

WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Educational Highlights



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January 2000

Newsletter No. 5 Volume 55

Calendar Of Events

January

- 1 New Year's Day; a legal school holiday
- 3-4 Vision and Hearing
Montmorency School
- 5 Vision and Hearing
St. Andrew's School
- 7 **Meeting The Challenge X**
Sauk Valley Com. College
- 10 East Coloma School
- 11-12
Vision and Hearing
Challand Junior High School
- 14 Vision and Hearing
St. Mary's School
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr.
birthday observance; a
legal school holiday -
ROE closed
- 25-26
Vision and Hearing
Rock Falls High School
- 28 Commemorative school
holiday honoring
Christa McAuliffe

4TH & 5TH GRADE CONTIG COMPETITION

April 13, 2000 is the date for the annual CONTIG math competition for area 4th and 5th grade students. It will be held at Southside Elementary School in Morrison at 6:30 p.m. This fun math game challenges students to use a combination of mathematical operations using three numbers from rolled dice to cover "contiguous" numbers on a game board. Each district may send two 4th graders and two 5th graders to the county competition. Information has been sent to each district. For additional information, contact Lorna Engwall at the Regional Office.

WHITESIDE COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The 18th annual Whiteside County Spelling Bee will be held on March 25, 2000 at Morrison Jr. High School. The district coordinators' dinner meeting will be held at the Morrison Country Club in Morrison on January 5, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss this year's bee and distribute materials. We anticipate another fine competition and wish all of the students good luck as they prepare for their district competition.

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.

What's Inside

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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.

Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program

Application forms for the Special Education Teacher Waiver Program are now available at the Regional Office of Education. This tuition waiver exempts recipients from payment of tuition and matriculation, graduation, activity, term, or incidental fees for up to four years at the twelve public four-year institutions in Illinois.

The Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver is a program that encourages current certified teachers and academically talented students to pursue an initial teacher certification in a special education discipline. Awards will be announced in April. Recipients must complete an Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Certification of Acceptance notifying ISAC that they accept or decline the waiver no later than July 1, 2000.

Students, who rank in the upper-half of their high school graduating class, or individuals holding a valid teaching certificate may apply. Students must be seeking initial certification in an area of special education. Students pledge to teach, on a full-time basis, in the field of special education in Illinois for at least two of the first five years immediately following graduation or termination of enrollment. Applications are due at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission Deerfield office by February 15, 2000. For more information or application forms, contact this office.

Children of Veterans Scholarships

Application materials have been received from the University of Illinois for the Children of Veterans Scholarships for the 2000 fall term. One scholarship may be awarded in each county to a child of a veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, and the Southwest Asia (Persian Gulf) Conflict (a possible four scholarships per county).

The scholarship is a four-year (consecutive) tuition waiver at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, the Chicago campus, the Medical Sciences Center, or the Springfield campus. It covers tuition for undergraduate, graduate and/or professional studies.

Applications, a photocopy of the DD Form 214 (see note on application) of the veteran parent, and ACT scores are to be returned directly to the Student Financial Aid Office of the University of Illinois any time before March 15, 2000. All candidates will be notified of decisions by May 1, 2000.

The recipients will be selected in the following order: child of a deceased veteran, child of a disabled veteran, or applicant having the highest ACT composite score. Contact this office for an application or additional information.

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Meeting The Challenge X

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! Sixteen presenters will be providing workshops in curriculum.

Workshops in the area of dance and music will include Japanese Koto & Its Music, choral exercises for warm-ups and sight singing, American folk and jazz music, and music and dance to introduce Black History Month.

In the area of theatre there will be a session on special effects, sets and lights the easy way; simple movement games by a performing mime; and how to direct a musical.

In the area of visual arts the offerings include silkpainting, basketry, rosemaling, creative book-making, print making, Kopi Kachina dolls, and petroglyph carving.

Sessions of interest to all participants will include steps to secure an Artist in Residence and ISBE resources and assessment.

If you need a brochure, contact the Regional Office. Mark **Friday, January 7, 2000** on your calendar as a workshop you should attend. There is definitely something for everyone!

StarNet These Tapes Are For You

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

Professional Development: (Most are two-hour programs.)

Addressing Standards Through Assessment

Dealing With Death: Kids and Grief

Apples Magazine: Abracadabra

Apples Magazine: Sing With Me

Transitioning from Pre-Service to In-Service Part IV: Change

Looking at Grading and Reporting

Student Enrichment: (Most are 30 minute programs.)

Ants Rule The World

Computer - toons

Geometry: Water Below Surface of Mars? NASA

Energy Sources

Careers: (30 minutes)

Food Service

Jeweler and Apprentice

Any of these tapes are available for check-out for two weeks by contacting Betty Clementz at the Regional Office.

Summaries of the programs are sent to building principals monthly for posting. 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 was included with the summaries

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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 the *Level II* but have completed the *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.

Registration materials will be sent to your district coordinator of gifted education when the dates have been finalized.

A three-hour graduate level class in gifted education is in the process of being submitted for acceptance of credit from Aurora University. District coordinators have indicated to this office the persons who may be interested in this class during the summer of 2000. Keep watching this newsletter for further information.

Whiteside Regional Center for Change

The Whiteside Regional Center for Change (Safe Schools Program) is in its third year of operation. This program serves students in grades 6-9 from 9 districts who are either eligible for expulsion or have had multiple suspensions due to acts of violence; drugs, alcohol, or weapon violations; or chronically disruptive behavior in school. Referrals to the program must come from the school administration. For more information, contact Lorna Engwall at 815/625-1495.

Writing Rubrics Workshop

Plans have been made to provide Whiteside County educators with training in the writing rubric of the ISAT and strategies to assist teachers in developing good writing skills in their classrooms. The training will be March 14, with the elementary session from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., and the middle/high school session in the afternoon, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Teachers of all grade levels and administrators are encouraged to attend as the development of writing skills is the responsibility of all grade level teachers, not just those in whose grade level the skills are assessed. Registration materials will be sent to your building principal in February.

PSAE: Prairie State Achievement Exam

The Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) will be piloted in the 1999-2000 school year. It will assess students in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, in the areas as defined by the Illinois Learning Standards. Eleventh grade students will complete only one subject area of the test during February 2000. In the 2000 - 2001 school year, this test will be administered to all eleventh grade students in all areas after March 1. Students will be able to receive a Prairie State Achievement Award in each subject tested by earning qualifying scores established by the State Board of Education. 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.

Education To Careers: ETC is here!

During the second semester, there will be six workshops to explain Education To Careers and to allow teachers to incorporate the concepts within their existing curriculum. Mini-grants will be provided to teachers to develop units in their districts. At the high school level, the focus will be the foreign language and home economics teachers; at the middle school level, the areas of language arts and social studies have been targeted; and at the elementary, the grade levels of K - 3 have been chosen. Building principals have been informed of these workshops. All teachers who are in the focus areas will receive an invitation to participate.

An Administrator's Academy will also be provided. Be watching for further information on ETC!

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WebSites To Check Out

<http://www.csun.edu/~hcedu013/onlineactivities.html>

This site has a number of on-line activities and links. It is also an excellent source for activities on Problem Based Learning.

<http://www.stclair.k12.il.us>

This site provides activities linked to the Illinois Learning Standards.

http://www.gte.com/AboutGTE/community/gte_foundation/opportunities/gift.html

“2000 Growth Initiatives for Teachers (GIFT).” This program awards sixty grants to teams of one math and one science teacher from the same secondary school that use math, science, and technology in innovative ways.

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/toyota.htm>

“Toyota Tapestry Grants for Teachers.” This program annually awards grants to science teachers who propose innovative one-year projects to enhance science education. Applications may be for environmental education or physical science.

STARLAB Checkout

This is a reminder to all teachers in Whiteside County that the ROE has a Starlab available for checkout. This is an excellent tool for teaching astronomy and is a valuable aid in helping to achieve the portion of the new academic standards that pertain to environment and earth science.

If you have training in the use of the lab and you desire to utilize this teaching tool, contact Sherry Dykema at the ROE office by calling 815/625-1495.

Computer Software Training

Classes in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Windows, and the Internet have been completed by many educators and persons from the public during the first semester. These classes, with Nancy Slonneger as instructor, have been well received and will continue in the second semester.

As in the first semester, the decision to hold the class will be decided by the number of registrants one-week in advance of the offering. A complete description and schedule of the classes and times to be offered in February--May will be sent to the attention of your building principal and/or technology coordinator.

This is a great opportunity to increase your computer skills in a small class with individual attention. If you have any questions when the registration materials arrive, call this office at 625-1495.

E-RATE Update

The new forms 470 and 471 are available for down-load on line at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org> and they may be downloaded in both MS Excel and Adobe Acrobat format. (Note that the forms have been redesigned this year in response to feedback given over the first two years.)

Timeline for Year Three (As established by the Schools and Library Corporation):

10/28/99 Year three forms available for first time

11/12/99 Window opens for submitting form 470

01/19/00 Window closes

1/22/00 Amount estimate sent to the FCC

5/01/00 Commitments done

7/1/99 Funding starts

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Proposed Certification Rules Available for Review

Public comment is now being accepted on the State Board's proposed new set of rules for certification. The rules may be viewed at www.isbe.state.il.us/news/certreview.htm

These rules are being proposed for the purpose of deleting requirements that have become outdated and redundant. These include the specific general education requirements for the elementary, high school, special, and early childhood certificates, as well as the specific professional education requirements for the first two of those certificates.

Specifically, the intent of the proposed rules is to require teacher training institutions to comply with the general studies requirements identified in 1995/1997 NCATE Standard I.B.: General Studies for Initial Teacher Preparation, NCATE Standard I.D.: Professional and Pedagogical Studies for Initial Teacher Preparation, NCATE Standard I.E.; Integrative Studies for Initial Teacher Preparation, and NCATE Standard I.H: Quality of Field Experiences.

Comments on the proposed rules are encouraged and will be accepted through January 25, 2000. Written comments on specific aspects of the rules should be sent to:

Sally Vogl
Agency Rules Coordinator
State Board of Education
100 North First Street, S-284
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to RULES@smtp.isbe.state.il.us

Questions about the rules should be directed to the Division of Professional Preparation at 217/782-4330.

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.

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

Media Aide - Prophetstown CUSD #3. Contact LeRoy Hooks, supt., Prophetstown CUSD #3, 310 Riverside Drive, Prophetstown, IL 61277, 815/537-5101.

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Science and Technology Corner

Paul Cannon

On-Line Resources

Seven educational resource companies are being subsidized by ISBE this school year to provide on-line services to local school districts at no charge or at drastically reduced prices. Several of the free slots are still available for the services that are a cost item, and schools can still sign up for most of the free services. For additional information regarding these services, refer to ISBE Web Page at <<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>>. When you get to this site, you will find descriptions for each of the programs. There is still time to sign up. Check them out today.

TLCF Grant Applications

Each district throughout the state of Illinois has received a copy of the RFP/Application information regarding the latest opportunities to obtain funds through the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grant process.

This program is a federal initiative intended to serve as the catalyst to ensure that students are prepared to live and work in a growing technological society. Also, the purpose of this program is to accelerate statewide strategies in Illinois to fully integrate educational technology into the school curricula, so that all students become technologically literate with reading, math, science, and other core academic skills essential for their success in the twenty-first century.

The amount of funding for a successful proposal will be determined by the number of students enrolled in a school district. For example, if the student enrollment is between 0 - 999 students, the district is eligible to receive \$45,000. A school district with an enrollment between 1,000 - 1,999 would receive \$90,000. A district with enrollment between 2,000 - 3,999 could receive \$135,000, and a district with enrollment between 4,000 - 7,999 could receive \$180,000.

Several districts within Whiteside County have received grants the past three years and hopefully several more will this year also. Having received a grant in the past does not disqualify you for this latest round of applications.

If you are planning to write for the TLCF grant funds for FY2001, applications must be received by ISBE no later than 4:00 p.m., February 24, 2000. Also, when preparing your grant application keep in mind the following:

Focus Is On:

- Reading and Math
- Early Childhood Teacher Preparation
- Preference to Lowest Performing Schools
- High Tech Projects, Needs to Incorporate GPS (Global Positioning Systems)

Application Must Include:

- Community Partners
- Services for Private Schools (if interested and/or applicable)
- Involvement with a Teacher Education Project

Focus on Critical Needs:

- Follow All Directions
- Meet Date Deadline
- Double Check that All Signatures are Included

Application Should Document:

- Weakness in Math & Reading
- ISAT Scores
- IGAP Scores
- Show Data and Sight Proven Research and Methods

Other Issues:

- Keep Readers in Mind as Grant is Written
- Easy to Read Font Size
- Avoid Long, Wordy Paragraphs
- Use Charts and Graphs to Project Visual Presence

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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