



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe/Randolph Counties

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DR. KIEHNA SAYS GOOD-BYE

After having participated in a great many retirement ceremonies in my tenure as your Regional Superintendent of Schools, I now understand the emotions teachers and administrators go through during the process of completing their educational careers. On the one hand I am excited for the future and all that it brings, but on the other, I have truly enjoyed my time as your Regional Superintendent and will miss my daily interactions with educators and parents. I especially want to thank you for the ovation, the special song by Superintendent Larry Beattie with the music students of Red Bud High School and the framed picture compiled by the art teachers and students given at our Bi-County Institute. The frame contains a group of 27 portraits of me, and I smile every time I look at it. The pictures will be on display at our Waterloo office until my last day, Friday, November 30. Come by and take a look.

When presenting retirement plaques to our local educators I often recite one of my favorite biblical passages from Ecclesiastes, which says "For everything there is a season and a time and purpose under heaven." It is now time for me to turn over the office to my longtime assistant Kelton Davis. Kelton is ready and eager to continue our legacy of quality service to all of you. It is now his time to shine. I want to thank my staff for their dedication and hard work and the citizens of Monroe and Randolph counties who have allowed me to work in this rewarding position. Again, *Thank You, Friends and Colleagues, and Goodbye!*

INDUCTION AND MENTORING TEACHERS NETWORK

First-year Induction and Mentoring teachers will meet informally on Thursday, November 8 from 4:00–5:30 at Evansville Attendance Center to discuss challenges and pick each other's brains about what is working in their classrooms. Fifteen first-year teachers and 13 second-year teachers from seven of the bi-county districts are participating in the seventh year of the ROE's Induction and Mentoring Program that helps new teachers find success as they begin their careers and provides support for them instructionally and emotionally. Mentors for new teachers in Monroe and Randolph counties are trained in the areas of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the Danielson Frameworks.

GET MORE COMMON CORE INFORMATION

Common Core Standards, an initiative adopted by Illinois to ensure that all students in a certain grade receive the same instruction, are set to take effect for the 2014–15 school year. The Standards are built on the most advanced current thinking regarding the preparation of students for success in college and their careers and include such components of the educational system as assessment, curriculum, professional development and instruction. Teachers and administrators have been attending workshops about the Common Core Standards, but there are also informative Web sites to check. ISBE's Common Core monthly newsletter is available at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/htmls/news.htm. Find new resources at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/pls/default.htm, and for literature teaching and learning strategies for K–5 go to http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/pdf/ela-teach-strat-k-5.pdf and for 6–12 go to http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/pdf/ela-teach-strat-6-12.pdf.

DECLARE YOUR INTERDEPENDENCE DURING GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

This year's Geography Awareness Week theme, "Geography: Declare your Interdependence!" explores the idea that we are all connected to the rest of the world through the decisions we make on a daily basis, including what foods we eat and what we buy. Especially from November 11–17, 2012, but all year through, teachers should stress geo-literacy. What is geo-literacy? It is the ability to use geographic understanding and geographic reasoning to make decisions. Whether we are making decisions about where to live, what precautions to take for natural hazards or how to set up a manufacturing supply chain, we are called upon to make decisions that require geo-literacy throughout our lives. Therefore, geo-literacy education needs to be a priority in our schools.

Find everything you need to plan events for your school at <http://education.nationalgeographic.com> on the *toolkit* page. Have your students investigate their own interdependence by completing the *Global Closet Calculator*, an interactive game that aggregates the contents of their own closets by origin to generate a map showing their unique global footprint. Download and print this year's poster to find global connections with students by investigating the geography of the pencil, and/or check out *Mission:Explore*, a unique geography education Web site. And since Geography Awareness Week is always the third week of November, look ahead to November 17–23, 2013!

Regional Office of Education | 107 East Mill, Waterloo IL 62298 | 618.939.5650 | www.roe45.org

NOVEMBER 11-17, 2012 IS ALSO AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week provides all Americans an opportunity to celebrate public education and to honor those individuals who make a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration features a special observance each day of the week: Monday, Nov. 12: Veterans’ Day, Tuesday, Nov. 13: Parents’ Day, Wednesday, Nov. 14: Education Support Professionals’ Day, Thursday, Nov. 15: Educator for a Day and Friday, Nov. 16: Substitutes’ Day. Find an online toolkit at <http://www.nea.org> to plan learning activities and to show appreciation.

DISCOUNTED TODD WHITAKER BOOKS AVAILABLE

Several of Todd Whitaker’s more popular books—*What Great Teachers Do Differently*, *What Great Principals Do Differently*: *18 Things That Matter Most*, *Making Good Teaching Great*, *Leading School Change: 9 Strategies to Bring Everybody on Board*, *Ways to Improve Student Behavior: Simple Solutions to Complex Change* and *What Great Coaches Do Differently*--are still available at the discounted price of \$26 from the ROE. E-mail Audrey at the Waterloo office ahicks@roe45.org to place an order and have a check to ROE #45 in your school office; your order will be delivered in interschool mail.

AREA STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON CAREER EXPERIENCE

Area eighth graders and high school students had the opportunity in October to experience hands-on technical career exploration activities in two different venues. Approximately 525 eighth graders attended Eighth Grade Technical Career Exploration Day, sponsored by Beck Area Career Center and the Okaw Regional Vocational System, on October 19. Each participant chose two technical careers to explore—auto mechanics, auto collision repair, law enforcement, welding, HVAC/construction, health occupations, agriculture, culinary arts, business marketing and entrepreneurship, child care, engineering or web design—and attended a college and career planning session that included an interest inventory. Then another several days area high school students in career and technical education classes attended Construction Expos at the DuQuoin Fairgrounds and Collinsville Convention Center. About nine union trade exhibits offered students hands-on activities, career information and acquaintance with application requirements.

LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the publication of the Institute Fund receipts and disbursements for Monroe and Randolph counties as required by Public Act 84-120 on or before January 1st of each year. *Monroe-Randolph Regional Superintendent of Schools, 107 East Mill Street, Waterloo, IL 62298*

Annual Institute Fund Report

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Balance on hand July 1, 2011	\$ 34,153.22
RECEIPTS:	
Fees – Teacher Certification & Registration	22,915.00
Interest Earned on Account	178.61
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 23,093.61</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Personnel– Salary/Benefits	7,475.31
Supplies/Equipment	802.30
Copying/Postage/Telephone	1,232.90
Prepaid Expense: Presenter for 10/5/12 Bi-County Institute	2,250.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 11,760.51</u>

BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-12 **\$ 45,486.32**

A detailed list of all receipts and expenditures is available for public inspection at the Regional Superintendent’s Office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 7, 2012	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Red Bud–Performing Arts	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 9, 2012	Superintendents’ Council	Cohen House–Chester	9:00 – noon
Nov. 13, 2012	Math Connections	St. Patrick’s–Ruma	8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 15, 2012	Continuous & Systemic Improvement	Sparta Holiday Inn Express	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 27, 2012	School Improvement Planning	Sparta Shooting Complex	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 6, 2012	Danielson Framework Workshop	SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 152	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 13, 2012	Guidance Counselors’ Meeting	SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 152	9:00 a.m. – noon

THE MONROE-RANDOLPH ROE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT THE WATERLOO OFFICE AT 618-939-5650 OR THE CHESTER OFFICE AT 618-826-5471.