

PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS staff news weekly

Volume II — No. 17 — January 6th, 2010

Preparing for More Cold Weather and Snow

More winter weather, including snow, below-zero temperatures and high winds, is forecast for the near future. While it is nothing new from what Central Illinois has experienced for the last couple of weeks, school is back in session following the holiday break and staff, parents and students are reminded procedures are in place for any emergency school closings and dismissals that may occur throughout the year. The student/parent handbook states:

In the event of an emergency that might affect individual buildings or the entire school system, such as excessive snow, the Superintendent is empowered to declare an emergency and close those schools

affected. School closings will be announced on www.psd150.org, radio and television as quickly as a determination
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Students in Need

If a staff member knows of or recognizes a student that might be in need of a coat, school uniform or other necessities to be prepared for winter weather, please notify your school principal with the student and parent's name, the need and a phone number. Funds may be available through the Parent, Family & Community Liaison's Office.

A Picture-Perfect View of the Weather at RHS



Students at Richwoods High School have begun second semester and hope to soon move into their new addition featuring two first-story and two second-story classrooms, as well as new bathrooms and a connecting hallway at the end of the school's two wings. The two-story connecting hallway is built with glass panels that allow students to view the west-side courtyard and University Street on the east side. Director of Capital Projects, Dave Ryon, says the project is complete, including new security and window upgrades throughout the entire school. On Monday, January 4th, RHS received an occupancy certificate from the Regional Office of Education, allowing students and staff to move in to the space.

(Photo taken 11/24/09)

Superintendent Search Committee Begins Interviews

The Superintendent Search Committee has narrowed a long list of candidates for the district's top job to eight and began meeting individually with the selections this week. The committee

hopes to complete their round of interviews within the next couple of days and make a recommendation of four finalists to the Board of Education early next

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Redefining Teaching & Learning

Teacher Academy Kicks Off

The Teacher Academy has returned to Peoria Public Schools and is expanding its class offerings as well as offering new tools. Spring 2010 Teacher Academy offers variety to meet the differentiated needs and interests of teachers. This Spring's courses include technology, math, reading, lesson planning, classroom instructional strategies, action research and more! The Comprehensive System of Student Support is still a standard in our curriculum as it continues to guide our work in meeting the needs of all students. Another new experience will be online PD registration. To enroll in an academy class, go to the Teaching and Learning webpage <http://teaching.psd150.org> and click on the hyperlink for Professional Development Registrations. Once there, you will fill out all pertinent information. We've gone automated to improve the registration and paperwork processes.

Each instructor will integrate tech skills and teaching strategies into each session. These small, professional learning communities will continue to provide opportunities for sharing across buildings and grade levels. While a specific course may identify a particular audience, it is appropriate for participants to contact the instructor to determine if the course might suit their needs if in another grade level.

This semester we will continue new courses from the Educational Research and Dissemination Program in collaboration with the District and the Teachers' Union. Additionally, we will be offering Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol courses – it's not as scary as it sounds! This program, known as SIOP, is full of outstanding techniques, strategies, and deep quality instruction that benefit students challenged by on-level curriculum. These strategies work with all grade ranges. Something brand new is the opportunity to become part of an action research team. This

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team will help design the protocols, expectations, and framework for what our school improvement days, district days, early release days, and after school professional development should look like. This course will have some face to face meetings but also be done online. If you like to investigate and want to be a part of shaping the work we do, please sign up! Finally, are you needing a boost to your lesson plans? Try joining our course on Backwards Design. Steeped in the work of Grant Wiggins, this course will help you streamline your lessons to get to essential learnings and provide time for enrichment.

Teacher induction candidates may select from academy classes to earn hours. More information will be submitted directly to these teachers.

As always, we want to provide teachers with the learning experiences most desired. Please feel free to let us know what workshops or classes you want to see come to Peoria Public Schools District 150. All courses are offered free of charge (related charges for books or supplies are the exception) and are aligned with district goals and are designed specifically for District 150 schools.

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week. Board of Education members will bring back the finalists late next week to conduct their own interviews and narrow down the selection until a candidate is chosen. While it is not known how long the remainder of the process will take or when an offer might be made, the Board of Education expects the new candidate to begin no later than July 1.

Try This! Assistive Technology Ideas

Record your voice in a Microsoft Word document. This technique allows teachers to record verbal directions, or read test questions to students with low reading ability. Start Microsoft Word, click on Insert, then click Object. Then scroll down and click on Wave Sound. Record your voice and it inserts it into Word.

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is made. Should the district be forced to close due to an emergency, additional days may be added to the end of the school year. (Board Policy 4:170)

Staff is encouraged to remind students and families to update contact information on Skyward Family Access. Automated phone calls through the Skyward system will also help notify parents of school closings. More information can be found on the district website under the "parent" link.

SIP Day: CPR Training

The January 29th SIP Day will include CPR/AED trainings at Peoria High and Woodruff High. This session is specifically designed for coaches, PE teachers, nurses, and other individuals required to have certification. To register, email TandLWorkshop@psd150.org. Participants will be assigned a site to attend once all registrations are received.

Co-Teaching: Classroom Adaptations

(Continuation from Dec. 16 Staff News)

Educating Students in the Least Restrictive Environment - Additional Classroom Adaptations and Modifications

Quantity:

- Provide credit for portion of work completed
- Reduced homework assignments

Time:

- Require less time to work on frustrating tasks
- Give more frequent breaks from work

Level of Support:

- Provide additional reinforcers or incentives
- Implement Behavior Support Plan
- Allow for computer-completed assignments

Input:

- Provide additional written directions or content-related notes
- Increased use of cooperative learning groups and hands-on activities

Difficulty:

- Modify rules or expectations
- Simplified assignments and/or materials
- Use alternative learning materials in same content area

Output:

- Allow verbal rather than written responses
- Allow student to demonstrate knowledge through alternative means

Participation:

- Allow student to participate by helping others
- Give alternative task in areas of weakness

Alternate Goals:

- Identify alternative curricular goals, assign work, and evaluate accordingly through collaboration between special education and general education teacher
- Use general education activities as a mean to accomplish IEP goals and objectives

CSSS - Glen Oak Primary Students are Filling the Buckets of Others

The Glen Oak Primary School staff is working with students in the morning meeting to understand the concept of "filling a bucket" or being respectful to each other. They are using the books How Full is Your Bucket by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer and Fill a Bucket: A Guide to Daily Happiness for the Young Child, by Carol McCloud. These books compliment their PBIS system and encourage students to "fill each other's buckets" (praise and compliment) rather than "dip out of each other's buckets" (bully). In conjunction with this concept Glen Oak students have shown they can fill the buckets of people they do not even know by being involved in several charitable activities. The students raised \$565.01 for the Peoria Promise. Mayor Jim Ardis came to Glen Oak to acknowledge the efforts of the Glen Oak students. The students collected over 2,300 cans for the Salvation Army's annual School Food Drive. Fifth grade alone raised 914 cans! Additionally, Glen Oak students will be raising money for Easter Seals in February. We are proud of your giving spirit!