Regional Office of Education #41
Madison County

Dr. Robert A. Daiber, Regional Superintendent of Schools
Andrew Reinking, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools

A Message from Regional Superintendent
Robert A. Daiber, Ed.D.

In the midst of education policy issues, great things continue to happen in Madison County classrooms because of the efforts from teachers and students. The end of the school year always hallmarks such achievements. Three of my favorite events include the Young Authors Conference, the Green Schools program, and the Workforce Investment Board Career Fair. During the past two weeks, I was fortunate to participate in all three and had many rewarding conversations with students and teachers. Three hundred and thirty students received certificates at this year’s Young Authors celebration. Authors, Jennifer Ward and Jeff Weinig addressed the students regarding their literary careers. I would like to thank Edwardsville District 7 for hosting this event again this year. Teacher representatives throughout the county attended the Green Schools program to discuss the future direction of environmental education in our schools. This program continues to have much success in and out of the classroom. The new Green Schools Coordinator, Kim Petzing, is looking for suggestions from teachers as to how this program can further enhance education. Over one hundred presenters shared their professional career stories with Highland High School and Highland Middle School students at the career fairs sponsored by the Workforce Investment Board. I would especially like to thank the staff at Highland for their excellent planning and the presenters who volunteered to make this event a huge success.

As the school year nears its end, much planning for the implementation of the Common Core Standards continues to take place. The Regional Office of Education is planning its fall teacher’s institute based on this curriculum shift and the beginning of the PARCC assessment. For schools who participated in the PARCC field test, much was learned from this assessment experience. The fall institute will follow a format of meetings for core subject teachers, non-core teachers, and special support staff. Core teachers will meet at their home districts and the institute will be outlined by the respective district administration. The institute focus will be on the shifts to teach English/language arts, math, and the Next Generation Science Standards. The non-core teachers and special support staff will meet at separate locations yet to be determined. The ROE is seeking presenters of non-core teachers who have knowledge of implementing common core lesson plans.

This curriculum shift, coupled with changes in education licensure rules, gives educators plenty to think about. All educators need to be aware of a very important licensure rule change regarding professional development. For this year, all earned credits need to be entered into ELIS by July 1! After July 1, individuals must enter their professional development within sixty days of earning the hours of credit. Professional development will no longer be measured by CPDUs. Hours of engagement will be the new scale of recording professional activities.

Dedication to a school district can be defined by the service of two school board presidents who passed away this past semester. Carol Sue Hamm, President of Madison District 12 and Carolyn Pam Wilson, President of Venice District 3 were both tremendous leaders of education for their respective communities. These two individuals gave countless hours of dedicated service to the families they served. Both had one goal in common, they wanted a quality education for the children in their communities. As Regional Superintendent, I came to know both of them on a personal note because of the struggles in their districts to make education happen. With utmost respect to their families and the districts they served, the education community will miss their leadership.

A Tribute to Carol Sue Hamm and Carolyn Pam Wilson

Carol Sue Hamm
President
Madison District 12 School Board
1997-2014

Carolyn Pam Wilson
President
Venice District 3 School Board
2001-2014

See Daiber, page 9
Senate Bill 16 Distribution of Education Funds

Over the last two decades, public school districts in Illinois have seen a growing disparity per pupil between the funding enjoyed by affluent districts and that of less fortunate ones. State Senator Andy Manar, Democrat from the 48th District, has introduced legislation that for the first time in 17 years will attempt to overhaul the method by which education funds are distributed, by simplifying the process and making it more fair.

Revenue from property taxes is the largest source of education funds in the state budget. The principal cause of inequitable distribution of those funds in recent years has been the fact that skyrocketing property values in affluent areas have yielded increasingly robust revenues from property taxes; meanwhile, less affluent areas have seen property values remain flat or even decline. In those areas, the state made up for the shortfall between districts’ actual funding needs and the revenues yielded by those property taxes. Currently a large percentage of this shortfall does not get covered.

Manar’s legislation, SB16, seeks to remedy this situation. Although the bill does not raise any new revenue, it seeks to redistribute existing funds more equitably by making the funding calculation process itself simpler and weighted towards areas with higher need. Currently Illinois uses 10 different formulas for calculating the distribution of education funds; the new bill seeks to clarify the process by reducing the calculation to just one formula. This simplification would result in increased predictability and stability for local districts, since they would know in advance what funding levels to expect.

During the process of crafting his bill, Manar closely examined best practices and successful outcomes in other states that have adopted similar rules, such as Massachusetts. In the month since its introduction, he has made several changes and additions based on input from other legislators and educators around the state.

Recently the Illinois State Board of Education has released projections on how, if passed, SB16 would affect districts around the state. We have included the impact on local districts below. For the full report go to: http://www.isbe.net/EFAC/default.htm

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<th>District Name</th>
<th>Combined Student Weight</th>
<th>Weighted Foundation Level</th>
<th>ALR per Student</th>
<th>Total Primary State Aid Payment</th>
<th>FY 13 Disbursements</th>
<th>Change with SB16 Compared to FY 13 Disbursements</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Change per Student</th>
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Heroin Task Force Formed

In response to a string of multiple heroin deaths in early 2014, State’s Attorney Tom Gibbons and Sheriff Bob Hertz created a task force to study the effectiveness of past efforts to fight the problem, assess the current status of the problem and develop a future Plan of Action to help reduce addiction and save lives. The task force also includes State Senator Andy Manar, Democrat from the 48th District, and other officials working closely with the Edwardsville School District in creating a drug abuse prevention campaign known as Project DrugSMART. Its goals are to create a safe and drug-free environment in schools through student support, deterrence, education and awareness.

Further, Gibbons and Manar also joined the national campaign known as Lock Your Meds that encourages adults to closely monitor prescription and over-the-counter medications to keep them out of the hands of teens and young adults. This public awareness campaign was held in conjunction with Drug Free Coalitions of Madison County and includes bi-annual participation in the DEA’s National Take Back Day where residents drop off unused or expired medications. Gibbons noted that there is a strong link between heroin and prescription medications. In 2013, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that according to recent studies, nearly half of the young people who inject heroin reported abusing prescription opioid pills before heroin.

The Task Force has featured presentations from Gibbons who discussed the Coroner’s office’s experience dealing with the devastating results of heroin and opiate addiction and DEA Agent Michael Shah who provided up-to-date information on elements of the heroin problem in the Metro-East. Service providers Chestnut Health Systems discussed trends in recovery while WellSpring Resources presented information on the benefits and challenges associated with methadone treatment for heroin addicts. Future presentations are expected to feature medical personnel, family members of addicts, additional treatment providers and recovering addicts.

Gibbons and Hertz both acknowledge, the heroin epidemic presents unique challenges and it’s one they can’t arrest their way out of it. Therefore, they are hopeful that the Task Force will find information on new, innovative, and more effective ways to combat the scourge of heroin in Madison County.

If you are interested in attending a public meeting, volunteering to be a speaker, or would like State’s Attorney Gibbons to speak at your school, please email the Madison County Heroin Task Force at madcotaskforce@co.madison.il.us. More information on the State’s Attorney’s Office is available at www.mdco-la.org.
Madison County Educators Achieve Honors

The Madison County ROE congratulates you on these awards recognizing a job well done!
Congratulations to Our Retiring Madison County School Administrators

Vicki Reulecke  
Assistant Superintendent  
Collinsville CUSD #10

Vicki Reulecke began her career with Collinsville CUSD #10 in August of 1978. Since then she has served as a Title I teacher, Special Education teacher and supervisor, and has served as Principal of Kreitner, Jefferson, Summit and Caseyville Schools. He previously served as Principal of St. John Neumann and St. Clare Schools (outside of the Collinsville district). David has enjoyed a fulfilling career. “I have been blessed with excellent teachers and staffs. Many teachers, students and families have touched my life. I have many fond memories. My schools have accomplished many things due to the team effort. I have been fortunate to be involved for 42 years as a teacher and principal. No other profession gives you as many rewards as teaching.” David’s plans for retirement include “traveling, volunteering, working with children and those with disabilities along with spending time with grandchildren.”

David Stroot  
Principal  
Jefferson Elementary & Summit Elementary Schools

David Stroot joined the staff of Collinsville Unit 10 school district in August of 2001 after having started his teaching career in 1972. During his tenure with Collinsville CUSD #10, David has served as Principal of Kreitner, Jefferson, Summit and Caseyville Schools. He previously served as Principal of St. John Neumann and St. Clare Schools (outside of the Collinsville district). David has enjoyed a fulfilling career. “I have been blessed with excellent teachers and staffs. Many teachers, students and families have touched my life. I have many fond memories. My schools have accomplished many things due to the team effort. I have been fortunate to be involved for 42 years as a teacher and principal. No other profession gives you as many rewards as teaching.” David’s plans for retirement include “traveling, volunteering, working with children and those with disabilities along with spending time with grandchildren.”

Deb Pitts  
Principal  
Civic Memorial High School

Deb Pitts began her career in education with the Alton School District in 1975 as a Special Education teacher. She worked with students at the middle and high school levels. She went on to be a guidance counselor, dean of students and assistant principal. Deb is finishing her career after 8 years as Principal of Civic Memorial High School in the Bethalto school district.

During her 39 years in education, Deb has also coached track, volleyball, basketball, pom poms, cheerleading. She has also served as AEA Membership Chair and on the IEA Board of Directors. She describes her years in education as “enjoyable and rewarding.” When it comes to retirement plans Deb says, “I am not sure at this time. I don’t want to think!!!!”

Clyde McGill  
Principal  
East Alton Middle School

Mr. Clyde “Butch” McGill was born in Wood River to Clyde and Macel McGill. He attended Roxana Community High School and Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Mr. McGill received his Bachelor of Science in Education and his Masters Degree from S.I.U.E. Butch has been in the field of education for 35 years. He has served as a substitute teacher, taught in a private school for one year, spent a year at Southwestern Jr. High School, and has served with the East Alton School District #13 for the last 32 years. At East Alton Mr. McGill has served as a teacher, coach, and administrator. As Mr. McGill reflects on his career, he says “I have been blessed to serve the families of East Alton for the last 32 years and all the families that I have come in contact with in my career. I have many wonderful memories and believe there is no greater profession.” Mr. McGill plans to keep busy in his retirement. “At this time I work part-time at Pitchford Funeral Home in Wood River and I plan to continue to serve in that capacity. I have also been a volunteer fire fighter in Rosewood Heights for the last 40 years and I will continue to serve my community in that way as well. I have 3 living children and 3 grandchildren that I plan to spend more time with.”

Cathie Buller  
Principal  
Triad Middle School

Cathie Buller is retiring as Principal of Triad Middle School. During her tenure with Triad CUSD #2, which began in 2002, Cathie has held both assistant principal and principal positions. In reference to her years with the district, Cathie says “I’m grateful Triad gave me a chance to be an administrator in such a supportive community of students and their parents.” As of now, Cathie says her only plans for retirement are to “spoil my grandchildren even more than I already do.”

Thank you to all of our school districts for submitting information for the ROE newsletter.

For consideration in future issues, please submit articles, pictures, etc. to Andrew Reinking, Assistant Regional Superintendent at reinking@roe41.org.
Congratulations to the 2014 Retirees

Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the students of Madison County!

Darlene Arnold-Jakie – 19 Years
Speech Pathologist
Alton Middle School

Marchia Bailey – 35 Years
Clerk
Alton High School

Kevin Baker – 12 Years
Alternative
Alton Middle School

Linda Barton – 21 Years
Teacher
Alton Middle School

Diane Clark – 15 Years
Teacher
Alton High School

Marguerite Dubbelde – 23 Years
Teacher Aide
Alton High School

Michael French – 20 Years
Teacher Aide
Alton Middle School

Teresa Goff – 19 Years
Teacher
Alton High School

Sue Kelly – 20 Years
Teacher Aide
Alton High School

Donna Klimpel – 19 Years
Teacher
Alton High School

Mary Klawanski – 18 Years
Teacher Aide
Alton High School

Bethel Cline – 24 Years
Teacher
Collinsville High School

Pamela Cline – 21 Years
Teacher
Webster Elementary

Vicki Cocker – 14 Years
Secretary
Collinsville High School

Jan Evans – 16 Years
Relief Aide
Caseyville Elementary

Mary Fannin – 22 Years
Teacher
Collinsville High School

Gloria Fannin – 23 Years
Teacher
Collinsville High School

Mary Gaffey – 18 Years
Teacher
Collinsville High School

及び他の教職員のリストが続きます。
Local Authors Keynote 2014 Young Authors Conference

Students and their families were treated to dynamic presentations by local authors at this year’s Young Authors Conference. Jennifer Ward addressed the K-3rd grade students and Jeff Weigel spoke to the students in 4-8th grade.

Jennifer Ward

Illinois author Jennifer Ward is the author of numerous acclaimed books for children and adults with 20 published books and more than 800,000 books in print. Her most recent children’s book, Mama Built a Little Nest was published by Simon and Schuster this spring (2014) and features the wide variety of nests birds create. Already in its second printing, Mama Built a Little Nest has received starred reviews from Publisher’s Weekly, Booklist and School Library Journal calls it “practically the perfect science picture book.”

Forthcoming books by Jennifer include, There Was an Old Martian Who Swallowed the Moon, There Was an Old Mummy Who Swallowed a Fly and, Feathers and Hair, What Animals Wear.

Jennifer grew up in Edwardsville, IL and graduated from Edwardsville High School. She holds a B.A. in Education from the University of Arizona and presently writes full-time from her home in Edwardsville.

Jeff Weigel

Jeff Weigel is an illustrator and author who resides in Belleville, Illinois. He has written and illustrated multiple children’s books and graphic novels, including Thunder From The Sea, published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons, and Atomic Ace and the Robot Rampage, published by Albert Whitman & Company. He illustrated The Monster Alphabet by Michael P. Spradlin, from Price Stern Sloan. He also authored, illustrated and designed STOP MATH, an interactive storybook app for iPad.

Comics have always been Jeff’s first love, and he has been a regular contributor to Image Comics’ anthology title, Big Bang Comics, for more than fifteen years. His work as a writer and illustrator on the character he created, The Sphinx, earned him a past nomination for the Russ Manning Award for Most Promising Newcomer in the comics industry. This year The Sphinx’s adventures were collected into a trade paperback available from Pulp 2.0. Jeff’s most recent work is a graphic novel, Dragon Girl, to be released June 3, 2014 by Andrews McMeel.

Jeff is a frequent speaker at schools and libraries across Illinois and the St. Louis area. He also teaches drawing and comics at St. Louis’ Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA) and the St. Louis Art Museum.

Looking for a way to keep current with ROE events, workshops and the latest news from the ROE office?

Check out the ROE 41 blog.

www.roe41blog.com

To subscribe click on “Follow” on the right side of the screen.
ELA Shift Kit Trainings

These workshops are a repeat of the shift kit trainings that were offered during the 2013-14 school year.

July 22 - K-5 Info Text
July 24 - Academic Vocabulary
July 28 - 6-12 Info Text
July 29 - Writing to Sources
July 30 - Text Dependent Questions
July 31 - Text Complexity

Please see our website www.roe41.org for details.

For more information or to register for workshops and academies please visit our website at www.roe41.org and select the tab “Workshops/Events”

Administrator Academies

Learning from Lincoln: Leadership Practices for School Success

Participants in this course will explore how Lincoln’s leadership practices and behaviors provide compelling guidance for today’s challenges of accountability, diversity, political conflict, team building, climate and economic hardship. Ten leadership qualities linking to leading others and school success will be highlighted. Participants will leave the session with a repertoire of strategies and insights that they can apply immediately in their own workplace contexts

Presenter: Marvin Warner

What Every Administrator Should Know About Common Core Shifts

This course will provide increased understanding of the Common Core State Standards and the instructional strategies for implementation. Participants will learn the 9 key shifts in English Language Arts and 3 key shifts in Mathematics. Participants will learn how to use kits developed by ISBE for professional development in their buildings. Participants will learn how to use the Equip Rubric for evaluating the quality of instructional products aligned to CCSS. Participants will learn and plan specific strategies to strengthen continuous school improvement efforts

Presenter: Marvin Warner and Joan Barrett

Free Resources from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

1. Illinois’ Natural Resources Trading Cards Set #6
The latest set in the Illinois’ Natural Resources Trading Cards series has arrived! Illinois’ Natural Resources Trading Cards Set #6 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is now available! Due to limited supplies, these cards will be offered to teachers in Illinois schools first. Send your request on school letterhead to IDNR Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.

2. Project Squirrel Mobile Phone App
With the new Project Squirrel mobile phone app, your students can easily become involved in citizen science activities that can be incorporated into lessons to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The app is free and both Apple and Android versions are available. Go to iTunes or the Google Play Store and download the app today. All citizens can take part in the data collection. Lessons to support squirrel observations will be posted soon at http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm. You can learn more about Project Squirrel at http://www.projectssquirrel.org/. The Project Squirrel mobile phone app is sponsored by the Chicago Academy of Science’s Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, the IDNR, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Motorola.

3. Images to Use with Mammals Lessons
The new IDNR Division of Education mammal lessons developed with the Next Generation Science Standards as their foundation are designed to be used with the Illinois Wild Mammals Resources Trunk. However, if you can’t borrow a trunk, now you can teach the lessons by using images of the pelts, scats, skulls and tracks. Access them through the links at http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm.

4. New Video Podcasts
Several new video podcasts have been added to the IDNR Division of Education’s podcast Web site at http://dnr.state.il.us/education/podcasts.htm and to the YouTube (IDNREducation) site and iTunes Store. New video podcasts with tips for completing the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant application form and Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant application form are available. Visit the page often. New video podcasts are added regularly.

5. Register Now for Upcoming ENTICE Professional Development Workshops
The following ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from the IDNR are scheduled for March through August. Go to https://www.enticeworkshops.com for more details and to register. Continuing Professional Development Units are available at all ENTICE workshops. Experience ENTICE!

Pollinators and the Prairie, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, June 28, 2014
Illinois Prairies, Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur, July 11, 2014
Alien Invaders: They are Here!, U.S. Forest Service Shawnee National Forest Office, Harrisburg, July 18, 2014
Illinois Beetles, Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook, August 1, 2014

6. Spring and Summer Programs from Dickson Mounds Museum
Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown has added many spring and summer programs. For more information, contact the Museum at 309-547-3721 or visit http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/events.html.

For more info on these resources contact:
Valerie Keener
Head, Division of Education
IL Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217-785-0973
Cell 217-725-9620
FAX 217-782-9552
http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education
valerie.keener@illinois.gov
Students Compete at 2014 Junior and Senior Olympiads

This spring the Madison County ROE hosted the Senior and Junior Olympiads, on March 6 & March 26 respectively. 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 Lincoln Middle School and Highland 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 296-6444 or adyson@roe41.org.

Junior Olympiad
1st - Lincoln Middle - Team #1
2nd - Liberty Middle - Team #1
3rd - Alton Middle - Team #1
4th - Trimpe Middle - Team #3
5th - Lincoln Middle - Team #3

Senior Olympiad
1st - Highland H.S. - Team #1
2nd - Collinsville H.S. - Team #2
3rd - Collinsville H.S. - Team #1

Your ROE Opens Pearson Vue Testing Center

by Jim Nickerson
CBT Administrator

As we continue to add services that benefit our region, the Madison County Regional Office of Education 41 is pleased to announce the opening of one of the most advanced computer-based Pearson Vue testing centers in Southern Illinois. The center is located in our newly remodeled building at 1314 Niedringhaus in downtown Granite City.

Exams make a difference in today’s educational environment. Computer-based exams continue to confirm education, support professional certifications, and ascertain job and career readiness.

At Madison County’s testing center, on-site testing for institutions, companies, and organizations is provided covering a wide range of professional licensure exams, a host of certifications, and the GED Testing Service.

Examples of tests include: Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS), CompTIA, Novell, Cisco, Symantec, VMware, Inc., Juniper Networks, SAP, SAS, EMC, amongst hundreds of others.

As a dedicated Pearson Vue testing center, there are no distractions. The center is dedicated to one thing: the success of those taking the tests. Testing is completed in a controlled, noise-free environment on computers. The tests are electronically submitted and graded by Pearson Testing, a nationally certified testing agency. Most results are returned to the tester immediately.

The Regional Office of Education 41 would like to assist with your testing needs in the most professional distraction-free environment available in the area. You can count on a smooth and reliable streamlined process from check-in through the processing of results.

Visit pearsonvue.com to view the list of available exams. Be sure to choose the Madison County ROE 41 Testing Center as your preferred testing site when you are scheduling your next exam.

For more information, visit www.roe41.org or call 618.296.4530.

Madison County Track Meet Results

On April 30, Madison County high schools competed in the 2014 Madison County Track Meet sponsored by the ROE. Teams competed in Large and Small School divisions. Congratulations to our winners!

Large Schools - Boys
1. Edwardsville
2. Collinsville
3. Triad
4. Highland
5. Alton
6. Granite City

Large Schools - Girls
1. Edwardsville
2. Highland
3. Triad
4. Granite City
5. Alton
6. Collinsville

Small Schools - Boys
1. Wood River
2. Roxana
3. Madison
4. Civic Memorial
5. Metro East Lutheran
6. Marquette
7. Collinsville Christian

Small Schools - Girls
1. Civic Memorial
2. Roxana
3. Metro East Lutheran
4. Madison
5. Wood River
6. Marquette
7. Collinsville Christian
On Tuesday, May 6, nearly 40 Madison County Green Schools Coordinators and school administrators had gathered at the Lewis and Clark N.O. Nelson Campus in Edwardsville for the Earth Flag Celebration to acknowledge the Green Schools activities that Madison County schools have completed over the past year. With the retirement of the previous Madison County Green Schools Coordinator, Ann Linenfelser, in August of 2013, the Madison County Green Schools program took a brief hiatus until the new Coordinator, Kim Petzing, began this past January of 2014. Due to the break in the program, this year’s Earth Flag Celebration took on a different look, focusing on the coordinators and the work they’ve done and unveiling the future direction of the Madison County Green Schools program.

Madison County is truly lucky to have them within the schools and working with the students to promote sustainability!”

As a result of the feedback from the coordinators along with meetings with Dr. Daiber and other county administrators, Ms. Petzing unveiled the look of the future Green Schools program which includes:

1) Schools developing a team consisting of the Green School Coordinator, school administrator, facilities staff person, church rep (if parochial), other teachers, PTO member and/or parent, student(s), and whoever else they think can help! The team approach is based on the idea that in order to be successful, sustainability requires a whole-system approach, requiring individuals from across the organization to work together.

2) Given that a person or organization is 42% more likely to achieve goals if you write them down, schools will now begin to work with Ms. Petzing to benchmark their current sustainability actions at the beginning of the school year. They will then create a plan for that year, and the following 3 years of “green” actions they hope to accomplish.

3) Finally, the updated Green Schools program will offer a more comprehensive list of optional activities for schools to select. This will allow schools to customize their Green Schools program based on their staff, funding, needs and interests. Schools can continue what they are already doing, but also add new options as they get practices engrained or completed. The options will include the already existing solid waste focused activities, but will now also include activities relating to energy, water, air, education, community, wellness etc., so that students can get the bigger picture of the impact of their actions.

The updated Green Schools program slated to roll out in the 2014-15 school year will continue to include many of the already established collections, competitions and events such as Trashformations and a return to the more traditional Earth Flag Celebration with a focus on the students and the work they accomplish.

The Madison County Planning and Development department will support this program as the go-to resource for schools. They will provide one-on-one meetings, workshops, financial assistance, resource lending, professional development opportunities, annual events, competitions, programs and more.

If your school is not already involved with the Green Schools program, or you wish to learn more about what your school is currently doing, contact Kim Petzing, Madison County Green Schools Coordinator at kspetzing@co.madison.il.us.

Kim Petzing, Madison County Green Schools Coordinator

During the meeting, Dr. Robert Daiber welcomed the participants and commended their hard work and dedication with the Green Schools program to date, but also encouraged them to embrace the changes and new directions the program will be taking as a more comprehensive sustainability education program.

Leah Dettmers, Sustainability Coordinator for Madison County, reviewed some of the activities that Madison County has recently undertaken such as pilot programs for unused medication take-back programs, invasive species control (with goats!), wetland rehabilitation, and solid surface playground programs. She also discussed the Complete Streets initiative which encourages municipalities to make all streets within that municipality safe and convenient for travel by foot, bicycle, mass transit, and automobile. Ms. Dettmers also informed participants of the development of a sustainability plan for the county, slated for completion in the summer of 2014.

Ms. Petzing commented that she has spent the first months in her position meeting with each of the coordinators to get their feedback and to discuss the future possibilities. In general, the feedback from the coordinators is that they have limited time, space for storing large collection items, and funding. They appreciate having a variety of activities to choose from and want to include more student involvement. They enjoy doing the activities within the current program – as can be attested to the fact that many of the coordinators have been in their roles for several years! Ms. Petzing commented, “After meeting with the Madison County Green School Coordinators, I am in awe of the amount of dedication and work that these educators have given to the program.

Leah Dettmers, Sustainability Coordinator for Madison County
Regional Office of Education Hosts Temple Grandin

Dr. Temple Grandin presents “Different Kinds of Minds” at SIUE.

On February 17th the Madison County Regional Office of Education sponsored Dr. Temple Grandin’s presentation “Different Kinds of Minds,” as part of the 2013-2014 Arts and Issues series at Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Grandin has gained worldwide recognition for her advocacy, research and publications about autism. Having been diagnosed as autistic at age three, Grandin has overcome great challenges and is known as “the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world.” In “Different Kinds of Minds,” she discussed the unique ways the autistic mind work and how this distinct type of thinking is essential and beneficial to society.

Dr. Grandin’s fascinating life was recently brought to the screen in the HBO Original Film, “Temple Grandin”, which claimed seven Emmy Awards, including the Emmy for Outstanding Made for TV Movie. She has been featured on NPR (National Public Radio), major television programs, such as the BBC special “The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow”, ABC’s Primetime Live, The Today Show, Larry King Live, 48 Hours and 20/20. She also has been written about in many national publications, such as Time magazine, People magazine, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, and The New York Times. Among numerous other recognitions by media, Bravo Cable did a half-hour show on her life, and she was featured in the bestselling book, Anthropologist from Mars.

Dr. Grandin didn’t talk until she was three-and-a-half years old, instead communicating her frustration by screaming, peeping, and humming. In 1950, she was diagnosed with autism and her parents were told she should be institutionalized. She tells her story of “groping her way from the far side of darkness” in her book Emergence: Labeled Autistic, a book which stunned the world because, until its publication, most professionals and parents assumed that an autism diagnosis was virtually a death sentence to achievement or productivity in life. Dr. Grandin has become a prominent author and speaker on the subject of autism because as she has stated; “I have read enough to know that there are still many parents, and yes, professionals too, who believe that ‘once autistic, always autistic.’ This dictum has meant sad and sorry lives for many children diagnosed, as I was in early life, as autistic. To these people, it is incomprehensible that the characteristics of autism can be modified and controlled. However, I feel strongly that I am living proof that they can”.

Even though she was considered “weird” in her young school years, she eventually found a mentor, who recognized her interests and abilities. Dr. Grandin later developed her talents into a successful career as a livestock-handling equipment designer, one of few in the world. She has now designed the facilities in which half the cattle in the United States are handled, consulting for firms such as Burger King, McDonald’s, Swift, and others. Dr. Grandin presently works as a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She also speaks around the world on both autism and cattle handling.

Dr. Grandin’s current bestselling book on autism is The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger’s. She also authored Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships, Animals Make us Human, Animals in Translation, Thinking in Pictures, Emergence: Labeled Autistic and produced several DVDs.

Attention Southern Illinois Teachers

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association is offering teachers $15,000 in grant money. This year the grants will be awarded to teachers in Area 5 & 6.

This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K - 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects.

For more information visit http://www.irtaonline.org/Excellence.aspx

40TH ANNUAL REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Come out for the FUN! We are educators having a good time.

FIRST/TIME golfers are welcome!

June 10, 2014

For more information or a registration form please call Kelly Harris at 296-4530, or email kbellis@msi.edu
1. What is ELIS?
   ELIS replaced ECS and the link can be found at the top of the ISBE.net homepage. You must create a new account on ELIS in order to access your credentials. Your ECS username and password cannot be used, you must create a new account on ELIS.

2. How do I create an account in ELIS?
   a. Go to the Illinois State Board of Education website www.isbe.net
   b. Click on ELIS/Educator Credentials at the top of the page in the blue ribbon bar
   c. On the next screen, click on Educator Access
   d. On the next screen, click on the “Sign Up Now” box on left hand side of this page
   e. Complete the fields to create a new account–remember your login and password

3. What if I forget my password for ELIS?
   a. Go to the Illinois State Board of Education website www.isbe.net
   b. Click on ELIS/Educator Credentials at the top of the page in the blue ribbon bar
   c. On the next screen click on Educator Access
   d. On the Sign-In screen–click on Find Login/Password

4. I am due for renewal in 2014, do I have to enter Professional Development?
   Yes. If you have been teaching in an Illinois public school any time from FY 2010 through FY 2014, you must enter professional development and submit for approval. If you have not worked during these school years, or work in a non-public school and are due for renewal 6-30-2014, please enter one professional development activity saying you have not been working in an Illinois Public School, and submit. Once submitted, your activities will be reviewed by the ROE and either approved or denied. You will receive an email from ISBE stating there has been an update in your account and to view the updates in ELIS. If you are denied, review the denial and edit your professional development to re-submit for review. If you are approved, you will have the option to renew on your ELIS homepage. Most SOA are reviewed within 2 weeks at the ROE level. Please watch the ROE 41 website for Professional Development requirements for renewals after 6/30/2014.

5. Should I enter my Professional Development if I am not up for renewal in 2014?
   Yes. All educators must enter Professional Development they have done thus far before June 30, 2014. As of July 1, 2014, it will be in the law that all professional development has to be entered within 60 days of the activity. If you want your past year’s Professional Development activities to count towards your next renewal, it must be entered in your ELIS account prior to June 30, 2014.

6. How do I get a paper copy of my license?
   A paper certificate is no longer issued. You may use a print screen of the credentials page in ELIS as proof of license.

7. Why is it so important to update my e-mail address?
   The ONLY method of contact with ISBE is now your e-mail address. We do not call or mail you registration letters to remind you to register. We advise all educators to change their e-mail address to their personal e-mail address. When you are no longer employed with a school district or retired, you are still responsible for keeping your registration current to keep a valid Illinois License. The Illinois State Board of Education attempts to contact everyone via e-mail and remind them to register, however if you have an invalid email address they have no way to do this. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Regional Office of Education have no responsibility for the status of your account. If your license lapses but you have not received any e-mails, calls, or letters about your account from the Regional Office of Education or ISBE, you are still at fault. Please keep yourself up to date about your licensure.

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**Important Licensure Updates**

As many of you may know the Illinois State Board of Education is working on developing new rules governing educator professional development. At this time, ISBE is still in the process of drafting these rules and they will not be available for public comment until mid-June. After the comment period has ended the rules will be reviewed and sent to the State Board for approval and enactment. It is hoped that this will occur by late summer.

In an effort to keep educators up to date on some of the proposed changes we are including the information below:

1. Beginning June 30th, 2014 – when an educator partakes in any professional development activity, they are required to enter the professional development in their ELIS account within 60 days of completing the activity. Previously, educators would wait until their registration year to enter all of their Professional Development at one time. That will no longer be allowed. You will be required to enter your professional development no later than 60 days after it is earned. This is in the law and will go into effect July 1, 2014.

2. It is recommended that educators enter all of the professional development they have done thus far before June 30th, 2014. If you want your past year’s professional development activities to count towards your next renewal, it must be entered in your ELIS account prior to the introduction of the 60 day window (see number 1).

3. Prior rules said you had a 6 month grace period after the registration date of June 30th to register before you would lapse. The proposed rule will change the grace period to end on September 1st. For example: If you are due to register in 2015, you must do so before September 1st, 2015 or you will lapse.

4. Now if your license lapses, in addition to prior reinstatement requirements, you must complete the professional development you owed during your cycle. Previously, you simply paid $500 and back registration fees or completed 9 semester hours in the field of your endorsement and back registration fees.

5. Those who held Initial Certificates in 2013 and Substitute License holders need to go into their ELIS account and pay any registration fees owed through 2018. If you are unsure if this applies to you, here are some simple instructions:

   - Go to www.isbe.net/ELIS
   - Log into your ELIS account
   - Click on “Continue”
Congratulations to the 330 students who were honored at this year’s Madison County Young Authors Conference. Students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade competed in their local schools. School winners were then invited to attend the conference on Saturday, May 10, 2014. Each student was presented a certificate by Regional Superintendent Dr. Robert A. Daiber. Local authors Jennifer Ward and Jeff Weigel gave entertaining and inspirational presentations to the students and their families. During a parent session, parents were able to talk directly with the authors about how they could encourage their children in their writing endeavors. Students met in grade level groups to share their books with their peers and do fun activities related to writing and reading.

What are my college and career plans after high school? What knowledge and skills will I need to get a good job that I enjoy doing and pays enough to take care of a family? Questions like these are often asked by high school students as they prepare for their future.

On Thursday, May 1, Highland High School and the Madison-Bond County Youth Council hosted a Career Fair at Highland High School for all high-school students. Students were able to hear first-hand from workforce experts about the knowledge, skills, and education needed for specific career fields. The Career Fair had more than 60 speakers who presented in 25 minute segments throughout their morning. The Career Fair kicked off with a keynote from Madison county Regional Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Daiber and business owner/entrepreneur Dawn Mushill.

The district supplied surveys to allow students to select their top speaker choices from Career Clusters in 16 different areas.

“It will be good for everyone to narrow down what they really want to do and to get a better outlook on their future,” said Highland High School senior Adam Harris.