

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## *Educational Highlights*

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February 2007

Newsletter No. 6, Volume 92

### Calendar Of Events

#### February

- 12 Abraham Lincoln's birth-day; a legal school holiday
- 15 Commemorative holiday honoring Susan B. Anthony
- 16 Multi-District Institute - Morrison
- 19 President's Day - a legal holiday - ROE Closed

### Twelfth IAGC Convention: February 4 - 6

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children will be hosting their convention on February 4 - 6, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 North Michigan Avenue. If you are planning to attend but have not yet registered, please call the IAGC office at 847/963-1892 to make sure that registration is still available on the day you wish to attend. Space was limited to the first 1200 per day. A listing of all sessions is available at [www.iagcgifted.org](http://www.iagcgifted.org).

### Meeting The Challenge XVII: A Success

On Friday, January 5, approximately 100 educators gathered for the 17th annual fine arts conference, Meeting The Challenge XVII, at Sauk Valley Community College, which was co-sponsored by the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College. Topics, many of which were 'hands-on', in the areas of drama, visual art, music, and theater were presented. Additional topics of general interest to educators completed the opportunities for participants to network and return to their schools with new curriculum, assessment, and instructional strategies. Kris Murray, associate professor of music at SVCC, gave the luncheon address: "Fine Arts Make You Smarter." Whether you are a fine arts teacher, an elementary classroom teacher, or an administrator, make plans now to participate in 2008!

### Editing Available in ECS

Professional development activities can now be edited in ECS. If you recall when ISBE first rolled out ECS, you were not able to edit the activities that were migrated from CERTS to ECS. It is no longer necessary to delete and re-submit an activity to make corrections or changes. With that in mind, if you have activities that reflect more hours than can be credited to an activity in a given day, please update those activities to properly reflect the beginning date and ending date with the exact amount of CPDU credits earned for each day.

For those that have to renew their teaching certificates this year and have not submitted their assurance statement, time is of the essence. Although we plan to be in each district for certificate renewal this spring, you must have submitted your assurance statement before we can register your certificate. As a reminder, you can also renew your certificates on-line through ECS after you submit your assurance statement, and I have approved it.

*Gary J. Steinert*, Reg. Supt.

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# *Educational Highlights - February 2007*

## **SERVICES**

• **Laminating** - If you would like to laminate your school materials, you may use the laminating machine for \$.50 per foot. If you would like us to do the laminating for you, the cost is \$1 per foot.

• **Ellison Letter Machine** - You may use the Ellison letter machine at the office for \$2 per use. You may pick up the machine, use it off-site, and return it for a fee of \$10 per day.

## **PROGRAMS**

• **Whiteside County Parents As Teachers** - Parents As Teachers is a parent education program which provides developmental information and support to families with children birth to age five. Personalized home visits, parent/child activities, toy lending libraries, developmental screenings, and a monthly newsletter are available free-of-charge to Whiteside County families. For more information, call Pat Rhodes at 815/625-1495.

• **Jump Start Prekindergarten Program** - Jump Start is a prekindergarten at-risk program serving children 3-5 years of age living in East Coloma, Montmorency, and Riverdale School Districts in Rock Falls. Students are selected for the program through a screening process using the DIAL-3, a family history, and a home visit by the teaching staff. The Jump Start classroom is now located at Thome School. The phone number is 625-1908.

## **Ten Tips for Students Taking Tests**

As the dates for state assessments of ISAT and PSAE testing approach, preparation of students for taking the tests is important. Share this list with your students.

- **Know the test structure prior to taking it.**  
What is the time allowed? What kinds of questions will be asked? What is the rubric used to grade it? What are the areas of the test with the most points given, according to the Assessment Framework? Take sample tests to become familiar with the format of the test.
- **Read the instructions carefully.**  
What are you being asked to do? Especially in a written response, be sure to answer all parts of the question.
- **Read the entire test through before starting.**  
Looking over the parts of the test gives you an understanding of how best to use your time.
- **Answer the easiest questions first.**  
Confidence is built upon knowing that your answers are right.
- **Keep busy!** If you get stuck on a question, come back to it later. Spending minutes searching for one answer may jeopardize your completion of the test. Move on and come back to the question at the end of the test.
- **If you are not sure how to answer a question fully, answer at least part of it.**  
On the ISAT mathematics test in the extended response, you will be asked to show all your work and explain how and why you did the problem.
- **When writing an explanation for the extended response, take time to plan your writing.** If you are asked to cite examples from the text, include examples. If you are asked to add your own opinions, experiences, etc., be sure to include them. Write in such a manner that the ideas flow smoothly.
- **Keep it neat.**  
Be sure all erasures are well-erased in the bubbles so only one answer will be read.
- **Leave time at the end to look over your work.**  
Be sure that each question was answered. Proofread your work. Check in the extended response or essay that you answered all parts of the questions. Use all of your test time.
- **Go to bed the night before the tests in order to sleep eight – ten hours to be ready to take the tests.**

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## **How To Prepare Students for ISAT/PSAE**

There are many ways to prepare students for taking the state assessments.

- Practice tests made up of former questions are available to assist educators.
- Booklets were distributed annually to every building in each curricular area tested prior to 2003.
- In 2003, CDs were distributed to every building under the title of Illinois Assessment Item Pool for reading, mathematics, social science, and science.
- Every building was sent a series of CDs in 2003 for the four curricular core subjects which included the Performance Descriptors and Classroom Assessments for the Illinois Learning Standards as well as sample items.

Students, especially at the third grade level, need to experience sample tests to understand the format and the strategies used to answer sample test items. Rubrics for student-generated responses need to be shared with students so they understand what constitutes the score and why.

**Our office has copies of the sample booklets distributed in 2003 for ISAT which will be given to any educator on a first come, first serve basis until the supply is depleted.** Stop by the office or better yet, call ahead, and we will have your copies ready.

## **CeCredits On-line**

CECredits Online will be offering classes in the second semester with open-ended registration and completion dates. These are one, two, and three graduate hour classes that address teacher professional development in discipline and classroom management. All registration is through the website of [www.cccreditsonline.org](http://www.cccreditsonline.org). A flyer with full information has been faxed to each building.

Classes include:

- Giving Directions that Students Will Follow
- Stopping Disruptive Behavior
- Conducting the Parent Conference
- Today's Classroom: Foundations of and Current Trends in Education
- Coaching to Improve Teaching and Learning
- Coaching to Improve Reading
- Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom
- Rights and Responsibilities in the Disciplinary Process

All courses are being offered to Whiteside County teachers at a reduced rate so please use the code for each which is on the flyer which is displayed on our website, [www.whitesideroe.org](http://www.whitesideroe.org). All courses include CPDU credits upon completion. Graduate credit may be obtained for an additional fee of \$40 per credit to Humboldt State University.

## **PROGRAMS (cont.)**

• **Whiteside County Family Literacy Partnership** – The comprehensive family literacy program integrates adult education, early childhood education, parent education, and parent/child literacy interaction. Families eligible for Adult Basic Education and who have a child ages birth to five years qualify for services. The program offers two different formats in order to meet the needs of eligible families:

• **Family Class/Class Familiar** is for parents learning English as a Second Language and their young children ages birth to five years.

• **Learning Together Class** is for parents who need to improve basic reading skills or work on preparing for the GED and their young children ages birth to five years. These classes meet Monday through Thursday, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Wallace Education Center.

The partnership is a collaborative project between Head Start, Sterling Public Library, Early Bird Pre-Kindergarten Program, Parents as Teachers, and the Whiteside Regional Office of Education.

For more information on these programs, please contact Lois Meisenheimer at 815/625-1495.

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## **George Mangiaracina Memorial Scholarship**

The George Mangiaracina Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in June 1977 by the Illinois Employment and Training Association Executive Board on behalf of all Illinois Employment and Training members.

The Illinois Employment and Training Association will award three scholarships to graduating seniors from the Class of 2007. The Applicants must demonstrate a need for financial assistance and be in the top 50% of their class. They must reside in the State of Illinois and plan on attending a community college or four year institution within the State of Illinois. The deadline for application is April 1. Scholarship winner(s) will be announced in May of 2007 and the check (s) will be distributed directly to the students in July.

For more information, see the "scholarship" link on our website at [www.whitesideroe.org](http://www.whitesideroe.org).

## **Have Legos - Will Lend**

Lego workshops have been held in the past to assist teachers in using Legos to teach science and math concepts through hands-on experiences.

The ROE has purchased a number of these kits for teachers to use for a three-week period of time for whole class activities. Classroom kits are available for Primary Simple Machines for grades K-3, Technic I Simple Machines for grades 4-9, Computer programmable Amusement Park Robotics for grades 5-12, and Renewable Energy with solar cells.

Reserve a classroom set of kits by contacting Mary Escamilla at the regional office.

## **Computer Software Classes to Begin in February**

Computer software classes will be held at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education during the second semester. Flyers with the full information will be faxed to every building at the beginning of February with classes commencing in mid-February. As in the past, these classes will be small with a maximum of ten and a minimum of three participants. Nancy Slonneger will be the instructor. Classes will begin with the basics of Microsoft Windows. If you or someone you know has received a new computer recently, this is the foundation class for beginners. Classes in software applications of Microsoft Word and Excel will follow. Internet and Email and Digital Imaging will be the final series of classes. If you have a computer and you do not understand all the functions on it, these are the classes to help you "get the most" out of your computer. Registrations will be accepted on-line as well as in the mail.

## **Health and Safety Workshop for Art Educators**

The Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, is presenting a training regarding hazardous materials found in an art classroom. The workshop is to be held at Deer Valley Country Club, Deer Grove, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (registration is at 8 a.m.) on February 9. Proper handling, storage, and disposal of these chemicals will be addressed. Participation in this workshop will qualify the participating school for a FREE chemical waste pick-up. The flyer, with details and registration form, is online at <http://www.whitesideroe.org>.

# *Educational Highlights - February 2007*

## **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Arts Education Week: March 11 – 17**

March 11 – 17 is designated as Illinois Arts Education Week in cooperation with the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education (IAAE), the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Governor's office. Students around the state, in grades K-12, compete for the selection of their artwork to be represented on the poster for Illinois Arts Education Week. This year the winning student is from Reagan Middle School in Dixon.

Consider some of the following ideas for your community's observation of Illinois Arts Education Week, including visual art, drama, music and/or dance:

- Investigate and publicize the arts opportunities within your school and community.
- Host lunch-hour or after-school performances/exhibits in lunchrooms, malls, libraries, senior citizen centers, community centers, nursing homes, or service clubs.
- Interview and publicize community persons involved in the arts.
- Identify and publicize public art in your community.

For information about the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education, contact Barbara Heimerdinger at 815/756-7615 or [barbarah@tbcnet.com](mailto:barbarah@tbcnet.com).

## **2007 Family Reading Night**

Although November 15 is still many months away, the materials for the Illinois Family Reading Night must be ordered no later than February 14. Posters and bookmarks are available in quantity by contacting the Illinois State Library at 800/665-5576, ext. 1 or by obtaining the order form at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/frn.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/frn.html). All materials are free of charge.

If your school has participated in the past or if your school is considering a Family Reading Night, these are free materials to assist you. Other ideas and help in organizing a Family Reading Night in your community are also on this website.

## **FREE (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence)**

The website supported by the U.S. Dept. of Education with more than 1,500 educational resources from more than 35 federal agencies that range from an interactive program picturing the phases of the moon from the National Science Foundation to video narratives from the Holocaust survivors from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is <http://free.ed.gov>. All resources are organized according to academic subjects using an appealing display of photos and illustrations for easy identification. This online collection is formed by eight categories: language arts, math, science, U.S. history, U.S. time periods, world studies, arts and music, and health and physical education. Each category is then further subdivided for fine-tuning the search for resources. For example, the U.S. History is divided into business and work, ethnic groups, famous people, government, movements, states and regions, and wars. Many sites offer lesson plans to organize the information, visuals to teach concepts, and hands-on activities for classroom use. If you visit this site once, your students will be using it in the future as well. What a wealth of information straight from the federal source which provided it!

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## Science, Math & Technology

By: Paul Cannon

### **Horace Mann - Abraham Lincoln Fellowship**

**Horace Mann** and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) have teamed up to offer 50 teachers a fellowship to study the life and legacy of our 16th president. This fellowship is open to any full-time teacher of kindergarten through 12th grade of any discipline in the U.S. **The program will award one fellowship per state**, featuring a five-day institute in June and July at the ALPLM in Springfield. The fellowship will include round-trip transportation, lodging, and most meals. Winning fellows will attend the institute during one of the following dates...either June 24-29 (25 fellows) or July 8-13 (25 fellows).

**The application process for the fellowship closes February 28.** Teachers must submit their application online. Teachers will need to submit their resume and answer two essay questions (250 word max). Within the first essay, you will need to briefly describe the subject area(s) and grade level(s) you teach, and how you anticipate this experience will benefit you and your students. In the second essay, you'll need to show why it is essential to understand Abraham Lincoln today.

More information and the **Rules and Conditions** regarding this fellowship can be found on the Internet at <https://www.horacemann.com/educator-resources/abraham-lincoln-fellowship.html>

It would appear, at first glance, that the odds are remote for securing the fellowship to be awarded for an Illinois teacher but, if you are really interested, you should go for it. What have you got to lose? You may be a winner!

### **Institute for Chemistry Literacy And Computational Science**

The Whiteside ROE is one of four Regional Offices of Education that will become centers for expanding professional development using cutting-edge communication technologies by use of Mini Access Grids (MAG). The Access Grid is a video-conferencing system developed for researchers, without some of the limitations found in the commercial versions. More information can be found at: <http://www.accessgrid.org>. Building principals and district superintendents received information regarding this program and should have already informed the chemistry teachers within each district of this great professional development opportunity.

### **NFI Returns**

The Learning Technology Centers for Area II have announced the return of Networking For Information (NFI). The conference will be held on April 17 and 18 at the newly renovated Abby Resort in Fontana, Wisconsin located along the shores of Lake Geneva.

The focus of this conference will be "Technology Systems Interoperability." More details and an updated, detailed description of the conference are available at the KIDS website which can be found at: <http://www.kidsroe.org/KIDS/Catalog/Catalog.cfm>.

The cost of this conference is \$125 which includes registration fee, materials, a complimentary dinner on Tuesday night, April 17, 2 continental breakfasts, and a lunch. You will need to make your own room reservations by calling The Abby Resort at 800/709-1326 by March 17 and ask for rooms held for the Learning Technology group to receive a special room rate. Registrations are now being taken at: <http://www.kidsroe.org/KIDS/Catalog/class.cfm?clsNumber=4426>.

# *E d u c a t i o n a l   H i g h l i g h t s - F e b r u a r y 2 0 0 7*

## **Free Geospatial Technology Conference**

*Have* you heard the term “Geospatial Technologies” surfacing across Illinois yet? If you haven’t, you will soon be hearing about it across the educational technology pipelines of Illinois. If you would like to know more about this area, the Illinois GIS Association is offering a **FREE** one-half day workshop for teachers in grades 3 through 12 to learn about GIS and GPS and how these technologies can be incorporated into the classroom.

This workshop will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield on April 30. The conference will begin at 12:00 noon and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. Participants will discover:

- The rapid development of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) as a new and essential tool for student learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Learn how this technology provides students with a powerful tool for exploring everything from the world to their backyard. See the power of mapping GPS data as a tool for students to investigate the world around them; and
- The rapidly growing benefits of GIS to engage students in active hands-on learning, fostering critical thinking, involving students in investigating relevant real-life issues, and employing problem-based learning to advance technology literacy goals.

Additional information and a printable registration form can be found by going to ILGIS website found at <http://www.gis2gps.com/ilgisa2/Spring2007ilgisa.htm>

## **Bits and Pieces of Information**

*If* you think in pounds and miles instead of kilograms and kilometers, you're in the minority. Only the United States, Liberia, and Burma still primarily use English units -- the rest of the world is metric. And now the moon will be metric too. NASA astronauts on the moon will now use the metric system! NASA has decided to use metric units for all operations on the lunar surface when it returns to the moon. The Vision for Space Exploration calls for returning astronauts to the Moon by 2020 and eventually setting up a manned lunar outpost.

The Illinois Technology Conference for Educators (IL-TCE) General Conference invites you to join over 2000 educators statewide March 1 and 2 at Pheasant Run in St. Charles to learn to "Think Outside the Box and Wires." Learn with your peers through nationally recognized keynote speakers, vendor exhibits, poster and spotlight sessions, round table discussions, and break-out sessions. Additional information is available at <http://www.il-tce.org/home/home.asp>.

Technology coordinators, remember that Form 471 is due no later than 10:59 p.m. on February 7.

Districts who have Technology Plans that expire June 30 must submit new plans to ISBE no later than April 15.

**“Figure This”** is a web site designed specifically for students in grades 4 - 12 to assist them with these challenges and to help keep their math skills sharp. To log on to this great resource visit the **“Figure This”** web site at: <http://www.figurethis.com>.

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## Instructional Strategies & Methods

### **4054 Giving Directives that Students Will Follow: CE Credits Online, 1st in series**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$135, Code: GD-1700212-3, 15 CPDUs, 1 credit.

Learn theory, rationale, and techniques for giving irresistible directives to students. This quick but powerful 4-step verbal tactic focuses attention on the student's responsibility for his or her own positive outcome. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.ccreditsonline.org](http://www.ccreditsonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

<b>Date(s):</b>	Open-ended	<b>Times:</b>	12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b>	\$135
<b>Location:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Presenters:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b>	15
<b>Audience:</b>	K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>			

### **4055 Stopping Disruptive Behavior, 2nd in series**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$135, Code: SDB-1700212-3, 15 CPDUs, 1 credit.

Learn a powerful, constructive technique for managing student behavior. This agile, verbal strategy causes students to examine their behaviors in the light of choice and consequence and may cut your discipline referrals in half. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.ccreditsonline.org](http://www.ccreditsonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

<b>Date(s):</b>	Open-ended	<b>Times:</b>	12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b>	\$135
<b>Location:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Presenters:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b>	15
<b>Audience:</b>	K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>			

### **4056 Conducting the Parent Conference, 3rd in series**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$135, Code: CPC-1700212-3, 15 CPDUs, 1 credit.

Learn persuasive and effective strategies for difficult parent conferences. This 7-step interview will move parents toward becoming committed participants in the solution. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.ccreditsonline.org](http://www.ccreditsonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

<b>Date(s):</b>	Open-ended	<b>Times:</b>	12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b>	\$135
<b>Location:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Presenters:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b>	15
<b>Audience:</b>	K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>			

### **4057 Today's Classroom: Foundations of and Current Trends in Education**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$190, Code: FOE-1700212-3, 30 CPDUs, 2 credits.

Create and maintain effective learning environments for students using important concepts in American education: history, governmental policies, and best practices in classrooms across the nation. Use research and learning theories to help students achieve. Topics of study included are early childhood development theories, individual learning differences, research on factors that influence student motivation, traditional versus alternative methods of student assessment, and classroom management plans. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.ccreditsonline.org](http://www.ccreditsonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

<b>Date(s):</b>	Open-ended	<b>Times:</b>	12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b>	\$190
<b>Location:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Presenters:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b>	30
<b>Audience:</b>	K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>			

### **4058 Coaching to Improve Teaching and Learning**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$270, Code: COA-1700212-3, 45 CPDUs, 3 credits.

Learn processes of collaboration and communication that ensure quality outcomes for students. Establish mutual purpose/respect and how to use a variety of effective coaching communication skills. Maximize expertise, skills, and talents of coaching partners. Opportunity for reflection, practice, observation, analysis, and application of skills. Emphasis on intentional best practice, celebration of success, planning of future observational episodes, and relationship maintenance. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.ccreditsonline.org](http://www.ccreditsonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

<b>Date(s):</b>	Open-ended	<b>Times:</b>	12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b>	\$270
<b>Location:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Presenters:</b>	CE Credits Online	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b>	45
<b>Audience:</b>	K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>			

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## **4271 Health and Safety for Art Educators**

All fine arts teachers are encouraged to attend this workshop. The purpose of this training is to assist fine arts departments with the issues of safety in handling and storage of materials in the visual art classroom. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast.

**Date(s):** 2/9/2007 **Times:** 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM **Cost:** \$25  
**Location:** Deer Valley Country Club **Presenters:** Becky Lockart, Illinois EPA and others  
3298 Hoover Road, Deer Grove, IL  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 2/2/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

## **4196 Rights and Responsibilities in the Disciplinary Process**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$135, Code: RR-1700212-3, 15 CPDUs, 1 credit.

Assess your understanding of the legal definition of force and how it concerns you every day in your classroom and your building. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.cccreditonline.org](http://www.cccreditonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

**Date(s):** Open Ended **Times:** 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM **Cost:** \$135  
**Location:** CE Credits Online **Presenters:** CE Credits Online  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** **Potential CPDUs:** 15

## **4197 Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$270, Code: DIF-1700212-3, 45 CPDUs, 3 credits.

Learn exciting strategies for varying instruction across grade levels to meet diverse learning needs in your classroom and discover new instructional approaches that will maximize achievement for all your students. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.cccreditonline.org](http://www.cccreditonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

**Date(s):** Open Ended **Times:** 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM **Cost:** \$270  
**Location:** CE Credits Online **Presenters:** CE Credits Online  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** **Potential CPDUs:** 45

## Reading

### **4102 Coaching to Improve Reading**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$270, Code: COR-1700212-3, 45 CPDUs, 3 credits. This course focuses upon the all-important coaching relationship in improving student reading achievement and the seven components of successful reading programs as the foundation of reading achievement: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing about the reading, and content area reading skills. Intentional best practice in each reading component is emphasized as the basis for the coaching interaction. Through learning activities, observations of teaching, and practice and application of skills, participants learn how to establish a positive, respectful, caring, and confidential coaching relationship that allows each partner to grow and learn in a safe, collaborative, and guiding atmosphere with the common goal of increasing student reading achievement. For course descriptions, syllabi, sample lessons, or to enroll, go to [www.cccreditonline.org](http://www.cccreditonline.org) or call 888/263-9980.

**Date(s):** Open Ended **Times:** 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM **Cost:** \$270  
**Location:** CE Credits Online **Presenters:** CE Credits Online  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** **Potential CPDUs:** 45

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## Technology

### **4277 PC Basics - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover Windows, file management, and care/maintenance. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize Microsoft Windows.

**Date(s):** 2/20/2007 2/27/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 West 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 2/13/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

### **4278 Microsoft Office: Word - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover word processing. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize Microsoft Office Word.

**Date(s):** 3/6/2007 3/13/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education, **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 2/27/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

### **4279 Microsoft Office: Excel - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover spreadsheets and databases. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize Microsoft Office Excel.

**Date(s):** 3/20/2007 3/27/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office Of Education, **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 3/13/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

### **4280 Internet and Email - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover Internet basics and searching as well as e-mail basics. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize Internet and e-mail software.

**Date(s):** 4/10/2007 4/17/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 4/3/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

### **4281 Microsoft Publisher - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover desktop publishing - flyers, newsletters, etc. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize Microsoft Publisher.

**Date(s):** 4/24/2007 5/1/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 4/17/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

### **4282 Digital Photos, Slide Shows, and Video - Spring 2007**

In this module, we will cover creating digital videos with your digitized photos. Participants will receive the necessary skills to effectively utilize digital imaging software.

**Date(s):** 5/8/2007 5/15/2007 **Times:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM **Cost:** \$75  
**Location:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education **Presenters:** Nancy Slonneger  
1001 W. 23rd St., Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K - 12th **Reg Deadline:** 5/1/2007 **Potential CPDUs:** 6

# *E d u c a t i o n a l   H i g h l i g h t s - F e b r u a r y 2 0 0 7*

## Workshop Registration Advanced Registration is required for all ROE Programs

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School District Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop ID# and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Workshop \_\_\_\_\_

Registration forms and fees for each workshop received in our office **at least one week in advance** of the first session of the workshop will determine if the workshop will be offered or cancelled. **No refunds will be given after that date.** Further registrations will be accepted until the maximum number is met.

**Please fill out the registration form completely and mail to the address below by the registration deadline with the appropriate fee. If you need further information, call 815/625-1495.**

Whiteside Regional Office of Education, 1001 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sterling, IL 61081

For Office Use: Fee is Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Confirmation Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

### AREA VACANCIES

**District:** RiverBend CUSD #2  
**Contact:** Human Resources  
**Address:** 1110 3rd St., Fulton, IL 61252  
**Phone:** 815/589-2711  
**Opening:** High School Math  
**Qualifications:** IL certification with math endorsement

**Opening:** High School Ecology and Biology  
**Qualifications:** IL certification with endorsements in Ecology and Biology

**Deadline:** March 30, 2007  
**Start Date:** August 2007

**District:** Rock Falls Township High School #301  
**Contact:** Mr. Ron McCord, Principal  
**Address:** 101 12th Ave., Rock Falls, IL 61071  
**Phone:** 815/625-3886  
**Opening:** High School English/Language Arts  
**Qualifications:** IL certification  
**Deadline:** February 9, 2007  
**Start Date:** August 2007

**District:** Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico  
**Contact:** Human Resources  
**Address:** 79 Grove St., Prophetstown, IL 61277  
**Phone:** 815/537-5101  
**Opening:** Elementary Teacher  
**Qualifications:** IL Certification (K-9)

**Opening:** P/T vocal/instrumental teacher  
**Qualifications:** IL certification

**Opening:** Elementary band/instrumental/vocal teacher  
**Qualifications:** IL certification

**Deadline:** August 15, 2007  
**Start Date:** August 17, 2007

# *Educational Highlights - February 2007*

## **Arbor Day Tree Seedlings**

Grade three classroom teachers and students can receive free tree seedlings from the Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District to promote Arbor Day as an important environmental event in the United States. Every school in Whiteside County is invited to be a part of this special program. It is sponsored by the Soil & Water Education Program to encourage children to become interested and more involved in nature by planting trees. The average tree distribution within Whiteside County is 850-900 tree seedlings. This year's tree seedling is the American plum tree. It is a 16-20 foot tree that produces annual flowers and a small fruit that is edible for wildlife.

Watch your mailboxes for your invitation to be a part of this annual event. Letters will be sent to all schools in mid-February. Trees are distributed the last two weeks of April into early May. The Arbor Day classroom visit includes a 35-minute program that shows the importance of trees, information about this year's specific tree, and how to plant and care for the seedling.

## **Animal Life in Winter Program**

*What* do animals do to live during the winter and how do they take care of themselves to survive the cold and lack of food supplies; what do insects, reptiles, amphibians, and birds do during the long months of winter?

Classroom visits use many visuals to explain the world of nature in winter. The program is available for classes from K - 5. The visit will include showing the students mammal pelts, tracks, and explaining how these special creatures are masters of survival throughout a long cold winter. The presentation is approximately 40 minutes or as needed to fit your classroom's schedule. Content emphasis is to explain how man does make a difference in the survival of many of the animals of nature, and that we are the caretakers of nature. To schedule a classroom visit contact Nancy Anderson at 815/772-2124, ext. 3, fax at 815/772-7973, or email [nancy.anderson@il.nacdn.net](mailto:nancy.anderson@il.nacdn.net).

## **Earth Day Programs**

Earth Day programs are available for K - 9 classrooms with content available to meet each grade/age level. This program is important at any time of the year; however, April 22 is Earth Day and designated as a national holiday to make us all aware of the responsibility of every citizen to take care of our natural environment. Content includes the basics of pollution to the air, water, and land. Class time is scheduled to best meet your student and teacher schedules. To schedule a visit, contact Nancy Anderson at 815/772-2124, ext. 3, fax at 815/772-7973 or email [nancy.anderson@il.nacdn.net](mailto:nancy.anderson@il.nacdn.net).

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

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Morrison, IL 61270 Permit No. 93
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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 by Appointment