



Schoolhouse News

February 25, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Edleaders Network:** The Ed Leaders Network will debut March 1. These webinars are 15 – 30 minutes in length and will be perfect for your faculty and department meetings. **Current Webinar topics include Leadership, Management, Behavior Management, Teaching and Learning, Data, Legal, Climate and Culture, and Technology.** Your IASP membership will allow you to subscribe for 12 months at just \$99. This gives you unlimited access to all webinars in the library. **With 50 webinars currently available, that makes each one just \$2!** Plus, you can show them to all your staff now and in the future.

Visit <http://edleadersnetwork.org/> to see a free webinar and to view a video overview of this exciting professional development service.



- **Plymouth High School Teaching Positions:** Plymouth High School has three openings for the 2011-2012 school year: Industrial Technology, Math, and Project Lead the Way. Apply online at <http://www.plymouth.k12.in.us/>
- **Math Teacher Vacancy:** Guion Creek Middle School needs a 7th grade math teacher that is available to finish out the school year. Contact Kurt Benjamin, Principal at 317-388-7950 or at KBenjamin@pike.k12.in.us
- **Aspiring Principals Conference:** Send us your great teachers and promising leaders who are interested in becoming an administrator. The conference is April 17-18 at the IASP Conference Center. Now is the time to recruit our next leaders! The sessions include Mock Interviews, Resume Building, Special Education Updates, Administrative Licensing and Contracts, and Q & A with first year administrators. Register now at <http://www.iasp.org/dppAspiring%20Principals%20Conference2011.html> and lets build our profession now!
- **Public Schools PSA:** Visit http://www.schooltube.com/video/2877ee228b9050b10b59/Education-PSA?utm_source=site-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=site-notice to view a great public service announcement produced by the Northridge Middle School students (North Montgomery Schools). These messages along with your emails and phone calls need to be delivered to legislators to impact potential voucher legislation.
- **Education and Culture in England:** Lisa Lantrip, Assistant Superintendent at MSD Wayne Township in Indianapolis, is leading a trip to England June 7—16, 2011. Click here for an [itinerary](#). The total cost of the 10-day tour is approximately \$2500.

- **Kids Against Hunger:** Kids Against Hunger of Central Indiana will be hosting its first annual Pack-a-thon at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds in Noblesville on Saturday, April 16. We plan to pack up to half-a-million meals during three 2-hour shifts that will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM. This is registered to be the biggest Global Youth Service Day Event in Indiana. This food will be distributed locally through food banks and globally to orphanages in Haiti and Africa. This is a great way to incorporate philanthropy and service learning into your school. Go to www.kidsagainsthunger.net to register and to download flyers for your school.
- **Summer Food Service Program:** The SFSP is a federally funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the State of Indiana. Local organizations that sponsor the program provide nutritious meals to eligible children and are reimbursed for their efforts. Potential sponsors include schools, summer camps, community centers, and other organizations that offer exercise, education, or guidance to children. With the help of more than 234 sponsors last year, the SFSP provided 1.74 million free meals and snacks last summer to more than 45,000 low-income Hoosier children aged 18 and under. Unfortunately, more than 500,000 school age remain eligible and un-served. Read the letter from [Senator Lugar](#) and the [Sponsor Memo](#) for more information.
- **generationON:** in Indiana would like to help make you aware of the following opportunity for service learning/projects in Central Indiana through United Way. Since all the "Learning to Give" lessons on the generationOn website www.generationOn.org have youth service included, any lesson could be used in conjunction with these projects. Just log onto the website and click on the "Learning to Give" link and search away!!! Some of the specific units include United Way in them:

"Global Philanthropy the United Way: Community by Community 6-8
<http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit33/lesson1.html>

"Opportunities in Philanthropy" 9-12 <http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit57>

We are pleased to announce United Way's 17th Annual Youth Day of Caring on **Friday, April 15** and **Saturday, April 16, 2011**. These days are designed to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for thousands of central Indiana youth ages 5-25 at non-profit agencies in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, and Morgan counties. Join us in celebrating Global Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world. Visit www.uwci.org/youthdayofcaring to access the registration link which opens February 21. [Click here for the flier.](#)

- **IASP and the Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University Bloomington** are announcing a grant opportunity for principals to extend their overseas travel experiences into their schools. Grants of up to \$1000 will be available to principals each of the next 4 school years. Look for the application to be posted in February with an application deadline of April 1.

INDIANA NEWS

- **School's Peacemakers are Key to its Turnaround:** Two teachers at an Indiana elementary school make up the school's discipline team, created as part of the school's turnaround plan. The two begin their day at the school's breakfast program and aim to get to know students and uncover potential issues. "We're getting the pulse of the building," one teacher explained. "We want to be on top of the problems so we can deal with them before they erupt. If it's bad at the beginning of the day, it's just going to go downhill if we don't find a way to get things in order. For the full story, go to <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110220/NEWS08/102200369/1013/NEWS04/School-s-peacemaking-pair-gently-lays-down-law>

IASP NEWS

- **ERS Resources:** IASP has a partnership with the Educational Research Service. This valuable service is offering a special offer. For a limited time, you can **save 50% on ALL ERS RESOURCES, including ERS Publications and ERS Focus On Titles**. Order any ERS resource in stock and receive a 50% discount! Use code **WD50** when you place your order. Order online at www.ers.org, or call 800-791-9308. Best Selling Publications Include:
 - *Crucial Conversations About America's Schools*--excellent book study for your administrative team. Shares the truth about the research on charter schools, pay for performance, graduation rate, achievement gap, and turn-around schools.
 - *The Principal's Playbook*--workbook that summarizes 20 of the best research-based practices for Increasing Student Engagement, Improving Teacher Effectiveness, Implementing Effective School Practices and Providing Effective Principal Leadership; perfect for an administrator writing a Professional Development Plan for a school or district.
 - *ERS Focus On*--targeted research and implementation guides on 25+ topics, each is only 15-25 pages long and sold in packets of 15 copies, designed to feed your professional learning communities.

ERS has provided reliable research to educators like you for over 35 years—and now you can purchase these informative resources for a great price! Take advantage of this offer NOW—for limited time from ERS.

- **The Asian Learning Center** of Indiana is trying to determine the state of international education in Indiana. We hope to use this information to make a compelling argument for more financial and curricular resources to support our effort. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ALCI>.

- **Save the Dates:** Assistant Principals Conference is Saturday, November 19 and Sunday November 20. The Fall Principals Conference is Sunday November 20 through Tuesday November 22. We are excited for the energy and speakers that will be available with the conferences back-to-back at the Downtown Marriott!

NATIONAL NEWS

- **Federal House Votes to Cut Ed. Programs, From STEM to Literacy:** Federal aid for programs that support literacy, as well as the teaching of STEM education, foreign languages, and American history, are among many to be cut or zeroed out altogether under legislation approved this weekend by the new Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. In all, the sweeping spending cuts proposed for the federal government include more than \$5 billion at the U.S. Department of Education. Click on the headline to read the full story.
- **NASSP Offers Federal Budget Breakdown:** [Click here](#) to learn about the specifics of the FY11 and FY12 federal budgets currently being worked by the US House of Representatives and the President
- **Can Florida Schools make the shift to digital classrooms by 2015?** The Florida Board of Education wants all students to use digital content instead of traditional textbooks by 2015, and some schools already are beginning to transition to all-digital classrooms. However, some educators say schools need more time and resources to undertake a complete shift, and questions remain about which devices to use and how to ensure equal access for all students.
<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/education/os-florida-digital-textbooks-20110219,0,7666653.story>

IASP LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **House Bill 1003:** At the time of this writing, HB 1003 has been held up due to the walkout of the House Democrats protesting both HB 1003 and HB 1468 “Right-to-Work” legislation. Your voice has made a difference.
- **Senate Bill 575 Collective Bargaining:** The Senate passed this bill 30-19 and it would limit unions to bargaining only on wages and wage related benefits. The full story from the Indianapolis Star can be read at <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110223/NEWS05/102230328/Senate-passes-bill-limit-teacher-collective-bargaining>. This is a bill to read so we can be ready when the House debates this beginning next week. The text of the bill can be found at <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=575>. This bill has plenty of amendments so I typically read the “latest printing”.
- **Senate Bill 1 Teacher Evaluations:** The Senate passed this bill 29-20 and it requires school districts to develop and implement multi-faceted evaluations for teachers and principals. It also requires districts to rebuild their salary scales so educators receive pay increases based on performance and responsibilities. The full text of the bill can be found at <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1>. This bill has plenty of amendments too so I typically read the “latest printing”.
- **Legislative Resources:** Click here for [State Legislator Contact Information](#). The 2011 IASP Legislative Platform was adopted by the IASP Board and you can read the [Full Platform](#) here. IASP has also prepared [Talking Points](#) which summarize the key elements of the agenda.

IDOE NEWS

- **IDOE Forum:** The IDOE will hold a public forum at Greenfield Central High School on March 10th at 4 pm. Dr. Bennett will be present to discuss proposed changes in public education. This will be a good opportunity to dialogue with the IDOE and voice concerns regarding education reform in Indiana.
- **State Board takes action on rule**

The Indiana State Board of Education took action to adopt LSA Document #10-635, a proposed rule to implement the requirements of IC 20-32-8.5. The document adds further explanation to HEA 1367-2010, the 3rd Grade Reading Bill, approved during last year’s General Assembly. HEA 1367-2010 required the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to “*develop a plan to improve reading skills of students and implement appropriate remediation techniques,*” up to and including retention after 3rd grade.

The proposed rule amends the current law to include the *K-6 Reading Framework*. The Framework provides research-based guidance on components of effective reading instruction. Schools that have under a 90 percent passing rate on IREAD-3 (the newly created ISTEP+ reading exam) must implement the framework and adopt a scientifically-based core reading program.

Additionally, the rule requires all elementary schools (with grades K-3), including charter schools, to submit an annual reading plan to the department. The plan must include measurable student achievement goals for each grade level, an assessment plan and interventions for struggling students.

Beginning in 2011-2012 school year, promotion decisions will be based on a student's ability to reach mastery on IREAD-3. If the student does not pass in their first attempt on the IREAD-3 exam, a second attempt during locally offered summer school could result in the student being promoted to the next grade. The rule provides three good cause exemptions for retention. Those include one for special education students, one for English Learners and one for students that have been retained twice prior to fourth grade.

The rule must be approved by the Attorney General and Governor before it is finalized. If finalized, IDOE expects school corporations to submit the reading plan this spring. Pending these decisions, all reading plan interventions and requirements go into effect during the 2011-2012 school year. For more information on the reading framework and reading plan, go to:

http://www.doe.in.gov/opd/languagearts/docs/3rd_grade_reading_plan_august_25.pdf.

- **Model Evaluation Rubrics:** As you may know, the Senate Education Committee will soon be hearing [SB 0001](#) that would require local school corporations to develop and put to use annual evaluations based on multiple measures, including some type of student performance or growth data. In anticipation of the discussion, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is offering Indiana's teachers and school leaders an opportunity to review drafts of model teacher and principal evaluation rubrics. The state plans to offer these rubrics to local school corporations next year.

The draft evaluation rubrics resemble spreadsheets and align performance categories — Highly Effective, Effective, Improvement Necessary, and Ineffective — with detailed descriptions of observable behaviors and indicators that inform best practices.

I hope you will take time to review the Principal Effectiveness Rubric draft at http://www.doe.in.gov/puttingstudentsfirst/docs/2011-01-28_principal_effectiveness_rubric_draft.pdf and the Teacher Effectiveness Rubric draft at http://www.doe.in.gov/puttingstudentsfirst/docs/2011-01-28_teacher_effectiveness_rubric_draft.pdf.

These draft rubrics will also be distributed to statewide media along with a press release from IDOE with additional details on how the rubrics were developed. If you have any questions regarding the rubrics, please email IDOE at superintendent@doe.in.gov.

- **Elementary/Middle School Accountability:** The State Board of Education met on Wednesday, January 5 and approved moving forward with the accountability models for elementary/middle school and the high school. A revised version of the elementary/MS model was discussed which uses letter grades for performance instead of a grade point number.

The final version looks like this:

- Using a 90-80-70-60 grading scale for each subject, give yourself a letter grade for each subject tested.
- From this letter grade, you can go up a letter grade if a high percentage of your students had high growth in the subject area. This is looking at all the students who were tested for your school and who are included for accountability purposes.
- Or, from the original letter grade, you could go down a letter grade if a high percentage of your students had low growth in the subject area. This is looking at all the students who were tested for your school and who are included for accountability purposes.
- You can now earn a (+) on your current letter grade if a high percentage of your bottom 25% kids have high growth.

The details of this plan can be viewed in this [file](#) provided by Jeff Zaring. The proposed [Rule Language](#) is now available. Begin forming your comments and look for the date for Public Testimony.



\$\$ GRANT TIPS OF THE WEEK \$\$

Guardian Life Insurance: Girls Going Places Awards

The Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Program rewards the enterprising spirits of girls who demonstrate budding entrepreneurship, are taking the first steps toward financial independence, and are making a difference in their schools and communities. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: girls between the ages of 12 and 18 as of December 31, 2010, who are enrolled in middle school or high school and are a U.S. legal resident. Deadline: February 28, 2011.

http://www.guardianlife.com/womens_channel/girls_going_places/girls_going_places.html

American Historical Association: Awards for Teaching of History

The American Historical Association Beveridge Family Teaching Prize recognizes excellence and innovation in elementary, middle school, and secondary history teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives. The individual can be recognized either for individual excellence in teaching or for an innovative initiative applicable to the entire field. Maximum award: \$1,500. Eligibility: teachers K-12. Deadline: March 15, 2011.

<http://www.historians.org/teaching/Beveridge.htm>

Kohl's Corporation: Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarships

The Kohl's Kids Who Care Program recognizes and rewards young volunteers who transform their communities for the better. Maximum award: \$10,000 scholarship toward post-secondary education. Eligibility: youth 6 to 18 years old, not graduated from high school by March 15, 2011. Deadline: March 15, 2011.

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

Unsung Heroes 2011 Awards: The ING Unsung Heroes program annually provides grants to K-12 educators utilizing new teaching methods and techniques that improve learning. Each year, educators submit applications for an ING Unsung Heroes grant by describing projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. 100 educators will be selected to receive \$2,000. Deadline: April 30. More info at: <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>

Horace Mann: Scholarship Program for Educators: The Horace Mann Companies is offering scholarships for public and private school educators to take college courses. Maximum award: \$5,000. Eligibility: full-time K-12 teachers, librarians, or teacher's aides. At time of application and award of scholarship, entrants must have at least two years K-12 teaching experience and work at least 30 hours a week at a U.S. public or private school. Residents of Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, and Hawaii are not eligible. Deadline: March 1, 2011.

<https://www.horacemann.com/teacher-lounge/educator-scholarship-opportunities/how-to-apply.aspx>

National Association of Biology Teachers: Evolution Education Award: The NABT Evolution Education Award, sponsored by The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS), recognizes innovative classroom teaching and community education efforts to promote the accurate understanding of biological evolution. Maximum award: \$1,000, a recognition plaque to be presented at the NABT Professional Development Conference, and a one-year complimentary NABT membership. Eligibility: biology and life science teachers. Deadline: March 15, 2011. <http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=132#award2>

Do Something: Seed Grants: Do Something Seed Grants can be used towards project ideas and programs that are just getting started, or to jump-start programs and realize ideas for the first time. These grants can also be used towards projects that are already developed and sustainable, towards the next steps of the project and organization to help as the project expands. Maximum award: \$500. Eligibility: U.S. or Canadian citizens aged 25 or under. Deadline: rolling. <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/faq>

Caring Institute: 2010 Caring Awards: The Caring Institute is now accepting nominations for its annual Caring Awards. Nominees should exemplify caring and serve as worthy role models for others.

Award criteria include length of service, scope and impact of work, challenges overcome, and imagination and innovation. Maximum award: All winners are honored at a special ceremony, and young adult winners receive funds for college. Eligibility: individuals from nine to 99 years old. Deadline: March 1, 2011.

<http://www.caring-institute.org/caringawards.html>

NABT: Award for Excellence in Encouraging Equity: Sponsored by Ward's Natural Science and the National Association of Biology Teacher's Role and Status of Women in Biology Education Section, the Award for Excellence in Encouraging Equity recognizes efforts by biology educators to encourage, promote, and strive for equity in the educational community. Maximum award: a recognition plaque, an honorarium, and a one-year complimentary NABT membership to be presented at the NABT Professional Development Conference. Eligibility: biology and life science teachers. Deadline: March 15, 2011. <http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=132#award2>

Mantis: Awards for Community and Youth Gardens

Each year, Mantis presents the Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens to charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. Maximum award: a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator with border/edger and kickstand, and choice of gas-powered 2-cycle engine or electric motor, valued at \$349. Eligibility: Any nonprofit garden program may apply. In the past, winners have included schools, churches, correctional facilities, parks departments, youth camps, community gardens, and many others. Deadline: March 1, 2011. <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/mantis.asp>

Yamaha: Young Performing Artists Program

The Yamaha Young Performing Artists Program (YYP) recognizes outstanding young musicians from the world of classical, jazz, and contemporary music. Each year, the YYP Finalists are invited to perform at the Music for All Summer Symposium held in late June. Maximum award: \$5,000 in retail credit towards a professional model Yamaha instrument, as well as a series of clinics and master classes with renowned artists, designed to help winners launch their music career. Finalists will also receive a professional recording of their performances and national press coverage. Eligibility: musicians ages 16-21. Deadline: March 15, 2011. <http://www.yamaha.com/yamahavn/CDA/ContentDetail/WrappedTextDetail.html?CNTID=15478>

Jamba Juice: It's All About the Fruit

The Jamba Juice It's All About the Fruit grant program provides schools with fruit trees to create engaging nutrition and gardening experiences. Observing and exploring fruit production gives a deeper understanding and appreciation for this essential element of our diet. Recipients will be selected based on plans to promote nutrition education, ideas for incorporating fruit tree activities into the curriculum, and ability to sustain the program over multiple years. Maximum award: fruit trees valued at \$500 and the Jamba Juice It's All About the Fruit Youth Garden Guide; trees will be selected based on recommended varieties for each area. Eligibility: schools and community garden programs in the United States gardening with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Deadline: April 11, 2011. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/jamba.asp>

Toyota: International Teacher Program

The Toyota International Teacher Program for Costa Rica Study will send teachers to eastern Costa Rica from November 19 to December 3, 2011 to study the country's environmental and cultural preservation efforts. Maximum award: a fully funded (transportation, lodging, meals, and all program activities) ten-day trip to Costa Rica. Eligibility: U.S. teachers grades 7-12 with at least three years of full-time teaching experience. Deadline: May 4, 2011. <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Toyota-International-Teacher-Program>

Enjoy this early issue of Schoolhouse News and watch the news for more legislative updates. We will send further news as we hear it! Gerald and Todd