

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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December 1999

Newsletter No. 4 Volume 55

Calendar Of Events

December

- 1 Vision and Hearing
Riverdale School
- 2-3 Vision and Hearing
Merrill Grade School
- 3 ISAT Social Studies Trng.
ROE, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- 3 Illinois Statehood Day
- 3 Hanukkah
- 6 ISAT Science Inservice
ROE, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- 7 Pearl Harbor
Commemorative Holiday
- 8-9-10
Vision and Hearing
Jefferson Grade School
- 13 PBL Workshop
ROE 1:00 p.m.
- 14 County Tech. Coord. Mtg.
ROE, 1:00 p.m.
- 14-15
Vision and Hearing
Rock Falls Middle School
- 23-24
Christmas Vacation
Regional Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's holiday
Regional Office Closed

Meeting The Challenge X: January 7, 2000

What an opportunity to attend a conference in our own area (at Sauk Valley Community College) that will provide curriculum and hands-on projects in the fine arts areas of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts! This is the tenth year of the conference which draws participants from around the state. The emphasis this year is on multiculturalism. Fifteen presenters will be providing workshops in silk painting; rosemaking; American folk music and instrument making; basketry; creative book-making; Japanese Koto music; black history month curriculum and dances; tips for musicals, set design, and special effects; and the list continues into areas of Integrated Curriculum with the fine arts. These 90-minute workshops are offered to assist regular classroom teachers in preparing a fine arts unit of curriculum, as well as the fine arts teacher to enhance the curriculum already in place. Recent national reports have supported the value of fine arts in the curriculum. If you need a brochure, contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office. Mark Friday, **January 7, 2000**, on your calendar as a workshop teachers in your building should attend. There is definitely something for everyone!

HOLIDAY HOURS

This office will be **closed** for Christmas on **December 23** and **24**. The office will also be **closed** on **December 31** for the New Year's holiday. Hours for December 27, 28, 29, and 30 will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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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 may pick up the machine, use it off-site for \$10 per day, and return 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.

- **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.

StarNet: These Tapes Are For You

Programs that have been taped in November for your use in classrooms and for your professional development include the following titles:

Professional Development: (Most are 2 hour programs.)

Preventing Violence Among Our Youth

PRIMER (Primary Reading Instruction & Models For Early Reading) Part I

Best Practices Part II

Becoming Writers: A Cross-Curriculum Approach

Standards Based Assessment: Finding New Methods of Assessment

Religion and the Public Schools: Part I & II

FORUM (Forming Opportunities for Reasoning & Understanding Mathematics)

Apples Magazine: Part III

Handling Holiday Blues: Kids Struggling With Loss

Student Enrichment: (Most are 30 minute programs.)

Paleontology: Ice Age

Beef: It's What's For Dinner

Our Saints Among Us: 400 Years of Southwestern Devotional Art

Animal House

NASA Connect: Atmospheric Detectives

Any of these tapes are available for check-out for two weeks by contacting Betty Clementz at the Regional Office. A list and descriptions of all programs for the following month are sent to building principals. Check these summaries for the contents of any program listed above. Any program may be requested in advance of the taping to be placed on reserve for you. Just send in the Request To View Form which is included monthly with the summaries. If you have any questions or requests, contact Betty Clementz at the ROE.

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Education-To-Careers

Whiteside County has received grant monies to assist schools in implementing Education-To-Careers (ETC) within the existing curricula of their district. This is not a new concept; it is a concept that all educators have supported for a long time -- that what is learned in the classroom should be applicable to real life and the world of work. ETC is not a curriculum; it is not a program; it is not another add-on to teacher responsibilities. But, it is the final step in presentation of curriculum - - to validate the relevance of why the concept or unit was taught. ETC incorporates career preparation into the curriculum, but it is not job training. ETC is not another name for vocational education or work programs. It is the opportunity for meaningful education/business partnerships to work together to help local students succeed in employment with the skills necessary and support lifelong learning for each.

Education-To-Careers is for every age level of student. Teachers of high school home economics and foreign language, of middle school language arts and social studies, and elementary teachers of K - 1 and grades 2-3 will be invited to participate in this introductory year of ETC activities. Participation will be limited, so be watching for the letter to arrive announcing the procedure for application, participation, and receipt of the stipend for curriculum development for your classroom.

Lending Library: Have Materials, Will Loan!

If you have not yet checked out the many materials in the Lending Library at the Regional Office of Education, you are missing a wealth of useful materials. Magazines, books, brochures, videos, software, manipulatives--and the list continues with a multitude of materials for your use in your classroom. Sample items available are:

Big Books: *Spider and The Fly*, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and many, many more;
Software: CD Rom --Scholastic's *Magic School Bus: Explore the Solar System*

(IBM)

Scholastic's *Magic School Bus: Explore the Human Body*

(Mac)

Microsoft's *Musical Instruments* (Mac & IBM)

Sets of Books: Irene Hunt: *Across Five Aprils*

Laura Ingalls Wilder: *Little House on the Prairie*

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *Scarlet Letter* and many more

Manipulatives: Sundial, overhead math kits, overhead calculators, geoboards, base 10, 100, 1000 blocks; Lego kits for K-4 Simple Machines and Grades 5-9 Technic I.

These are only samples of the many classroom materials ready for you to check out for two weeks. Principals were sent a complete list of all materials in the fall of 1998. Look for your school's copy to see the many items available. Materials may be placed on reserve for a specific date. Come in and check us out!

Internal Review Grants

The Regional Office of Education was awarded a grant to provide support to schools which are implementing the annual Internal Review process during the 1999-2000 school year. Twenty-two building principals have requested mini-grant monies in completing this review.

A workshop, which the Whiteside County ROE helped sponsor, was held on November 9 and 10 in Rochelle to explain the External Review process which mirrors the internal review process. Fourteen teachers and/or administrators from Whiteside County attended this workshop to understand more fully the complete process.

As one part of the total School Improvement in Illinois, Internal Review is asking the stakeholders in a school to take a look at where they are with data to support that premise, where they want to go to improve the weak areas, and a plan for how they are going to arrive at that improvement and know when they have arrived. All aspects of the school should be considered as internal review team members look at the areas of Teaching and Learning, Student Learning, Progress and Achievement, and the School as a Learning Community. Classroom observations, portfolios of student work, alignment of curriculum to Illinois standards, consideration of special education, Title I, and Gifted services--all facets of the school become the focus of the internal review.

If internal review teams need assistance, please contact Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

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Science & Technology Corner (Continued)

Third Year E-RATE Window opened on November 10 for the third round of E-RATE applications. All schools should have their Form 470 completed and posted on the school's and library website for 28 days prior to filing their Form 471. All of the applications must be posted and contracts arranged by January 19, 2000. During year two, the E-RATE program provided school districts in Whiteside County with over \$400,000. If you need assistance with either of these forms, or have questions regarding the E-RATE, please contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office of Education.

NFI Conference sponsored by the AREA 2 Learning Hub will be held December 8 and 9 at the Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena. The focus of this year's first conference will be on web pages--the design and management of web pages as well as several other topics during the breakout sessions. The keynote speaker for the first day will be Leslie Fisher, director of Fisher Technologies. Leslie will also be available during several of the first day breakout sessions. Keynote for the second day will be delivered by Patrick Crispin. Many of you have heard Patrick on WGN radio with Spike O'Dell. Participants will receive a copy of Patrick's latest book. Districts have been sent conference information and registration forms. If you need more information, or if you need a registration form, contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office.

ISBE Grant Opportunities Announced--ISBE has sent each school district the RFP's for two grant opportunities to schools in Illinois. These are the Museum in the Classroom and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grants. These are competitive grants and any public school in Illinois is eligible to apply for these funds. If you are interested in either, or both, of these grant opportunities, please contact Paul Cannon at the Regional Office. The deadline for application for the Museum in the Classroom grant is December 15, and the deadline for application for the TLCF funds is February 15, 2000. In order to provide school districts with information and assistance in writing the TLCF grants, the Regional Offices located in Sterling, Grand Detour, and Stockton have made arrangements with Dr. Donald Kacher from Illinois State University to conduct three grant writing workshops. Grant writers are welcome to attend the most convenient workshop session. These sessions will be held as follows: Grand Detour...Monday, November 29, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.; Sterling...Thursday, December 16 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; and at the Stockton ROE office Thursday, December 16 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. If you desire to attend any of these sessions, you can do so by calling the appropriate Regional Office.

Bilingual/ESL Certification

The Lee/Ogle ROE is offering the following coursework through after-school classes. Each class will require 11 meetings from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Classes will be held in Rochelle (specific location to be determined).

- A. Linguistics - Fundamentals and Structure
- B. Theoretical Foundations of Teaching ESL
- C. Assessment of the Bilingual Student
- D. Methods & Materials for Teaching English as a Second Language
- E. Cross-Cultural Studies for Teaching Students With Limited English Proficiency

They need a minimum of 15 participants. Cost is \$510 for 3 credit hours. Please call the Lee/Ogle ROE at 815/652-2054, or Betty Clementz at Whiteside ROE, 815/625-1495 and indicate your interest as soon as possible.

Thinking About the Unthinkable Video

The Regional Office has received the video entitled "*Thinking About the Unthinkable: Seeking Solutions to School Violence*".

The videotape provides a look at what can be done about school violence and will help school administrators prepare for the possibility of violence occurring in their school district. It is available for use by all local school districts. To view the video, contact this office.

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Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation Offers Scholarships

This office has received notification that the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is offering six Area Educational Scholarships to residents of the state of Illinois. The scholarships will be awarded to one full time student each academic year for each IRTA Foundation area. Each recipient will receive \$500 each for fall and spring semesters (\$1,000 total) to be used for educational expenses.

Any junior or senior enrolled in a teacher certification program may apply; they do not have to attend an Illinois college or university but must reside in the IRTA Foundation area from which the application was made. Applicants must have and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale; a copy of the university or college official GPA must be received by the IRTA, prior to the awarding of funds.

All applications must be received by February 15, prior to a student's junior or senior year in college. Recipients will be notified by April 1, prior to the applicant's junior or senior year in college.

For more information or application forms, contact our office.

PSAE: Prairie State Achievement Exam

The PSAE will be piloted with 11th graders during the ISAT testing between January 31 - February 11, 2000. It will assess students in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, with the format and content being similar to that of the ISAT. All 11th graders will participate in only one hour of testing in only one of the five subjects for this pilot year.

All 11th graders will be tested in all five subjects for the first time in the baseline year of 2001. The testing period will be scheduled in that year sometime after March 1, 2001. An overall score and a score in each learning area will be assessed. A minimum in all areas must be attained for a student to achieve the Prairie State Achievement Award for their high school diploma. Student scores will be recorded in permanent records. The PSAE is not a graduation test. It attempts to provide a consistent meaning to a high school diploma.

Gifted Education

Level II of Gifted Education training will be offered in the second semester. It will consist of three days or 25 contact hours. All participants in the past two years who have not completed Level II but have completed Level I training will be sent an invitation to attend. The total 50 hours of training are one-half the requirement for a teacher who earns more than \$300 in salary from the Illinois Reimbursement Program. When the dates are finalized, your district coordinator of Gifted Education will also receive the registration material.

Interested in Graduate Level Classes in our Local Area?

Plans are continuing to offer a three-hour graduate credit course in gifted education during the summer of 2000 in Whiteside County. As soon as the authorization from Aurora University has been received to offer the class, the information will be forwarded to your district coordinator of gifted education. A graduate level class is another half of the requirement for a teacher to receive more than \$300 in salary from the Illinois Reimbursement Program.

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Western Illinois University

Distance Learning Courses - Offered At Sauk And The Regional Office
Spring Semester

ITT 565: Management of Instructional Technology (3 semester hours) Emphasis is given to infrastructure planning, assessment of local instructional needs, coordinating instructional design and production of multimedia software, and identifying equipment and software needs.

Prerequisite: ITT 505. Delivery system: Satellite.

Offered at Whiteside ROE - January 10 - May 1 - Monday evenings from 4:30-6:30PM

ITT 515: Telecommunications and Distance Learning (3 semester hours) Examines a variety of telecommunications systems used for distance learning and the challenges surrounding their selection and application. Emphasis is on the effective design, development, and delivery of instructional strategies for distance learning environments.

Prerequisite: ITT 505. Delivery system: Satellite.

Offered at Whiteside ROE - January 11- May 2 - Tuesday evenings from 6:45-8:45PM

ITT 534: Issues in Instructional Technology (3 semester hours) Provides students with an opportunity for further professional growth in instructional technology and telecommunications through exploring contemporary issues and special education issues K-12 school settings.

Prerequisite: ITT 503 or permission of instructor. Delivery system: Compressed video

Offered at Sauk Valley Community College - January 11- May 2 - Tuesday evenings from 4:30- 7:00PM

ITT 550: Advanced Instructional Design (3 semester hours) Design, develop, and evaluate an instructional system. Using the knowledge of instruction design, students will develop a mini-instructional system.

Prerequisite: ITT 510. Delivery system: Compressed video.

Offered at Sauk Valley Community College - January 13 - May 4 - Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30PM

You may register by phone, fax, mail, or on-line. See pages 6 - 9 in Western's School of Extended and Continuing Education 2000 Spring Class Schedule for details. If you do not have access to Western's Spring Class offerings, please call the Whiteside Regional Office of Education. If you register for one of the courses delivered at the Regional Office, please let us know.

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Teacher Certification -- The New Process

The Regional Office of Education will host a satellite broadcast from WIU and the IEA/NEA on November 30 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. The broadcast is titled "Teacher Certification--The New Process." The live and interactive panel discussion will cover professional development and skill-building opportunities; the professional development committee to help chart the future; expanded certificate renewal education options to fit chosen career paths; new certification date to give more time to prepare for the change; and your questions. Please contact the Regional Office to register.

STARLAB Checkout

This 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, contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE office by calling 815/625-1495.

Science & Technology Corner Paul Cannon

Science Literacy Mini-Grants Awarded--Science Literacy Mini-Grants have been awarded through the Regional Office of Education to seven schools in Whiteside County. Each of these grants is in the amount of \$1,300 for developing a student oriented project that will integrate science, math, and/or technology into the curriculum. Schools receiving these grants are: Tampico Middle School; Prophetstown High School; Jefferson Elementary School in Sterling; Montmorency School in Rock Falls; Erie High School; Fulton Elementary School; and Challand Middle School in Sterling. These schools are presently in the process of implementing their projects. Congratulations to each of these schools.

Problem Based Learning Training is being offered by the Regional Office. The first session of this training was held on November 17 with 13 teachers from districts across the county participating. This training will continue with the second session being held on December 13.

ISAT Training for science and social studies will be offered at the Regional Office. This training is being offered to all 4th and 7th grade teachers within the county. This training is to prepare teachers in the new structure and format of the ISAT test in these two areas in order for the teachers to prepare their students for this new testing program to be implemented by the Illinois State Board of Education. These tests will be administered in February of 2000.

The social studies training will be offered on December 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The science training will be December 6 during the morning from 9:00 through 11:00 a.m. These trainings will be conducted by the individuals from the Assessment Department and the Standards Department of ISBE who are directly responsible for the areas of social studies and science.

All 4th and 7th grade teachers involved in these two areas of the curriculum are encouraged to attend. Call Paul Cannon at the Regional Office to reserve a spot for either or both of these dates.

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Unfilled Teaching Positions

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

Special Education Teacher - Challand Middle School. Contact Dr. Pat McMahon, supt., Sterling CUSD #5, 410 East LeFevre, Sterling, IL 61081, 815/626-5050.

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Whiteside County ROE
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Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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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