



WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

February 2007

“EDUCATING EVERY CHILD”

Volume 3, Issue 5

**“WHERE OTHERS MAY SEE
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View From The Corner Office By Bill Pumo



“When your life is at a low tide, when your professional commitment is wavering and you want to get the job done and go home at the end of the day, what can you do?”

“Here’s what I do: I think about the guy who used to deliver my mail. Because if Fred the Postman could bring extraordinary creativity and commitment to putting mail in a box, I can do as much or more to reinvent my work and rejuvenate my efforts. He is proof that there are no insignificant or ordinary jobs when they’re performed by significant or extraordinary people.”

“That’s what I call the Fred Factor”

The preceding comments are from The Fred Factor by Mark Sanborn, a true story of how Fred loved his job, went the extra mile handling the mail-sometimes he watched over the houses of the people on the route and treated everyone he met as a friend. Where others may see delivering mail as a monotonous drudgery, Fred saw it as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those he served.

We are in a part of the school year when our commitment to those we serve is tested. As I’ve mentioned in previous articles, Abraham Lincoln said “Whatever you are, be a good one.” Well it’s definitely easier to be a “good one” at the beginning of the year than in mid February and at the peak of winter. The challenge is ever present, whether you’re a novice or a seasoned veteran, I’m sure you feel it too.

In the Fred Factor there are four principles that apply to all people, in any profession, in any situation, and at anytime.

1. Everyone Makes a Difference;

It doesn’t matter how large or even how ineffective an organization is. An individual can make a difference.

2. Success is Built on Relationships;

Indifferent people deliver impersonal service. Service becomes personalized when a relationship exists between the provider and the customer.

3. You Must Continually Create Value for Others, And It Doesn’t Have To Cost A Penny;

Whether we like it or not there are times we believe we lack the resources to perform at a higher level. We have to learn to replace money with imagination, think deeper and more creatively than others, and look for resources in unconventional places.

4. You Can Reinvent Yourself Regularly;

No matter what job you hold, where you live or in what industry you work, every morning you wake up with a clean slate. You can make your business, as well as your life, anything you choose it to be. Your attitude towards what you do is the controlling factor of your state of mind.

This powerful, little book has helped me to remember that relationships with others is the most important facet of my daily life. If we can’t relate to students, they don’t learn; if we can’t relate to parents, they dislike school and again, students don’t learn; if we don’t relate to each other...well, you see where I’m headed. I have to laugh at myself every day, try not to treat every challenge as a problem, and remember that attaining positive relationships with others is so important in meeting those challenges and maintaining a high degree of commitment to the tasks we strive to complete.

I highly recommend The Fred Factor and its four basic principles

CPI Training Schedule Announced

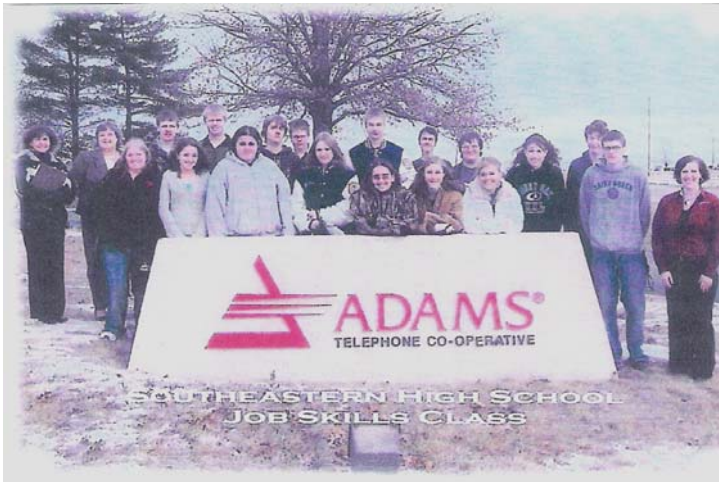
This year WCISEC is going to alternate CPI trainings each month. Each month, as indicated by the schedule below, the Coop. will offer either the initial full course in CPI or the refresher course. The initial course consists of a full day's training. The refresher course is for those who hold certification and require yearly training to keep the certificate active. The refresher course takes approximately 3.5 to 4 hours of training.

Staff seeking continued certification may need to attend a training prior to their certification renewal date to avoid a lapse. Please call WCISEC at (309)837-3911 and ask for Cindy Soule to sign up for a training date. (Jan VanAcker, CPI Coordinator)

SCHEDULED DATES FOR CPI TRAINING

March 23, 2007 (Friday)	REFRESHER COURSE, 11:00-3:00
April 24, 2007 (Tuesday)	INITIAL FULL COURSE, 8:30-4:00

ALL COURSES LISTED WILL BE HELD IN THE WCISEC
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM



On January 31st, Dana Ourth, STEP Job Developer, accompanied Mrs. Barb Kessler and her Southeastern High School Job Skills Class to Adams Telephone Cooperative in Golden, Illinois.

The students learned that the company has been in business for 55 years and employs over 100 people in 60 different positions. The company offers four different services: Telephone, cable, internet, and cellular phone service to 13 exchanges in five counties.

The class learned that there is more going on with this company than most people realize.

Para Pro Testing Dates:

The Hancock/McDonough Regional Office of Education has announced the following Para Pro Testing dates:

March 5, 2007
April 2, 2007
May 7, 2007
June 4, 2007

The testing time is from 8:30 to Noon on the second floor of the ROE. To register, call Lynn at 309-837-4821. There will be a \$50.00 testing fee collected on the day of the test.

The Fulton/Schuyler ROE is offering the Para Pro Test through Spoon River College. To register for the test, call SRC at (309) 647-6260 or (309)833-6031. The testing site is the Spoon River College Technology Center at 45 E. Side Square, Suite 302, Canton. The cost of the test is \$40.00, payable at the time of the test. The testing time is from 1:00 to 3:30. The next testing dates are:

March 6, 2007
June 5, 2007

Test study materials are available at no cost through WCISEC.

Impedance Screening Dates:

<u>School:</u>	<u>1st Screen:</u>	<u>Rescreen:</u>
Warsaw	2/27	3/28
Lincoln, Macomb		2/28 & 3/1

WCISEC Calendar For March, 2007

Mar 1	Transition Workshop, 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 3:00
Mar 5	Administrator Meeting. 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 4:00
Mar 8	SSW meeting, 1st floor coop, 8:00 to 4:00
Mar 12	Administrator Meeting. 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 4:00
Mar 15	TPC meeting, 1st floor coop, noon to 1:00
Mar 16	Executive Committee Meeting, 2nd floor coop, 9:00
Mar 19	Administrator Meeting. 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 4:00
Mar 20	SLP/Hi meeting, 2nd floor coop, 8:30
Mar 22	OT/PT/APE meeting, 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 4:00
Mar 23	CPI Refresher, 1st floor coop, 11:00 to 3:00
Mar 26	Administrator Meeting. 1st floor coop, 1:00 to 4:00
Mar 28	AO Training, 1st floor coop, 9:00
Mar 30	BIC meeting, 1st floor coop, 8:00 to 4:00

On The Edge By Lou Pruett



During our Triannual meeting this month, we had some great discussions about RTI (Response to Intervention). So that is what has inspired me to continue to write about RTI in this newsletter. Previously I've written about the "what and why" of RTI and a basic overview of a three tiered problem-solving model.

There are six critical components of RTI: universal screening, problem definition, baseline data, written intervention plan, progress monitoring and evaluation of pre-and post-intervention data. This time I'm going to focus on universal screenings that target reading. The information derived from universal screening provides two useful pieces of information. First it shows whether most children are learning in an expected manner and how functional the core curriculum and instruction are in the school. Second, universal screening identifies those students who are not making acceptable progress in the core curriculum.

Teachers conduct universal periodic screenings

in key language and early literacy skills. In Tier 1, universal screening occurs within the first two months of the academic year and on a set schedule for all children in the class thereafter (three times each year). If most children (approximately 80%) meet the learning benchmarks, it can be assumed that the general education curriculum is of sufficient quality for most children. Adjustments to the general education curriculum might be required in regular classrooms in which the majority of children do not meet learning benchmarks. Children who do not demonstrate adequate progress in Tier 1 will require focused interventions at Tier 2.

The screening assessments are designed to have children perform a set of skills within a specific time frame. In the early elementary, the skills that are assessed focus on letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, phoneme segmentation fluency, non-sense word fluency, and oral reading fluency. The screening is usually completed in 5-7 minutes per child and is easy to administer and score.

Some sample resources for universal screenings are: DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), ISEL (Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy), and CBM (Curriculum Based Measurements). Gathering information in an organized and systematic manner (universal screenings) about children serves several purposes:

- Identifies appropriate early intervening supports

“THERE ARE SIX CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF RTI: UNIVERSAL SCREENING, PROBLEM DEFINITION, BASELINE DATA, WRITTEN INTERVENTION PLAN, PROGRESS MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PRE-AND POST-INTERVENTION DATA.”

- Screens for instructional needs
- Assists with core curriculum planning
- Identifies curricular progress toward learning standards
- Tracks individual and group progress
- Documents response to instruction
- *“The best predictor of future behavior is a past behavior history; but small increments of progress during early intervention begin to create a new history which predicts a new future” (Bagnato & Neisworth, in pres)*

Business Office Bits

. . . By Denise Ratermann

Tax time is upon us once again and upon completion of that task you may want to change the number of deductions that you currently claim on your paycheck. It is possible to change this at any time by completing a new W-4 form. The same is true of your filing status of married or single. This can be changed on that form as well.

The W-4 form can be found in each classroom as part of the substitute employment packet, or in the central office. If you look on your check stub, it will list your current filing and withholding status and you can decide whether a change is in order. If so, please let me know as soon as possible.



“You haven’t been listening, Mr. Bradford. We already have readin’, writin’, and rithmetic.”

WCISEC Executive Committee Bulletin for February 16, 2007

Review of Action Items from the February 16, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting:

Approved Minutes: from the January 19, 2007 meeting.

Financial Reports:

Approved the February 2007 Payables;

Personnel:

Resignations: Approved the resignations of: Michelle Neve, individual student assistant at the WCISEC Carthage Primary M/D program, effective January 31, 2007.

Employment: Approved the employment of:

Brian Snowden, Individual Assistant for a Bushnell Prairie City student attending the WCISEC Macomb Jr/Sr High ED/BD program for 7.50 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$11.48 per hour, effective January 31, 2007.

Seniority List: Approved the Seniority List.

New Business: None

Summary of Other Information Reviewed: The Director reviewed the following:

Program Report(s);

Director's Report: The Director reviewed the following:

- Illinois State Board of Education 2008 Budget Recommendation;
- Major Issues in PART 226;
- ISBE Teacher Service Record/NCLB Highly Qualified Certification Report FY2007;
- Local training sponsored by WCISEC, Illinois Aspire, the National Fragile X Foundation and the Central Illinois Fragile X Foundation;
- ISBE DRAFT IEP forms;

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How Are We Doing?

We are interested in your newsletter ideas.
 Send any suggestions for future issues to Jim
 Armstrong at: jarmstrong@wcisec.org