to be complete, the registration form and fees must be received one week in advance of the class. All classes must have a minimum number of students; the maximum number is ten students. Nancy Slonneger will be the instructor. Optional non-transferable credit through Sauk Valley Community College will also be available for combinations of classes. Be watching for the posting of these trainings in your building to help you use technology effectively.

### Schedule of Classes in September

Sept. 7	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Word 97
Sept. 8	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Basics
	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Productivity
Sept. 9	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Excel 97
Sept. 14	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Word 97
Sept. 15	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to the Internet
	5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Introduction to the Internet
Sept. 16	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Excel 97
Sept. 21	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Word 97
Sept. 22	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Basics
	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Productivity
Sept. 23	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Introduction to Excel 97
Sept. 28	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Basics
Sept. 28 & 30	5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Introduction to Word 97
Sept. 29	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Introduction to the Internet
	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Internet Search Techniques
Sept. 30	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Windows 95/98 Productivity

Contact the Regional Office at 625-1495 for further information and registration materials.

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## NEW TEACHER WORKSHOP

All teachers who are new to Whiteside County are invited to a workshop on Wednesday, September 22, in the Parish Hall of Sacred Heart Church, 2224 Avenue J in Sterling (across the street from our office). Frank Copi, retired teacher and superintendent from Springfield, will present the topic of "You Never Get a Second Chance to Make a First Impression"; Dr. Don Kachur, Professor Emeritus of Education at Illinois State University, will address the area of parent conferences. Techniques in behavior management will be addressed by Jeff Brown, principal of Rock Falls Middle School. In addition, the services of the Regional Office will be explained. This workshop has been planned to provide information to ease the transition between being student and teacher. Each teacher new to Whiteside County will receive an invitation with registration information to be submitted by **Friday, September 10.**

## Illinois School Library Media

Register for the Illinois School Library Media Association's Conference, "Keys to the Next Century", October 28-30 at Decatur's Holiday Inn Select. Featured speakers include Jean Van Leeuwen, Andrew Clements, David Loertscher, and Nancy Johnson. Contact ISLMA, PO Box 598, Canton, IL 61520 or visit their web site at <[www.islma.org](http://www.islma.org)>.

## Make A Difference Day: Saturday, October 23

USA WEEKEND sponsors a national day of community service throughout the United States in which over a million persons participated in 1998. Participants included Miss America 1999, Nicole Johnson, and thousands of heroes next-door, like you. Awards, both monetary donations to charities and honorary, are presented to winners. This year each WalMart store will have \$1000 available to award to community organizations. How do you become

involved at your school? Visit [www.makeadifferenceday.com](http://www.makeadifferenceday.com) for resources and ideas to get you started. Or you can call 1-800-416-3824 for general information. Entry forms will be printed in USA WEEKEND, August through November. Plan the project, do the good deed, and submit a description of your accomplishments. The best part of the experience will be giving back to your community in which you live.

## School Improvement: Internal Review

Internal review is to be conducted within each school building annually. Last year the Regional Office of Education provided funds to help districts begin the process. Participating districts were reimbursed by the Regional Office through grant funds for the time spent by team members. This year a grant has again been written for the

purpose of providing monies for stipends to staff members to complete this annual review which provides the data for the direction of the school improvement plan. Building principals have already received the application for this Internal Review mini-grant which should be submitted by **Friday, September 10.**

## School Improvement: External Review

Whiteside County is joining with LaSalle, Marshall/Putnam/Woodford, and Lee/Ogle counties in offering two days of training in the external review process. This ISBE workshop will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 9 and 10, at the Rochelle Holiday Inn from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. All building principals have received information for registration. This workshop will provide a

thorough understanding of the process of external review and qualify participants to serve on an external review team; however, participants are not required to serve in that capacity. Since the annual internal review mirrors the external review, this workshop will provide schools with an understanding of the total process. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

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## StarNet: Professional Development and Curriculum Enrichment Programs

Programs on StarNet will again be available to all schools. These programs are curriculum enrichment for elementary and middle/high school and professional development. Many of the programs this year are focusing on topics of technology. A list of the programs to be broadcast during the following month with a brief description of each will be sent to each district to the technology coordinator or to the building principal for distribution to faculty. Curriculum enrichment programs are twenty-five minutes in length; professional development programs are one - two hours in length.

Each program will be videotaped for checkout through the lending library for a two week period of time. Requests for programs to be taped must be submitted at least a week prior to the broadcast date, and loan of the tape will be honored in the order of the request received. Each month in this newsletter there will also be a list of the programs available for check-out that were taped in the preceding month. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

## Distance Learning: Earn Graduate Credit

Brochures of 15 video courses (distance learning) designed for teachers, each bearing 3 hours of graduate credit from Olivet Nazarene University, are available in the Regional Office. Preview tapes of each course are also available. Go to [www.gradcourses.net](http://www.gradcourses.net) for a description of the courses, or contact Betty Clementz to check-out any of these preview materials.

## Gifted Education

Whiteside County Gifted Coordinators will be meeting the afternoon of October 7 at the Regional Office in Sterling. Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education will be addressing the group concerning the requirements of Gifted Education in Illinois and the relationship of Gifted Education to the School Improvement Plan and the Internal/External Review processes. Each coordinator will be sent the full information for attending this important informational meeting.

### LEVEL I of Gifted Education

Level I of Gifted Education Training has been set for the following dates: October 5, 19, and 26. Instructor for the first three sessions will be Betty Clementz, Coordinator of Gifted Education at the Regional Office. All district gifted coordinators will be receiving registration materials. Together, Levels I and II comprise 50 hours of training in Gifted Education and are one-half the requirement for a school district to receive reimbursement for a teacher who earns more than \$300 in salary from the Illinois Reimbursement Program. This training will provide an understanding of the traits and identification of a student who is gifted and how to address his special needs. If the Gifted Education in your district is to be presented in the regular classroom, this training will assist you in differentiating the curriculum to meet the needs of those students identified as gifted in your classroom.

Plans are progressing to bring a three-hour graduate level class in Gifted Education to the Whiteside County area during the second semester. A three-hour graduate level class in Gifted Education is a possible second half of the requirement to receive salary reimbursement through the Illinois Reimbursement Program. When plans are complete, district Gifted Coordinators will receive the registration information.

The following materials have been added this summer to the Regional Office of Education Lending Library for Gifted Education:

*Dictionary of Gifted, Talented, and Creative Education Terms:* Frasier and Carland

*Biographical Dictionary of Gifted Education:* Monaco

*Annotated Bibliography of Gifted Education:* Gallagher and Courtright  
*Identifying and Educating Gifted Students at the Secondary Level:*

*Manual for the Purdue Rating Scales:* Feldhusen, Hoover, and Sayler

*Purdue Academic Rating Scales:* Feldhusen, Hoover, and Sayler

*Purdue Vocational Talent Rating Scales:* Feldhusen, Hoover, and Sayler

*Baldwin Identification Matrix 2:* Baldwin

*Handbook for Identifying Gifted & Talented Children:* Baldwin

*Forms for Identifying Gifted & Talented Children:* Baldwin

*The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide (Ages 10 and Under):* Galbraith

*The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide (A Teen Handbook):*

Galbraith and Delisle

*Curriculum Compacting:* Reis, Burns, Renzulli

*SAGES: Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students:* Johnsen and Corn

*SAGES-P: Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students -*

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## Truants' Program

Whiteside County Truants' Alternative Program welcomes Enedina Juarez-Batten as our new part-time caseworker replacing Karen Boesen who retired (again) this past summer. Enedina has worked for the YWCA/COVE (Citizens Opposing Violent Encounters) as a child advocate and volunteer for the 24 Hour Hotline to provide crisis help, advocacy, and counseling for victims of violence. Since 1988, she was employed as a school nurse for Sterling C.U.S.D. #5.

Enedina's nursing background and her proficiency in speaking Spanish will be an asset to our program. She will work with the following schools: Rock Falls Middle School, Rock Falls High School, Riverdale School, Montmorency School, East Coloma School, Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico C.U.S.D. #3, Washington School, and Lincoln School. Please make her feel welcome as she visits your schools this fall.

## Center for Change

The Whiteside Regional Center for Change (Safe Schools Program) is in its third year. Jane Hopkins and Nan Zion have returned as the teachers and are using a new computerized curriculum called Advanced Learning Systems and Reading Plus. We have also purchased uniforms for our students which have been very well received by both the students and their parents.

The Center provides an alternative to expulsion/suspension for students in grades 7-8-9 who are eligible for expulsion or have had multiple suspensions due to acts of violence, drugs, alcohol, or weapon violations at school or chronically disruptive behav-

## ROE Lending Library: Have Materials, Will Loan

The Regional Office of Education has a lending library of materials ready for teacher use in 1999-2000. Materials are arranged according to topic, e.g. language arts, science, Title I, REI, social studies, gifted education, books, videos, manipulatives, CD Roms, magazines, classroom sets of literature books--all are available for a period of two weeks on loan. If you need to supplement the curricular materials in your school, this is a great source for you to do so. Added to the library this summer are the following:

**Jump Start Home Learning System:** computer based set of 12 CD-ROMS for K-5 (ages 4-11) with activities for reading, spelling, math, science, history, geography, art, music, astronomy, and even Spanish and typing. Meant for home learning, this would be great for independent learning. Activity workbooks and other teaching materials are also included.

### StarNet Videos from 1998-1999 school year:

#### *Engaged Learning*

- Part I: Producing Instructional Videos for the Classroom
- Part II: Technology Aided Presentations
- Part III: Interactive MULTimedia in the Classroom
- Part IV: Technology Assisted Creative Writing
- Meeting Learners' Needs Through Multiple Intelligences
- Implementation of IDEA
- Power of Advertising
- Modern Masters: American Artists Made Their Mark
- The Grace Presents: Russian Art

A bibliography of all library materials was sent to each building last year. If the list is no longer available in your building, please contact the ROE for a duplicate copy. Come visit our library to see the variety of materials available to assist you!

## Teacher Certification News

Anyone who will be applying for a new or additional certificate from the Illinois State Board of Education is reminded that they must participate in the Illinois Certification Testing System. Registration and study guide booklets for the basic skills and subject matter tests are available in the Regional Office. Test dates for the 1999-2000 school year are shown below:

<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
September 3, 1999	September 24, 1999	October 16, 1999
November 26, 1999	December 17, 1999	January 8, 2000
February 25, 2000	March 17, 2000	April 8, 2000
May 26, 2000	June 16, 2000	July 8, 2000

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## **Career Awareness Focused On Middle School Teachers**

**T**wenty-four (24) middle school teachers from Sterling, Rock Falls, Tampico, Fulton/Albany, and Erie participated in tours/visits of three businesses in the area of their school district to discover firsthand the skills and traits of an employable person in Whiteside County. These tours/visits were arranged by the Regional Office of Education with a local retail business, service provider, and industry. The second day consisted of a visit to Self Help Enterprises and a presentation by Pam Clodfelter of Sauk Valley Community College Job Placement.

Summaries of each tour/visit have been assembled into a booklet and distributed to each Whiteside County middle school. These booklets will provide descriptions of local businesses, the types of employment available, and qualifications for each as well as the name of a contact person at each. What a great local resource for future classroom career awareness activities as schools and businesses continue to form partnerships for the education of our youth.

## **Meeting The Challenge X**

**P**lans are progressing for the tenth annual fine arts conference hosted by the partnership of the Whiteside Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College to be held on Friday, January 7, 2000 at Sauk Valley. Three workshop sessions will be offered to registrants for hands-on activities and curriculum for visual arts, music, drama, and dance in addition to sessions of general interest. This year the conference will provide many sessions for the regular classroom teacher, as well as the fine arts teacher, to enhance the curriculum in these areas. Be watching for the flier to arrive at your building in October.

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## **Lego Workshops: Overwhelming Success**

**A** grant received for Title II monies made *Lego* workshop training available to teachers from throughout Whiteside County. Twenty-one (21) teachers of K - 3 and fifteen (15) teachers of grades 4 - 9 learned how to adapt the legos into simple machines using the principles of pulleys, levers, gears, wheels and axles, work, friction, and inclined planes. The training focused on an integration of science, mathematics, and technology as an application of the Illinois Learning Standards to the hands-on activities. Reactions to the class were overwhelmingly positive as teachers planned to incorporate these activities into their science/math curriculum. The Regional Office of Education has purchased for loan through our lending library two additional kits of Primary Simple Machines for K - 3 and also of Technic I: Simple Machines. Check these materials out of the library for two weeks for use in your classroom. Or better yet, why not reserve these materials for the two weeks you are planning to incorporate Legos into your curriculum? Call the ROE to place these materials on reserve for your class!

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## **Tar Wars: Anti-Tobacco Program for Fifth Graders**

**T**he Illinois Academy of Family Physicians has a one-hour classroom program that uses lively and interactive methods to convey the dangers of smoking to fifth grade audiences. A family physician, resident, or medical student will teach Tar Wars to your fifth grade class(es), *free of charge*. A poster contest follows the classroom presentation with regional, state, and national winners. The inaugural year of Tar Wars in 1998-99 reached over 9,000 fifth grade students in Illinois. Will the fifth graders in your school receive this life-saving lesson? Contact Ginnie Henry, Manager of Public Relations of IAFP in Lisle, IL at (630)435-0257, ext. 118 or e-mail: [gghenry@iafp.com](mailto:gghenry@iafp.com) for further information and registration.

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## **ISBE On-Line Learning Resources Available to Schools in Illinois**

Pending signed contracts with ISBE, the following companies and their Internet services will be available to Illinois Schools. Sign-up procedures are on this web page. Schools will be able to sign-up for licenses as soon as ISBE and the vendors have signed contracts. Signed contracts are anticipated by mid August. Please visit these sites and review the content of each at the website indicated to see what services are best for your school or classroom.

**Classroom Connect** -- This year, schools will be able to purchase a site license from Classroom Connect, Inc. for both classroomdotcom, interactive curriculum, and Connected University, on-line staff development, for \$660 for the first 250 schools. This resource serves grades K-8. After the contractual target (250) is reached, additional schools may purchase the services for the state negotiated rate. This rate provides that after the first 250 schools sign-up, classroomdotcom will continue to be available to more schools at the state negotiated rate of \$660. In addition, the combination of classroomdotcom and Connected University will be available to schools for \$2200. To view these two services to determine if they are appropriate for your class, visit the special Connected Illinois site which can be found at <<http://products.classroom.com/connectedillinois/>>.

**Electric Library** -- Easy enough for novice users, powerful enough for advanced researchers, Electric Library, the flagship database product from Infonautics Corporation, provides the entire K-12 community with content that promotes learning skills and supports the Illinois Learning Standards. Designed to allow a novice user to become a proficient researcher in minutes, Electric Library also provides advanced search capabilities for the experienced user. This service is offered at no cost to Illinois Public Schools. Electric Library will be free to an unlimited number of public schools in Illinois. You can view a demonstration of Electric Library by going to their website at <<http://www.elibrary.com/s/ilschool>> (demo site available until 10/31/99).

**Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.** -- Britannica On-line, serving grades K-12, will be available free to an unlimited number of schools. Britannica On-line is now available via the Internet with over 130,000 Internet links fully integrated into the Britannica On-line database. Britannica On-line supports natural language searching, Boolean searching, and simple word searching with an automatic phonetic speller. Be sure to preview their 'Spotlight Features', with in-depth coverage of: The British Invasion, Britannica Guide to Black History, Normandy, Titanic, and much more. They have also added a People and History section that change daily with biographical and historical features; use these sections as starting points to explore other articles in Britannica On-line. You can view this service at <<http://www.search.eb.com>>.

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**Lightspan Partnership, Inc.** -- The Lightspan Network is the largest source on the Web for high-quality, professionally created, student-centered activities, lessons, and Web sites for K-8 classrooms. Matched to the Illinois Learning Standards, these ready-to-use educational resources are instantly available to every classroom and family with Internet access. The Network provides Illinois teachers with a time-efficient and motivating means for improving student performance. Organized by grade and subject area, The Lightspan Network provides K-8 teachers, students, and their families with on-line curriculum activities, opportunities to communicate with other classes across the country, and tools to help integrate the Internet quickly and easily into Illinois curriculum. Your entire school community (this includes every student, every teacher, every staff member, and all members of their immediate families) can get a year-long subscription to The Lightspan Network for only \$495 per school -- a small fraction of the regular price! You can view this service at <<http://www.lightspan.com>>.

**Learning Outfitters, Inc.** -- Adventure On-line (AO) is a FREE, supplemental curriculum for grades 3-9 that uses adventure as a theme to support learning. From the North to the South Pole, AO stories of adventure make learning and teaching a fun, timely, and meaningful event. Educators will be able to use a simple directory that aligns activities and lesson plans to the Illinois State Standards. Students complete learning activities related to the adventures, interact with noted explorers and extreme athletes, collaborate with other students and on-line experts, and conduct research using Learning Outfitters' selected on-line resource materials. You can view a free demonstration of this service at <<http://www.adventureonline.com/isbe>>.

**Chicago Academy of Science** -- CAoS Club serving grades K-8 will be available to the first 250 schools free and to schools after the first 250 licenses at the state rate of \$750. The Chicago Academy of Sciences' on-line science education service, CAoS Club ([www.caosclub.org](http://www.caosclub.org)), features standards-based science curricular resources, live demonstrations broadcast directly into classrooms over the Internet, interactive chats with science professionals, and much more. All CAoS Club content is aligned to Illinois Academic Standards and includes connections to assessment strategies for teachers and ISAT test areas. CAoS Club activities offer cross-curricular extensions to mathematics, language arts, and other learning areas. You can view the service at <<http://www.caosclub.org>>.

**Educational Structures, Custom Internet Curriculum** -- Educational Structures (ES) from NCS, is Custom Internet Curriculum delivered via the Internet for both educators and students at the middle school, high school and shortly, the elementary level. ES includes a core of complete organized lesson plans and comprehensive resource materials in four learning areas: Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Language Arts. ES also offers the unique Custom Lesson Planner which enables educators to customize lesson plans and incorporate any of the teaching materials already in the classroom. Finally, ES also includes a solid information backbone consisting of periodicals, newspapers, and other learning reference materials. ES can help your educators transform a world of curriculum choices into great lesson plans for classroom instruction! You can visit their web-site at <<http://www.EducationalStructures.com>>.

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## **Starlab Checkout**

**T**his is a reminder to all teachers in Whiteside County that the ROE has a Starlab available for checkout on a one-week basis during the school year. This is an excellent tool for teaching astronomy and is a valuable aid in helping to achieve the portion of the new academic standards, just adopted by the State of Illinois, that pertain to environment and earth science.

In order to check out the Starlab, you must have gone through the training in the use of the lab. If you have had this training and you desire to utilize this teaching tool, please fill out the form or contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE office by calling 815/625-1495.

## **Science ListServe Available from ISBE**

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, all you need to do is to send a message to the following e-mail address: **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.

## **Science Corner - Paul Cannon**

**Welcome back!** It does not seem possible that summer is over and a new school year has started. Once again I want to use this forum as a means of informing both staff and administration of some of the current happenings in science and technology. I also will keep you informed of in-service opportunities and pass on to you some interesting Internet sites that may enhance your classroom instruction.

**The Illinois Audubon Society** has a project entitled "Jr. Bird Feeder Challenge Project" which is available to classes throughout Illinois at grade levels K-6. It involves putting up and maintaining a bird feeder on the school grounds through the winter months, collecting data by observation, and then submitting that data for compilation with that gathered by other classes around the state. The results are then published in a special newsletter and sent to each participating class, along with certificates for each student.

This program was started in 1997, and last school year more than 450 classes took part in the project. Participating classes receive an information packet to help them get started on the project and bird identification charts to help them with their observations. A slide program is available for teachers to use with their classes at no charge. If there is a local Audubon group in your community, or a garden club, they may be willing to sponsor classes and provide their bird feeders and seed. As a follow-up activity each year, there is an art contest, and students have an opportunity to enter drawings of birds which visited their feeders. Prizes are awarded to contest winners.

If your class is interested in participating in this project, contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office for more details regarding enrollment into the program.

**Science Literacy Mini-Grants and Training** will again be offered through the Regional Office of Education. Teachers can apply for grants of up to \$1500 for the purpose of enhancing the science and/or mathematics curriculum in their classrooms. The RFP's for this program will be available early in September.

Also, as a part of the Science Literacy Program, the Regional Office will be offering training in the integration of technology into the classroom, training in engaged learning and problem based learning, and the integration of the internet into the classroom. Watch for information regarding both parts of the Science Literacy program. Details will be available early in September, or you can call Paul Cannon at the Regional Office if you are interested.

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## Unfilled Teaching Positions

The following positions have been posted for Sterling School District #5:

- CMS Special Education  
Cross Categorical
- SHS Special Education  
Cross Categorical
- Jefferson 5th Grade

Contact Sterling School District at 815/626-5050

H.S Spanish Teacher - River Bend CUSD #2. Contact Jerry Klooster, prin., Fulton H.S., 1207 - 12th Street, Fulton, IL 61252, 815/589-3511.

## TRS Large Group Meeting

**O**n September 28, 1999, 4:30 p.m. at the Sterling Centennial Auditorium, 1608 Fourth Avenue, Sterling, TRS will be presenting a Retirement Planning Large Group Meeting to provide important information to teachers within five years of retirement. Topics include retirement eligibility, how benefits are calculated, and the effects of 2.2 and ERO. The counselor will also discuss post retirement employment and health insurance issues. The presentation will last about 30 minutes with additional time for questions and answers.

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Detach Here

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

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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

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Fold

Stamp

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

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