

Knox County Regional Office of Education  
Regional Newsletter      Vol. 5 No. 4  
[www.roe33.net](http://www.roe33.net)

Message from the Superintendent

Snow! Snow! Snow! It is lovely! The children are saying more and the adults are thinking enough already!

Once again, John Delawder put together a wonderful educational event on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at Knoxville Jr. High School. It was a very spirited competition! All students came prepared and showed a lot of knowledge about geography and great sportsmanship! If you weren't able to attend, you really missed a treat! The gym was packed for both ceremonies. What a great bunch of parents, teachers and students. I enjoy it everyday! There is never a dull moment!

Although all of the students were winners, the top schools for the Elementary division were: 1<sup>st</sup> Silas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gale, 3<sup>rd</sup> Costa and 4<sup>th</sup> Cooke. The Junior High division winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Churchill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lombard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Knoxville and 4<sup>th</sup> Abingdon. All students who participated received a certificate. First through fourth place winners also received a plaque for their school.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this event such a success. John always asks for any suggestions or ideas you might have to improve this educational contest.

*Professional Opportunities:*

1) Cyber Camp – Thursday and Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Carl Sandburg College cost is \$50.00. This two day non-residential technology camp will feature hands on training sessions of technology tools that can be used in the classroom. For more information contact Lindsay Chase at [lchase@sandburg.edu](mailto:lchase@sandburg.edu) or 309-341-5286. Knox County first time attendees can have tuition paid (limit of 25 teachers) by ROE #33 with proof of attendance and completion of this camp.

2) Monarch Butterfly workshop – August 11, 12, 13 at Knox Agri-Center, Galesburg, IL. Cost is \$99.00. Questions? Call 856-582-7000.

### Job Opportunities:

If you are bored this summer and want to do something, you might be interested in becoming involved in Kids on Campus.

Kids on Campus (July 28-August 8, Monday-Friday 9am-12 noon) is a great opportunity for educators to share their passions with students and explore new and interesting educational opportunities. Proposals can be submitted anytime prior to 5pm, Friday, February 29, 2008. For information please contact [kcreech@sandburg.edu](mailto:kcreech@sandburg.edu) or 309-344-1512.

### Grants:

#### Improving Literacy through School

The U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) Program has announced its 2008 competition focused on providing funding to public local school libraries in districts with 20 per cent or more family poverty. Applications are due on Friday, March 7. The application package can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) along with instructions for registering. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Irene Harwarth, Team Leader, at [Irene.harwarth@ed.gov](mailto:Irene.harwarth@ed.gov).

### Scholarships:

1) The George Mangiaracina Memorial Scholarship Fund – graduating Senior – must demonstrate a need for financial assistance and be in the top 50% of their class, attend Illinois Institution. Deadline, April 1, 2008. Applications are available at the Regional Office of Education.

2) Ameren Illinois Minority Scholarship – Relatives of Ameren Illinois employees are not eligible to receive the scholarship. Student selection will be based on scholastic ability, financial need, and career choice. All scholarship recipients must earn a minimum cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.667 on a 4.00 scale or its equivalent. The student must major in an engineering discipline. The student must be a permanent resident within Ameren Illinois distribution service area at the time the scholarship is first awarded. Applicant's eligibility for this scholarship will not be affected by other scholarships the applicant receives.

### Project Adept:

We are pleased to announce Greg Jennings has joined our staff as a case worker with Project Adept. We are very excited to have Greg join us.

## **What Can You Do If You Are Being Verbally Abused?**

First and foremost, recognize that the abuse is not your fault, and that you can't debate or reason or understand it away. What you can do is refuse to play along.

- Respond to abuse with "Stop it!" or "Don't talk to me like that" – twice if necessary.
- Resist the urge to explain or defend. Remember, the abuser is not interested in understanding you: the abuser wants to control you.
- Listen to your feelings and believe them. Don't believe it when an abuser tells you you're crazy or wrong or that you can't take a joke.
- If the abuser keeps trying to provoke you, assess the danger and, if necessary, remove yourself. Verbal abuse can be a doorway to physical abuse.
- Get support through a therapist and/or a support group. An abuser's behavior is designed to keep you off track: you'll need support to see it for what it is and develop the self-esteem to stand up for yourself consistently.
- Seek information. Read the books and articles written on the subject. You're not alone. Other people have paved the path for your freedom. Take advantage of what they offer. When you calmly stand up for yourself and refuse to be goaded into defending or explaining, the abuser will give up. That's because, as Suzette Haden Elgin, author of *You Can't Say That to Me!*, explains, abusers need a victim; if you won't play that role, he or she can't abuse. Elgin also recommends ignoring the bait, but then responding to the underlying assumption that often hides in abuse. Verbal abuse *can't* function without a victim, and with a lot of support and information and self-care, you can learn to refuse that role.

## **Safe Chemicals in Education Workshop:**

This workshop is for Science Teachers at the Galesburg Public Library, 40 E. Simmons Street, Galesburg, IL on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Sponsored by: Knox County Regional Office of Education #33.

Presentations by: Illinois Department of Public Health and Flinn Scientific. This workshop will provide teachers with information on:

- Safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals used in science classes:
- Procedures for safely using and storing hazardous educational materials; and,
- Microscale chemistry.

## **School Hazardous Educational Waste and Mercury Collections:**

The Illinois EPA has funding to collect hazardous educational and mercury waste from K-12 schools. By sending a science teacher to this workshop a school will qualify for a free chemical pick up if we haven't collected chemicals from the school in the past 3 years. Attendance at a workshop by a teacher is a requirement for participation in the free chemical pick up.

**Continuing Education Credit:** This workshop is eligible for 5.5 CPDUs or 1 CEU.

**Registration Fee:** \$20.00 (Lunch on your own)

**To register call:** Lynne Cecil @ 309-345-3828

For additional information regarding the content of the workshop contact Jennifer Davis at 217-785-3239 or [Jennifer.A.Davis@illinois.gov](mailto:Jennifer.A.Davis@illinois.gov)

### Teachers Institute:

The Institute will be Friday, October 10, 2008 from 9 AM to 1 PM. The theme is “A Bright Tomorrow.”

The grade level for the Art and Writing Contest is K-5. More information will be in the next newsletter and on the web site.

### Regional Office staff attends Dr. Payne lecture

Bonnie Harris, Regional Superintendent of Schools, John Delawder, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools and Mary Scanlon, Homeless Liaison recently attended the Lecture on poverty by the esteemed Dr. Ruby Payne sponsored by Galesburg District 205. Dr Payne pointed out the different language styles which are used in the poverty, middle and wealthy classes which consist of: frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate language styles. Formal language, the one used in schools, is often not acquired by those in poverty and therefore causes them to be often in what may seem to them like a “Foreign Country”. This same lack of ability to express oneself in formal language often causes the poverty raised student to fall into behavior problems by using poverty values and/or language to react to conflict. In such cases the student must be taught through examples and suggestions, other ways to handle the situations acceptable to the middle class values. Dr Payne also reviewed the differences of values between the 3 classes. Please refer to “A Framework for Understanding Poverty”, Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. for additional information.

*OUR REGIONAL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>.*

Knox County Spelling Bee will be on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at the Galesburg Public Library.