



Schoolhouse News



March 25, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Language Curriculum Needed:** Lakeland High School (LaGrange) is looking for someone who would be willing to share French and/or German levels 4 and 5 and Sign Language levels 1 and 2 through video conferencing. They are willing to reciprocate with something they might have that you do not. Lakeland runs on a five period trimester. Please contact Eva G. Merkel at emerkel@lakeland.k12.in.us or at 260-499-2476.
- **Support Riley Families:** Two local Riley families are amongst 14 finalists competing in the national Family Dance-off competition, a dance video contest promoting healthy lifestyles and benefiting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.
The winner will be determined in part by online voting. If the local family wins, Riley Hospital for Children will receive a \$30,000 donation and the family will receive a \$5,000 prize; second place wins a \$20,000 donation and \$3,000 prize; third place wins a \$15,000 donation and \$1,500 prize, respectively.
Please visit the [Family Dance-off](#) site March 20-26 to vote for the Polackin and Carlson family videos. You may vote five times per day. [Click here](#) to view the press release.
Winners will be announced the week of March 28.
- **Keynote Address AASA 2011 National Conference on Education:** [Click here](#) for a transcript of the Diane Ravitch keynote address. You can view the video by visiting www.aasa.org.
- **Book for School Nurses from the NASN:** *Are You Sick? No, I'm Seven: School Nurses Share Their Funny Stories \$18* - By Julie Edwards and school nurses from around the nation - School nurses share their funniest stories about the things kids do, the things they say, and the often colorful way they look at time. Laugh-out-loud funny, these stories share the wonderful world of school nursing. Hailed as heroes and healers, school nurses make a difference every day. Come enjoy a laugh with a school nurse and see why they must be truly prepared for anything. [Order here](#).
- **School and College Law Conference: New Educational Legislation in Indiana** presented by Indiana State University will take place Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at the Hulman Memorial Student Union. The conference is from 9:30am until 3pm. The focus this year will be on how the legislative pieces will affect your role as principal. At a cost of only \$60, this is a great opportunity to get an advance look at what you will be expected to do in 2011-12 and beyond. Please [click here](#) for the flyer and registration form. Registrations must be received by Friday, April 8, 2011.
- **2011 Financial Capability Challenge:** There are only three weeks left for high school teachers to sign up for and administer the 2011 Financial Capability Challenge. Get the word out to educators in your circle today! The Challenge website has tools available that you can use to easily spread the word. To learn more about or to register for the Challenge, please visit http://challenge.treas.gov/educator_Info.aspx.

- **Ball State University Residential Leadership Series:** Experiences are interdisciplinary in nature, and feature Ball State University faculty, as well as a wide spectrum of guest lecturers. Credit hours earned under EDAD 692 may be applied toward degree requirements or license renewal. The 5 meetings are on Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm. [Click here for the flyer.](#)
- **Partners in Learning:** Please view the March [newsletter](#).
- **Laporte Community School Corporation Job Openings:** To view a job description for a High School Mathematics position, [click here](#). To view a job description for a High School Science Teacher, [click here](#).
- **International Mentoring Association:** The 2011 Midwest Regional Mentoring Conference will take place May 6th at The Ohio State University Campus. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Youth Philanthropy Ambassador Orientation:** Ambassadors are individuals who promote the concept of philanthropy among children, youth and young adults in communities throughout Indiana. If you would like to become a Youth Philanthropy Ambassador, sign up for an upcoming orientation session. [Click here](#) for the flyer.
- **Global Grant Announcement and Opportunity:** The Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) and the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University Bloomington (Global Center) will award grants to six Indiana principals for the purpose of extending their overseas travel experiences or domestic experiences of international significance into their schools. Funding for each grant will be up to \$1,000 and any Indiana School Principal is eligible to apply. Three grants will be awarded at-large, with one grant being awarded at each of the elementary, middle and high school levels. **The application deadline is Monday, April 11 and the application should be emailed to tbess@iasp.org.** The application can be accessed at www.iasp.org/SchoolhouseNews/March2011/GlobalGrantApplicationFinal3.11.11.doc. It can also be found by visiting www.iasp.org/globalgrant. For questions or more information, please contact Todd Bess at tbess@iasp.org or by phone, 317-891-9900 ext 210.
- **Cell Phone Policy Change:** We are currently looking to change our cell phone policy. Are there any schools that currently allow the usage of cell phones, for educational purposes, in the classroom? Contact Kelly Murphy at Southridge High School: murphyk@swdubois.k12.in.us or at (812) 683-2272 ext. 2012
- **generationOn Disaster Relief Resources:** Resources at generationOn can help children and young adults better understand how to be a part of the disaster relief, even when the disaster is far away, through lessons of philanthropy. Resources can be found at: <http://generationon.org/global/big-happenings/operation-kids-help> or http://learningtogive.org/lessons/disaster_relief/ Both of these will take you to the LTG classroom lessons and service projects on the topic of disaster relief. Like all LTG lessons, they are coded to state academic standards. I'm attaching the LTG resource page mentioned, so you can see all the possibilities to help support this effort. Just log onto the generationOn website: www.generationOn.org and you will find an index page with disaster relief lessons and project ideas for grades K-12 from the Learning to Give link.
- **Classroom Walkthrough Software:** We are looking for opinions on classroom walkthrough software. We would like to know which CWT software they might be using, pricing and whether they have any pros or cons on the software they are using. Please respond to: Richard A. Healy Principal - Milan High School at rich.healy@milan.k12.in.us or by phone: 812.654.3096.

- **Global Indiana:** If you are interested in taking participating in the Global Indiana trip to China in October, view the following two links: [Enrollment Form](#) and [Itinerary](#)
- **CollegeChoice529:** As a leader in education, you can help your employees and community learn more about the CollegeChoice529 direct Savings Plan. [Click here](#) for a letter and more information from State Treasurer, Richard Mourdock.
- **Hazelden Foundation: Conference on Bullying:** Date/Time: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
 This Webinar will provide an overview of the issue of bullying, what research shows us works in bullying prevention, and practical strategies schools can use to address the issue. Participants will also be introduced to the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today.
 Participants will be able to:
 1. Describe what bullying is and its consequences for students and schools.
 2. Explain what research shows are strategies that effectively reduce bullying in schools.
 3. Evaluate whether their school is ready to address the issue of bullying.
 4. Describe the components of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the leading program to address the issue of bullying.
 Presenter: Dr. Marlene Snyder, Ph.D., Clemson University--leading researcher in the field of bullying prevention and co-author of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)
 To Register: Visit <http://www.olweus.org/public/index.page> and look for the Upcoming Webinars section on the homepage.
- **SWIS Info Needed:** Whitko High School is looking for information regarding the web-based discipline information system SWIS (School-wide Information System). If you are currently using the program and would like to help provide information or opinion, please contact Assistant Principal Dave Parker at david.parker@whitko.org or by phone at 260.723.5146 x7002.
- **Summer Institute Opportunity:** C.L.A.S.S. will again hold their annual summer institute in Indianapolis that is entitled "Great Teaching, Global Thinking." Dr. Young Zhao, a bestselling author and staunch supporter of America's public schools is the featured speaker. [Click here](#) to view the brochure.
- **Lugar Academy Days:** U.S Senator Dick Lugar invites you to the 10th annual Academy Days taking place on multiple days throughout the month of May. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer.
- **Purdue Leadership Development Program (LDP)** is sponsoring a workshop entitled, "Work Smarter, Not Harder with Technology" on Thursday and Friday, April 21st and 22nd, 2011. There is no registration fee to attend, participants must register by completing and returning the registration form [here](#), no later than Monday April 18th, 2011. [Click here](#) to view the agenda.
- **Fall Conference Update:** Assistant Principals Conference is Saturday, November 19 and Sunday November 20. The Keynote Speaker to open the conference will be **V.J. Smith** who will be sure to give you an uplifting charge to start the conference when he talks of ["Life's Great Moments."](#) The Fall Principals Conference is Sunday November 20 through Tuesday November 22. The opening keynote (which will also close the AP conference) will be [Yong Zhao](#). His message of education reform and what is right with the American system will be welcomed by all. Monday's opening session will have a national presence with [Bill Daggett](#), a recent keynoter at NASSP. His topics and energy will kick off a great day of professional development **Save the Dates!!**

- **Edleaders Network:** Visit the Ed Leaders Network now by going to www.edleadersnetwork.org. Watch the [free webinar](#) and [subscribe today](#). IASP members can subscribe for only \$99; use the Discount Code “eln-earlybird” when you are ready to check out online. You can also subscribe through the IASP website and use a school or corporation PO or check. Go to <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1033437-G7r8QEduUt> and submit your form to IASP, we will take care of all the rest!

Take a look at the wide array of webinar topics and individual webinars available to all subscribers to ELN.

Behavior Management: Cooling Down Your Classroom: Simple Strategies

[How to talk to Millennials](#)

[Solving the People Puzzle](#)

Climate and Culture: [Creating a Positive School Climate through Recognition, Appreciation, and Celebration](#)
[Effective Faculty Meetings](#)

[Herding Cats: 10 Steps to Meaningful Change](#)

Data: [Classroom Walkthrough for School Systems: An Audit for Quality Improvement](#)
[Systemic Approaches to Problem Solving](#)

Leadership: [21st Century Skills: Overview of the 21st Century Partnership](#)

[21st Century Skills: Practical Implications](#)

[Building Distributed Instructional Leadership in High Schools](#)

Legal: [Top 5 Occupational Hazards of Being a Teacher](#)

Management: [Hurt People Hurt People: Surviving Toxic Relationships](#)

[Managing Student Activity Accounts](#)

[Working with Difficult Employees](#)

Teaching and Learning: [How Do Students Really Learn Vocabulary?](#)

[Strong Core Instruction: Vocabulary](#)

Technology: [Conquering Info Clutter for Educators](#)

[Power Point Tips and Tricks](#)

[Skype for Educators](#)

[Twittering for Educators](#)

These webinars were just added last week: [How Do Students Really Learn Vocabulary?](#) presented by Gretchen Courtney and [Solving the People Puzzle](#) presented by Mark and Karen Wagnon.

Featured ELN Presenter: Meet Meg Ormiston



For over twenty five years Meg Ormiston has been involved in professional development activities focused on changing instructional practice in the classroom. Meg marries her passion for technology with a deep curriculum background and over twelve years as a classroom teacher. Meg has served as a curriculum coach, school board member, keynote speaker, professional development specialist and grant facilitation specialist. Meg has also authored four books, written numerous articles, collaborated on professional videos and participates in many personal learning communities. Meg’s webinars include Conquering InfoClutter for Educators, Google Calendar, Skype and Twittering for Educators.

I watched the “Skype for Educators” and enjoyed the overview and also learned of good classroom resources for connecting with other classrooms. You can also learn how to connect with book authors who are willing to come in to

your classroom for 10-15 minutes via Skype. Please contact Teri Hoke anytime at thoke@iasp.org or 317-891-9900 if you have questions about the Ed Leaders Network. We encourage you to subscribe today.



IASP NEWS

- **Effective Leadership Practices to Transform Schools:** Save the Date – May 10, 2011. A full-day conference designed to help school leaders in Indiana connect the research on turnaround schools and leadership to practice. This event will engage school and district leaders in a conversation about research on school leadership practices and the connection between that research and the recommendations in the IES Practice Guide *Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools*. Sponsored by Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center and the Indiana Association of School Principals
- **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 let's build our profession now! The \$149 registration fee will also include IASP membership for 2011-12 for the Aspiring Principal. The Marriott East has extended their block room rate for this conference.
- **Job Openings:**
 - Stevens Point, WI - [Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services; Elementary School Principal](#)
 - Portland, OR - [Partner Relations Representative - Multiple Areas](#)
 - San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Alamitos,, CA - [Director, Integrated Services](#)
 - State Board of Education, CO - [Commissioner of Education State of Colorado](#)
 - Boulder, CO - [Commissioner of Education State of Colorado](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

- **Massachusetts to require four years of math for college enrollment:** The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education voted unanimously yesterday to require high school students seeking admission to a state university to take four years of math in high school, in an effort to boost college completion rates and to expose students from low-income communities to a more rigorous curriculum that better meets the expectations of colleges. http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2011/03/23/state_board_boosts_math_requirement
- **The Indiana DOE is considering changes to the high school math requirements:** The DOE is considering combining Math Lab and Pre-Algebra into a new course: Algebra I Enrichment. [The information provided to the State Board can be read here.](#)
- **Top 10 Web Tools for Teachers:** In the quest to work smarter, not harder, teachers are flocking to an ever-expanding galaxy of web-based tools for help with everything from classroom management to classroom discussions. Here are some tools that are now grabbing teachers' attention—and the attention of their students. Virtually all are free, with a few offering paid upgrades that add some technological bling. <http://www.hepg.org/hel/article/495>
- **Obama Warns Congress, Budgets That Education Cuts Will Be Blocked**

During a speech at a Virginia middle school, Obama said he expects Congress to reauthorize ESEA before the start of the new school year and added he would not sign a bill that cuts education spending. The President told the gathering, "A budget that sacrifices our commitment to education would be a budget that's sacrificing our country's future. And I will not let it happen". To read more click here: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/03/14/26obama.h30.html>

- **Helping students understand Japan's nuclear crisis:** Read this article with helpful tips, questions, resources, and links for your classroom discussions. The writers of this blog post offer suggestions for teaching students about the nuclear crisis in Japan. Students can explore the pros and cons of nuclear energy and research the ongoing situation at the Japanese reactors. They can then work in groups to write news bulletins that explain aspects of the events as part of an exercise that is aligned with national academic standards. <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/16/crisis-in-japan-understanding-nuclear-energy-and-reactors/?ref=education>

IASP LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **House Bill 1369 Pay to Performance for Administrators:** Pay to performance program for school administrators. Requires the department of education and school corporations to work together to set performance goals for improvement in: (1) student performance; (2) retention of students and graduation rates; (3) budgeting and fiscal performance; and (4) teacher professional development. Requires a contract of employment entered into between the governing body of the school corporation and a school administrator to include provisions concerning compensation based on the individual's performance in meeting the goals for improvement for certain criteria. Provides that a superintendent of schools is not required to hold a teacher's or superintendent's license. . It would also allow a school corporation to establish a policy to require administrators hired after July 1, 2011 to be residents of the school corporation.

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/HB/HB1369.2.html>

IASP testified against this bill on Wednesday due to concerns over the language. Steve Baker, IASP President spoke with passion for the principals and indicated that principals are already evaluated based on their performance. Their focus is on student performance, especially with the new Accountability Models. Tying 5% of your salary will not change how we develop our schools, and could be a hindrance in some cases. The members of the **Senate Education Committee are listed below. Please contact them and let them know of the difficulties this language presents. The Committee will hear this bill again next Wednesday for amendments and will vote to pass it out of the committee to the full Senate. It has already passed the House and could become legislation with Senate approval.**

- Dennis K. Kruse (**CHAIR**) (R) Auburn: s14@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9443
- Earline S. Rogers (**RMM**) (D) Gary: s3@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9491
- Carlin Yoder (**RM**) (R) Middlebury: s12@in.gov or cyoder@ccsgoshen.org. State House: 317-232-9984
- Jim Banks (R) Columbia City: s17@in.gov or jim@jimbanks.us. State House: 317-232-9808
- James Buck (R) Kokomo: s21@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9466
- Howard "Luke" Kenley (R) Noblesville: s20@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9453
- Jean Leising (R) Oldenburg: s42@in.gov. State House: 317-234-9054
- Frank Mrvan, Jr. (D) Hammond: s1@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9432
- Scott Schneider (R) Indianapolis: s30@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9808
- Timothy D. Skinner (D) Terre Haute: s38@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9849

You can double check which senator represents you by going to <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/>

- **Here is a list of articles that appeared in the Indy Star this week to give you a feel for the public debate over education.**
 - <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110323/OPINION08/103230309/1291/OPINION08/A-voice-reason-school-reform>
 - <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110325/NEWS05/103250334/Lawmakers-protesters-media-settled-into-routines?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>
 - <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011110323019>
 - <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110325/NEWS08/103250333/?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|IndyStar.com|p>
 - <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110325/OPINION01/103250323/My-View-Aim-great-teachers-achieve-better-results?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|p>

- On Wednesday, March 23, 2011, the House of Representatives Education Committee held a hearing chaired by Republican Rep. Robert Behning at 8:30 AM in Room 156-C. Testimony was taken on three (3) bills:
 - **SB 496 Parental initiatives for school reorganization:** SB 496 was presented and supported by the Indiana Chamber's Derek Redelmen. A number of people were in opposition to various parts of this bill. Dr. Vic Smith was the most poignant citing numerous reason why this bill should be amended or defeated.
 - **SB 495 Lawsuits by school corporations:** SB 495 was presented first by Republican Senator Dennis Kruse. Support for this bill came under the guise that it does not make sense to use tax payer money to sue the state. The "Bonner" case was cited as support for this bill. Frank Bush rose in opposition saying that school corporations do not sue in a vacuum and that money could be raised from other sources. He also noted that schools on occasion sue other state agencies.
 - **SB 497 Higher education scholarship:** SB 496 was presented and supported by the Indiana Chamber's Derek Redelmen. A number of people were in opposition to various parts of this bill. Dr. Vic Smith was the most poignant citing numerous reason why this bill should be amended or defeated. Last it was supported by John Russell, Director of Early College @ IUPUI. He cited student success stories and talked about a recent article that appeared in the Indianapolis Star. In a brief conversation he said that all of their students were commuters, not on campus residents. The meeting was ended as Rep. Behning had another meeting to get to. The meeting was over by 10:30 AM. Thanks to Bob Pychinka for attending this meeting and providing this synopsis.

- **The Senate Education Committee passed HB 1002 (Charter Schools).** Amendments to this bill include: the transportation onus to school districts was deleted from the bill, charter schools would not receive part of your transportation distribution; second class city mayors could not charter; the requirement for the number of charter school teachers holding at least a bachelor's degree was increased from 51% to 75%; a process was refined for closing an unsuccessful charter; charters placed under the same PL 221 regulations; and the superintendents' contact limitation to a "severance not in excess of one year's annual compensation" was deleted completely from the bill; the student expulsion process is to be the same as in other public schools; the 51% parent trigger (51% of parents in a school could vote to declare it a charter) was changed to "51% of parents and staff." **This bill was passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and will now be heard on the Senate floor. Contact your Senator with your thoughts for this bill.**

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1002>

- **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”.

- **House Bill 1479: School Performance and Turnaround Academies:** School performance and turnaround academies. Provides that a school that remains in either of the two lowest performance categories for a fifth year, or, in certain circumstances after a third or fourth year, becomes a turnaround academy. Requires the state board of education to set specific goals for a turnaround academy, and allows the turnaround academy to be operated by a special management team. Provides that a turnaround academy that meets the goals set for it becomes an independent school corporation.
This bill passed out of the House Education Committee 8-3. It has had one reading on the House Floor and could be heard again when the House reconvenes. **Conversation with Dr. Bennett indicated that the DOE does not desire for this volume of schools to be in this designation. He also indicated, however, that the focus on schools who consistently are in the bottom two categories will become greater and that is the intent of this legislation. Also impacting this language will be the timing and the decisions of the state board on the new accountability models.**
This is especially true at the high school level given the increase in cut scores on the ECA tests and the dramatically different proposed rule for high school accountability. Continue to contact your House Representatives. The full text of the bill can be read at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/IN/IN1479.1.html>.

- **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. Read the last printing of the bill at: <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=575>. We anticipate that some of the language from the House version of this bill, HB 1337, will appear in SB 575 when it is heard in the House Ed committee. John Ellis (IAPSS) and Frank Bush (ISBA) have also helped with this language as it will go to the House and IASP appreciates their assistance.

INDIANA NEWS

- **Stand for Children** has launched an affiliate organization in Indiana. The non-profit has been recruited to Indiana by the Mind Trust. SFC has received \$242,300 from The Mind Trust and \$150,000 from the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation to support its Indiana launch. The group's first order of business will be to round up support for the SB 1 legislation creating merit pay for teachers. Indiana becomes the group's eight state affiliate, and Stand for Children takes credit in helping to pass merit pay legislation in Colorado and Arizona. Stand for Children hired Linda Erlinger as the new executive director for the Indiana affiliate. She is the former senior vice president of DonorsChoose.org, and a former Teach for America corps member.
- **Teaching jobs, hard to find:** According to the Associated Press, "Indiana residents who opted to switch careers and become teachers in hopes of warding off job cuts from the recession are finding employment hard to come by in some school districts across the state. An Indiana Department of Education report shows less than 40 percent of those who completed the transition-to-teaching programs in 2008-2009 were working in Indiana schools last year. Rates for those hoping to teach in elementary schools were even lower, with just 25 percent finding teaching jobs in 2009-2010, the report said."
- **Teacher's Retirement Fund:** The TRF member counseling staff relocated to the lower level of One North Capitol Ave. in Indianapolis in late January. All member counseling appointments will be held in the new location. [Read More...](#)
- **PBL Brings B-I-G Possibilities to IND:** What do you get when you combine the three R's - Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic - with the three C's - Critical thinking, Collaboration, and Communication? The answer is project-based learning or PBL. Though only three little letters, PBL has made a big impact in classrooms across Indiana prompting the development of a middle school PBL network, expansion of Indiana's Project-Based Learning Institute, and the creation of the PBL Coaching Cadre for K-12 schools. [Read More](#)
- **Talking TAP: Teacher-Centered Reform for Student-Focused Achievement:** TAP™: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement keeps highly effective teachers in the classroom and provides ongoing professional support designed to increase long-term student academic growth. Questions surround this innovative professional development system as 44 Indiana schools and more than 1,500 teachers prepare to implement TAP™ during the 2011-12 school year. What is TAP? How does it work? How are teachers compensated? Indiana TAP Director Jennifer Oliver and Regional Coordinator Christy Martino addressed these questions and others to help TAP™ dance into Indiana. [Watch the Video](#)
- **Global Indiana:** To read the newsletter from the Consortium for International Exchange, [click here.](#)
- **Deadline for Healthy Hoosier School Award Applications is April 1, 2011!** Healthy schools produce healthy students – and healthy students are better able to learn and achieve their true potential. If your school places a high priority on teaching students life-long healthy habits, be sure to submit an application for the **2010-2011 Healthy Hoosier School Award**. All applications must be submitted online by April 1, 2011. To prepare for this process, we encourage you to go to the PAPER application first so you can organize your answers. The link for the paper application is http://take.actionforhealthykids.org/site/DocServer/2010-2011_HHSA_Application_Final_Without_Scoring_Protect.doc?docID=861

Please disregard the instructions link under step 3 in this document. For questions about navigating the application, please contact Beth Foland at efoland@doe.in.gov . When you have all the information prepared, you must **access and submit your application ONLINE**. That link is here <http://www.a4hk.org/KID/awards/hoosier/registration.php>.

- **National Learning Forward Conference:** Indiana School Administrators and Teacher Leaders, if you are interested in gathering strategic plans and effective practices for your students and teachers, then plan to attend a great summer conference planned with that successful end in mind. Indianapolis will be the host city for the National Learning Forward conference on July 17-20, 2011 at the new Marriott Hotel. Save \$50.00 on registration for a 3 or 4 day registration when you register by April, 30th, 2011. Learning Forward was formerly the National Staff Development Council. Detailed information can be found at their national web site, www.learningforward.org.

IDOE NEWS

- **Schools Across the State Given Four Stars:** The Indiana Department of Education released the list of 2009-10 Four Star Schools today, following the creation of a new, easy to understand method of qualifying for the statewide honor. Out of 1,808 public schools, 188 were given this distinction. Thirteen of 261 private schools also received the honor this year.

“Today I offer sincere congratulations to Indiana’s 2009-10 Four Star Schools as we celebrate their dedication to academics,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. “These schools set high expectations for their students on a daily basis, and as a result, students work hard and exceed those expectations. The students and teachers in these schools should be extremely proud of this honor, and I am confident they will continue down this path of success.”

Following numerous inquiries and recommendations from educators regarding what were confusing calculations for the Four Star Schools program, the IDOE’s Office of Accreditation created new benchmarks for the program. These new requirements, which were used to determine the 2009-10 honorees, establish the 25th percentile cut score for combined passing percentages for English/Language Arts and Mathematics as well as the percent of students passing both for all grades tested. Schools that rank in the top 25th percentile for each grade tested and each of these categories and have made AYP qualify for the Four Star School Award.
- For a list of all the 2009-10 Four Star Schools, go to:
http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/docs/2009-2010_4_Star_School_List.pdf.
- For a full breakdown of the new Four Star School methodology, go to:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/fourstar.html>.
- **Bennett Responds to Action on Charter Bill:** Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett offered the following statement in response to HB 1002’s successful passage in the Senate Appropriations Committee today: “Despite the ongoing absence of House Democratic members, it’s encouraging to see action resume on important education initiatives, such as the charter school legislation the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced today.
 - “Following a lively but respectful debate, members of the committee voted to send House Bill 1002 to the full Senate for second reading. Most important, the senators agreed to restore the accountability provisions to the bill, ensuring that public charter schools are held at least to the same standards we hold traditional public schools—if not higher standards. Action taken by this bipartisan group of senators today will help our state transform the current system and provide quality options for all Indiana students.”
 - **Curriculum and Waiver Update:** Please read an update from the DOE on [2011 Curriculum Requirements](#), and also [Waivers](#) and the rulemaking for school operations.

- **High School Mathematics:** The State Board heard an update on math courses and requirements. They are considering increasing the requirements of the Core 40 diploma to include a “math experience” to insure students build their math proficiency in their senior year. This is related to the belief that all students should complete Algebra I by the end of their freshman year. This would impact the Pre-Algebra course many students take. The DOE is considering combining Math Lab and Pre-Algebra into a new course: Algebra I Enrichment. [The information provided to the State Board can be read here.](#)

- **New Resources to Assist Schools and Districts in the Development of School Discipline Plans:** Under HEA 1419, school corporations in the state of Indiana are required to submit a school discipline plan to IDOE by July 1, 2011. Beginning this week, PBIS Indiana has posted a set of web-based modules providing information and resources on the various components to be addressed in those discipline plans. These web-based modules can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~pbisin/HEA1419/>.
 Currently, modules are available on; Reforming School Discipline (zero tolerance and alternatives), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Using Data to Inform School Discipline Practices. In the coming weeks, additional modules and resources will become available on School-Based Mental Health Services, Family Engagement, and Collaboration with Other Agencies. For those who are interested, Professional Growth Plan points can be received for completion of each module.
 PBIS Indiana is one of six statewide centers in the Indiana Resource Network, a collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education to provide support for improved services for students with and without disabilities.

- **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.
 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 \$\$

Target Stores Grant

Target Early Childhood Reading Grants support school-based reading programs as well as afterschool reading events and weekend book clubs. Meanwhile, Target Arts and Culture in Schools Grants support music, dance, drama and visual arts programs in classrooms. [More info >>>>](#) Grant range: \$2,000 (each category). Deadline: April 30

ESA Foundation

The ESA Foundation funds nonprofits that utilize technology and/or computer and video games to educate children and youth. [More info >>>>](#) Grant range: \$50,000. Deadline: May 15, 2011.

Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks offers Family Services Community Grants to community organizations providing recreation, education and other community activities to people, including youth, with autism spectrum disorders. The grant range is \$5,000 - \$25,000. Deadline (letter of intent): April 8, 2011. Visit the web for more information - [More info >>>>](#)

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>

NAGC: Passow Classroom Teacher Scholarship

The National Association for Gifted Children annually awards the A. Harry Passow Classroom Teacher Scholarship to teachers of grades K-12 who have shown excellence in teaching gifted students, the ability to meet the needs of gifted students, and commitment to furthering the development of their teaching skills. The scholarship is designed to reimburse/defray the costs of continuing education for up to two eligible teachers currently teaching gifted students in a variety of educational settings ranging from a homogeneous or full-day special class to a heterogeneous classroom. Maximum award: \$2,000. Eligibility: teachers K-12 who have been members of NAGC for at least one year. Deadline: April 18, 2011. <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=1255>

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>

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>

Some days, doing "the best we can" may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect - on any front - and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else.

-Fred Rogers: The world according to Mr. Rogers

Gerald and Todd