

# KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 NO. 2

The Regional Office of Education will make compliance visits to Abingdon, ROWVA and Williamsfield this school year. It is always exciting to see all of the learning going on in all of the districts in Knox County. I am proud to serve all of you. All of you are doing a great job for our county and the nation.

Recently I attended a training session for Superintendents who are doing teacher and administrator audits. I came away with a concern about how we currently structure the teacher institute. We certainly have an agenda and evaluation yet I can not prove that anyone attended a particular session or workshop. We do have some options available to us. If you have any opinions and would like to share with us, please contact any member of the team or me. We will make a decision in the next few months. The sooner the better for planning purposes. Sorry about the delay of the directory. The printer had a problem with the cover. We have removed all personal addresses and phone numbers from the directory. This directory is online at [www.roe33.net](http://www.roe33.net). We have some extra copies. If you would like one let us know. First come first served.

I realize that my “clearing the hallways” goal has really become quite a challenge for some of the schools. I want the safest environment for all students, teachers, administrators, guests and volunteers. I really believe in the motto “Be safe, not sorry”. I would rather err on the side of safety. This certainly gives all of us another opportunity to be creative.

Representative Don Moffitt shared a poem he read at a speech he gave in Macomb. Notice the date of the poem.

## What Does Labor Want?

We want more schoolhouses and less jails,  
More books and less arsenals,  
More learning and less vice,  
More constant work and less crime,  
More leisure and less greed,  
More justice and less revenge.

Samuel L. Gompers, 1893

Have a Happy and Blessed Holiday season

**Regional Office of Education will be closed on the following days:**

**Monday, November 12**

**Thursday November 22, Friday November 23**

**Monday December 24, Tuesday December 25**

Be open to change, and be ready to embrace it – change can wreak havoc on your life, but it can also bring you life's greatest gifts.

### **Outdoor Education**

Outdoor education was a great success again this year. All 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Knox County were invited to attend. Ten schools participated. In attendance this year there were 600 students with 26 teachers plus aides. The weather held out and a great time was enjoyed by all. Aquatic resources of Illinois seemed to be a favorite. All students had a turn at fishing. Each student attended 8 sessions and had lunch out in the open.

### **Education Office offers conferences for teachers**

The Knox County Regional Office of Education, in cooperation with the Teachers' Retirement System, is scheduling telephone conferences in this area on January 8, 2008. Members of the Retirement System who have questions about their benefits may request a telephone conference with a TRS counselor. If you would like to speak with a TRS benefit counselor call the Regional Office at 345-3828 to complete a request form. Request forms must be returned to the Knox County Regional Office no later than December 4, 2007.

Conferences will be scheduled January 8, 2008, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. in 15 minute time periods.

### **Two Rivers Bridges is online with many workshops and classes.**

#### **Professional Development Opportunities:**

Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Principals, what would you like the ROE to offer and where? Please let us know. If we get requests, then we can offer classes or workshops that will be attended. We offered an ISAT session in October that was requested by Ms. Andrews, Principal of Hedding School. We (Two Rivers and ROE) are trying to meet your needs. We need your input to be able to identify those needs.

### **Knox County Academy**

We are serving students in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and high school. Our building is a locked facility. We continue to grow and work toward our mission which is to provide an alternative setting that will enable students to work toward their educational goals, build confidence, teach life skills and encourage students to achieve in a safe environment.

### **KCA Diploma Program**

The night school is continually adding students. The winter hours are noon until 5:00 p.m. Remember, a student must be at least 17 years old and have dropped from their district school.

### **November 11-17 Educator Week**

## **November 15 – Family Reading Night**

Make some popcorn and grab a few books, then read to your children and let them read to you.

## **Homeless**

### ***National Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week***

Gary Smith, Mayor of Galesburg has proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week in the city of Galesburg. This effort coincides with National Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week. Many tend to be generous during the holiday season but please remember homelessness and hunger is a 12 month reality. Spring, summer, fall or winter, remember the homeless and the hungry. Give to your local food pantries and shelters all year round.

The Illinois web application security listed 22,000 Illinois homeless students for school year 06-07, up several thousand over 05-06.

Need more information or a location to give, contact your ROE Homeless Liaison Mary Scanlon at 345-3828.

## **Spelling Bee**

Knox County Spelling Bee school winners information should be to the ROE by February 22, 2008. The Knox County Spelling Bee will be February 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Galesburg Public Library.

## **What is MRSA?**

MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to Antibiotics called beta-lactams. In the community most MRSA infections are skin infections. Almost all MRSA skin infections can be effectively treated by drainage of pus with or without antibiotics.

### ***Is this a new threat?***

No, MRSA infections have been circulating for many years, primarily in health care settings. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), some factors, referred to as the 5 C's make it easier for MRSA to be transmitted:

Crowding

Contact (frequent skin-to-skin)

Compromised skin (cuts or abrasions)

Contaminated items and surfaces

Cleanliness (lack of)

Settings that are at greater risk are military barracks, correctional facilities, schools, dormitories, and daycare centers.

***How is MRSA spread?***

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection.

***Is there anything I can personally do to prevent MRSA?***

Good hygiene is one of the best tools in preventing MRSA.

***Do I need to use antibacterial soap?***

No.

***What can schools do to prevent MRSA infections and other infectious diseases?***

Schools can encourage effective hand washing among students and staff by providing adequate materials such as soap and paper towels, as well as time for hand washing. More tips and materials to encourage hand washing can be found at:

[http://www.bam.gov/sub\\_yourbody/yourbody\\_buzzonscuzz.html](http://www.bam.gov/sub_yourbody/yourbody_buzzonscuzz.html)

Be ready to listen to *eureka* moments. The most unexpected sources can show you the way to transform your life and create your own destiny.

**Job Opening at Two Rivers**

**Professional Development Consultant**

Co-director position available for Illinois ASPIRE Central Grant. Qualifications include: Masters Degree desired, at least 5 years successful education-based experience; adult facilitation experience; technology application and classroom integration; presentation skills; knowledge of primary grades literacy, Response to Intervention, standards-alignment; grant writing experience desired. Salary based on experience and education.

Send letter of application and resume to:

**Two Rivers Professional Development Center  
10112 W. Dubois Road  
Edwards, IL 61528**

Equal Opportunity Employer

**ADEPT**

A Look Into Social Services Workshop is November 12<sup>th</sup> at Knox College, Ferris Lounge from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sometimes the key to your success is right in front of you – sometimes it's something that you've known since you were a little child.