



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe & Randolph Counties

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CERTIFICATION MEETINGS WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS

The best way to get answers to your questions about the professional educator licensing changes that will take place July 1, 2013—including changes in renewal and professional development requirements—is to attend an ROE-sponsored meeting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Waterloo High School auditorium on March 13, Southwestern Illinois College—Red Bud's Performing Arts room on March 20 or the Chester High School cafeteria on March 27. The pamphlet that was distributed recently—and that is also available on our website www.roe45.org—answers many questions, but you can get personal attention at these area informational meetings. REGISTER at www.roe45.org/registration/licensure to attend.

In the meantime—before June 30, 2013—log on to www.isbe.net/ECS. Update your address and phone number in *My Profile, Personal Settings*. Update your e-mail address in *My Profile, Account Settings*. Click on *Professional Development, Activities* and print the page listing your activities. Click on *My Credentials, Current Credentials* and print your credentials page. If you are active in an Illinois public school and have a **2013** renewal date, complete your renewal steps, including payment of registration fees on ECS by June 15, 2013. Then print your Statement of Assurance after it is approved and keep a copy in your professional file. Finally, visit www.roe45.org and click on Certification/Licensure for current information and updates.

CHECK OUT WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS ON ROE WEB SITE

On the Calendar at the end of this *Brief*, you will see that a lot of events are scheduled. To find more information about a particular event at www.roe45.net, click on *Workshops and Events* under either *Calendars* or *Professional Learning* on the left. When you click on any event, you will be reminded of *When* and *Where* (A map is also provided.). Then by clicking on *more details* and looking at *Attachment* on the left, you can generate a copy of the flyer with registration information.

ISBE OPENS WINDOW

Illinois State Board of Education announced the opening of the 2013 Spring Window for the Illinois \$2000 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Fee Subsidy on February 15, 2013. Funding is available to 500 candidates at this time. Those interested can learn more about NBPTS at www.nbpts.org and more about funding by phoning 309-438-1833 or e-mailing NBRC@illinoisstate.edu.

ARTS 4 ALL! IS 2013 THEME

Celebrate Illinois Arts Education Week March 11-17, 2013 with the theme *Arts 4 All!*—dance, drama, music and visual arts. Illinoisans can be proud that their state was one of the first to develop and adopt learning standards in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social science, physical development and health, foreign languages and fine arts. Students are expected to know the language of the arts; through creating and performing, to understand how works of art are produced and to understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present. Anyone who sees Hinsdale South high schooler Holly Johnson's winning poster this year should encourage local art students to refer to the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net/grants/arts_week in August 2013 for information about the upcoming 2014 poster contest.

IGNITE YOUR LESSONS WITH PBS LEARNINGMEDIA

Learn more about how to use PBS LearningMedia, a free resource available to teachers throughout the nation, at a free webinar brought to you by Illinois public broadcasters on Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. As part of the webinar bi-county colleague, Sparta Primary second grade teacher Mary Beth McCormick, will explain her use of SMART Boards, SMART Slates and Ipads in her lessons. "Integrating digital media into lessons with these technology choices and PBS LearningMedia," she says, "spurs collaboration and enables the literature to come alive!" CPDUs will be given, and you can register now at <https://wgbh1.adobeconnect.com/e3il1g5xtsc/event/registration.html>.

PARTICIPATE IN PERANDOE'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Again this year Perandoe Special Education District is asking your help in its annual needs assessment to determine how best to match resources with the needs of bi-county schools and their special education students. General education and parochial/private school teachers should go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P7V5ZTD> to complete a short survey by March 29, 2013.

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

When was the last time you read a poem . . . or, better yet, wrote one? Can you recite a poem from memory? Do you know that Pulitzer Prize winner Natasha Tretheway is the United States Poet Laureate? Are you familiar with her work? National Poetry Month in April was established by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to widen the attention of individuals and the media to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our poetic heritage and to poetry books and journals and to encourage year-round poetry readership. Part of the month-long celebration includes the Dear Poet Project: students are invited to handwrite letters to poets serving on the Academy of American Poets Board of Chancellors. Anyone can also subscribe to Poem-A-Day at Poets.org: great poems from new books will be e-mailed to you each day of National Poetry Month. Then April 18, 2013 will be Poem in Your Pocket Day: carry a copy of a favorite poem in your pocket that day, sharing it with co-workers, family and friends. Don't have a favorite poem? April will be the month to find one.

CONSIDER MATHEMATICS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN APRIL

Get ideas such as scavenger hunts, trivia quizzes and professional lectures at <http://www.mathaware.org> as activities for Mathematics Awareness Month, April 2013. The American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics have announced that this year's theme is *Mathematics of Sustainability*. Humanity continually faces the task of how to balance human needs against the world's resources while operating within the constraints imposed by the laws of nature. Mathematics helps us better understand these complex issues and is used by mathematicians and practitioners in a wide range of fields to seek creative solutions for a sustainable way of life. Society will need to make challenging choices; mathematics will provide tools to make informed decisions.

FIELD TRIP PACK STILL AVAILABLE

A Field Trip Pack offered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is available to teachers of PreK to third grade students from the Regional Office of Education at its Red Brick School location. Filled with items such as books, lesson plans, a plant press, binoculars, Port-a-Bug container, trowel, bird call, dip net and sand sieve, just to name a few, the Field Trip Pack helps groups explore nature. Hands-on equipment encourages self-initiated learning, and there is no charge for the pack's use. Contact Susan at Red Brick 618-282-7722 to reserve its use.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 6, 2013	Rube Goldberg Competition	Red Bud High School	9:00 a.m.
March 7, 2013	ELA 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 8, 2013	School Counselor Meeting	SWIC-Red Bud-Room 152	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
March 9, 2013	Young Authors' Conference	Sparta Lincoln Middle	8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
March 12, 2013	Math K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 13, 2013	Educator License Update	Waterloo High School	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 15, 2013	Superintendents' Council	Red Bud Hosp. (2 nd floor)	9:00 a.m. - noon
March 19, 2013	Platinum Chef	Red Bud High School	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
March 20, 2013	Danielson Framework-Coll. Conversations	Steeleville American Legion	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
March 20, 2013	Educator License Update	SWIC-Red Bud-Perf. Arts	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 21, 2013	Math K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 27, 2013	Educator License Update	Chester High School	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
April 4, 2013	Math 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 4, 2013	Art Festival	Valmeyer Elementary	5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
April 9, 2013	Danielson Framework-Structure & Content	Steeleville American Legion	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
April 10, 2013	Perandoe Transition Fair	SWIC-Red Bud	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
April 11, 2013	Continuous & Systemic Improvement	Sparta Holiday Inn Express	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
April 11, 2013	Math 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 12, 2013	Monroe-Randolph Regional Advisory Bd.	SWIC-Red Bud Room 123	noon - 3:00 p.m.
April 16, 2013	Math Connections	St. Patrick's-Ruma	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
April 16, 2013	Spelling Contest	Coulterville Elementary	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
April 17, 2013	Danielson Framework-Teacher Implement.	Mon. Co. Annex-Waterloo	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
April 18, 2013	Sci., SS, & Technical K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 23, 2013	Sci., SS, & Technical K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 24, 2013	Danielson Framework-Coll. Conversations	Mon. Co. Annex-Waterloo	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
April 30, 2013	Sci., SS, & Technical 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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.