

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



GARY J. STEINERT, Superintendent
LORNA M. ENGWALL, Assistant
BETTY CLEMENTZ, Adm. Assistant
BETH HUBBARD, Truants' Program
PAUL CANNON, Scientific Literacy

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, Illinois 61081
815/625-1495
Fax 815/625-1625



MARCIA S. HAAG, Office Manager
SHERRY R. DYKEMA, Secretary
ROBERT MARINANGELI, Adm. Academy
PATRICIA RHODES, Parenting Program
MARY GOSPODARCZYK, Even Start Program

Educational Highlights

November 1999

Newsletter No. 3 Volume 55

Calendar Of Events

November

- 1, 2
Vision and Hearing
Lincoln Grade School
- 9
Adm. Academy
Section 504 - Prin. & Supt.
12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- 9, 10
Vision and Hearing
Washington Grade School
- 10
Korean War Veterans
Commemorative holiday
- 11
Veterans' Day; a legal
school holiday & Regional
Office closed
- 12
Vision and Hearing
Morrison High School
- 14-20
American Education Week
- 15-21
National Children's Book Week
- 16
School Nurses Luncheon
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
CGH Medical Center
- 17
PBL Training - ROE
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 16, 17, 18
Vision and Hearing
Fulton Grade School
- 19
County Tech Coord. mtg.
ROE, 1:00 p.m.
- 25-26
Thanksgiving holidays,
schools and Regional
Office closed

December

- 13
PBL Training - ROE
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting The Challenge X

Meeting The Challenge X, a fine arts conference for all educators, has been planned for January 7, 2000 at Sauk Valley Community College. The fliers with the registration information will be mailed to all fine arts teachers by mid-November. Three workshop sessions will be available to each participant in the areas of drama, visual arts, music, and dance. Many of the sessions are hands-on and will provide curriculum which participants should be able to duplicate in their classrooms. Registrations are due to the Regional Office of Education by Friday, December 3 with confirmations of registrations to follow by FAX. Ron Engstrom, Fine Arts Consultant at ISBE, and Judy Dawson, Assessment at ISBE, will also address the ISAT assessment of fine arts. If you are responsible for fine arts instruction, this is a conference for you! Contact Betty Clementz if you need a flier giving the full details and registration information.

SCHOOL NURSES LUNCHEON

The annual luncheon meeting sponsored by the Regional Office of Education for all school nurses in Whiteside County will be held on Tuesday, November 16 at CGH Medical Center, Ryburg Auditorium. The Whiteside County Health Department will provide a current health-related inservice to the nurses beginning at 10:00 a.m. Registration information has been mailed to all schools. Please contact our office by November 8 to confirm your attendance.

What's Inside

ISAT Update, StarNet Programs.....	2	Gifted Education	5
November, Career Dev. Month	2	Computer Trainings Continue	5
School Bus Safety Poster Contest.....	2	Int. Review, Ext. Review	5
Science Corner	3	Unfilled Teaching Positions	6
PBL Training.....	3	US Post Office Stamp Kits.....	6
Mars Millennium Project.....	4	Prairie State Ach. Examination	6
Museum in the Classroom RFP's	4		

Educational Highlights - November 1999

Gifted Education

Six educators have completed the Level I training in Gifted Education. The characteristics, behaviors, identification process, curriculum modification, program models, and curriculum development were all topics presented. To complete the training there will be a Level II session of three days which will be offered in the middle of the second semester. To receive the certificate of completion of training, the 50 hours of instruction should be completed within a two year period of time from the completion of Level I. Be watching for this information to arrive in your building if you are needing to complete this training. Or better yet, ask your district coordinator of gifted education to put you on the list to receive a copy of the registration information as soon as it is received.

All district coordinators of gifted education were invited to a meeting on October 7 to hear Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education address the requirements of gifted education in Illinois. She also discussed the relationship of gifted education with the internal review process and as a part of the school improvement plan for each building.

Plans have begun to provide a 3-hour graduate level class in Gifted Education with credit extended through Aurora University. It will be offered during the summer of 2000 if there is enough interest of Whiteside educators to warrant the class. District coordinators were asked to survey their educators for level of interest. If you may be interested in this 3 hour class, please forward your name to your district coordinator of gifted education.

Computer Trainings Continue

The Regional Office of Education is continuing to offer computer trainings to educators and the general public in half day, full day, and evening format. There is a maximum of 10 students per class; registrations received one week prior to the class will determine if the minimum has been met. For further information, contact this office.

November and December

Full Day (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

___ Nov. 3	Intermediate Excel 97
___ Nov. 9	Intermediate Word 97
___ Nov. 10	Intermediate Excel 97
___ Nov. 16	Introduction to PowerPoint 97
___ Nov. 17	Intermediate PowerPoint 97
___ Nov. 18	Intermediate Word 97
___ Nov. 23	Intermediate Excel 97
___ Nov. 29	Creating Web Page with Office 97
___ Nov. 30	Introduction to Powerpoint
___ Dec. 9	Intermediate PowerPoint 97

Afternoon (1:00 - 4:30 p.m.)

___ Nov. 2	Windows 95/98 Basics
___ Nov. 4	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)
___ Dec. 1	Windows Basics 95/98
___ Dec. 2	Windows 95/98 Productivity (Intermediate)
___ Dec. 7,8	Intermediate Word 97

Evening (5:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

___ Nov. 2, 4	Intermediate Word 97
___ Dec. 1, 2	Introduction to Powerpoint 97
___ Dec. 7	Introduction to the Internet
___ Dec. 8	Internet Search Techniques

Internal Review Grant

The Regional Office of Education has received confirmation of grant monies for the purpose of internal review implementation. Twenty-two (22) building principals have requested to participate in this grant. Letters of confirmation have been sent to all principals and/or internal review contacts in each building. Included were the timeline for submission of reimbursement forms and the requirement for the summary meeting in mid-June. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Clementz.

External Review Workshop In Rochelle

Whiteside County and Lee/Ogle Counties are co-sponsoring a training in the External Review process on November 9 and 10, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at the Best Inn & Suites (formerly the Holiday Inn) on the corner of Rts. 38 and 251 in Rochelle. This workshop, presented by ISBE, will provide training on the process of an external review and how that mirrors the internal review process that all schools are required to complete annually. Two openings for registrations still remain. If interested in attending, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office for registration information.

Educational Highlights - November 1999

--	--

Educational Highlights - November 1999

ISAT Update

Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores have been released to schools. The tests of last year have provided a baseline for gauging progress toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. In February of 1999 students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 took the first Illinois Standards Achievement Test that measured performance in writing, reading, and mathematics. No comparison can be drawn between previous IGAP scores and the scores of the ISAT. They are two entirely different assessments.

What did the first year of ISAT tell us? The Illinois Learning Standards set higher expectations for students. The results were lower as most schools are in the initial stages of implementing the Illinois Learning Standards and completing the alignment of curriculum. ISAT scores provide meaningful information which identifies areas of both strengths and weaknesses. The results measured against the Learning Standards will help districts to take a close look at what is being taught and when. Educators can use the results to make decisions about curriculum and instruction as well as any professional development necessary to improve student achievement.

In February 2000 the ISAT exams will be added for students of 4th and 7th grades in the areas of science and social studies. Those scores will become the baseline year for those subject areas.

For further information, see the website of the Illinois State Board of Education.

StarNet Programs Taped from October

These programs have been taped for checkout for a two week period of time. Use the Request To View form sent to your building principal to request a tape, either in advance of the program or after it has been taped. Program schedule for the next month has also been sent to your principal. Send the Request To View form to Betty Clementz at the ROE.

Student Enrichment K -12 Programs of 30 minutes

Wetland Wonders: Part 2
It Came From Outer Space
Horse Health
Archaeology X-pedition
NASA Connect: Tools of the Aeronautics Trade
Learning To Fly

Professional Development Programs of 60 -120 minutes

Practical Ideas and Activities to Teach Students To Think Better
Standards Based Assessment: Part 1-- Finding the Bias and Distortion in Assessment
Inspiring Artists! The Teacher as Artist
Transitioning From Pre-Service to In-Service: Part 2-- Pre-Service Case Studies
Media: The Tools and Materials of the Artist
Books! Books! Books! Part 1 (K - 5)
Apples Magazine: Abracadabra
Standards Based Assessment: Part 2-- Looking At The Structure of Assessment
Multimedia Detectives, Reporters, and Storytellers
Set Up A Classroom Intranet

November: Career Development Month

November has been declared Career Development Month for Illinois. Schools are encouraged to plan events to highlight this important part of Education-to-Careers. A Career Development packet is available to you which includes suggestions, ideas, and activities by grade levels. Contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

School Bus Safety Poster Contest

The Illinois Association for Pupil Transportation has announced guidelines for the 2000 Illinois/National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. Entries may be submitted by any student (including special education) enrolled in a public, parochial or private school in grades K-8. There will be an experimental division this year for computer generated (CAD) entries.

Poster themes must be original, correct in safety concept and the exclusive work of the student entering the program in idea, design and execution. Completion of art should be done in school during the months of February, March, and April. Poster slogan must harmonize with the theme: DANGER--KNOW THE ZONES. For more information, contact this office.

Educational Highlights - November 1999

--	--

Educational Highlights - November 1999

PBL Training: An Introduction to Problem-Based Learning

A two-day professional development opportunity for middle school and high school teachers is available through science literacy grant funds to allow teachers to experience and learn about PBL; to explore the use of PBL in a way that maximizes its effects; and to learn how to design and implement PBL into the curriculum. Those who participate in this training will be able to experience, through immersion in a real-world problem, the elements of Problem Based Learning. They will analyze existing curriculum and classroom practice for alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards and will use the internet to locate sources of real-time information to support PBL.

The training will be held at the Regional Office of Education in Sterling on November 17 and December 13. On both days the training will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. There is no cost for this training, and each participant will receive approximately \$50 worth of PBL resources to support the training.

If you are interested, please contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office. Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis, and the enrollment is limited to the first 15 participants.

Science Corner - Paul Cannon

University of Illinois Extension Website

The University of Illinois Extension has developed a website that is specifically for students and teachers called **Schools On-line**. Some of the features found there are: The Great Plant Escape, Character Education, The Adventures of Herman (all about worms), Sports and Nutrition...the Winning Connection, Walk In My Shoes (about the aging process), and Incubation and Embryology (a wealth of resources and information for teachers about setting up an incubation project in the classroom. The address for this website is <<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/schools>>

Illinois School Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant Program

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting applications from Illinois Public school districts and Illinois non-public elementary and secondary schools for grants to increase school recycling and waste reduction efforts. **Only schools/attendance centers which have not previously received funds, equipment, or materials under the Illinois School Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant Program currently administered by DCCA, and previously administered by the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR), are eligible to submit an application.**

Grants will be awarded to (1) promote classroom educational efforts in recycling and waste reduction, (2) implement source reduction activities to reduce waste generation, and (3) purchase containers and equipment for collection and storage of school recyclable materials. **All eligible applications received before 5:00 p.m., February 15, 2000 will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds are available.**

To be eligible, each participating school must agree to: (1) instruct one entire grade level on recycling and waste reduction, (2) implement one school-wide, year round source reduction activity which can substantially reduce the waste stream, and (3) collect white paper generated at the school. Grantees will receive a 3 x 5 foot Earth Flag to display in their school upon implementation of the three activities listed above.

Maximum grant awards are based on the student enrollment in the participating school. If your enrollment is less than 700 students the maximum grant amount is \$5.00 per student. If your enrollment is greater than 700 students, the maximum grant amount is determined by the following formula...\$2,603 + 33.9 x Square Root (# of students).

To request the application package call (800) 252-8955; TDD (800) 785-6055. Written requests for the application package should be sent to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Information and Distribution Center, 620 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

The DCCA will provide assistance to answer questions on the application process as well as collection, market, and education related questions if needed. Call Bret Ivers at (217) 534-5859.

Educational Highlights - November 1999

Mars Millennium Project

The countdown to a new century provides a unique opportunity to engage Illinois' youth in charting a course for the future. The Mars Millennium Project challenges students across the state to design a community yet to be imagined...for the planet Mars. Participants will design a real and permanent colony on Mars for the year 2030 and create a scientifically sound, suitable, living, and aesthetic environment for 100 people. This basic idea will be enhanced with the parallel goal of developing artistic and cultural aspects of a community on Mars, including the symbols, images, and cultural qualities that would distinguish and reflect such a new community.

This interdisciplinary project will focus on bridging the sciences, arts, and humanities to meet the Illinois Learning Standards from across the school curriculum. The results of the project will include student-created colony projects and supporting web pages that showcase the application of student learning to be placed on exhibition at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum.

If you would like any additional project information or how to become a part of the project, please call Bryan W. Wunar, Manager of Education, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, 1300 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. You can also contact Bryan by phone at (312) 322-0542.

Museum In The Classroom RFP's Released

The Learning Technologies Department of ISBE has released the RFP's for the Museum In The Classroom grant applications for FY 2000. This program is a classroom, standards-based project that will match schools and museums so they can develop on-line, interactive curriculum projects that utilize the unique resources and capabilities of Illinois museums and focus on specific Illinois Learning Standards. Through the use of technology and telecommunications, learning will be extended beyond the four walls of the classroom allowing students access to the wealth of history, artifacts, and fine art of Illinois museums.

The projects must address the Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts in reading and for mathematics. The projects will also help students be able to apply what they have learned, particularly in the area of technology.

After the proposals are reviewed and successful applicants chosen, the Illinois State Board of Education will match schools with the museums or consortia of museums chosen to participate in the projects. Schools and their museum partners will participate in an introductory workshop to introduce participants to museums and to develop strategies for potential projects. Museums with which the schools will work will be chosen through a separate process. Classrooms chosen to participate will work with museums to design a standards-based project through interactive video-conferencing and electronic mail to jointly explore and transmit the components of their rich learning environments onto home pages on the Internet. Therefore, local school districts should not propose a separate project for the classroom when they are completing the RFP.

Copies of the RFP have been sent to each school district throughout the state. The RFP's must be submitted to ISBE in Springfield no later than 4:00 p.m., December 1, 1999. School districts chosen to participate in the projects will receive funds not to exceed \$12,500 for each school in the project. The funds can then be used to purchase hardware, software, and other equipment, as specified by the State Board of Education; to provide staff development; or to secure other resources necessary for participation in the projects. If you have any questions or desire additional information or details regarding this program, please contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office of Education.

Educational Highlights - November 1999

Unfilled Teaching Position

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

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

Celebrate the Century: US Post Office Stamp Kits

As you begin to take a look at the new year of 2000 approaching, consider a look at the past century of American culture and events through the series of decades covering the 100 years distributed as kits by the US Post Office. The kit for each decade includes 10 lesson plans, handouts, bulletin board posters of the inventions and events of the decade, "comic book" style reading assignments, games and class exercises integrating the core curriculum into the information. What an interesting method of presenting the century! And the best part is that your students will be able to identify the significance of the stamps actually sold by the post office. Check these kits out from the Lending Library for two weeks. Call The Regional Office of Education to reserve a kit for your class.

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

Prairie State Achievement Examination

The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) will be administered as a pilot in February 2000, during the same weeks as ISAT (January 31 - February 11, 2000). For this pilot, all grade 11 students will be tested for one hour each, including instructions, in only one subject area; those areas are reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social science.

The PSAE will begin in the school year 2000-2001 for all eligible 11th grade students in all areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social science, as aligned to the Learning Standards. It will then be administered as late as practicable during the second semester of grade 11, but in no event before March 1. Students will have one additional opportunity in grade 12 to take any or all subject area tests in order to improve their scores or earn a Prairie State Achievement Award in a subject. The highest scores attained by a student shall be entered on the student's transcript.

Students whose IEP identifies the PSAE as inappropriate will not be required to participate. However, that student has the option to take the examination with appropriate accommodations. A student who completes all requirements for high school graduation, but fails to receive a score that would qualify him for a Prairie State Achievement Award, shall nevertheless qualify for the high school diploma. The PSAE is not an exit exam on which students must attain a certain score.