



WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

May 2008

“EDUCATING EVERY CHILD”

Volume 4, Issue 5

**“LAUGHTER IS
THE SHORTEST
DISTANCE
BETWEEN TWO
PEOPLE”**

VICTOR BORGE

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View From The Corner Office By Bill Pumo



Another school year has concluded and we have many people to thank for a successful year. Thank you to all the students who have worked hard and completed another year. Thank you to all the parents who sent us their children and trusted us to help them. Thank you to all the district superintendents, principals, teachers, program assistants, individual aids, and support personnel. And a very personal thank you to all the WCISEC staff who I count on daily.

Leadership and teamwork are essential ingredients for any organization. John Maxwell said, “There is no such thing as business ethics – there is only ethics. People try to use one set of ethics for their professional life, another for their spiritual life, and still another at home with their family. That gets them into trouble. Ethics is ethics. If you desire to be ethical, you live it by one standard across the board.”

At our recent IASA conference Bob Ash delivered “Teaching Buffalo To Fly Like Geese: Leadership and Teamwork” He shared six flying lessons with us.

I think the following three flight lessons are lessons that we all need to internalize.

FLYING LESSON #1 Check Your Leadership Flight Plan

- Napoleon was asked, after his stunning victory in Italy, how he made his army cross the Alps. His reply: *“One does not make a French Army cross the Alps. One leads the army across.”* What kind of example are you modeling for adults? Students? Do you walk your talk? Do you think anyone watches you?

FLYING LESSON #2 Don’t Fly Solo Fly together

- **“Trust is the emotional glue that binds followers and leaders together.”** What is the level of trust in your district/ Cooperative? Is it what it should be? If not, why not?

FLYING LESSON #3 Be Loyal To Your Crew

- **“The service we render to others is the rent we pay for living on this earth”** What is the level of loyalty in your district? How do you evaluate loyalty?

If we ask ourselves these questions frequently and temper our leadership with the results we will improve our lives and the lives of those we depend upon. Victor Borge shared the following, “Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.” Life is too short to be unhappy. My personal goals for my last four years are to laugh more and enjoy those people I have an opportunity to help. Thanks again for a memorable year.

WCISEC MD Program Parent Night is Held



On Thursday, April 24, a parent night was held for the parents of WCISEC students that attend the Secondary Instructional class at Bridge-way, Bright Starts class at Carthage Elementary, Intermediate class at Carthage Elementary, High School MD class at Illini West, STARS class at West Prairie South Grade School, and Intermediate MD class at West Prairie Middle School. The event was held at West Prairie South.

Topics for this parent night were gathered from a parent survey that was done last school year. Last years parent night contained the topics of summer camps and activities for special needs children, and respite care. This year's topics were doctors/dentists/specialists recommended for special needs children, and how to solve behavior problems in your home. The information regarding doctors was gathered from parents and professionals in the area. Jan VanAcker was the speaker for behavior. She provided parents with a problem solving tool for the home, and helped parents with plans for specific needs in their homes.

A pizza supper was enjoyed by all the parents and teachers in attendance. Thanks to JanVanAcker, Jim Armstrong, Paula Markey, and the MD teachers for their contributions to this event. It couldn't have happened without you. Anyone interested in the information from this year or last year's parent meeting topics, please contact Becky Hobson - School Social Worker at beckyssw@yahoo.com or 217-256-4281.

New RtI Website is a Wonderful Resource

The National Center for Learning Disabilities currently has an RtI initiative titled RtI Action Network that just launched a brand new website, www.RTINetwork.org. The RtI Action Network is dedicated to the effective implementation of Response to Intervention nationwide. The site features content on implementing RtI from preschool through secondary levels and includes detailed information for administrators, teachers, specialists, and families. In the "Connect With Others" section there are several different networking opportunities for you to talk to colleagues across the nation. For example, if you access the "Blog" you are able to read current RtI articles & post your comments for others to see. On the "RtI Discussion Board" you can post your RtI related questions for others to answer, and in "Ask the Experts" you can ask a question for nationally renowned experts to answer. "Voices From the Field" allows you to read how others have had success implementing RtI. In the "Professional Development" section of the website, you can watch online videos & podcasts dealing with RtI. You can also access RtI related "Webinars," which are online training sessions, and participate in "RtI Talks," which are text-based discussions that allow you to post your questions. RtI Network even includes things such as "Weekly Polls," a "Glossary" of featured terms, and "Getting Started" and "Essential Components" sections. This website is full of useful information for beginners in RtI to advanced implementers, which is just one of the many reasons you should check it out today!

On The Edge By Lou Pruett



As this school year comes to a close, this will be my last news article on RTI but with a different twist-Retirement To Infinity!!!! I've sat here for some time now in front of my computer trying to figure out exactly what I want to say after being in education for almost four decades.

Little did I know when I was heading off to college in northern Minnesota- just a few years ago-that at retirement age, I would be sitting at this desk in west central Illinois. I believe that the highlight of my journey has been the amazing people that I have met. Through them, I've

learned some basics:

- If you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can-happiness will find you.
- I've learned that if children feel safe, wanted, and loved, you are a successful teacher/parent.
- I've learned that you can't expect your children to listen to your advice and ignore your example.
- I've learned that most people resist change, and yet it's the only thing that brings progress.
- And finally I've learned that being a grandparent is God's compensation for growing older.

So to all of you amazing people, thank you for some wonderful memories and I hope your journey will be as memorable as mine!

RTI

“RETIREMENT TO INFINITY”

Project Insight Career Day is Held



On May 9, 2008, Project Insight in Macomb was host to several Career Day presentations. Representatives were present from the Macomb Fire Department, the National Auto Diesel College, Walmart, Hy-Vee Food Store, EPH Plumbing and Heating, and Town and Country Detail. Each student selected four of the presentations to attend. This annual event was organized by STEP Job Developers Jackie Neill and Dana Ourth.

New Music Therapy Classes



Students at the WCISEC Intermediate Class at Carthage Elementary enjoy receiving Music Therapy from Cindy Lock. The Music Therapy program was made possible by a grant from the William J. Reid Foundation.

Business Office Bits

... By Denise Ratermann



With the close of the school year, it is important to note a couple of items of interest. The attendance incentive will be paid out on the June 13th paycheck, if all of your paperwork is completed for the year. If there is an error in this payment, please contact our office so we can get this matter corrected. If you move over the summer, be sure to notify our office of your change of address. You should also notify the insurance company of any address changes if you are enrolled in the medical insurance. The last item to note is that TRS, YMCA, and PEA are not active deductions in the summer time, so your check will be higher than it is during the school year.

I hope everyone has a healthy happy summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the fall institute.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TIP:

Using Word's Auto Summary Feature to Decrease the Amount of Reading for the Struggling Reader: Microsoft Word offers a feature called AUTO SUMMARY, which can be used with a text document. It can be used with text that was copied and pasted, a document you have typed or scanned into a word processor or downloaded e-text (digital files of complete books). It is easy to use: 1) Open Microsoft Word and paste the text into a new document file; 2) Under the Tool menu, select Auto Summarize (it may be found in Options); 3) Select the type of summary, percentage of summary and view the highlighted information; 4) You can create a document with the highlighted information only. Experimenting with the slider will increase or decrease the percentage of the document that is summarized. You can save the new document and print it for study purposes ****This takes only minutes***

WCISEC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE 2008 GRADUATES

WCISEC is proud to announce the following High School Graduates for the 2007/2008 School Year:

WCISEC S.P.A.R.K.S. Class at Canton:

Grace Perry, Canton District
Jenna Booth, Pikeland District

WCISEC Secondary Instructional Class at Bridgeway:

Sheldon Miller, Bushnell-Prairie City District

WCISEC Project Insight Jr/Sr Alternative High School:

Daniel Saunders, West Central District (Mid-Year)
Matthew Wells, West Central District (Mid-Year)
Brandon Gottweld, Macomb District (Mid-Year)
Brad Schisler, West Central District
Kirk Denney, West Prairie District
Holly Parker, West Prairie District

WCISEC New Horizons Jr/Sr Alternative High School:

Jeremy Tippey, Lewistown District
Jesse Peterman, Astoria District
Clay Fagan, Schuyler-Industry District

WCISEC High School MD Class at Illini West:

Charissa Ruddick, Warsaw District

“Courageous Smiles” Track and Field Meet Held at Carthage



On May 6, 2008, special needs students from all 5 counties of WCISEC participated in the Courageous Smiles Track and Field Meet at Carthage. This annual event is sponsored by the St. James Council of the Knights of Columbus. The group spent over \$6,000 this year to provide the meals and medals for over 200 registered students. This event would not be possible without the volunteers from WCISEC and the National Honor Society students from Carthage High School.



How Are We Doing?

We are interested in your newsletter ideas. Send any suggestions for future issues to Jim Armstrong at: jarmstrong@wcisec.org

We're On The Web!
View our Newsletters at:
www.wcisec.org



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