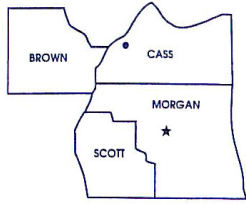


Regional Office of Education #46



Serving Brown, Cass,
Morgan and Scott
Counties

Stephen Breese, Regional Superintendent
Jeff Stephens, Assistant Regional Superintendent

Volume VII

Issue 3

From the Superintendent.....

“2010”

Happy New Year! “New” being the key word in this phrase. It is always nice to get something new because there is always so much hope and anticipation involved. Don’t let the workload or problems from last year creep too quickly back into your mind set. Hold on to the freshness and excitement of the “New” concept for as long as you can. Have a great second semester and give your students all of the opportunities that you can.
Steve

Writing Talent Search

The ROE will again be hosting the annual Writing Talent Search giving students in grades K–12 the opportunity to be recognized and acknowledged for their outstanding writing abilities. The winning entries will be honored at a Spring Banquet at Illinois College. This year the Writing Talent Search has taken on a new look. We encourage educators to get involved and submit writing samples you may have from the year, not just something that has been generated by this event. Our intent is to expand the variety of entries received and acknowledge the talents of our area students.

Please be advised that we are removing the requirement that each school send judges for the final screening process. We will use local volunteers from the colleges and local community organizations. We have many schools signed on already, but if you are interested and would like more information, please email Diane Schone at dschone@roe46.net or call 243-1804 to register.

Regional Spelling Bee

The 17th annual Cass/Morgan/Scott Intermediate Spelling Bee will be held at the Jacksonville High School auditorium on Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. Six finalist from this event will advance to the Regional Spelling Bee to be held in Springfield, Illinois. The winner of the Bee will represent this part of the state at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in late May.

TRS Telephone Counseling Sessions



The Regional Office of Education is pleased to inform you that a TRS representative will provide telephone conferences for TRS members March 9, 2010 , from 9:00 AM and 5:45 PM.

- Obtain information about your retirement benefits at your convenience.
- Receive answers to any questions regarding your individual TRS record in your own home or in your school at no cost to you.
- No need to travel to an appointment, TRS pays for the call.

To arrange a telephone conference, contact your district superintendent to complete a telephone conference request form. Submit your form to the District Superintendent’s office by February 2, 2010 to set up your 15 minute conference with a TRS benefits counselor. The Regional Superintendent’s office will notify you of your scheduled appointment.

TRS will mail a packet to you prior to the conference and a counselor will call you to discuss this information at your scheduled appointment time. Please have your packet with you when the counselor calls.

What ’ s Inside

Superintendent’s Message.....	1
Writing Talent Search.....	1
TRS Telephone Conferences.....	1
Spelling Bee.....	1
Jeff’s Jargon.....	2
Karen’s Korner.....	2
Jacksonville School Dist.....	3
ISVI Celebration.....	3
Winchester Elementary.....	3
Media Center.....	4
Tech Tip.....	4
Homeless Education Program.....	4
Gifted Education Seminar.....	4

The ROE would like to welcome Jessica Crawford to our staff. Jessica will provide assistance to schools and help the districts meet the rigorous standards of NCLB.

Karen's Korner

ALL INITIAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS - here's what you need to do...please contact me for any help you may need!
kmanker@roe46.net

Does your certificate expire June 30, 2010?

NO, and I have not taught 4 years. Continue teaching to attain four full years of teaching experience and earn CPDU's or 12 semester hours towards a master's degree. (Other professional development options are available.) Set up an account on ECS at the ISBE website to enter your PD at <https://sec1.isbe.net/eecs/>.

YES, but I haven't accumulated 4 years' teaching experience. Renew your Initial Certificate. Sign the pre-printed registration form that you will receive in the Spring and return it with a \$20 check (made out to ROE #46) to renew your Initial Certificate for 4 more years. The year you complete your 4th full year of teaching, you will need to move to a Standard Certificate, even if years remain on your Initial Certificate. You will not lose any registration fees.

YES, and I have taught 4 full years. You will move to a Standard Certificate this year.

1. Sign the pre-printed registration form that you will receive in the Spring. Write a check to ROE #46 for \$25 for the fee to register your new Standard Certificate for 5 years.
2. Complete an Application for Teaching Certificate for each Initial Certificate you currently hold. You may obtain the application form from the ROE or download it at <http://www.isbe.net/>. Click on forms...go to ISBE 73-03C. Write a check to ROE #46 to cover the fee of \$30 for each application. One application = \$30, 2 applications = \$60, etc.
3. Enter all your professional development on ECS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/eecs/>. Submit your **statement of Assurance (SOA) online through ECS**.
4. Obtain letters from superintendents or principals in each district in which you have taught verifying your 4 years of experience. The letters must include the nature and duration of teaching experience, and must be submitted to us on school or district letterhead, signed by the chief school administrator or a designee.
5. Send the above forms, fees and letters to the ROE in Jacksonville. Your Standard certificates will arrive in July.

NO, but I now have taught 4 full years. You will move to a Standard Certificate this year. Follow the same instructions, Steps 1-5, as noted above. The only difference is your registration fee in Step 1 will most likely be less than \$25, since the remaining years on your Initial Certificate will be applied to your Standard Certificate. Contact me for the correct amount, which may differ from the amount stated on your pre-printed registration form that you received.

Jeff's Jargon

Can't We All Just.....Blah, Blah, Blah

Over and over and over we hear the phrase, "Can't we all just get along?" Well..., No! We can't just all get along all of the time. There are times when we simply will just disagree with what someone else is doing or saying. And, I am sure that others will disagree with us in what we do or say. Just because we disagree though doesn't mean we have to become angry. Learn to take a step back and really listen to the "other" side. It may help you to understand why that other person is doing or saying what they are. After listening, you still may not agree with them but you may understand where they are coming from. Face it! There are gray areas in life! Believe it or not, your opinion is not always right and people will disagree with you sometimes (often, in my case). Don't throw down the gauntlet, or draw a line in the sand, or make it your way or the highway. Instead, listen! Listen to what is truly being said and why. You still may not totally agree but also sometimes it's okay to just agree to disagree on a topic. This can work with co-workers, parents, administration, and students. This wouldn't be a very productive society if we all agreed on everything. Boy, talk about boring! Besides, if we act like we have the only opinion that matters, unfortunately can we really honestly say we want the rest of the world to be just like us? Doubtful. I hope you enjoyed this article even if you don't agree with what I said.

Bonded Through Education,

Jeff Stephens

Assistant Regional Superintendent
ROE #46

Standard/Administrative Certificate Holders

If your certificate(s) expires on June 30, 2010, you are encouraged to record your professional development in ECS and submit your "Statement of Assurance" (SOA) as soon as possible.

Jacksonville School District

Carol Kilver, Asst. Superintendent For Curriculum

Happy New Year! This is a perfect time to reflect on the accomplishments achieved in the Jacksonville School District during the first semester of the 09-10 school year. It is also a time when the anticipation of future successes can build excitement and momentum.

During the first semester of the year, many organizational targets were achieved. NWEA MAP testing was launched in grades K-10. This was an enormous task for the District and the expertise present in each of the educational settings made the target a reality. Other significant targets include: the installation of Promethean Boards, semester exams held prior to the longest break of the school year, a new data system for textbook inventory, current science textbooks were distributed into the hands of students, the successful start of a teacher-generated writing curriculum in grades K-6...and the list could go on and on.

During second semester students will have additional exposure to technology and teachers will be offered supportive, job-embedded professional development. Administrators, teachers, and staff have plans to refine and improve our student-led conferencing, student data binders, Freshman Mentoring Program, and PBIS programs. ARRA funds will also support numerous instructional initiatives such as a data specialist, technology coach, educational interventionist, and parent liaisons.

All of these accomplishments, whether in the past or in the visions of the future, one thing is for certain...the journey of continuous improvement is one that requires the support of all members of the learning community. This support comes in many forms and in many facets.

The Jacksonville School District personally would like to take this opportunity to thank you as a fellow professional for your relentless support of public education. Your dedication impacts the educational services in the region!

ISVI Celebrates 160 years

On January 13, 2010 Illinois School for the Visually Impaired celebrated 160 years of providing quality education and services to blind and visually impaired students. The celebration was held in the school auditorium.

School Historian Dan Thompson arranged for several former graduates of ISVI to speak about what ISVI was like when they attended and what the school means to them.

A staff member of ISVI made a commemorative quilt square that features what the original school building looked like. This quilt square will be placed in the ISVI museum.



Robert Sampson, graduate of ISVI in 2001, speaks about what ISVI means to him. He tells about how ISVI feels like his home.

Congratulations to ISVI for 160 years of dedicated service.



The ISVI Concert Choir as they perform a song entitled "A Dream". The special song was written specifically for the 160th celebration by three former graduates of ISVI. The graduates are Jovan Bension, Chad Morrison, and Tameka Clark. The song tells a story about the founder of ISVI.

Winchester Reading Program

Angie Brown, Reading Specialist

We have had a great first semester at Winchester Elementary School. We have a few new additions to our reading program. The district purchased a web based AR program. This gives the students the opportunity to read a wider variety of books to earn AR points.

This will be the second year that we have administered the AimsWeb fluency benchmark to the students. We were able to compare scores from last year. We were really excited to see the improvement in our students. We have added the 7th and 8th grade to our schedule. We are able to provide more interventions to students in K-8. The reading team consists of Dalene Fearneyhough, Shirley Wright-Jacquot, Jill Kilver, Brittany Kaufmann, and Angie Brown.

This year we planned a Family Reading Night on November 19th. This was held in conjunction with the Illinois Family Reading Night. We wanted to motivate our students to read, so we held a contest and a Family Reading Night. The student that read the most pages for the week was allowed to throw a pie in Mr. Walker's face. But first, we had to meet a school wide goal of 25,000 pages. Our students met the goal in the first day. So we decided to up the goal and rewards. If the students read a total of 50,000 pages, Mr. Walker would wear a dress to school. At 75,000 pages, the top reader would get to be principal for a half day and if the students read 100,000 pages then Mr. Walker would give the whole school a popcorn and movie party. The students not only met the goal, but exceeded it with 143,142 pages read. The Family Reading Night was a huge success with 278 people in attendance.

With the support of our administrators, teachers, and parents, our students are making gains in reading.





Tech Tips

New Year Links

- ◆ Since it is the first month of the New Year I wanted to start off with a link for all of you whose resolution was to get into shape. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/HealthyLivingIndex/HealthyLivingIndex> and once there look for the fitness link. Mayo Clinic has slide shows and advice and tips for getting ourselves back in shape. Good Luck. Rick Haffer, Tech Coordinator

Homeless Education Program

Each school district in the 4 county area should have an appointed Homeless Education Liaison. The homeless liaison is there to help identify, enroll, and ensure that homeless students receive the same educational support services that non-homeless students receive. Each school building should have a homeless education poster displayed near the administrative office. Every effort should be made to remove the barriers to school enrollment. Contact Krista Kunz, ROE Homeless Liaison, for the name of your school liaison and for resources to help students and families.

Gifted Education Seminar

Which students are at risk more than any other students in the classroom? Answer-Gifted! This 45 CPDU workshop is done at your convenience using a self-directed approach with a computerized interactive instruction. The seminar is designed to meet the learning style and time commitments for busy teachers. The opening meeting will be held on Friday, February 19, at Four Rivers Garrison Building in Jacksonville from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This is FREE to participants and districts will receive sub reimbursement for your time out of the classroom.

- ◆ Learn to identify and meet the needs of gifted students in your classroom.
- ◆ Explore ways to differentiate instruction.
- ◆ Earn 45 CPDUs or 3 hours of University credit, at an additional cost.
- ◆ Be able to work at home on your computer.
- ◆ Meet only twice with the instructor.
- ◆ Goes hand and hand with RTI
- ◆ Strategies can be used for all students.

Please contact Diane Schone at dschone@roe46.net or call 243-1804 to register.

Media Center News

Reminder: The Regional Media Center will soon be sending catalogs and website information to schools for the annual DVD selections to be purchased, for the 2010/2011 school year. DVD request forms will be sent along with the catalogs and website information. Please be sure and make your requests on these forms. The forms will be returned to the teachers next school year indicating whether or not your requests were selected for purchased.

Reminder: Elibrary is also available to all teachers and students, for grades 6-12, on the ProQuest research website. If you need your password and login information, please contact your school librarian, Film Selection representative for you school, or Debbie Blimling at dblimlin@roe.net.

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