



# Schoolhouse News



November 5, 2010

**We hope you are making your plans to attend the Fall Professional Conference November 21-23. Great Keynote Speakers, Concurrent Sessions, Prizes, Vendor contacts and Conversations are waiting for you. Register Now and we will see you there!**

## POSITIONS OPEN

- Fairfield Jr.-Sr. High School in Goshen, IN has an English position available. Contact Ben Tonagel, Principal, @ [htonagel@fairfield.k12.in.us](mailto:htonagel@fairfield.k12.in.us) or 574.831.2184. A description of the opening can be found @ <http://www.fairfield.k12.in.us/jobs.html>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Student Mentoring:** Blue River Valley Jr/Sr High School is trying to form a new group whose function would be to provide mentoring, support, and guidance to other students who are struggling with anger management, relationships with peers, and/or other social issues. Please help Principal Ken Howell with this effort by contacting him at [khowell@brv.k12.in.us](mailto:khowell@brv.k12.in.us) or at 765-836-4811.
- Please see the [flyer](#) for those who have potential to be teachers in the area of special education. We are beginning a new program this Spring 2011 at Butler University. We hope that you will feel free to contact Theresa Knipstein Meyer at [tknipste@butler.edu](mailto:tknipste@butler.edu) or 317-940-8493 if you have more questions and to check out the Butler College of Education website [www.butler.edu](http://www.butler.edu) for more information.
- Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest invites you to participate in the upcoming webinar *Postsecondary Access and Success for Rural Students*. The webinar will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

The webinar is designed to provide a national audience of rural education stakeholders with research-based information on increasing postsecondary access and success for rural students. It is hosted by the REL Rural Working Group, which consists of representatives from all 10 regional educational laboratories.

Participants will engage in a national discussion about the implications of research on postsecondary access and success for rural students, featuring the IES Practice Guide [Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do](#). Presenting at the event will be William G. Tierney, Ph.D., lead author of the Practice Guide. Dr. Tierney is director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis and the Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education at the Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California. Also presenting at the webinar will be Judith Meece, Ph.D., co-director of the Rural High School Aspirations project for the IES-funded National Research Center on Rural Education Support and professor of educational psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Registration for the webinar is currently open. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. There is no registration fee. For questions or additional information, please contact Lisa Shimmel by telephone (312-283-2301) or e-mail ([lisa.shimmel@learningpt.org](mailto:lisa.shimmel@learningpt.org)).

➤ **Professional Development Opportunity for Secondary Educators:**

The Professional Educators Partnership (PEP) is sponsoring the second annual **PLC Workshop: Assessment, Accountability & Rigor in the High School Curriculum**. It is a one day workshop held at Valparaiso University on **December 2, 2010**. Registration is required. Please see the [invitation memo](#), [information flyer](#), [registration form](#) and the [agenda](#).

Additional information and directions are posted on our website at [www.valpo.edu/education](http://www.valpo.edu/education) and click on professional development tab. In response to the economic times the ***University has significantly reduced the registration fee for fall 2010***. It is the mission of the University to continue to serve teachers in the community to be the best they can be. Also, new this year, one FREE registration with every four paid registrations from the same school.

- Bill Denney, Bedford North Lawrence Principal is offering summer courses for license renewal. Click the [flier](#) for course listing and further details.

## INDIANA NEWS

### Election Results:



**November 3, 2010:** An **update to the Database of Indiana School Referenda** has been posted following the results of the November 2nd General Election. Of 17 school referenda on ballots in Indiana, 6 passed and 11 failed for a passage rate of 35.3%. Lowering the overall school referenda passage rate for 2010 to 42.4% from 50.0%. There were 13 General Fund referenda and 4 construction referenda on the ballot with passage rates of 30.8% and 50.0%, respectively.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the database for detailed results and further information on overall passage rates.

CEEP, Indiana's leading non-partisan program evaluation and education policy research center, promotes and supports rigorous program evaluation and education policy research primarily, but not exclusively, for educational, human services, and nonprofit organizations. Center projects address state and national education questions. To learn more about CEEP, go to <http://ceep.indiana.edu>.

## IASP NEWS

- **Growth Model Workshops:** IASP is offering regional workshops across Indiana to allow elementary and middle school principals to work directly with their school data with assistance from the DOE. Further details will come next week, but make plans now to attend and bring a teacher from your building. Additional dates and locations will be developed as plans are finalized. To see the details for each site and to register, click this link: <http://www.iasp.org/Student%20Growth%20Model.aspx>
  - **November 8: Valparaiso Administration Building and Crown Point High School**
  - **November 10: Muncie Central High School and Rushville**
  - **November 15: Jasper High School and Castle South Middle School, Newburgh**
  - **November 16: Scottsburg High School and Jennings County Middle School**
  - **November 17: Lincoln Elementary, Huntington and Region 8 Service Center, Columbia City**
  - **November 18: Lincoln Jr HS, Plymouth and Concord Jr HS, Elkhart**
  - **December 6: Wea Ridge MS, Lafayette and Twin Lakes HS, Monticello**
  - **December 8: Area 30 Career Center, Greencastle**
  - **December 9: College of Education, Indiana State University, Terre Haute**
  
- **Riley Raffle:** The raffle at the Principals conference needs your help. The more items to raffle off, the more we can raise for Riley and achieve our goal of \$1,000,000 in 2010-2011. Great items to bring include dining gift cards and gift certificates at your local golf course. Autographed items from college and pro teams are also items that entice us even more to help Riley. Bring your donated items to the registration desk when you come to the conference.
  
- **State Board Meeting Update:** The Board will move forward with the Accountability Models for Elementary/Middle School and High School. IASP has been involved in the development of these models and we want your feedback. Look for the DOE to send make these available in preparation for the special DOE State Board meeting on Wednesday, November 23. They will also simulate your school data in these models so you can see how the model will fit and affect your school status.
  
- **Principal for a Day:** The IASP Principal for a Day Program is scheduled for November 17. This is a great opportunity to network with a community leader regarding your school issues. Help build support for a building program or legislative issues by scheduling a community leader to shadow you in all that you do. [Guidelines](#) for this program are available as well as a [sample press release](#).

### ➤ **Bill Gavaghan Tributes**

Dear Friends of Bill,

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit the webpage for Bill or leave a story, memory, and/or tribute, I will like to encourage you to consider doing so. The comments you share will be treasured by his family forever. As his sister wrote in the guestbook this week...

***"As a sibling of Bill's, I have been so touched and awed by what I have read and heard about Bill these last several days.***

*I always knew Billy was dedicated to what he did for a living and that he was good at it. I have met people through the years that would compliment him as a principal, teacher or coach. I loved running into people who knew him and always walked away with a smile on my face. But never knew the magnitude of the people he touched.*

*His brothers and I did not know this part of him. He would never pat himself on the back or share his success stories with us. That just wasn't his way. To be able to read and hear your many stories has made us so proud."*

If you would like to leave a message for his family and friends or just read what others have written, please go to:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/billgavaghan>

There you may click on the "Guestbook" section and leave your messages. We are also looking for some pictures of Bill to add to this memorial journal. If you have any to share, please send them to:

[robertallenmcdaniel@comcast.net](mailto:robertallenmcdaniel@comcast.net)

A special "Thank You!" goes to those who have already written something in Bill's memory. We know that it is sometimes not easy to express your feelings for someone publicly, and certainly understand for those who choose not to do so. If you would like to send a personal note to Mary and family, her home address is:

Mary Gavaghan (Kelly and Tim)  
824 Ellenberger Parkway West Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219

Thank you and "keep sticking your neck out for kids" in honor of Bill.



- **The election is over and it is time to get ready for the new IN legislative session. This is the long session to craft a two year budget for the state. Make contact early with your new or returning legislator to establish a line of communication. Offer to be a resource on education issues, if they wish to know local impact of their state level decisions. Get your name in front of the staff and legislator before others establish themselves as the authority on schools in your legislators mind.**

### **Next Steps:**

Welcome and educate new members of government, we can't do this without you! Starting today and in the next few months, we ask you to:

- Send a letter of congratulations to each elected leader representing your community (federal, state, and local levels) and identify yourself or your organization as a resource on education policy issues.
- Ask all freshman members of Congress and our state legislature to begin thinking about the bipartisan effort it takes to craft good legislation to help children receive a quality education. We will be sending more information in the coming weeks.
- Work with your friends in education to get the message of your school needs to your newly-elected state and local leaders.
- Save the date of February 24, 2011 to come to the state house North Atrium at 8:00a.m to meet with your legislator. Superintendents will join with us in this opportunity to make your message clear to this sessions elected representatives what is important to principals. We need member advocates representing the districts and Indiana.
- Be an active reader of pending legislation on education to look for concerns we should address in committee hearings before the bill reaches the house or senate floor for voting. Review current bills for example P.L. 217 on bargaining to advise us on needed changes you encourage. We will pass this along to legislators and the DOE as they craft their interest in new legislation.
- Call us if you would like to attend an education committee hearing (usually scheduled on Wednesdays) and we will assist you in observing and testimony as well as provide lunch. Let Todd, Gerald or Bob Pychinka know when you plan to attend in 2011.
- The IASP legislative agenda will be voted on at the December 3 Board of Directors meeting and sent to members following any edits.

## **Papa John's Selects November 6 as Riley Hospital Day**

*For every pizza sold Papa John's will donate \$1 to Riley Hospital*



**INDIANAPOLIS (November 2, 2010)** – Papa John's is encouraging customers to order pizza on November 6. For every pizza sold at 67 participating locations, Papa John's will donate \$1 to Riley Hospital for Children.

"Almost everyone in our lives has relied on Riley Hospital for support, or at least knows someone that has utilized Riley for care," said Jamie Cartwright, area supervisor for Papa John's Pizza. "Riley is an important part of our community. We welcome support to make this fundraiser a success."

Indiana University Football Coach Bill Lynch will promote the fundraiser by appearing in Papa John's commercials during the Iowa vs. IU game on Saturday, November 6. With the help of IU Sports Properties, Papa John's was able to coordinate these efforts to help make a difference at Riley Hospital.

Last year's fundraiser for Riley kids raised more than \$6,100 at 14 participating locations.

### About Riley Children's Foundation

Riley Children's Foundation supports Riley Hospital for Children, Camp Riley and the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home. As Indiana's only comprehensive hospital dedicated exclusively to the care of children, Riley Hospital has provided compassionate care, support and comfort to children and their families since 1924. Each year children from all 92 Indiana counties turn to Riley Hospital and its regional clinics throughout the state more than 250,000 times. Riley Hospital's partnership with Clarian Health and its strong affiliation with the Indiana University School of Medicine make Riley Hospital for Children the leader in pediatric care in the state and the region. [RileyKids.org](http://RileyKids.org)



## IDOE NEWS

- **Area Schools to host "After School with Dr. Bennett" events.** Schools across Indiana that have achieved significant academic growth are hosting another round of meetings with Dr. Bennett and IDOE representatives. Educators interested in attending must register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5HVGJJY> by **November 3** to attend. The full [press release](#) is available by clicking the link.

Dr. Bennett will also be offering a meeting for School Board Members following each After School Event. The [School Board Flier](#) can be downloaded by clicking the link.

November 8 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. CST  
Aylesworth Elementary School  
5910 Central Ave., Portage, IN

November 18 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
Wakarusa Elementary School  
400 N. Washington St., Wakarusa, IN

November 10 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
Wilbur Wright Elementary School  
1950 Washington St., New Castle, IN

November 22 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.  
Thomas Miller Elementary School  
700 S. 4th St., Lafayette, IN

November 15 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. CST  
Helfrich Park STEM Academy  
2603 W. Maryland St., Evansville, IN

December 2 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
Central Indiana Education Service Center  
6321 LaPas Trail, Indianapolis, IN

November 16 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.  
Cortland Elementary School  
6687 N. 400 E., Seymour, IN

December 9 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
Deming Elementary School  
1750 8th Ave., Terre Haute, IN

November 17 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
Waynedale Elementary School  
7201 Elzey St., Fort Wayne, IN

## **Bennett to recognize High Growth**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett will honor nine high growth schools and school corporations during a ceremony at the Statehouse Monday. The honorees were selected because they have large numbers of students achieving high growth in both Mathematics and English Language Arts.

The Indiana Growth Model is a powerful tool to understand student progress based on where each student begins. Nine schools and corporations from across the state have realized significant academic growth among their students and will travel to Indianapolis to participate.

**WHO:** State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett; representatives and students from high growth schools and school corporations

**WHAT:** High Growth Recognition Ceremony

**WHEN:** Monday, November 8, 2010 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Indiana Statehouse, Room 228

## **Top National Education Stories**

### ➤ **Is 'Superman' a myth?**

In The New York Review of Books, education historian Diane Ravitch writes, "Waiting for Superman is a powerful weapon on behalf of those championing the 'free market' and privatization. It raises important questions, but all of the answers it offers require a transfer of public funds to the private sector." She takes exception to a number of misconceptions about charters and about public education that she feels the film encourages, summarizing the subtext of the film thus: "At last we have the culprit on which we can pin our anger, our palpable sense that something is very wrong with our society, that we are on the wrong track, and that America is losing the race for global dominance. It is not globalization or deindustrialization or poverty or our coarse popular culture or predatory financial practices that bear responsibility: It's the public schools, their teachers, and their unions." The film gives mere "acknowledgment" of the fact that only one in five charters gets the kinds of results that the film celebrates. Moreover, the film perpetuates "the central thesis in today's school reform discussion: the idea that teachers are the most important factor determining student achievement." As to the more heavily weighted factor, parents, the film says nothing of those children whose families are not available, for whatever reason, to heavily invest themselves in their child's education, or about children who are homeless, or children with special needs.

Read more: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/nov/11/myth-charter-schools/?page=1>

Related:

[http://www.boston.com/news/education/k\\_12/articles/2010/10/12/dont\\_wait\\_for\\_superman\\_focus\\_on\\_teachers/](http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2010/10/12/dont_wait_for_superman_focus_on_teachers/)

## Supreme Court Denies Hearing in Case Involving Board Policy Limiting Performance of Holiday Music

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[Return to Listing of Articles](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court denied a request to hear an appeal in a case involving a parental challenge to a policy of the South Orange-Maplewood School District (New Jersey) that limited the performance of religious music at school concerts. As a result, the 2009 decision of the Third Circuit stands, but is controlling precedent only in those states served by the Third Circuit (Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania).

The Third Circuit upheld the policy against the father's challenge under the establishment and free speech clauses of the First Amendment. Although the policy allowed music instructors to teach about the musical, cultural, and historical aspects of religious music, the policy contained the following limitations:

1. Religious holidays are not to be celebrated in the schools, except in the form of the secular nature of that holiday. However, opportunities to learn about cultural and religious traditions should be provided within the framework of the curriculum. Information about religious and cultural holidays and traditions, focusing on how and when they are celebrated, their origins and histories may be part of this instruction.
2. In planning school activities related to the teaching about religious holidays or themes, special effort must be made to ensure the activity is not devotional and that pupils of all faiths and beliefs can join without feeling they are betraying their own faith or beliefs.
3. Decorations with religious significance are not permitted.
4. Religious music, like any other music, can only be used if it achieves specific goals of the music curriculum.
  - a. *Music programs prepared or presented by student groups as an outcome of the curriculum shall not have a religious orientation or focus on religious holidays.*

Religious music associated with holidays could still be learned in the classroom as part of the curriculum and could be performed in concerts, providing that the performance did not coincide with the actual holiday referenced. The district also required the Director of Fine Arts approve all concert selections. The parent maintained that the policy and its application violated the establishment clause by evincing hostility to religion in contravention of the First Amendment. Moreover, he claimed the policy violated his children's First Amendment rights under the free speech clause to be exposed to and learn about various ideas.

In reaching its decision to uphold the policy, the Third Circuit applied the test from *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971), to deny the father's challenge to the policy. The *Lemon* Test requires that a policy serve a secular purpose, be written and implemented in such a way that it neither advances nor inhibits religion, and avoid the creation of excessive entanglement with religion. The federal appellate court found that the policy furthered the legitimate secular purpose of avoiding establishment clause violations and ensuring that religious music was presented in a neutral manner. The court rejected the father's assertion that, since other courts had ruled that the establishment clause did not preclude holiday concerts with religious music, the school district's stated purpose was a sham. As the court explained, "even if performance of religious songs did not violate the establishment clause, it does not follow that the goals underlying the School District's desire to avoid a potential establishment clause violation were disingenuous or impermissible." Turning to the second *Lemon* inquiry, the court was not persuaded that the policy or its implementation had a primary effect of inhibiting religion by hostility to religious music. The court noted that the record clearly showed that religious music was included in the curriculum and that it was performed regularly at concerts with approval of the Fine Arts Director. Likewise, religion played a role in other curricular matters and students were guaranteed religious expression within the curriculum. Therefore, no reasonable observer would conclude that the district's attempt to remain neutral with regard to religious holiday observances was hostile to religion. Finally, the court found no entanglement between government and religion, rebuffing the father's assertion that the judgment of determining what was and was not religious music entangled government and religion. Finally, the court applied a general endorsement analysis. For the same reasons above, the court found that neither the policy nor its implementation endorsed anything but a neutral stance toward religion. The court then examined the speech claim and affirmed the reasoning of the district court. The court noted the numerous ways in which the school district created opportunities to learn about religious music. The court also reasoned that since the district set and controlled delivery of the curriculum, the reasonable rules set were consistent with the Supreme Court's precedent in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

***Stratechuk v. Board of Education, South Orange-Maplewood School District,***

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

### **IRA: Eleanor M. Johnson Elementary Teacher Award**

The International Reading Association Eleanor M. Johnson Elementary Teacher Award recognizes an outstanding elementary classroom teacher of reading/language arts. Maximum award: \$1,000. Eligibility: IRA members who have taught for five full years and are nominated by at least four people. Deadline: November 15, 2010.

[http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/teachers\\_johnson.aspx](http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/teachers_johnson.aspx)

### **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program**

The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program supports efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and the faculty who will prepare them for careers in library science. It also supports grants for research related to library education and library staffing needs, curriculum development, and continuing education and training. Maximum award: \$1,000,000. Eligibility: All types of libraries, except federal and for-profit libraries. Deadline: December 15, 2010.

<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/21centuryLibrarian.shtm>

### **Earthwatch: Education Fellowships**

The Earthwatch Institute offers educators fully funded fellowships for hands-on learning with leading scientists doing field research and conservation on one of 130 projects. Earthwatch's Education Fellowships are national in scope, and supported by a wide range of businesses, foundations, and individuals. Maximum award: full cost of expedition, including all research costs, meals, housing, on-site travel, etc. Eligibility: K-12 classroom educators of any subject(s) from public or private schools nationwide. Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis throughout the spring.

<http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/education/edopp/edfelfund/>

**Dialing for dollars!** The Verizon Foundation funds a variety of programs related to education, literacy, domestic violence prevention, health care and Internet safety. Grant range is \$5,000 - \$10,000. [More info >>>>](#)

### **NSTA: Shell Science Lab Challenge**

The Shell Science Lab Challenge invites middle and high school science teachers to illustrate replicable approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources. Teachers and schools submitting top entries will receive additional laboratory tools, resources, and professional development opportunities. Maximum award: school science lab makeover support package valued at \$20,000. Eligibility: teachers grades 6-12 in the United States and Canada (with special attention to urban and underrepresented groups). Deadline: November 15, 2010.

<http://www.nsta.org/shell/>

### **Aspen Institute: William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship**

The William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship is based on academic excellence and need, and is open to both undergraduate and graduate students of color. The student must be able to intern for 12 to 15 weeks at the Washington, D.C. office of the Aspen Institute. Fall and spring internships will be part-time (15 to 20 hours per week) and summer internships will be full-time. Maximum award: \$4,000. Eligibility: highly motivated, current, non-graduating graduate or undergraduate students from underrepresented communities of color. Deadline: December 15, 2010.

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/nonprofit-philanthropy/leadership-initiatives/hearst>

### **Astronauts Memorial Foundation: Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award**

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award rewards excellence in the development and delivery of technology programs in the classroom with students, or in the professional development of teachers in the school or district. Maximum award: \$1,000, recognition at the awards ceremony at the 27th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Eligibility: K-12 educators and district-level personnel in the field of Educational Technology. Deadline: January 15, 2011.

[http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

### **Civic Ventures: Purpose Prize**

The Civic Ventures Purpose Prize awards Americans over 60 whose creativity, talent and experience is transforming the way our nation addresses critical social problems. Maximum award: \$100,000. Eligibility: Americans 60 years old by March 1, 2011 and currently working in a leadership capacity in an organization or institution (public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit) to address a major social problem. Deadline: March 10, 2011.

<http://www.encore.org/prize>

**Depot dollars!** The **Office Depot Foundation** funds a wide range of **youth programs that serve, teach and inspire children.**

- Grant range: **\$1,000**. Deadline: **November 15, 2010**.

[More info >>>>](#)

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK 1 HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT TO "FALL BACK"

Gerald and Todd