

KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER

December 2009

[www.roe33.net](http://www.roe33.net)

Volume 7 Number 2

Message from the Superintendent:

I certainly hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving.  
We are almost halfway through the school year.  
Have a peaceful and safe Holidays.

The **Gifted Education Seminar** will begin in January. Joyce Behrens will be the trainer. A flyer announcing all pertinent information will be out very soon. The dates for the G.E.S. are:  
Session 1 Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 – 3:30 Carl Sandburg Computer Lab  
Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 3:30 Carl Sandburg Computer Lab  
Minimum of 25 certified public school teachers – Registration Deadline January 14<sup>th</sup>

Session 2 Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 3:30 Carl Sandburg Computer Lab  
Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 3:30 Carl Sandburg Computer Lab  
Minimum of 25 certified public school teachers – Registration Deadline May 28<sup>th</sup>

Session 3 Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 3:00 Galesburg City Hall Conference room-lower level  
Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 3:00 Galesburg City Hall Conference room-lower level  
Minimum of 15 certified public school teachers – Registration Deadline June 5<sup>th</sup>  
If you would like to take this Seminar for 45 cpdu's or 3 hours of graduate credits, please call the Regional Office at 345-3828 as soon as possible.  
Certificates and stipends will be awarded at the completion of the seminar.

**April 1, 2010 Census.** Census workers are needed. We want to make sure that everyone is counted.

- A complete count: The importance of Census Data.
- Every year, the Federal government allocates more than 8,400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

## More Professional Opportunities:

- **Star Online – Ledith Whitehall – Western IL University**

Please remember to include STAR-Online in your professional development marketing and remind your school administrators to include a STAR-Online presentation in staff meetings or SIP days. Ledith is available to present, but please call her at 309-298-2444 x294 or 309-550-8808 as soon as possible as her calendar is filling up.

### **Internet sources:**

[www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) For each answer you get right, they donate 10 grains of rice through the UN World Food Program to help end hunger.

**Knox County Academy Day Program.** Old location at 850 Mulberry with a new director, Mr. Meneweather and staff: Mr. Kamano-Science/Math and Ms. Frieley-Language Arts/English. The Academy is filling up. We have 23 students at the present time. The students have been busy with their studies, but attended a field trip to the Drop Out Summit in Bloomington and toured Red Bird Campus. They also addressed and mailed cards to the Veterans and families.

### **ADEPT/TRUANCY**

Greeting to all! Project A.D.E.P.T. has had a busy and productive first half of the year. We are on pace to serve 200 kids this year. Thanks for the continued support of the school districts, communities and law enforcement agencies. We look forward to working with you in the future. Mr. Lorenzo Pugh-Director, Ms. Cecilee Farris, and Mr. Greg Jennings-Out Reach Workers. Happy Holidays!

### **Homeless**

Under the sponsorship of the Regional Office of Education and in honor of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, a food drive by County employees and staff at 121 S. Prairie was recently completed. Over 200# of food which included: fruit, vegetables, soup and other food stuffs were collected. Offices which participated in the drive were: Regional Office of Education, Assessor's Office, Zoning Dept, G.I.S. Department, Karl Johnson, Alternate Public Defender, Veterans Assistance Commission and Juvenile Justice Council. FISH can provide food for as many as 50 families per day and is always in need of food items especially peanut butter/jelly, tuna and spaghetti sauce. Ms. Mary Scanlon is the ROE Liaison for Knox County. She can be reached at 345-3828.

### **Second Chance**

Mr. Sharif Sidi-Haji is the Director. Workforce Investment and ROE #33 partnered to identify eligible students ages 17-21, who could benefit from a new opportunity to gain work experience, GED, or college work. The goal was to identify 42 local young people. To date, 91 students have been referred and 49 have been accepted into the program. Mr. Sidi-Haji has gone far and above our expectations. We are very proud of him and his work.

### Ten ways to plan to thrive during the Holidays

1. **Plan ahead.** Don't be at the mercy of the season. Decide what YOU want your holiday experience to look like, and make necessary arrangements now.
2. **Make gifts this year.** It'll help you not over-spend, and handmade gifts are almost always more appreciated.
3. **Set a financial budget.** Start shopping sales now to get better prices – including for the supplies for your handmade gifts.
4. **Set a time budget.** How much time will you need for shopping or making gifts? For holiday baking or family visits? Schedule more time than you think you need.
5. **Get creative.** Think of new things to do while the kids are at home or different ways to arrange childcare (swap with friends?).
6. **Build in self-care.** Whatever helps you, do it. Everything works better when you feel better.
7. **Scratch off to-do items.** This isn't about completing tasks on your to-do list. Take tasks OFF your list! Prioritize.
8. **Keep communications open with your loved ones.** Consider weekly meetings to talk things through.
9. **Exercise.** Start now to develop a plan so that it's a habit when the holidays actually hit.
10. **Consider alternatives.** If family gatherings cause anxiety, do something different! Make your plans well in advance.

### Drop Out Summits

After attending both Drop Out Summits this year, I have decided to hold summits in each school district.

We are currently in the planning stages. If you have any ideas you would like to share, or would like to be involved, please call the office and get your name on the list.

Thanks in advance for all your help.

### Mr. Qualls

Mr. Rich Qualls will be leaving the ROE on December 15<sup>th</sup>. He will have worked his required 120 days. We really enjoyed his professionalism, work ethics and knowledge. He will be missed. I hope he will drop in and say hello.

### Sheila Roehlk

Sheila will begin her duties as Assistant Regional Superintendent on January 1, 2010. We welcome her. She will be an asset to this office.

Poem – “EQUIPMENT”

By Edgar A. Guest

Poem recited by Dr. George Washington Carver during his commencement address at Selma University, Selma Alabama on May 27, 1942.

EQUIPMENT

Figure it out for yourself, my lad and lass  
You've all that the greatest of men have had,  
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes  
And a brain to use if you would be wise.  
With this equipment they all began,  
So start for the top and say, "I can."

Look them over, the wise and great  
They take their food from a common plate,  
And similar knives and forks they use,  
With similar laces they tie their shoes.  
The world considers them brave and smart,  
But you've all they had when they made their start.

You can triumph and come to skill,  
You can be great if you only will.  
You're well equipped for what fight you choose,  
You have legs and arms and a brain to use,  
And the man who has risen great deeds to do  
Began his life with no more than you.

You are the handicap you must face,  
You are the one who must choose your place,  
You must say where you want to go,  
How much you will study the truth to know.  
God has equipped you for life, but He  
Lets you decide what you want to be.

Courage must come from the soul within,  
The man must furnish the will to win.  
So figure it out for yourself, my lad and lass.

You were born with all that the great have had,  
With your equipment they all began,  
Get hold of yourself and say: "I can."

## **Illinois State Board of Education:**

### **Legal**

Student teachers are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect when acting in their professional or official capacity. Student teachers are required to fill out the appropriate Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status form, which is available on the DCFS Web site, <http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/index.shtml>

### **English Language Learning**

Illinois school districts are reminded to complete and submit the Immigrant Education Program Student Report by January 15, 2010.

To access the memo, report form, directions for submitting the report and other critical details, see: [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/immigrant\\_program\\_app.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/immigrant_program_app.pdf)

### **Special Education and Support Services**

Early intervention to Early Childhood Tracking Forms Change. Please be advised that as of August 1, 2008:

- Districts are no longer required to fax these Tracing Forms to ISBE.
- These data are to be reported to ISBE through the Student Information System (SIS).
- Districts are, however, still required to submit the tracking form to the Child and Family Connections (CFC) office.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

#### **Nominations Sought for Arts Education Awards**

Nominations for the 2010 IAAE Service Recognition Awards are available. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize individuals and groups who have contributed to arts education in Illinois. Individual arts educators can be nominated, as well as individuals and organizations in the areas of public and community service, industry and business and more. Deadline for nominations is January 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information Visit:

<http://www.isbe.il.us/curriculum/default.htm>

#### **Congressional Medal of Honor Film**

The film, "Medal of Honor – In Their Own Words 2009," is approximately 11 ½ minutes in length. It is available in Real Media Player and Windows Media through the Curriculum and Instruction Web page. The video link is:

[http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/medal\\_of\\_honor.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/medal_of_honor.htm)

### **Employment Opportunities**

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at:

<http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>

## **Knox County Academy Evening Program - Diploma Program**

Today, in its seventh full year, the Knox County Evening Program offers both a diploma and a credit recovery program to the students of Knox County. Specifically serving the most at-risk student population of the county – students who have dropped out of traditional schools – the Evening Program has helped more than 120 students earn their high school diplomas.

Diploma-seeking students must be between 17-21 years of age. The diploma program is textbook-based guided independent study. Individual responsibility is highly stressed in the diploma program. Students are encouraged to make the learning process their own, while receiving any individual help they need from the staff. Most students require from five to eight credits to graduate and one to two years to complete the program.

Students in need of credit recovery opportunities, to advance with their classes or to graduate, are also helped by the Evening Program. APEX, an online suite of distance learning classes, is used for credit recovery and is available at no cost to all currently enrolled Knox County high school students. Enrollment is limited, though, and students may be placed on a waiting list for online classes or given the option of textbook work in the Evening Program classroom if they prefer not to wait.

Currently, almost forty students are enrolled in the Evening Program for the 2009-10 school year. Average yearly enrollment is approximately ninety students. The Knox County Academy Evening Program is located on the second floor of the former Weston Elementary School. The address is 850 Mulberry. Classroom hours are Monday through Friday from noon until five pm. We follow the #205 school calendar for attendance.

Counselors interested in enrolling students for credit recovery should contact Joel Ward by phone at 309-345-0122 or by email at [kcaeve@gmail.com](mailto:kcaeve@gmail.com).

## **Free-New DVD-2010 Edition**

Includes 8 specially selected segments from 20/20 for use in the classroom, on topics of Vote or Die, Spontaneous Order at the Skating Rink, Private vs. Public, Campaign Finance, Farm Subsidies, Middle Class Private Roads and Desire to be Famous.

To place your order, please click the link below or paste to your browser.

<http://stosselintheclassroom.org/selectdvd.php?source=IZZ7>

**Teacher's Institute Fund**

Balance Sheet

Cash \$22,061

Liabilities:

Deferred Revenue 14,061

Due to other Governmental Units 344

Fund Balance 8,206

Liabilities & Fund Balance \$22,611

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

Local Revenue \$7,596

Purchased Services 6,452

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures 1,144

Fund Balance beginning of Year 7,062

Fund Balance end of Year \$8,206