**Regional Office of Education #41**

**Madison County**

Dr. Robert A. Daiber, Regional Superintendent of Schools

Andrew Reinking, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools

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### A Message from Regional Superintendent

**Robert A. Daiber, Ed.D.**

**March 2016**

**What’s Inside…**

- Page 2: Legendary Coaches of Granite City
- Page 3: Eastwood Student Leadership Council
- Page 4: Collinsville HS Anti-bullying
- Page 5: Illinois School Finances School Bus Law
- Page 6: Olympiads Black History Month
- Page 7: Professional Development
- Page 8: Student Summit

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### Educational Benchmark

**for Effective Educators**

**Volume 9, Issue 2**

**www.roe41.org**

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Dr. Robert A. Daiber presents Gregory Collins with his substitute license.

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Alonzo Byrd delivered the keynote address to middle and high school students participating in the **Conversation Toward a Brighter Future** Summit at the Manny Jackson Center for the Humanities in Edwardsville. Alonzo Byrd is Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs for Enterprise Holdings, the largest rental car company in North America. He is responsible for the development and execution of corporate citizenship initiatives nationwide. Byrd, who joined Enterprise in May 2002, works from the company’s corporate headquarters in St. Louis.

As a member of the Enterprise Committee on Corporate Responsibility, Byrd works with senior management to ensure external initiatives are relevant and consistent with company values. He also works with Enterprise operating groups to cultivate and maintain close ties between community leaders, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, and multicultural groups.

Currently, Byrd is a member of the Executive Advisory Committee for the National Urban League’s Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP); a member of the Executive Committee of the Howard University School of Communications Board of Visitors; and a foundation board member for the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO). He also serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the St. Louis Red Cross Board of Directors; a member of the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois; a member of the Leadership Council for the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; and an advisor to the St. Louis Black Rep.

Prior to joining Enterprise, Byrd was a vice president at Fleishman-Hillard Inc., a leading international public relations agency. During his 15-year career at Fleishman-Hillard, Byrd managed a wide range of media relations, corporate relations, and diversity-related issues for Fortune 500 clients.

A native of East St. Louis, Ill., Byrd has worked as director of public relations for the American Red Cross in St. Louis. As a journalist, he has worked for the Kansas City Times, the Oakland Press in Pontiac, Mich., and the Belleville (Ill.) News Democrat. He began his career in journalism in St. Louis as a stringer with The Associated Press.
Students Produce “Legendary Coaches of Granite City” Documentary

It began as something much smaller, a short video project by the Granite City High School journalism class honoring three legendary coaches at the school.

Things progressed from there and thanks to the hard work, diligence and technology-driven students on teacher Andrew Crider’s school newspaper staff, the result is a 50-minute documentary on Hall of Fame Warriors coaches Gene Baker, William “Red” Schmitt and Conrad “Babe” Champion. The documentary made its debut February 7, 2016 at the Granite City Cinema.

Approximately 230 attended the showing including Schmitt, Baker and Champion.

“I’m so proud of these kids,” said Crider, an English teacher who once played soccer for Baker at Granite City and also played the sport at St. Louis University.

“Baker, 73, led Granite City and Granite City South to nine of the school’s state record 10 state soccer championships. His 514 wins at Granite City are the second highest in Illinois history and that total expands to 777 wins counting his time at Riverview Gardens in Missouri.

Baker twice won National High School Coach of the Year honors while at Granite City and was also highly regarded as the head of the Granite City South girls’ soccer program.

Among the many putting in a lot of hours on the project were seniors Ben Klee and Alex Kass. Klee works at the cinema and got the manager to agree to the debut showing.

“It was pretty insane,” Aurand said of Klee, who also is active in student council and spirit club. “For him to find time for these interviews that were hours long was pretty tough.”

Aurand said Kass was a big help with editing video and doing design work. At one point, the group accidentally deleted some video footage, then got an important lesson in the art of using recovery software.

“This is probably the most ambitious project that I’ve done outside of this class,” Aurand said. “It’s the feeling of accomplishment that makes it all worthwhile.”

Crider said it was important for his students to see what they were capable of doing on their own.

“In seeing what they can do in journalism, so many of them have become excited about this field knowing they can accomplish things like this,” Crider said. “It’s real, it’s tangible and they get to see the finished product.”

For original article:
http://www.bnd.com/sports/high-school/article58658953.html

In the weeks ahead, you may be interested in requesting tickets to attend two Arts & Issues events. On March 31, D.W. Jacobs from The Center for Spirituality and Sustainability will present a program “R. Buckminster Fuller: The History of the Universe.” The evening of April 15, Captain Jim Lovell, an Apollo13 astronaut, will speak at the Meridian Ballroom.

Tickets for both events can be obtained through the ROE free of charge.

I would like to call to your attention that April is Child Abuse and Prevention month. On April 8, DCFS and Prevent Child Abuse Illinois is encouraging everyone to wear blue to help call awareness to this serious problem. Please participate and show your support to children!

As we move towards the fourth quarter of the school year, we enter the PARRC season. My best to everyone on successfully completing this year’s assessment. I am sure all of you will be looking forward to your spring break in the weeks to come.
Eastwood Student Leadership Council: Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

A select few fifth grade students at Eastwood Elementary in East Alton District #13 have taken their first step towards becoming the leaders of tomorrow. These twelve students have a valuable contribution to make to the effectiveness of their school and their involvement in the operation of the school is itself a valuable part of the education process.

The objective of the Student Leadership Council is to develop leadership skills and create an atmosphere at Eastwood where every student feels accepted and important. Leadership lessons are embedded into many of the tasks completed by the Student Leadership Council. Leadership skills focus on goal setting, organization, communication, collaboration, and problem solving.

A sense of pride and school spirit is promoted through the Student Leadership Council and activities they participate in. In addition to their own activities, Student Council members are asked to enthusiastically support school programs and get involved.

Student leaders have organized and participated in many activities to establish a home to school connection. During the month of October, students promoted the adoption of a drug free lifestyle through Red Ribbon week activities. Students organized school wide activities and displayed visual drug free reminders both inside and outside of school. Parents and students also participated in a Twitter Red Ribbon Scavenger Hunt. Large red ribbons were placed throughout the community. Students, parents, and teachers were encouraged to use the daily Twitter hint to locate the red ribbon and tweet a picture of themselves choosing to be drug free.

As the colder months approached, students adopted a warm hands equal a warm heart mind-set.

Collinsville High School Launches #Startswithus Anti-Bullying Initiative

Collinsville High School launched an initiative to prevent cyberbullying and promote inclusion among students. The #Startswithus program is coordinated by CHS Social Worker Kristen Trapp and Assistant Principal Charlotte Fisher.

CHS is one of seven metro area schools participating in the project. The other schools are Affton, Bolivar, Fox, Herculaneum, Lindbergh and Soldan International – all in Missouri. Students from each school gathered last fall to brainstorm ways to reach their classmates with messages against bullying.

So far, the effort at CHS involved several activities during Bullying Prevention Week, such as creation of a unity banner, where students placed their handprints on a banner to “lend a hand against bullying.” As a follow-up, a special team of volunteers spread “Post-it Positivity” messages against bullying.

In addition to the above activities, students have assisted kindergarten students with daily breakfast routines, decorated a Rock Springs Park Christmas tree, and rang bells for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. These students actively seek out ways to positively contribute back to our school and the community.

In the future, student leaders will begin to maintain a student leadership website that will house a school newspaper. Students will create an informational video about Eastwood Elementary for our school website and will continue to be active participants in community events.

Students organized an Eastwood hat and glove Christmas tree. The purpose of the tree was simple. Take what you need when you need it. Students were encouraged to take hats, gloves, and scarfs off the tree in an effort to stay warm during the upcoming cold months.

Being a member of the Student Council requires a high degree of commitment and willingness to look out for positives and to speak out against negatives. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “We must be the change we want to see in the world.” These twelve students have fully adopted this philosophy. Leadership through example is the best contribution they can make.

The concepts all involve students sharing positive messages and incorporating social media in a constructive way. Two more #Startswithus projects are planned for this school year.

For more information, contact Kristin Trapp ktrapp@kahoks.org 346-6320 ext. 1169 or Charlotte Fisher cfisher1@kahoks.org 346-6320 ext. 1120.

A big thank you to the districts who submitted material for this issue allowing us to highlight the exciting and innovative activities happening in Madison County.
Cassens Elementary School, Edwardsville School District 7, recently participated in the Adopt a Pilot Program. This program uses aviation as a vehicle to teach goal setting, math, science, and geography to 5th grade classes around the country.

As an extension of the Adopt a Pilot program, Scott Fitzgerald, a parent volunteer, invited all 5th grade students at Cassens Elementary to attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the highest paper airplane launch.

This was a good match for the District 7 5th grade science curriculum. This project:

- Included the use of paper airplanes to teach concepts of force and motion
- Taught the basics of science and engineering
- Taught critical lessons of teamwork and organization and problem solving
- Utilized multiple technology applications

To prepare for the launch, students built multiple drop-test models in classrooms before a final design was chosen. The use of a drones were donated and were used to conduct the drop tests over the Cassens playground.

Students were introduced to numerous technology applications to predict and track the flight of the weather balloon carrying the paper plane.

On the exciting day of the launch, all Cassens students and many members of the community were on the lawn of the school for the countdown and launch of the weather balloon and plane. The paper plane reached an altitude of 107,811 ft. which was more than 10,000 ft. above the current record.

The Guinness Book of World Records recognized the paper plane as holding the record for being launched from the highest height. The record was broken just a few weeks later, by another school, but students will always remember this exciting event.

Students at Columbus Elementary are learning about geography in a virtual way. Principal, Vince Schlueter and classroom teachers became interested in the possible science and social studies applications of an Augmented Reality Sandbox after coming across a YouTube video. The prototype was immediately put into production and staff began building the sandbox.

The Augmented Reality Sandbox consists of 4 components for operation. The first component is a dedicated computer operating on a Linux Operating System with a high end graphics card installed. Connected to the computer is a short throw projector and the Xbox 360 Kinect. These 3 devices operating together, with free downloadable software, can project real-time changes in elevation on the sandbox. The software is equipped to show actual elevation line changes and the contour of the sand changes. Students can even make precipitation occur to learn how water flows over various landforms.

The Augmented Reality Sandbox allows users to create topography models by shaping real sand, which is then augmented in time by an elevation color map, topographic contour lines, and simulated water. The system teaches students geographic, geologic and hydrologic concepts such as how to read a topography map, the meaning of contour lines, watersheds, catchment areas, levees and more.

The teachers and students have enjoyed exploring the Sandbox as it has brought to life some geography concepts that were once only visible through a one-dimensional textbook – the effects of flooding in river systems and flood plains, continental divides, mountains, ranges, and plateaus are now accessible to all students.

Maryville Elementary third graders researched either a President or a First Lady. Students dressed up as their person and gave a speech in first person as part of their celebration of Presidents’ Day.
**Illinois School Finances Show Improvement on Latest Financial Profile Report**

SPRINGFIELD – The number of school districts earning the Illinois State Board of Education’s (ISBE) top financial rating grew this year, despite the fact that many districts operated with less funding. ISBE’s annual review of district financial data also found more districts are expected to deficit spend this year unless the General Assembly fully funds General State Aid (GSA), which would end proration and provide districts much-needed financial relief.

“The 2016 Financial Profile data shows a positive trend in Illinois’ average score; however, this data point does not reflect the missed opportunities for our students resulting from the General Assembly cutting state education funding for many years,” said State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith, Ph.D. “By fully funding GSA, school districts will have more flexibility to fund vital services and programs to sustain daily operations. We believe fully funding GSA will provide a lifeline to these districts by providing the necessary supports their children deserve.”

Gov. Bruce Rauner and ISBE have a shared priority to rebuild and invigorate Illinois’ K-12 educational system by combatting inequity in school funding. The first step to achieve this goal is to fully fund GSA and end proration. GSA has not been fully funded at the statutory Foundation Level of $6,119 per student since fiscal year 2012, meaning the state has been forced to prorate GSA payments for several years. Fully funding 100 percent of General State Aid at the Foundation Level with no proration is historic and highlights the joint commitment to ensure all students in Illinois receive access to a high-quality education.

The 2016 Financial Profile is based upon FY 2015 data received from school districts and provides a snapshot in time that helps ISBE gauge school districts’ financial health. The profile’s designation categories and FY 2016 and FY 2015 statistics are:

- The 2016 profile shows 15 more districts earned Financial Recognition than in 2015, despite the General Assembly prorating GSA to 87.1 percent in FY 2015 compared to 88.7 percent in FY 2014. Overall, there are fewer districts in the three lowest categories: Financial Review, Financial Early Warning, and Financial Watch.
- Of the 32 districts on Financial Watch status, 18 districts received this designation last year. Six of these Financial Watch districts saw a decrease in their financial score, including the City of Chicago School District 299. After first moving to the Financial Watch designation in 2015, Chicago’s financial score continued to decline this year to 2.10 from 2.45.

The School Code specifies the criteria to determine if a school is in financial difficulty. If any one of the criteria is met, ISBE can require the district to submit a financial plan. If a district fails to comply with its financial plan, the State Board has the ability to implement a Financial Oversight Panel.

Earlier this year, ISBE requested financial information from six Financial Watch districts – Chicago, Streator Elementary School District 44, South Wilmington CCSD 74, Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7, Johnsburg Community School District 12 and Lincoln Way Community High School District 210 – in order to investigate if the districts qualify for certification of financial difficulty.

“The Board’s sincere hope is that this investigation will identify opportunities for steps that will improve financial conditions, avoid certification of financial difficulty, and most important, result in financial stability for each of these districts,” Smith said.

A district is categorized for the Financial Profile based on its Annual Financial Report from FY 2015, which ended June 30. The rating is created by using five indicators of performance:

- Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio
- Expenditure to Revenue Ratio
- Days’ Cash on Hand
- Percentage of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining
- Percentage of Long-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining

The Financial Profile alone does not provide a complete picture of a district’s financial condition, but it provides a valuable tool for ISBE staff to use with other data and information to assess an individual district’s financial status.

The 2016 Financial Profile for all districts in Illinois will be available in alphabetical order or via Financial Profile designation through ISBE’s School Business Services page at www.isbe.net/sfms/P/profile.htm.

Beginning April 1st, those who are due to renew their license in 2016 may begin their renewal process on ELIS.

**Law for Approaching, Overtaking and Passing a School Bus Protects Our Children**

In Illinois, the law for Approaching, Overtaking, and Passing a School Bus is included in the Illinois Vehicle Code under 625 ILCS 5/11-1414. The law requires a driver to stop before meeting or overtaking a school bus stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading students. The stop is required if the school bus is displaying visual signals and the driver should not proceed until the signals cease, the school bus resumes motion, or the school bus driver signals the vehicle to proceed. A limited exception to this rule applies on 4 or more lane highways that have at least 2 lanes of traffic in opposite directions. On these roads, a driver need not stop if the driver is traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus. If a driver is traveling in the same direction as the school bus, the driver still must stop. The Illinois Secretary of State will suspend the driver’s license of anyone convicted of the violating this law for a period of three months. In addition, the court will impose a minimum $150 fine for a first offense. A second or subsequent conviction of this offense within five years of the first conviction will result in a one-year driver’s license suspension and a minimum mandatory $500 fine.

A traffic ticket for improperly passing a stopped school bus is serious not only because a conviction will trigger a fine and the automatic suspension of a driver’s license, but also because judges are not permitted to grant court supervision for this violation. Most Illinois moving violations allow judges to consider granting court supervision. A ticket for improper passing of a stopped school bus does not.

Supervision is a sentence in which the court defers judgment until a later date. During this period of time, if the defendant does not violate the law and complies with all the terms and conditions of the supervision sentence, then the charge will be dismissed. Although supervision will appear on the defendant’s driving record, it is not a conviction. Since it is not a conviction, it does not affect insurance rates nor does it affect driving privileges. A conviction, unlike a sentence of court supervision, causes the Secretary of State to impose points to a licensed motorist’s driving record.

This means that if a driver pleads guilty to this violation, or if they are found guilty by a trial, the court will have no option but to enter a conviction, and that conviction will require the driver to pay a fine and face the suspension of their driver’s license. A conviction for improperly passing a stopped school bus is required by law to be reported by the clerk of the court to the Illinois Secretary of State. Once the Secretary of State processes this information, it mails a “Notice of Suspension” to the address on file.

reprinted from http://azharillc.com/low-passing-school-bus/

The Regional Office recognizes the continued efforts of Madison County school bus drivers to keep our children safe while in their care. The ROE is supporting them by gathering vehicle misconduct surveys and discussing options with our local police and sheriff departments. Billboard location: Collinsville, Hwy 159 south of I55/70.
This spring the Madison County ROE welcomed more than 200 students to the Junior and Senior Olympiads. Teams of four students competed in a variety of projects and activities designed to test their problem solving skills using minimal resources. Teams consisted of students who excel across the disciplines. Congratulations to Trimpe Middle School and Edwardsville High School for winning first place in this year’s Olympiads. If you are interested in sponsoring a team from your school or have any questions related to the Olympiads, please contact Anna Dyson, School Improvement Services at 692-5560 or adyson@roe41.org.

Using string, tape, paper and a yardstick students were tasked with carrying a potato as far away from their body as possible.

A relay was held in which students had to transfer a balloon with various devices without touching it.

Students were given tape, paper and a partial file folder to build a structure to protect 3 tomatoes and a tile from the force of an 8 pound hammer.

One file folder and a strip of tape were used to create the tallest possible tower while keeping the folder in one piece.

A relay was held in which students had to transfer a balloon with various devices without touching it.

Team members collaborated on a several paper/pencil activities on a variety of subjects.
The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership is a powerful statement of the timeless laws a leader must follow to be a great leader at the school, the school district, or wherever a school administrator is called to lead. The workshop will provide an opportunity for school administrators to view the video tape of each law showing the successes and failures of others. School administrators will then review each law and its application to the schools and the district.

Presenter: Greg Patrick

In Assessment 201, attendees will collaboratively review, evaluate and revise their own standard-aligned classroom assessments. There will be a brief 30 minute overview of the components of high quality local assessments and the remainder of the training will lead participants through analyzing and revising the assessments they bring with them. The workshop will address paper/pencil assessments, rubric creation, performance tasks and the incorporation of student learning objectives (SLOs). Feedback will be a large part of the process and attendees will potentially leave the workshop with their classroom assessments reviewed, revised and at least partially completed.

It is not required that participants have attended the Assessment Series, however, that background would be helpful.

Presenter: Steve Oertle

Wood River Hartford Superintendent Patrick Anderson presented “Leave Nothing to Chance”, a workshop on working with students in poverty. Dr. Anderson will also present “Kids in Poverty” for school/district teams in June.

Registrants will now be required to create an account to use for workshop registrations. This account will allow you to complete evaluations, receive Hours of Earned Credit, and will archive your professional development.

Questions? Please contact Anna at adyson@roe41.org or 618-692-5560

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3rd Annual Get It Done Day Was a Great Success!

The Madison County Transition Planning Committee (TPC) held its 3rd annual Get It Done Day on March 14, 2016 at the N.O. Nelson Complex in Edwardsville. The Get It Done Day, a free event, was an opportunity to meet with area providers to learn about services that can be accessed now, and in the future. With over 20 agencies represented and over 160 participants, educators and families of individuals with disabilities were able to begin the process of obtaining services as well as learning more about the services available within our community. Breakout sessions were available for anyone to attend. Sessions covered topics such as transition services, housing options, employment and training, as well as guardianship and special needs trusts. These topics were presented by local agencies that specialize in these fields. Members of the TPC were available to assist families make connections to agencies that pertained to their individual needs.

The Madison County TPC meets the first Thursday of every month at the Regional Office of Education at 9:00 a.m. These meetings are open to anyone who would like to obtain more information regarding transition services for individuals with disabilities.
Conversations Towards a Brighter Future

STUDENT SUMMIT 2016