



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe/Randolph Counties

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IT WAS GOOD TO BE WITH YOU

It has been wonderful to be in so many classrooms during the past six weeks and see teaching and learning take place. Kelton and I have enjoyed our visits to your rooms, where we observed your teaching and met the students you work with each day. In some schools we had the chance to sit down with teachers and discuss issues of importance. In others we rolled up our sleeves and helped in the classroom. Some memories include helping an art teacher by coloring with students while she painted the bottoms of feet for a project, learning to print Denelian letters with first graders, seeing an interesting middle school history lesson on WWI flying aces, observing successful RtI programs, seeing middle school students turned on to a Project Lead the Way electronics program and observing Spanish I students getting ready for a (speak Spanish only) trip to Tequila's Restaurant. There are far more experiences I could cite here, but space does not allow. My only regret is that I could not see every classroom and visit with every teacher.

I appreciate the hard work you put in this year. I hope you have a refreshing summer. For our retiring teachers, know that you have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of students in your career. I look forward to presenting you a much deserved retirement plaque as a way of saying thank you for your many years of service to our children.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS SELLABRATE . . . CELLABRATE . . . CELEBRATE

Some of the best fifth–eighth-grade spellers in Monroe and Randolph County schools participated in the 2010 Spelling Bee at Prairie du Rocher last month. Special *Congratulations!* go to the fifth-grade winners—1) Justin Stehl, Chester Grade, 2) Ben Mueth, Immaculate Conception, and 3) Cameron Dobbs, Red Bud Elementary; sixth-grade winners—1) Mickinney Zhang, St. Mark's Lutheran, 2) Cierra Marchan, Chester Grade, and 3) tiers Olivia Bievenue, Red Bud Elementary and Elizabeth Heffernan, St. Mary's Catholic; seventh-grade winners—1) Pearl Zhang, St. Mark's Lutheran, 2) Ian Ericson, Immaculate Conception, and 3) Juliana French, Sparta Lincoln; and eighth-grade winners—1) Page Smith, Prairie du Rocher, 2) Caleb Grohmann, St. John the Baptist, and 3) Peyton Moore, St. Mary's Catholic. Special *Thanks!* to Suzanne DeSpain, Spelling Bee coordinator, and Jill Asbury and her staff for hosting such a challenging and fun event.

CHECK OUT SUMMER WORKSHOPS

ROE staffers are busy planning a myriad of workshops for the summer, when life is possibly less busy. Just one of the opportunities is free mentor training June 2, 3, 7 and 8. This workshop is one of the requirements to become a mentor. If you are a tenured teacher willing to help a new teacher while improving your own teaching, register by May 14, 2010.

Receive a \$150 stipend for the Gifted Education Seminar on June 17, July 20 and August 12 and learn practical strategies for interventions with students at all achievement levels. The session is limited to 20 participants.

Cathy Vatterott, author of *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices that Support Diverse Needs*, will present workshops on rethinking homework June 9 and rethinking grading June 10 at Belleville High School West. Register by June 4, 2010.

Several more SMART Board workshops are being held. The introductory workshop will teach the basics, introduce the features of version 10.6 and explore online resources. The more advanced workshop will explore SMART Notebook templates and online interactives to adapt for use with the SMART Board. In the Web 2.0 workshop you will discover interactive tools that will give your lessons a facelift. Introductory and intermediate workshops for Word and Excel, a PowerPoint seminar and a seminar on data analysis will also be offered during the summer.

Two Administrator Academy workshops will be held: *Culture Counts: Constructive Leadership that Promotes Student Success* on June 4 and *Using Data to Facilitate School Improvement: Data Analysis and Guided Work Session Using the IIRC* on August 3.

For more specifics on summer workshops watch for the summer catalogue and registration forms coming soon, check the ROE website at www.roe45.org or contact the Waterloo 618-939-5650 or Chester 618-826-5471 office. Don't miss these wonderful summer opportunities!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS

Registration for the 2010 National Association of Biology Teachers Professional Development Conference, which will run from November 3–6, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is now open. The early-bird registration rate deadline is May 31. Go to www.NABT2010.org for complete details.

YOUNG ARTISTS ENJOY "EARTH DAY"

Over two hundred 5th- through 8th-grade artists showcased their talents in illustrated drawing, cartooning, sculpture, figure drawing and still life at the 2010 Regional Art Festival at Sparta Lincoln Middle School April 22. Participants had an hour to produce a work of art in their chosen medium while non-participants enjoyed music by the Sparta High School jazz band. Thanks to Chairperson Vickie Brown, Sparta Lincoln Principal Laura Woodworth, and the volunteer judges!

MAY IS PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a non-inherited genetic disorder that causes children to have a constant sense of hunger, slower metabolic rates, learning disabilities, speech issues and weak muscle tone. Caused by a dysfunction of the hypothalamus in the brain, which regulates hunger and many other systems in the body, PWS is a lifelong condition with no known cure. Individuals with PWS feel hungry most, if not all, of the time and yet need only about half the calories of an average person. Educators can learn more by visiting www.pwsausa.org or phoning 800-926-4797.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ONLINE OFFERING

The ROE is excited to offer the first of a series of online courses on its ROE 45 EDU2.0 website—*Best Practices in RtI, Differentiation and Literacy*—this summer. Participants will be given a series of websites, videos and readings to access online. Workshop credit (number of CPDUs) will depend on completion of practical assignments such as reflections, reviews and lesson plans. Five Modules will be available between June 1 and June 30, 2010; \$20 allows a participant to choose one Module with an additional \$10 fee for each Module thereafter. Completely online, the program offers additional CPDUs for optional face-to-face meetings. Registrations and initial fees are due by May 26, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEARN AND SERVE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Six bi-county schools were awarded Learn and Serve FY10 Regional Grants. Evansville Attendance will construct an eagle nest box to develop tourism and community pride while learning about eagle habits. Chester Grade School special education students will make homemade ice cream for nursing home residents, PEP high school students will spend recreational time with other elderly folk and Steeleville's Family and Consumer Science classes will host a luncheon for its senior center. After learning about planting herbs and raised flower beds at Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher Beta Club members will plant at the Creole House and Brickey family burial plot. Grant monies will also support the Captain Cool and the Courage Kids' anti-bullying program at Beck. Hats off to teachers and students who learn while serving!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Workshop registration forms will be coming to the schools soon.)

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|-----------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------|
| May 27, 2010 | Gifted Education Seminar | Waterloo High School Library | 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| June 1, 2010 | Gifted Education Seminar | Sparta Lincoln Library | 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| June 1, 2010 | Transform Learning with SMART Boards | Red Brick School, Ruma | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 1, 2010 | Get to Know Word | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 150 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 1, 2010 | Best Practices in RtI | Online | |
| June 2, 2010 | Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 3, 2010 | Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 3, 2010 | Amazing Web 2.0 Tools | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 150 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 4, 2010 | Adm. Acad.-IPI Level II | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 4, 2010 | A Picture's Worth a 1000 "Word"s | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 150 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 7, 2010 | Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 8, 2010 | Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 8, 2010 | Transform Learning with SMART Boards | Red Brick School, Ruma | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 8, 2010 | Effectively Integrating the SMART Board | Red Brick School, Ruma | 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. |
| June 9, 2010 | Get to Know PowerPoint | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 150 | 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon |
| June 9, 2010 | Effectively Integrating the SMART Board | Red Brick School, Ruma | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 10, 2010 | Excel Spreadsheet | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 114 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 11, 2010 | Word for Mass Mailings | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 114 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. |
| June 15, 2010 | Advanced Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| June 17, 2010 | Gifted Seminar | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| July 12, 2010 | Advanced Mentor Training | Monroe County Annex | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| July 20, 2010 | Gifted Seminar | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| August 3, 2010 | Adm. Acad.-Data Analysis: Using IIRC | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 150 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. |
| August 4, 2010 | New Teacher Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| August 10, 2010 | Advanced Mentor Training | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| August 12, 2010 | Gifted Seminar | SWIC, Red Bud - Room 152 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |