

Knox County Regional Office of Education  
Regional Newsletter      Vol. 5 No. 3

*Message from the Superintendent*

I certainly hope that everyone had a safe, peaceful and happy holiday break. Now we are all back, eager and ready to make a difference in the lives of the students of Knox County.

I can't say too many times how proud I am to represent the citizens of Knox County.

The American College of Education is a school without walls. I thought the time saved going to, attending and returning from a class can really be a saving for any educator and their family. As quoted from a book I am currently reading, The World is Flat, Carly Fiorina, Former HPCE, "the last twenty-five years in technology have just been the "warm-up act". Now we are going into the main event, she said, "and by the main event, I mean an era in which technology will literally transform every aspect of business, every aspect of life and every aspect of society."

A great website that will help eliminate hunger and possibly increase student's vocabulary is: [www.freerice.org](http://www.freerice.org).

Are you an educator in a High School and would like to visit with other Robot teams? If you are interested, please contact Nicholas Matt at: [nmatt@henrysenachwine.org](mailto:nmatt@henrysenachwine.org).

*Professional Opportunities*

- 1) Family Matters – January 24 – Transition from school to work. Time is 5-8PM at the Knox County Annex. Must have 10 signed up. Please call the Regional Office to make your reservation by January 22. Cost is FREE. Teachers will receive 3 cpdu's.
- 2) Two Rivers – Check out TwoRivers.net (Bridges)
- 3) Teaching and learning with Monarch Butterflies. Summer 2008, Knox Agri-Center, Galesburg, IL. August 11, 12, 13. Cost is \$99.00 from 9AM-3PM. Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. 15 cpdu's.

*NBCT*

Congrats to Carole Allert for becoming the coordinator for the National Board Certified Teachers. There is a link to the NBCT at the ROE33.net site.

Teachers interested in learning more about National Board certification are encouraged to attend. Wednesday, January 16 from 4:30-5:30PM at the Knox County Annex. All interested teachers are welcome.

Take One! Candidates:

Misty Stecher	Reading Certificate	King
Christine Newsham	Excep Needs	GHS
Sarah Nelson	Reading	Steele
Robert Green	Excep Needs	United
Kristi Malek	Literacy	King
Sandy McEwan	Excep Needs	GHS
Marilyn Achelpohl	Business	GHS
Travis Stecher	Elem Ed	Nielson
Tami Qualls	English	GHS
Tricia Miller	Library	Gale/Steele
Mike Miller	Math	GHS
Tara Mowen	Literacy	Cooke
Colleen Noonan	Art	Gale/Steele

Teacher's Institute Fund

**Balance Sheet**

Cash	21,901.00
Liabilities:	
Deferred revenue	19,097.00
Fund balance	2,804.00
Liabilities & Fund Balance	21,901.00

**Statement of Revenue & Expenditures**

Teachers Certificates & Renewals	11,701.00
Purchased Services	10,027.00
Supplies	675.00
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	999.00
Fund balance beginning of year	1,805.00
Fund balance end of year	2,804.00

Office closed:

January 21 in Observance of Rev. Dr. M.L. King's birthday.

Knox County Spelling Bee:

February 29th at the Galesburg Public Library 1:00 PM.

***Don't forget to register to vote.***

Paraprofessional Workshop

January 30, 2008 4-5PM at the Knox County Annex. All paraprofessionals in the County are invited to attend. Come and learn more about the homeless and truancy in Knox County.

Geography Bowl

February 16, 2008 at Knoxville Junior High School 8AM-3PM

## American College of Education

Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM at the Regional Office of Education

### Student Opportunities:

#### **Essays about Lincoln contest**

The Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Library, and ISBE have partnered with the Illinois Center for the Book to present a statewide reading and writing contest celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. This contest is open to students in grades 5-12 and focuses on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Today, the nation is again divided and at war. Contestants are asked to put themselves in Lincoln's place and, using 300 words or less, tell what their ideals are for a nation of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity.

Winners will read their essays at an awards ceremony, tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and receive a plaque and cash award: \$200 first-place; \$150 second-place; \$100 third-place.

If you have a student interested in participating in this contest please visit

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/lincolnessay.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lincolnessay.pdf) for more details. The deadline for entries is **May 31, 2008**.

### Free Offer for Educators:

Join the Illinois Poison Center in celebrating **Illinois Poison Prevention Month** throughout March! All poison prevention/education materials are FREE (Except videos/DVDs); most available in English and Spanish. To order and/or download, go to the Illinois Poison Center's **Poison Prevention Education Resource Center (PPEREC)** at [www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org/outreach](http://www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org/outreach) and first complete the FREE online poison Prevention Educator Training Course, if you haven't already done so, then select "Resources" from the top, red tool bar.

### Writing Contests:

#### **Vets' scholarship**

Applications for the 2008-09 Children of Veterans Scholarship are due March 1.

The scholarship is a four-year tuition waiver at any of the University of Illinois campuses for up to four students in each county. Children whose parents served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are eligible. Grandchildren of veterans are not eligible.

Applicants must be enrolled or admitted to the University of Illinois by March 1. Applications can be obtained at [www.osfa.uiuc.edu](http://www.osfa.uiuc.edu), or by calling 345-3828.

#### **Dialogue is the key to the future**

How can dialogue among people of different backgrounds make a difference?

Is Intercultural dialogue necessary for building peaceful communities?

How can we improve dialogue in our community?

Can the patch of dialogue enhance understanding each other?

This contest is open to all student enrolled in a high school in Illinois.

All entries will be judged by a committee that includes a member of Intercultural Friendship Foundation (IFF) and co-sponsoring institutions.

Winners will be announced in March 2008 and awards presented during the closing ceremony of GlobalFest on March 8, in Urbana, IL.

First place prize: Laptop Computer

Second Place price: Digital Camera

Third place prize: Ipod Nano Mp3 player

It must consist of original, unpublished work that is based on your arguments. In particular, the judging committee will focus on how topic-specific and creative your argument (s) is/are, how effectively you support your ideas, how aware you are of the issues surrounding intercultural and interfaith relationships, and how coherent your writing is.

Final deadline is January 31, 2008.

Submission Requirements:

Title page listing: School Name, Teacher's name, complete mailing address of school, complete email and phone contact information for student and teacher.

Format: All papers submitted digitally must be as MS Word or Adobe PDF documents. Fax copies will not be accepted.

Contest entries: Your essay should not exceed 1000 words, typed, single-spaced, no less than 10 pt. font, one-side only. Page requirement excludes title page and reference pages. All pages except title page should be numbered in the lower right hand corner. All references in the paper should be footnoted using the format given in a College level writing style manual or as instructed by the writing handbook accepted by their school's English department. Submit entries electronically to mail to: [iff@uiuc.edu](mailto:iff@uiuc.edu) or mail no later than the due date to:

Intercultural Friendship Foundation  
High School Writing Content Entries  
PO Box 2005  
Champaign, IL 61825

Entries must be received via mail or e-mail no later than January 31, 2008. Each entry must include author's name, address, phone number, e-mail short biography and school affiliation. Sponsor: This contest is sponsored by Intercultural Friendship Foundation, Center for Global Studies, and Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Questions: Please email Intercultural Friendship Foundation at [iff@uiuc.edu](mailto:iff@uiuc.edu)

Additional Newsletters are available at our website [www.roe33.net](http://www.roe33.net)