

KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
121 S. PRAIRIE ST.
www.roe33.net

please post

Winter 2008

Volume 6 Number 4

From the Superintendent:

Happy Holidays!

This has been a very busy time. I had the opportunity to “serve” parents and students at the Thanksgiving dinner at Cooke school. Mrs. Skinner’s kindergarten class put on a wonderful program before the meal. As you all know, I am very partial to kindergarteners. There was a huge turn out and I had the privilege of taking off my jacket, rolling up my sleeves and putting on gloves to help serve. I really enjoyed it. The parents were so patient and polite. I can’t be everywhere, but I do try to accept invitations whether it is to read to a class, or watch a special performance. I am here to serve the citizens of Knox County in any way I can.

I hope everyone has a very peaceful and Happy Holiday season.

The Regional Office of Education will be closed starting December 20th through January 4th. The Office will be closed on the following dates: Monday, January 19th and Monday, February 16th.

TRS TELECONFERENCE:

Teachers will receive information about a telephone conference from TRS. The date of the teleconference is February 19th. Please call Lynne to reserve a time.

The following were on State Superintendent Koch’s weekly newsletter:

Contests:

Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln – The Illinois State Board of Education is making a special Lincoln curriculum available to teachers in conjunction with the Indiana

Department of Education. The lessons, developed by the Indiana Department of Education, align to the Illinois learning standards and teachers can download them at no charge from ISBE's Lincoln webpage at:

<http://www.isbe.net/htmls/abe.htm>

Looking for Lincoln Hero

Contest extended to March 1, 2009. Details can be found at the same website.

Parent Involvement Website

ISBE is pleased to announce the development of new online resources for parent involvement. We hope you have the opportunity to use the new online resources for planning parent involvement policies and activities as they relate to your school and/or district.

The new information is located in the "Resources" box on the Grants and Programs page under Parent Involvement. This page will provide guidance, information and resources for LEAs and schools to comply with NCLB requirements and to also offer support and technical assistance as it relates to parent involvement planning and activities.

The website includes sample templates for District Parent Involvement Policy; School Parent Involvement Policy and School/Parent Compact; E-Bulletins, which reference the guidance; and resources to help the schools with parent involvement. Please visit the link <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/parent.htm>

Parent Involvement Analysis Tool

Districts and schools are required to review their parent involvement policies annually. To help with the review and to create new policies, ISBE encourages you to use the parent involvement needs analysis available at:

http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/parent_adi.htm#parent Directions are available for accessing the log in.

Earth Gauge Kids Website Launched

The new Earth Gauge Kids website is here. Designed for students in Grades 5-8, the website focuses on a different weather-environment theme each month.

November's theme was on Migratory Birds. For more information visit www.earthgauge.net/kids/ It is a really cool site. Students interested in meteorology will really enjoy this site.

National Geographic's Operation: Resilient Planet Game

The game Resilient Planet transports students along on real-life science expeditions. Students will need to use the correct tools, find the right data, and be prepared to argue their case through 3D graphics, stereo sound and fun-to-use controls. The game is correlated to National Science Education standards for grades 5-8. Visit <http://www.jason.org/Public/Curriculum/ORPGame.aspx?pos=1>

The Volvo Adventure

The Volvo Adventure is an educational program that rewards environmental activities and decision-makers of the future. Teams of students ages 13-16 perform environmental projects locally and submit them online. The best entries are asked to join an international conference in Sweden to present their ideas and compete for the final prize. A companion program is available for students ages 10-12. Submissions are due by January 31, 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx>

Climate Ambassadors

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education is launching a campaign to educate middle and high school students about climate change, its effects on children's health, and actions teens can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Encourage your students to join with other teens to green the energy scene and make a difference. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/climateforaction/>

Earthwatch Fellowships for Teachers and Students

How would you like to get out of the classroom and head into the field to learn about cutting edge research and conservation efforts, develop professional skills and make a difference in our environment? You can bring the world back to your classroom and students through Earthwatch Expedition. Earthwatch awards 500 plus fellowships annually to K-12 teachers and high school students. For more information, go to <http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/education>

Target Field Trip Grants

Target stores are helping teachers bring learning to life for students through its Target Field Trip Grants program. In 2008, Target will award 5,000 field trip grants across the country, which equates to 1 grant in every 25 K-12 schools. For more information, visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005237>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

The Captain Planet Foundation is accepting applications for funding projects that help students better understand environmental issues. Projects must promote understanding of environmental issues, focus on hand-on activities, involve students ages 6-18, promote interaction and cooperation within a group, and help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills. Proposals are due December 31. Visit

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm

Toyota Tapestry Science Teacher Grants

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., and the National Science Teachers Association have announced the 19th Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program. This year, 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20-32 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to K-12 science teachers. The categories are Physical Science Application, Environmental Science Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science. Proposals are due by January 21, 2009. For more information, go to

<http://tapestry.nsta.org/>

Superintendent Koch is undertaking a review and revision of the Illinois Learning Standards (developed in 1997). The goal is to have fewer, clearer and more rigorous Illinois Learning Standards that effectively align to college and career readiness expectations. They are also reviewing learning standards from multiple standards. The more usable and relevant we make our standards for students and teachers, the more likely they will be used effectively to positively affect teaching and learning.

If you are interested in joining the core content teams that will examine learning standards for English language arts, mathematics, and science at the high school level, applications are available online at

[http://www2.learningpt.org/ILDiplomaProjectLaunch/\(S\(scylv155102vxs45zppp5d45\)\)/Default.aspx](http://www2.learningpt.org/ILDiplomaProjectLaunch/(S(scylv155102vxs45zppp5d45))/Default.aspx) and must be received no later than Friday, December 19, 2008.

National School Lunch Program Summer Food Service Program

January 15

Petition is due to Regional superintendent to opt out of the summer mandate Public Act 095-0155.

February 15

School district must declare a plan to have a summer meals program for each school that meets the requirements of Public Act 095-0155.

March 1

Regional superintendent shall inform the school district in writing if an exemption for the summer mandate Public Act 095-0155 was granted or denied.

Regional superintendent shall report to ISBE's Nutrition Programs Division a listing of all districts that applied to opt out of either summer meal.

Student Opportunities

IEPA Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) invites fifth and sixth grade students to compete in its annual Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest. This year's focus is on the importance of water conservation and clean water. The contest theme is "Your Water Footprint. Keep it Small, Keep it Clean!"

Each school can enter up to 12 items (six posters and six written works). Entries must be postmarked and sent to the IEPA by February 6, 2009.

Contact Kristi Morris-Richards at IEPA for more information at 217-558-7198 or at 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19267. Springfield, IL 62794-9276.

Awards & Grants

IAAE Outstanding Service Awards

Each year the Illinois Alliance for the Arts Education recognizes outstanding service in the field of arts education. The Annual IAAE Service Recognition Awards Ceremony will be hosted by the Quad City Arts in Rock Island on Thursday, March 19, 2009, during Illinois Arts Education Week (March 16-22).

If you know an individual or organization that has advanced the cause of arts education in Illinois during the past year, please consider nominating them.

Awards are presented in the following categories: Arts Educator, Public/Community Service, Industry/Business Partner, Artist, School Administration, IAAE Organization, and Creative Ticket. The 2008 award winners represented a diverse cross-section of the state and across arts disciplines, geographic location, and types of activities.

Nominations must be submitted on the official form (copy as needed) and must be postmarked by Monday, December 15. The nomination form and a category qualification checklist can be found at www.isbe.net under "What's New" on the Curriculum and Instruction webpage.

Please forward all nominations to the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education, 315 Dresser Road, DeKalb, IL 60115, e-mail: barbarah@tbc.net or 815-756-7615

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An external vacancy list for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>

Spelling Bee

Remember the Deadline to enroll with Scripps is December 19, 2008. Please visit www.spellingbee.com. The Knox County Spelling Bee is Friday, February 27, 2009 at 1:00PM at the Galesburg Public Library

Geography Bowl

The Knox County Geography Bowl is Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Knoxville Jr. High School, 701 E. Mill Street, Knoxville, IL. Elementary Division is from 8:30 – 11:30 and the Secondary Division is 1:00 – 3:30.

National Board Certified Teachers

If anyone is interested in giving an Awareness Session this winter (January on), please let Carole Allert know. ROE #27 would like someone to present at their Institute on March 27th. You will be paid \$100 for each Awareness Session date from NBRC.

There will be another information meeting for all area NBCTs in January (date to announced soon). Please plan to attend because they will celebrate the new NBCTs in our area and the Regional Office of Education will give information in regards to Master Teaching Certificates, Master Teaching Stipend (\$3000), and Mentoring dollars for 2008-09.

If you are interested in learning more about mentoring, please watch for dates in the spring and early summer for Candidate Mentor Training and Take One Training.

Office Closing

Just another reminder that the Regional Office of Education will close at 4:30PM on December 19th and will re-open again at 8:30AM January 5, 2009.

Teacher's Institute Fund
 Knox County Regional Office of Education
 For the year Ended June 30, 2008

Cash \$25,189

Liabilities:

Deferred Revenue \$17,497

Due to other Governmental Units 630

Fund Balance 7,062

Liabilities & fund Balance \$25,189

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

Local Revenue \$10,718

Purchased services \$5,039

Supplies 1,421

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures 4,258

Fund Balance beginning of year 2,804

Fund Balance end of Year \$ 7,062

Infinitec Workshop – February 2, 2009 4:00PM – 6:00 PM

This is a free workshop sponsored by Knox-Warren Special Education Cooperative 938 Harrison Street, Galesburg. The presentation will introduce participants to the growing number of low cost/no cost web-based and downloadable applications that can provide supports to students in every subject area. Many of these sites can be used as Universal Design Tools that can be made available to any student, regardless of disability or learning/preference style. Many of these applications may be used as interventions for struggling learners in grade levels K-12. This is designed for Educators, SLPs, OTs, PTs, AT Specialists, Social Workers, Assistants, Administrators and family members. This program qualifies for 2 CPDU's through ISBE. Please RSVP before January 23rd to 309-343-2143.