Region 8 ESC NewsNotes

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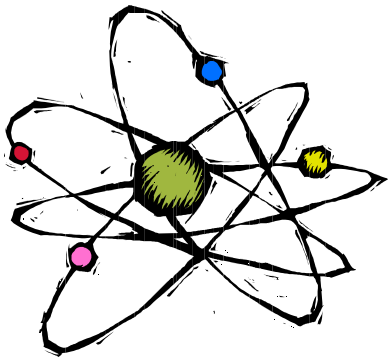
Congratulations to Warsaw Community Schools!

The Indiana Department of Education has awarded Warsaw Community Schools an Innovation Grant for $439,534 to create a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academy.

The Academy is to be built around the Project Based Learning (PBL) model.

The grant was open to schools across the state to bring fresh ideas and approaches to improving student performance through educator effectiveness, college and career readiness, and school improvement. The IDOE received 231 applications from schools and other entities vying for the competitive grant.

As a result of receiving this grant, Warsaw will be able to hire a STEM advisor to provide professional development for teachers and purchase state-of-the-art equipment to be used by the students at the Academy.



Spring/Summer Professional Development

April 26:	RISE Session 3: Classroom Observations, Part 2 (Steuben)
May 10:	RISE Session 3: Classroom Observations, Part 2 (Region 8)
May 14:	RISE Session 3: Classroom Observations, Part 2 (Warsaw)
May 17:	RISE Session 3: Classroom Observations, Part 2 (East Noble, DeKalb Eastern, Huntington)
June 14:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (Huntington)
June 15:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (Region 8)
June 18:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (East Noble)
June 19:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (Steuben)
June 20:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (DeKalb Eastern)
June 22:	RISE Session 4: SLOs Steps 2-5, RISE Summative Scoring, Conferencing/Providing Feedback to Teachers (Warsaw)

Five Region 8 schools corporations have received eLearning Classroom Innovation Grant Awards to implement classroom technology projects to advance student learning in key area: Math and E/LA ISTEP+ performance, AP exam scores, graduation rates, and use of student growth data.

The following schools/corporations were selected for the grants:

- East Noble School Corporation
- Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District
- M S D Wabash County Schools
- North Adams Community Schools
- Smith-Green Community Schools

Director's Corner:

Robert Huffman

I would imagine June 30, 2012, seems like a long way off, but for me it is coming faster than I would like for one simple reason: that is when I am retiring. This is becoming a bitter-sweet time for me to evaluate. Although I am looking forward to more travel and time with family, I will miss all of the great people I have met during my long education journey of nearly 45 years.

One Saturday I had the privilege of presenting information about the RISE evaluation tool to the Blackford School Board and the entire Administrative Team. As I mentioned to them, I have sat in their chairs and can relate to how they feel and understand things that take place in their school district. This Board was very interested in this process for both their Administrative Team responsibilities and also for what responsibilities their teachers will have in the process. A great day was had by all.

We have now completed the second phase of the RISE training for nearly 250 administrators and a few teachers in our participating school districts. I must say I have enjoyed the opportunity of presenting to my colleagues in this setting. Teaching is what I have always enjoyed, and this has given me the opportunity to be in that atmosphere once again.

This summer we will once again sponsor the Custodial and Maintenance Workshop for all of our valued staff members who serve in these capacities. The Workshop—Whatever it Takes-Wednesday, June 13—will be held at Wabash City Schools in two of their buildings—the high school gym and the middle school auditorium and classrooms. The cost to participants has remained the same at $25.00. The workshop will provide new ideas for both indoor and outdoor cleaning and care taking, lunch, and door prizes. We look forward to providing this opportunity for all of you in the Northern and Central Indiana areas.

I am uncertain what has happened to winter, but don't count it out just yet. I remember driving home for spring break from college the first week of April and getting stuck on our county road in a large drift. With that thought in mind, spring breaks are just around the corner. This will be a time for not only you, but for all of your students, to get those batteries all charged up for the end of the year run.

Coach's Corner

As you may have heard, Region 8 ESC recently updated their web site. As a portion of doing this upgrade, we PBL Coaches have also updated our area. In our portion of the website, you will find some blogs containing frequently asked questions and celebrations of things we see as we travel (this area will grow as we have time to provide more input). There are also some links to Elementary, Middle, and High School Projects that have been shared. We encourage you to use the resources that are available, and to share your excellent PBL Unit Plans so that others can benefit from your design and your reflections on the unit. Here is the direct link to the PBL Coaches' portion of the new Region 8 Website: http://www.r8esc.k12.in.us/project-based-learning

Don't forget about our PBL Chat Communities that can be found on Learning Connection…..The links below will take you directly to these areas (but, you will have a quick stop along the way to log in to the Learning Connection-so, have your username and password handy)

Elementary Chat Area: https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/UserGroup/GroupDetail.aspx?gid=1675

Secondary Chat Area: https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/UserGroup/GroupDetail.aspx?gid=1676

For those that may want or need some additional resources, please use the following:

Additional Resources Elsewhere on the Web:

Organizations / Project Ideas

Buck Institute for Education http://www.bie.org

West Virginia Department of Education http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/pbl.html

Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound http://elschools.org

Association for Experiential Learning http://www.aee.org

High Tech High http://www.hightechhigh.org/

Research and Readings

Seven Essentials for Project-Based Learning http://www.ascd,org

Reinventing PBL blog by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss http://reinventingpbl.blogspot.com/

Guidelines and Tools

The Project Approach (Sylvia Chard) http://www.projectapproach.org/

Questioning.org (Jamie McKenzie) http://questioning.org/

PBL: Building Motivation (4Teachers.org) http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/more.shtml

Criteria for Authentic PBLg (STAR Center) http://www.rmcdenver.com/useguide/pbl.htm

Reinventing PBL (ISTE) http://www.iste.org/store/product.aspx?ID=566

Recommended Texts:

Edutopia: Success Stories for Learning in the Digital Age ISBN: 0-7879-6082-9

The George Lucas Educational Foundation; Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Company; Copyright © 2002

PBL Handbook ISBN: 0-974034-304

Markham, Thom; Larmer, John; and Ravitz, Jason; The Buck Institute for Education; Copyright © 2003

Beyond Technology: Questioning, Research, and the Information Literate School

ISBN: 0-9674078-2-6

McKenzie, Jamie; 1st ed. Copyright © 2000

The Project Approach: Making Curriculum Come Alive ISBN: 0-590-12852-3

Chard, Sylvia C.; Book One Copyright © 1998

Learning by Heart ISBN: 0-7879-5543-4

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Service is our middle name.

2011-12 Executive Board:

Chairperson: Tracey Shafer, Huntington Co. Community Schools

Vice Chair: Steve Yager, MSD Southwest Allen Co.

Secretary: Wylie Sirk, North Adams Community Schools

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Steve Darnell, Smith-Green Community Schools

Sherry Grate, DeKalb Co. Central USD

Jerry Harshman, Eastbrook Community Schools

Ann Linson, East Noble

Scott Litwiller, South Adams Community Schools

Tim Long, Jay School Corporation

Patricia O'Connor, Whitley Co. Consolidated Schools

Dennis Stockdale, Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community Schools

Region 8 ESC to Offer PBL 101 Workshops in June and August 2012

As part of the grant Region 8 ESC received from the Talent Initiative, we will again be doing a series of PBL 101 workshops for teachers in grades 6-12 who wish to implement project-based learning in their classrooms. These three -day workshops focus on the foundations of project-based learning and provide teachers with the tools and resources they need to implement projects in their classrooms. These workshops will be conducted by the faculty from the Buck Institute for Education and held in locations in the northeast Indiana counties that are part of the Talent Initiative grant.

Region 8 ESC has been able to schedule a total of nine workshops between June 12, 2012 and June 27, 2012, and July 30-August 8, 2012. Below is the schedule:

June 12-14, 2012	Prairie Heights Middle School; Blackhawk Christian School and Indian Springs MS.
June 19-21, 2012	East Allen County
June 25-27, 2012	DeKalb Eastern
July 30-August 1, 2012	4 County in Kendallville and Wabash Middle School
August 6-8, 2012	Region 8 ESC and Potawatomi Inn in Angola

In addition, Region 8 will be holding a PBL 101 workshop for K-5 teachers at Region 8 on August 7-9, 2012.

More information and registration details will be coming to schools in early April. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Leeson at aleeson@r8esc.k12.in.us .