

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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October 1999

Newsletter No. 2 Volume 55

Calendar Of Events

October

- 5 Gifted Level I Training
8 a.m.-4 p.m., ROE
- 7 Gifted Coordinators
1 to 3 p.m., ROE
- 8 Leif Erickson Day observance
- 11 Columbus Day,
a legal school holiday,
Regional Office closed
- 11-15 National School Lunch Week
- 12 Vision and Hearing
Tampico Grade School
- 14 Vision and Hearing
Fulton High School
- 17-23 National School Bus
Safety Week
- 18 Vision and Hearing
Bi County Special Ed.
- 19 Vision and Hearing
Prophetstown High School
- 19 Gifted Level I Training
8 a.m.-4 p.m., ROE
- 21 Technology for the Practicing
Adm., 8:30 a.m. to noon, ROE
- 21, 22 Vision and Hearing
Dillon School
- 25, 26 Vision and Hearing
Franklin Elem. School
- 26 Gifted level I Training
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., ROE
- 28 Regular and Special Education
Adm. Academy, ROE,
noon to 3:30 p.m.
- 31 Standard Time returns; set
clocks back one hour

Have your colleagues asked why they did not receive this issue of Whiteside County Regional Office of Education *Educational Highlights*? It is because they are not on the mailing list. Only the first September issue is mailed to all educators. Tell them to call 625-1495 to be placed on the mailing list.

Software Training Continues

Software trainings continue into the month of October. Nancy Slonneger is the instructor. Classes are scheduled in mornings, afternoons, full days, and evenings. All classes are open to the public, as well as to educators. Cost is \$37.50 for 3 1/2 hours and \$75.00 for 7 hours. Please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office if you are interested in software training.

October

Morning (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)		Full Day (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	
Oct. 12	Introduction to Internet	Oct. 6	Cancelled
Oct. 13	Internet Search Techniques	Oct. 14	Introduction to PowerPoint 97
Oct. 20	Windows 95/98 Basics	Oct. 28	Intermediate Word 97
Afternoon (1:00 - 4:30 p.m.)		Evening (5:30 - 9:00 p.m.)	
Oct. 5	Windows 95/98 Basics	Oct. 5, 7	Cancelled
Oct. 7	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)	Oct. 12	Windows 95/98 Basics
Oct. 19	Introduction to Internet	Oct. 13	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)
Oct. 20	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)	Oct. 19, 21	Introduction to PowerPoint 97
Oct. 21	Internet Search Techniques	Oct. 26	Windows 95/98 Basics
Oct. 26	Introduction to Internet	Oct. 27	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)
Oct. 27	Internet Search Techniques		

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Area II Comprehensive Health/HIV/AIDS Program

This office has received a listing of workshops scheduled for this fall for the Area II Comprehensive Health/HIV/AIDS Program. These trainings are set up this year based on needs identified for Safe Schools and Safe to Learn Programs. The trainings are available at no cost to any school personnel within Area II.

If your school is working on a Safety Plan or involved with a Safe to Learn Program, consider using these trainings as part of your professional development. Team participation is recommended. For registration forms and listings contact this office.

Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest

Secretary of State Jesse White has released information on the 1999-2000 Organ/Tissue Donor Awareness Student Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to promote public awareness of the importance of organ/tissue donation. The contest is open to all Illinois students in grades Kindergarten through 12. Contestants are divided into four categories, according to grade: K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. Entries must be judged by the local school and received by the Secretary of State's office on or before December 15.

In addition to the poster contest the Secretary of State's office is also offering materials and speakers to health and science teachers.

If you have any questions, please call 217/782-6258, write to the Secretary of State Organ Donor Program, 2701 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62723, or call the Regional Office of Education.

Teacher Shortage Areas

The following areas have been designated as teacher shortage areas for the 1999-2000 school year:

Special Education

- Art Therapy
- Bilingual Special Education
- Cross Categorical
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Impaired

Specialized Personnel

- Bilingual Teacher
- English as a Second Language

Pre-Kindergarten

- Early Childhood Education (Certification Required)

Individuals who have been receiving a teacher shortage scholarship in other areas should contact the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) at 1/800-899-4722. Teacher shortage scholarship applications and information can also be obtained by contacting the ISAC.

The above identified shortage areas are also eligible for payment deferral provisions of the Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal Supplemental Loan for Students (SLS), and the reduction of teaching obligation under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program.

Federal Stafford and SLS borrowers who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, should call their lender. The Federal Student Aid Hotline will answer general questions at 1/800-4FEDAID. Paul Douglas Scholars should contact the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Accelerated Schools Training Programs

The Illinois State Board of Education is making available nine days of training that will cover various aspects of the Accelerated School Program, one of the design models that comprise the USDE Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration grants. The Initial Training Program, October 3-5 and 25-26, will provide the training necessary for an individual to serve as coach for a school. Inquiry Training will be November 15-16. Powerful Learning Training will be February 7-8. All trainings will be held at Northfield Center in Springfield. Principals, teachers, coaches, or others working with a new or existing accelerated school are invited to attend. For further information contact Carolyn Farrar at 217/782-5728.

Cardboard Recycling Service

Self Help Enterprises, in cooperation with City Carton Company of Iowa City, Iowa, is pleased to announce a cardboard recycling drop-off program at Self Help's facility at 2300 West LeFevre Road in Sterling.

Residents or businesses can deliver their clean, recyclable cardboard to Self Help during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. For more information contact John Stern at 815/626-3115.

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ISAT Update

Educators from Whiteside and Lee/Ogle Counties will have an opportunity to hear the latest update on the status of ISAT on Monday, October 25 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Rochelle Best Inn. All district superintendents and building principals were sent registration information for this workshop presented by Carmen Chapman, Director of Assessment for ISBE. All registrations are through the Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education. Information will be given concerning the cut scores and student performance on ISAT in 1999, the reporting documents that schools are receiving, the Prairie State Examination, and changes in the testing procedure for February 2000. For further information, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education

Internal Review Mini-Grants

All public school building principals were offered the opportunity to share in a portion of the grant written by the Whiteside Regional Office of Education for monies to assist in the internal review process. Twenty-two (22) building principals have registered to participate. The mini-grant will be awarded in June as reimbursement of stipends or substitutes for persons in these buildings to complete the annual internal review. If your internal review team has questions about the process or needs assistance, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office of Education.

Meeting The Challenge X: A Conference for You!

Meeting The Challenge X, a conference for teachers and administrators of K - 12, will be held at Sauk Valley Community College on Friday, January 7, 2000. The breakout sessions will focus on curriculum for the fine arts in the areas of Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts with an emphasis on Multiculturalism. This conference will also provide sessions of general interest to educators and is intended to benefit both the fine arts specialist as well as the regular classroom teacher. All registrations and fees will be due by December 3. Mark this date of January 7 as a must-attend event.

New Teacher Workshop: A Success

Twenty teachers new to Whiteside County met on September 22 to receive information to assist them in adjusting to the role of a teacher. Topics addressed included instructional models for reaching all students by Frank Copi of Springfield, student discipline and classroom management by Jeff Brown, Principal of Rock Falls Middle School, and parent-teacher conferencing by Dr. Don Kachur of Illinois State University, Normal. Services of the Regional Office of Education were also explained. To quote one of the participants: "Great! Learned lots of strategies and techniques - useful and motivating."

External Review Workshop in Rochelle

External Review Training has been arranged by the Regional Offices of Education in Whiteside and Lee/Ogle Counties for administrators and teachers. It will be held on November 9 and 10 at the Rochelle Best Inns (former Holiday Inn). This workshop focuses on the process of an external review and how that mirrors the internal review process that all schools were required to initiate during the 1998-99 school year. This training will qualify a participant to serve on an external review team; however, there is no requirement to do so. This training is a must to understand fully the school improvement process. Contact your district superintendent or building principal for registration information, or call Betty Clementz at the Regional Office for further information

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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.

Gifted Education Update

Whiteside County teachers are invited to participate in the Level I training of Gifted Education on October 5, 19, and 26. Level I addresses the rules regarding gifted education, characteristics and behaviors of the gifted child, identification procedures, and the skills to modify curriculum to meet the needs of the gifted student. Level II will be held in the second semester of the 1999-2000 school year. Together these two levels comprise the 50 hours of training that is 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. Registration information has been sent to district coordinators.

Coordinators of Gifted Education will be meeting from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7 at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education. Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education will be addressing the group concerning the requirements for Gifted Education in Illinois and the relationship of Gifted Education to the School Improvement Plan and the internal and external review process. Mark this date on your calendar so your district will be informed.

Mark the dates of December 6 - 8 on your calendar to attend the 36th annual Gifted Education Conference to be held at Pheasant Run. If you need further registration information, contact your district coordinator of gifted education or Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

StarNet Programs Available

Tapes of programs delivered through StarNet are available for a checkout of two weeks. Programs taped during the preceding month include:

Student Enrichment: (length of 25 mins/segment)

Wonders of Heredity: Parts II, III, and IV

Digging The Past

Wetland Wonders

Professional Development: (length of 1 or 2 hours)

Compelling Coaching Strategies for Teachers

Best Practices Part I

Year Round Education: Issues and Answers

Teacher Talk: How To Improve Teacher Student Interaction

Using Stories With Holes and Other Thinking Skills

Laying The Foundation for Standards Based Education

StarNet programs may be requested to be taped by any school employee. Use the Request To View form and send to Betty Clementz in advance of the program. The broadcast schedule and request form are sent to all principals each month. Be watching for the information so you too may request a tape for use in your classroom.

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Starlab Checkout

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 pertaining to the environment and earth science. The STARLAB has just undergone an extensive refurbishing process and some new resources have been added for teachers to use along with the STARLAB.

In order to check out the STARLAB, you must have gone through the training in the use and care of the lab. If you have had this training and you desire to utilize this teaching tool, contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE by calling 815/625-1495. If you have not had this training, one is scheduled for November 3.

Digital Cameras

Ordinary film cameras are primarily an individual tool. Students can use them to illustrate reports and in various other ways. But it is difficult to incorporate them into daily class activities. Digital cameras, on the other hand, require no developing and turn out pictures that can be shown and manipulated on a computer or on the world wide web. They have the potential to turn photography into a group activity that allows students to learn together.

At the Regional Office, we have digital cameras available to be checked out for one week at a time. If you are interested in utilizing this resource, call Paul Cannon and receive a short training on the use of the camera and find out how photography can enhance your teaching in so many different ways.

Science and Technology Corner - Paul Cannon

Science ListServe Available from ISBE

The State Board of Education has created a Science List Serve 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: slead@list.isbe.state.il.us and in the text of the message write "I would like to join slead." This will add you to the list, and you will receive all communications until you decide to unjoin.

On-Line Resources

Seven educational resource companies, and their Internet services, are available to local school districts in Illinois at discounted prices through funding provided by the Illinois State Board of Education Learning Technologies Center. School officials, and teachers are urged to review these services as soon as possible. All schools within the county received information earlier regarding these services and the sign-up procedures, and the services were featured in our September newsletter. Our area was assured of at least 25 of the spots until October 1. After this date, the services are available on a first come, first served basis. Some of the services offer unlimited enrollment. Check with your district technology coordinator for more details or call the Regional Office and talk to Paul Cannon. These services are: Chicago Academy of Sciences; Educational Structures; Learning Outfitters; Encyclopedia Britannica; Lightspan; Classroom Connect; and Electric Library.

Regional training will take place this fall on each of these services for those districts who sign-up. For more information on the individual services, see the following website: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/learn-technology/technopages/OLIR/Desrpre-source.htm> This is something that you should check out.

Science Mini-Grant Applications

Science mini-grant applications have been in the individual buildings since early in September, and a number of teachers already are preparing individual student projects related to the integration of science, mathematics, and technology. The scope of the projects, and what teachers can do with the funds, is fairly broad. Any well thought out multi-disciplinary project has a chance of receiving funding as long as it integrates science and/or math along with technology. Teachers can receive initial grants up to \$1,300. If you are interested in participating and have not seen the information and application forms, check with your building principal or call Paul Cannon at the Regional Office of Education. Application deadline is 4:00 pm, October 22.

Interesting Science and Math Web Sites

<http://www.eskimo.com/~billb/weird.html> Lots of good links to "Weird Science" and science in general.

<http://www.exploratorium> This URL was created by the hands-on San Francisco science museum and the Exploratorium site takes advantage of the interactive nature of the Internet. Featured exhibits and activities.

<http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/childs/> This URL focuses on an on-line project entitled "National Pet Census Project" and involves collaboration, on-line correspondence, data collection and sharing, and teamwork.

<http://150.216.8.1/roadmap/scimath.htm> This URL is literally a "Road Map" to a vast number of sites for both science and math. Also has links to other curriculum areas as well.

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Lending Library Is For You!

The Regional Office of Education has a lending library of materials to assist teachers and administrators. Many curricular supplements, as well as professional development materials, are available for loan. Each Whiteside County School was sent a bibliography of all materials last fall. Plan now to come in and check out materials to assist you in your next unit of study or class project. These materials may be kept for a period of two weeks. Materials that you know you will be using at a certain time in the year may be placed on reserve. Call 815/625-1495 to reserve materials that you need.

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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

Partners

The Whiteside Regional Office of Education is pleased to announce the award of an Adult Education and Family Literacy grant through the Community and Family Partnership Division of the Illinois State Board of Education. Partners is the name of this new service which is a weekly home-based family literacy program that will focus on bringing school, family, and community together in relation to a family's individual goals. Eligible participants will include parents attending adult education classes offered through Sauk Valley Community College or the Wallace Education Center and their children, 5-14 years of age, who are attending school in Whiteside County.

A unique feature of the Partners Family Literacy program is the facilitating of parent/teacher information meetings in order to help parents identify their children's grade level goals and learn ways to support those goals and their children's education. The weekly home visit will also provide activities on an individual family-by-family basis in regard to adult education goals, employment goals and transition activities for continued education.

Cathy Joynt, who has 10 years of experience in elementary teaching and 17 years of experience in adult education, is the new Partners home visitor, and Mary Gospodarczyk is the program coordinator.

If you know of a family in which the parent is involved in adult education, GED or English as a Second Language, and has a school age child who would benefit from additional education support services, please call Mary Gospodarczyk at 625-1495 with the referral.