

Message from the Superintendent

There are a lot of things on the agenda this school year. Some things up for discussion; school district reorganization, homelessness, and funding for education. The Regional Office of Education is busy trying to provide the best service to all of the citizens of Knox County with limited resources. We have to give a big thanks to everyone who contributed to all of the educational projects big and small that we have been able to offer educators, parents, and students.

One of our goals was to offer classes so that teachers and Administrators could receive professional development here in Galesburg. Doug Gibb has worked very hard getting this together. Keep watching the website for any new additions. I am hopeful that all teachers in Knox County will put their professional development online this certification cycle. The ECS (Educators Certification Service) will not be up for awhile.

www.awesomelibrary.org

The Awesome Library organizes the Web with 28,000 carefully reviewed resources, including the top 5 percent in education. Topics are categorized for teachers, kids, teens, parents, librarians and college students.

www.starfall.com

A fun site for children to learn to read. Books and activity sheets may be downloaded free, and books also may be ordered in bulk at a fraction of the cost of photocopying.

www.eduref.org

The Educator's Reference Desk contains more than 2,000 unique lesson plans written and submitted by teachers from across the country and the world. Lessons plans are available by grade level in computer science, foreign language, health, language arts, and mathematics

SAT 2006 TESTING

The issues below are related to ISAT 2006 Testing:

Ten minutes – Additional time allowed for all students, if needed – New this year

For ISAT, students may have up to 10 additional minutes to complete each test session. If one or more students are still working and are actively engaged after 45 minutes have elapsed, they may be given up to 10 additional minutes to complete the test session, for a total of 55 minutes. The decision as to whether students are actively engaged and should receive additional time is made by the test administrator. If all students are finished after 45 minutes, the test session should be called to an end.

Extended Time for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students – New This Year

Beginning this year, LEP students who take ISAT may receive extended time on each test session. This extended time is over and above the additional 10 minutes that all students may have who are actively engaged in testing. Test administrators must decide ahead of time whether LEP students taking ISAT will receive the additional time beyond the 55 minutes total allowable for a test session. If you anticipate that such students will need extended time beyond the 55 minutes, these students should be tested separately. The amount of additional time for these students beyond the 55 minutes (45 minutes plus 10 minutes additional) has not yet been specified, but should take into account the student's needs as well as general considerations of what is reasonable. However, in no case may a test session for a student be split across days. Any test session begun on a given day should be finished by the end of that day.

Posters and Classroom Displays

There are only two types of posters that cannot be displayed on classroom walls during ISAT testing. (For posters and classroom displays that are not specifically prohibited, we are relying on your professional judgement.)

Any poster that has step-by-step instructions for answering a reading extended-response question—for example, the Reading Student-Friendly Rubrics

Any poster that displays and defines those root words and affixes listed in the Illinois Assessment Framework for Reading.

Students may not get out of their seats to refer to a poster or classroom display during testing.

Test administrators should not make reference to posters or classroom displays immediately prior to or during testing. Likewise, posters or classroom displays should not be added to the classroom immediately prior to the two-week test window.

Posters or classroom displays may not be copied and moved to an alternative testing location which creates an artificial environment and may lead students to believe that they should use these during testing.

Desktops During Testing

Desk tops are to be clear except for test materials appropriate for that grade. Anything attached to the desk such as multiplication tables or word lists would have to be removed or covered up.

Appropriate materials include grade 3 test booklets, grade 4-8 test booklets and answer documents, writing utensils (No. 2 pencils, pen, if desired, highlighter, if desired), and for the mathematics test, calculators at grades 4-8, paper rulers at grades 3-8, and ISAT Mathematics Reference Sheets for grades 7 and 8. Students with IEP's or Section 504 Plans may have additional materials on their desks as needed to provide accommodations.

The 2005/2006 Teachers' Institute Art Contest winners are:

**1st Place – Brad Benson – 12th grade – Knoxville High School
Teacher – Ms. Courtney Miller**

**2nd Place – Tiffany Brunwig – 9th grade – ROWVA High School
Teacher – Mrs. Penny Redfern**

**3rd Place – Kenzie Eklund – 12th grade – ROWVA High School
Teacher – Mrs. Penny Redfern**

Go Red for Women...on National Wear Red Day!!

Go Red for Women is a nation wide movement celebrating the energy, passion and power we have to band together and wipe out heart disease. Too few people realize that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women – and of men – but the good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. Spreading the Go Red For Women message empowers women to love – and save their hearts through lifestyle choices and actions. National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 3, 2006. On this day, millions of Americans will be wearing red to show their support for women and the fight against heart disease. By wearing red on National Wear Red Day, you can help the American Heart Association raise awareness of heart disease and inspire women to take charge of their heart health.

National Wear Red Day has its own dress code. On this day, you're free to Go Red in your own fashion. Wear your favorite red clothes or accessory – a red blouse, red lipstick, a red dress lapel pin (the symbol of women's heart health) – carry a fabulous red handbag or sport a red tie and red socks....and show some heart for heart disease prevention.

Join the millions of Americans wearing red on Friday, February 3rd and encourage others to do the same. Get involved. Go Red For Women. It's a simple, powerful way to improve women's heart health. For more information, visit www.goredforwomen.org or call the American Heart Association at 1-888-694-3278.

Administrative Audit

HOUSSE

Important points during the Audit	
We will have a pre-	
1. No additional activities may be added	
sender at the March	
for ROE review	
Institute who will go	
2. Verification of attendance at workshops,	
over HOUSSE for	
conferences, etc. needs to have a	
teachers.	
document that indicates registration	
or attendance and one that identifies	
the content of the activity such as an	
<u>ROE</u> will be closed on	agenda, brochure, or
program	Mon, Feb. 20th
3. ROE will verify documentation for the	
Fri, April 14 th	
minimum requirements	

ADEPT --- New Employee

Dave Harpman has left to assume a position selling insurance. We all wish him well.
 Lorenzo Pugh will be the Director of the ADEPT Program221-4806
 Jeff Devena has joined the staff of the ADEPT Program. He will be the ADEPT
 Caseworker ..221-4859
 They will be conducting "Stay in School" Programs for any teachers who ask them.

Upcoming Events

The Geography Bowl will be on Saturday, February 11th at Knoxville Jr. High School from 8:30 – 3:00p.m.

The Homeschoolers Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, February 17th at 1:00 p.m. in the Knox County Annex at 220 E. Simmons St.

The Knox County Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, March 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Second Floor of the Galesburg Public Library.

Upcoming GED Tests:

District Compliance Visits

February 24 & 25 th		May 2006 – Wmsfld, ROWVA, Abingdon
March 17 th & 18 th		
April 21 st & 22 nd		June 2007 – Knoxville, Galesburg
May 19 th & 20 th		

Health, Life, Safety checks are conducted each year by the ROE.

KNOX COUNTY ACADEMY

The new KCA director, Mrs. Gay Johnson, has a staff of 3 teachers and three support staff. There are 60 students enrolled in the day & night programs. The schools hours are 7:45 a.m. – 1:45p.m. for the day school and 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for the night school. Mr. Joel Ward is the director of the Night School.

BLOW YOUR OWN HORN!!!

On Monday & Tuesday, November 21st and 22nd, Hedding Grade School in Abingdon hosted the World's Fastest Painter, World's Most Prolific Painter, Mr. Morris Katz. He was extremely fascinating. The paintings were absolutely wonderful. Mr. Katz not only painted some of the most beautiful pictures but he taught some very good lessons to the students. All eyes and ears were on his every move. He was an excellent teacher. Many thanks to Dian Clark for all of the planning and work it took to bring to Abingdon!!

On Wednesday, November 23rd, I visited Cooke School and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving luncheon. The play put on by the Kindergarten and Fifth Grade Students was tops. They did a great job!! Thanks to Dr. Brown, staff and children for making it a fun celebration!

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Americans have recognized Black History annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month”. African American History had barely begun to be studied, or even documented, when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th Century that they gained a respectable presence in the history of Books. The celebration of Black History Month, and the study of Black History is owed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age 20. He later went to earn a Ph D from Harvard. He was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population. In 1926, Dr. Carter Godwin Goodson and other African American and white scholars, launched “Negro History Week” so that Americans could reflect on the history and contributions of African Americans. In the 1970’s, the celebration of African American history was expanded to include the entire month of February.

Homeless Grant

Doug Gibb is the liaison for the five school districts in Knox County. According to the McKinney-Veto Act, the definition of “homeless” includes:

- Lacking a fixed, regular and adequate place to sleep
- Living in a shelter
- Doubled up with other family members and friends
- Runaway youth, or those not welcome to live with their families
- Youth awaiting foster care, living in a vehicle, bus station, train, or abandoned building

The purpose of the grant is to eliminate barriers to enrollment for children who qualify. Typical barriers include transportation, lack of enrollment documentation, school selection (choosing the school attended prior to becoming homeless or the school closest to where they currently live), school records, etc.

In addition, the family is connected with agencies to address specific needs of homeless children such as housing, medical care, food, clothing and school supplies.

The Homeless Liaisons for Knox County are:

- Mr. Patrick Callahan – Knoxville
- Mr. Paul Woehlke – Galesburg
- Mr. Gary Buckingham – ROWVA
- Mr. Rich Putnam – Williamsfield
- Dr. Magie Roberts - Abingdon

Forming Critical Incident Response Teams Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Illinois Schools

The Illinois State Board of Education in partnership with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force is sponsoring the continuation of the statewide safe schools training project entitled, “Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Illinois Schools”. The training is designed to enhance the capacity of schools to plan for and manage critical incidents. It is imperative that school emergency plans align with local community and countywide critical incident response plans. If any type of disaster or terrorism incident happens in a community during the school day, schools will either be safe havens for students or will be responsible to safely reunite them with their families.

The one day course on “Forming Critical Incident Response Teams” is offered free of charge to local public to local public and private school districts. Administrative Academy Credit is available for this training. The training will be limited to the first 30 responders. Lunch and training materials will be provided free of charge.

To register call the Knox County ROE --- 345-3828

The location is the Knox County Annex – 220 E. Simmons in Galesburg

The date is February 23rd

Registration is at 8:30 and training is from 9:00 to 2:30pm

