

River Rambler

OCONEE REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

Serving the counties of Baldwin, Hancock, Johnson, Putnam, Washington & Wilkinson

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2014

Directly Speaking

The teacher said to the students, "Come to the edge."

The students replied, "We might fall."

The teacher said again to the students, "Come to the edge."

The students said, "We can't it's too high."

The teacher commanded, "Come to the edge."

The students came to the edge, the teacher pushed them,...and they flew.

Christopher Logue

As you complete CRCT, End of Course, and other mandated testing, you will no doubt wonder at what level will students remember and be able to apply the skills and knowledge learned. Standardized testing is a measure of student acquisition and/or demonstration of mastery of specific skills and content learned on a given day. At year's end, please remember that you have been instrumental in teaching children to fly!

Hayward Cordy

Out of the Mouth of Babes

A first grade teacher collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders, but there are some good ones. Nonetheless, their insight may surprise you. –

Submitted by Lauren and Karen

Better to be safe than.....punch a 5th grader
Strike while the.....bug is close
It's always darkest before.....Daylight Savings Time
Never underestimate the power of.....termites
Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty
You can't teach an old dog new.....math
If you lie down with dogs, you'll.....stink
Love all, trust.....me
An idle mind is.....the best way to relax
Where there's smoke there's.....pollution
A penny saved is.....not much
Two's company, three's.....the Musketeers
There are none so blind as.....Stevie Wonder
Children should be seen and not..spanked or grounded
When the blind leadeth the blind.....get out of the way

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Celebrations

■Dr. Judith Geter, Wilkinson County Elementary School Principal and Dr. Jessica Swain, Baldwin High School Principal recently visited Georgia Tech's new Institute for Robotics and Intelligence (IRIM). The institute hosted 38 Georgia principals participating in the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Principal Leadership Network. The institute hosted the principals to showcase STEM opportunities awaiting today's K-12 students.

Dr. Geter and Dr. Swain were selected by a committee of statewide educators to participate in the 2012 PAGE Principal Leadership Network. The Network is composed of a talented group of 40 principals from across Georgia who have been identified as "future-oriented" Georgia principals with a desire to make a lasting difference for public education in Georgia.

The Network meets for eight custom-designed institutes over a two-year period. Each theme based institute provides a forum for principals to solidify their understanding of what school capacity means and to explore tools and develop strategies for assessing and building school capacity on behalf of student engagement and learning. The Network is led by two national experts from the renowned Schlechty Center, Senior Associate Lennie Hay and President and COO George Thompson.

■Putnam County Middle School in Putnam County and Oak Hill Middle School in Baldwin County were named as 2013 Reward Schools for Highest Progress. The Highest Progress Reward School designation is given to the top 10% of Title 1 schools in the State that are making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments. Congratulations Oak Hill Middle School and Putnam County Middle School!

■Congratulations to Dr. Aaron Geter and the Wilkinson County Schools High School Boys Basketball team on winning their 8th Georgia High School Association State Class A Basketball Title.

■On February 14, 2014, State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Barge named 462 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools. Washington County High School and Putnam County High School were named 2014 AP Challenge Schools. AP Challenge Schools are schools with fewer than 900 students with students testing in four of the core areas, which include English, math, science, and social studies.

In addition, Putnam County High School was named a 2014 AP Access and Support School. AP Access and Support Schools are schools with at least 30% of their AP exams taken by students who identify themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30% of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher. Congratulations to Washington County High School and Putnam County High School.

SLDS Resources

When you login into your Student Information System along with your local student information, you will see a dashboard for the Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). In addition to current and archived student data, the SLDS Dashboard provides valuable teacher resources which include the ability to:

- **Access content that is aligned to Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, Georgia Performance Standards, and National Education Technology Standards.**
- **Search for resources aligned to a standard for student consumption or for teacher directed usage.**
- **Access resources including Georgia Virtual School's course content, Thinkfinity, Learning Village, Destination Math and Reading, GaDOE subject frameworks, and additional teacher aligned vetted digital links.**
- **Assign digital resources to students based upon the student's performance on an assessment.**
- **Make more informed (data-driven) decisions designed to improve student learning.**
- **Identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses.**
- **Increase student achievement and close achievement gaps.**

Georgia FIP: The Keys to Student Success

Oconee RESA, working in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Education's Assessment and Accountability Division, will continue supporting online professional learning opportunities dealing with Formative Instructional Practices (FIP). Ridge Road Elementary School currently has two cohorts and other schools and systems are beginning to utilize FIP. Georgia FIP: The Keys to Student Success is designed to enhance educators' use of formative instructional practices and is aligned to the new teacher and leader effectiveness systems, TKES and LKES. As systems develop SLOs, the FIP modules can be valuable resources.

Georgia FIP consists of seven online modules. The primary target audience for five of the modules is teachers, while the other two are designed for administrators, coaches and teacher-leaders.

For more information, visit www.gadoe.org/GeorgiaFIP and www.oconeeresas.org



Strategies, Opportunities, Abilities, and Results (SOAR) Technology Fair

Putnam County Charter System will be hosting its third annual S.O.A.R Technology Fair at Putnam County High School on August 1, 2014. Educators from all Oconee RESA members systems are invited to participate.



Educators who are willing to share methods used to keep students engaged and learning with technology are asked to submit a proposal to be a presenter.

To be considered as a presenter, please complete the application at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/626C7FV>

This application is due by May 2, 2014. If your presentation is selected, you will be notified by May 16, 2014.

For more information, please contact Becky Nipper at becky_nipper@putnam.k12.ga.us

Certification Update!

Verification of Lawful Presence Guidance Document 12/13/13

Why is this required?

Georgia law (O.C.G.A 50-36-1) requires all applicants for state certification to verify that they are lawfully present in the United States. Under this law, all individuals issued a certificate/license by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission on or after July 1, 2013, must submit the GaPSC Verification of Lawful Presence form, a signed and notarized affidavit and a copy of a secure and verifiable document to substantiate lawful presence.

Who must complete the VLP process?

Anyone applying for certification on or after 11/25/13, regardless of the transaction requested (initial, name change, convert, add field, renewal, clearance, paraprofessional, etc.).

What about those certificates issued since 7/1/13 without the VLP documentation?

Individuals issued a certificate on or after 7/1/13 (including those issued through ACRES and CLAIMS) will receive a correspondence via their MyPSC account requesting submission of the VLP documents. They will be notified that no further certification transactions will be processed until the VLP documents have been received.

What about certificates issued prior to 7/1/13, when should the VLP documents be submitted to the GaPSC?

The initial submission of VLP documentation must be completed at the time of the next certification transaction or the next renewal, whichever comes first. These individuals may choose to submit the documentation now, without requesting another certification transaction and may submit it themselves or have their employing school system submit it.

What documentation is required?

- The completed, signed and notarized affidavit
- A copy of one of the acceptable secure and verifiable documents listed on the VLP form
- The GaPSC Verification of Lawful Presence form

Originals are not required; photocopies of the above documents are acceptable.

Items to note about the affidavit:

- Only one of the options 1, 2 or 3 should be selected
- Applicants may initial or check the applicable option
- An alien number or other similar number issued by the Department of Homeland Security or other federal immigration

Is submission of the VLP documentation required with every application?

If the applicant is a U.S. Citizen and checks the first option on the affidavit and provides acceptable documentation, his/her certification file will be updated and they are not required to resubmit the VLP documentation.

If the applicant is not a U.S. citizen and checks option 2 or 3 on the affidavit, new VLP documentation is required with EVERY certification application, regardless of the transaction requested, UNLESS lawful presence was verified by the GaPSC within the previous 180 days.

How should this documentation be submitted?

The VLP documents may be:

- Mailed to the GaPSC
- Faxed to (404)232-2560
- Emailed to mail@gapsc.com
- Submitted through ExpressLane upload or fax method

For more information, email mail@gapsc.com

Upcoming Activities:

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Activity: Oconee RESA Board of Control Meeting
Location: Baldwin County Board of Education
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 25, 2014

Activity: GaDOE TKES/LKES Regional Feedback Meeting
Location: Oconee RESA Media Center
Time: Principals/APs: 9:30-11:00 a.m.
District Leaders: 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Teachers: 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Activity: Oconee RESA Curriculum Directors Association Meeting
Location: Oconee RESA
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Topic: Future STEM Support/MSP Application for FY'15

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 through Thursday, May 29, 2014

Activity: SLO Assessment Development Workshops for Oconee RESA Districts
Presenter: Ms. Tawni Taylor, GaDOE, Oconee RESA SLO Support Specialist
Location: Oconee RESA
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit us at www.oconeeresasa.org for additional upcoming professional learning activities.

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