



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

# *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe & Randolph Counties*

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WARMEST THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES FOR A  
WONDERFUL HOLIDAY AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR



## LASTING THOUGHTS ON LEADING AND CHANGE

There is little doubt that we are witnessing a time of unprecedented change in education. For the Regional Office the retirement of Dr. Marc Kiehna has simply crested for our office the waves of change. One lesson we have been reminded of during our transition is that we should all strive to empower our organization, colleagues and staff to become strong so that in our absence everyone continues to excel. We are grateful for Dr. Kiehna's leadership and his persistence to make us better individuals and educators. As I reflect on his tenure as our Regional Superintendent, I want to assure all that I will maintain the values and ethical leadership that Dr. Kiehna emulated. Although we will see some general changes in our organization, there is no doubt that our core beliefs and actions will remain true to those ideals for which he was elected.

And while we all continue to navigate through the waves of change, wondering if this is high tide or the beginning of a tsunami, I want to share a quote from Theodore Roosevelt that has been reverberating in my mind, "The best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing." While we all wonder what may be around the next corner, we can either anxiously become the victims of change or the victors of change. I know, even with certain bumps and bruises, we will all emerge better and will exceed our own expectations . . . and so will our students.

## ILLINOIS SCHOOLS TO GET NEW REPORT CARD

Illinois' School Report Card just released will be the last of its kind. At this time next year, parents and the public will get a report card with pertinent data in a good format "that they can use to make decisions," according to former State School Superintendent Glenn "Max" McGee. The data will include the percentage of eighth-graders who pass a crucial algebra class, of freshmen who pass enough ninth-grade courses to stay on track for graduation and of high school graduates who are considered prepared for college. Also highlighted will be the number and type of college-level advanced placement classes offered by high schools—a sign of the curriculum's rigor—as well as the availability of foreign language classes, which help prepare students to live in a global society. Even the array of extracurricular activities will be reported, and parents will get a broader picture of a school's learning atmosphere from data on how often teachers are absent, whether teachers get good or excellent performance evaluations and other factors. New student, parent and teacher surveys will be filled out early next year to help shape the portrait, through questions that will attempt to gauge everything from school safety to how welcome and involved families are at school.

## SECOND ANNUAL RUBE GOLDBERG COMPETITION AT RBHS

Red Bud High School will be hosting its Second Annual Rube Goldberg Competition on Wednesday, February 6, 2012 with an inclement weather date of February 13. This year's national Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge is to "hammer a nail." Interested school teams should register online at <http://www.rubegoldberg.com> (red registration button on left), pay a \$150 registration fee to the National Rube Goldberg Organization and, once registered, e-mail RBHS—[tmeyer@redbud.k12.il.us](mailto:tmeyer@redbud.k12.il.us), [jlewis@redbud.k12.il.us](mailto:jlewis@redbud.k12.il.us), or [bmagee@redbud.k12.il.us](mailto:bmagee@redbud.k12.il.us)—to confirm participation in this year's challenge.

## SIGN UP FOR TRS EMAIL ALERTS

Teachers' Retirement System can best keep retired teachers alerted about legislative developments by using its TRS Email Alerts system, along with updates on its Web site, [trs.illinois.gov](http://trs.illinois.gov). Urge friends and colleagues to sign up for the TRS Email Alerts at [members@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:members@trs.illinois.gov). Currently the General Assembly is poised to take action on a bill that would require all TRS members to make choices about the future of the cost-of-living adjustment for their pensions as well as their eligibility for state-subsidized health insurance in retirement. Access the *Issues and Answers* page on the Web site.

**EFFECTIVE PRINCIPALS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

A new study reported in the *Huffington Post* indicates that highly effective principals raise the achievement of a typical student in their schools by between two and seven months of learning in a single year; ineffective principals lower achievement by the same amount. Using three methods – average math achievement gains adjusted for background and mobility, differences in math gains under different leaders and year-to-year fluctuations in average achievement gains – researchers also concluded that strong leadership is especially important for revitalizing failing schools.

**ENCOURAGE DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Dual enrollment – taking college courses while in high school – can be an effective strategy for raising rates of college enrollment, persistence and completion in two- and four-year colleges. Recent research found that students who completed at least one college course through dual enrollment in high school were 2.21 to 2.3 times more likely to attend any type of college than a similar student who did not complete dual enrollment. Students enrolling in college who completed at least one dual enrollment course in high school were also 1.79 to 2.07 times more likely to persist from the first to the second year in a two- or four-year college than a student who did not complete dual enrollment. Finally, students enrolling in college who completed at least one college course through dual enrollment in high school were 1.65 to 1.77 times more likely to complete a postsecondary credential in a two- or four-year college within six years than a student who did not complete dual enrollment. This is food for thought for area guidance counselors.

**FREE BOOKS FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

Plan now for Read Across America Day, Saturday, March 2 – Dr. Seuss’ birthday – by applying for FREE books from the Literacy Empowerment Foundation. An order form is available at <http://www.lefbooks.org>, will be processed on a first come, first-served basis and must be received by February 16, 2013.

**STATE SCHOLARS SHINE IN AREA HIGH SCHOOLS**

Eighty-nine bi-county students – approximately the top 10% of graduates from approved area high schools – were recently named as 2013–2014 Illinois State Scholars. The following students are recognized for performing in the top half of their high school class and/or scoring in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the ACT, SAT or PSAE. *Congratulations!*

<p><b><u>Chester High</u></b> Keel, Tawnee McClure, Elizabeth Schroeder, Chelsea Venable, Casey Wagner, Andrea <b><u>Columbia High</u></b> Chkautovich, Pavle Colbert, Katherine Depoy, Brendan Fahnestock, Gina Gleason, Julie Hawickhorst, Kevin Heller, Allyson Hollis, Zachary Howard, Alexander Lanman, Jamie Leingang, Nathaniel Longust, Hannah</p>	<p>Mytyk, Micaela Norris, Madison Pansing, Max Riley, Matthew Rodenberg, Nicholas Rzeczynski, Amy Santanello, Logan Schmidt, Benjamin Thompson, Rebecca Thornhill, Tyler Varel, Erika Weilbacher, Erica <b><u>Coulterville High</u></b> Huff, Matthew Zimmerman, Julie <b><u>Gibault High</u></b> Branz, Matthew Dickinson, Alexander Hollman, Olivia</p>	<p>Kuester, Daniel Meyer, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Bradley Patterson, Kaytlin Weiler, Jacob Witges, Martin <b><u>Red Bud High</u></b> Becker, Alyssa Buch, Sierra Dilley, Mackenzie Dobbs, Jean Ellner, Michael Harms, Emily Heizer, Ian Horrell, Kellie Koopman, Rebecca Krause, Taylor Rhodes, Zachary Seibert, Morgan Smith, Levi</p>	<p><b><u>Sparta High</u></b> Crabtree, Michaela Craig, Taylor Keller, Katherine Linders, Adam Schenk, Kari Shevlin, Seth Watt, Brittany <b><u>Steeleville High</u></b> Armstrong, Alex <b><u>Valmeyer High</u></b> Andres, Luke Lewis, Joshua McCarthy, Alyssa Wuertz, Madison <b><u>Waterloo High</u></b> Argus, Brittany Bundy, Austin Buss, Patrick Daniel, Kellin</p>	<p>Duncan, Brendan Finnerty, Michaela Garner, Elizabeth Grant, Nathan Hempfen, Blair Hempfen, Sarah Imm, Jessica Kaiping, Jodi Lepp, Sarah Minnaert, Riley Nalley, Kimberly Nobbe, Devon Probst, Jessica Quinones, James Rodenberg, Joshua Savering, David Schulz, Amy Sendelbeck, Lauren Webber, Rachael Wilson, Katelyn</p>
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>Dec. 13, 2012</b>	<b>Guidance Counselors’ Meeting</b>	<b>SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 152</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – noon</b>
<b>January 18, 2013</b>	<b>Superintendents’ Council</b>	<b>SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 152</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – noon</b>

**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.**