

RESA 4 Welcomes New Employee

PERSONNEL CHANGES AT RESA 4

School Improvement Specialists and Regional School Wellness Specialist



RESA 4 welcomes a new employee—**Kristina Frame**. As of August 1, 2013, Kristina will be working with RESA 4 as a School Improvement Specialist. She began teaching in 2005 and has worked at Richwood High School as a history teacher for the past six years. Over the past two years Kristina has received extensive training in school improvement, research-based instructional strategies, working with professional learning communities and school leadership teams. Kristina stated, "I look forward to working with schools throughout our region and meeting new people."

Cara Phillips, has been selected to fill the second position of School Improvement Specialist. **Jody LeRose** will be our new Regional School Wellness Specialist.

Administrators Leadership Institute

On August 9, 2013, more than seventy educational leaders attended the RESA 4 Administrators Leadership Institute. The institute was held at the Summersville Arena and Convention Center. Session topics included *Teacher/Student Relationships in the 21st Century* and *Education Reform is a Reality*. Presenters were attorneys **Denise Spatafore** and **Howard Seufer**.

Ms. Spatafore addressed *Teacher/ Student Relationships in the 21st Century* through the lens of Policy 2460-Acceptable Use Policy and Policy 5902-Employee Code of Conduct. Topics elaborated on included student-educator relationships, use and misuse of social media, after school supervision, transporting students, e-mailing, texting, personal calls after hours, etc. Mr. Seufer addressed *Education Reform is a Reality* with a focus on the new Education Reform laws enacted at the 2013 Legislative Session and how they will affect the West Virginia public schools.



August 2013

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Special points of interest:

- Bus Operator Training
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- County Spotlight—New School in Nicholas County
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Educator Enhancement Academies: A Collaborative Endeavor

Teacher leaders, county educational leaders and RESA 4 staff collaborated to plan and deliver sessions at Educator Enhancement Academies held throughout the region. Prior to the local academies, presenters attended the Educator Enhancement Academy Training of Trainers held at University of Charleston - Beckley. This event was hosted by WVDE, RESA 1 and RESA 4 to prepare participants to serve as trainers for county level academies.



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Pocahontas County teachers take time to reflect.



Teachers engage in a rich mathematical task.



Autumn Lee, Greenbrier County Academic Coach, facilitates 2nd and 3rd grade ELA Next Generation Standards Session for Pocahontas County.

Teachers had the opportunity to analyze the standards, examine best practices, and learn about the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessment. Teachers will continue their learning throughout the school year with a variety of follow-up opportunities scheduled locally.

Mathematics Institutes

Elementary teachers who are members of Mathematics Science Partnership cadres completed coursework in mathematics during June and July. Additional sessions targeted classroom level implementation of West Virginia Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the standards and scrutinized strategies to promote student engagement. Follow-up trainings, professional learning community meetings, and further coursework will be offered during the school year.

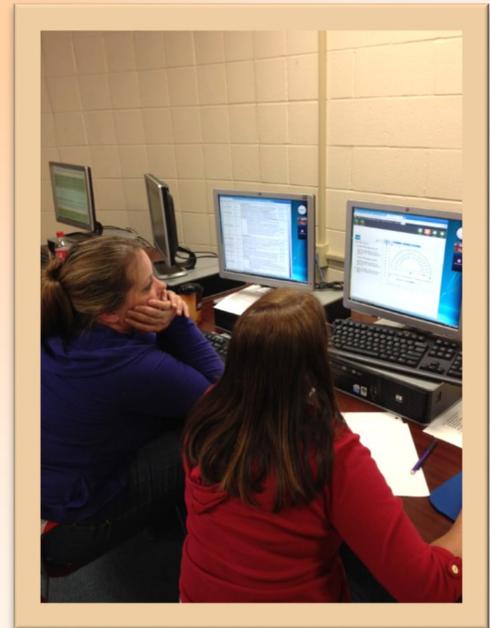


Dr. Jessica Deshler, WVU Mathematics Professor, engages Project WEEMS teachers in content.

The higher education partner for Project WEEMS (West Virginia Endorsement for Elementary Mathematics Specialist) is West Virginia University. **Dr. Eddie Fuller** leads the WVU instructional team. Marshall University Graduate College serves as the higher education partner for Project STEM (Strengthening the Teaching of Elementary Mathematics). **Dr. Edna Meisel** is the lead instructor for the STEM cadre. **Judy Pomeroy**, RESA 4 Staff Development Director and Mathematics Coordinator, serves as director for both projects. All RESA 4 counties and Clay County are members of at least one of the partnerships.



Project STEM teachers discuss a solution.



Teachers explore Smarter Balanced Assessment sample items.

Let's Move WV: "Swapping Chairs for Exercise Balls in the Classroom"

A growing number of teachers are replacing classroom chairs with exercise stability balls as an innovative way to improve student posture and attention. The whole theory with the brain is that when your body is engaged, your brain is engaged. Many call it active sitting. Students may be moving their legs a little and wiggling some, but their upper body is focused on the teacher.

Regional School Wellness Specialist, **Cara Phillips**, purchased the exercise stability balls for **Sharon Ray's 6th grade classroom at Glade Middle** during the 2012-2013 school year. Sharon stated that using exercise balls in the classroom enhanced student's ability to remain focused, while increasing their academic productivity. She incorporated the balls into class lessons, Let's Move activities, and started many mornings with exercises to warm up their bodies and brains. Sharon's classroom is very active in the Let's Move initiative, and the exercise stability balls complement her mission to stress the importance and positive effects of physical activity.

According to many experts in Human Kinetics, sitting on the exercise balls increases blood circulation up and down the spinal column and to the brain. This increased circulation, in turn, oxygenates the blood the brain receives. Galen Cranz discusses at length in her book, "The Chair", that a key reward for advocating for the use of exercise balls

and active seating alternatives in schools and workplaces is a move towards a "motion promotion," which simply means integrating more movement throughout everyone's day. However and whatever you do to move more than you otherwise would is an improvement over being sedentary. The use of the exercise ball throws you a little forward so you are more upright, providing more space in the lungs for that oxygen you need to be more awake, alert, and productive.

The exercise balls will be bouncing into approximately 15 additional classrooms for the 2013-2014 school year thanks to a grant given to RESA 4 Regional School Wellness Program from the Office of Healthy Schools.

Incorporating the exercise stability balls and any Let's Move activities will improve focus, learning, and productivity for everyone.

What a fun and exciting way to improve student and staff morale!



Special Education Department

As we are experiencing the cool morning temperatures and the hints of fall fast approaching, it reminds us all that the beginning of school is upon us. We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing summer the past few months.

The Special Education Department at RESA 4 has spent most of our time over the summer in preparation for the identification of Focus Schools and working on the system of support our staff at RESA 4 will provide to them in the coming school year.

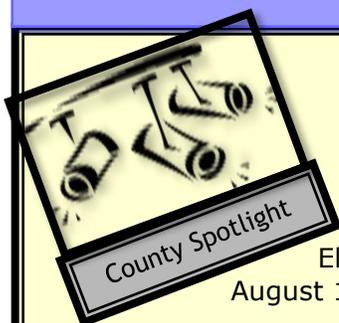
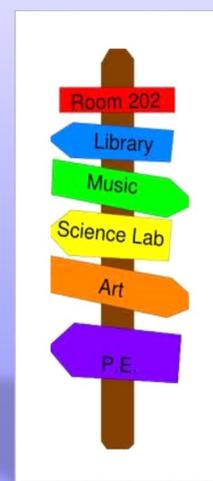
We also had Special Education teachers from our RESA 4 counties participate in our Educator Enhancement Academies (EEA) that were held at various dates throughout the summer months. We were fortunate to have some Special Education teachers participate in various other Academies this summer including the Autism Academy and the Pre-k Autism Academy, all of which were very beneficial to providing research-based strategies and a system of support for our teachers in the classroom setting.

We will continue to provide support to our RESA 4 counties by offering Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training to any staff that would be in need of it. Please contact me for further information.

We hope that everyone has a great start to the new school year and that the year will bring good memories never to be forgotten by parents, teachers, school staff, and most importantly our students.

Thanks

Scott Cochran, RESA 4 Special Education Director



Gauley River Elementary School Update

According to the Nicholas Chronicle, Beverly Kingery, Nicholas County Superintendent of Schools, advised the Board that the new Gauley River Elementary School in Craigsville opened for teachers and staff on Monday, August 19.

The school will not be opening until September 3 for students for the new school year which began August 22, due to the adjacent old Craigsville Elementary School having to be completely demolished before an access road for emergency vehicles at the new school can be constructed. Students are not permitted in the new building until the emergency access road has been completed, and there is too much maneuvering of vehicles with the demolition work for construction of the road to begin.

The demolition of the old building was originally scheduled to be completed in June, but additional asbestos was found in different sections of the roof which put the work behind schedule.

WVEIS – Back to School Edition

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! Nicole and I were very pleased to see so many of you at the WVEIS Data Conference this past summer. And I have enjoyed working with many of you in preparation for the beginning of this school year. Some things to keep in mind as we start the new school year:

- If a student default enrolled into your school when we promoted, they never attend your school this year, and their records are requested by another school/county, use STU.301T to transfer them out by changing the E8 enrollment code to the appropriate Tx code and delete the data that the system may place on the second line. In other words, transfer them out as of the first day of school by overwriting the code on the first line of their enrollment screen.
- Don't forget to utilize the support page found on the WVEIS home page (<http://wveis.k12.wv.us/wveis2004/support.htm>). While we don't want you to ever stop calling us, there are many helpful documents and links that can be found on this site that could help you if you are unable to reach us.
- VPN (virtual private network) IDs can be requested through your WVEIS County Contact this year. It is up to your county contact to approve your need for this ID and to pass the request on to the state. These are the IDs that allow you to access the secure state network from a location outside of the network (such as from home).
- All staff members who are involved in the evaluation process will have to have a WVEIS ID. Teachers may view WOW and evaluation tutorials and request a WVEIS ID at <http://wveis.k12.wv.us/teachers>. Remember – if a teacher already has a teacher ID for online IEP purposes, then they do not need to do this; they just need to have the evaluation menu item added to their WOW access.
- At this time, the data collection calendar (<http://wveis.k12.wv.us/wveis2004/calendar.htm>) has not been updated for 2013-2014, but I would assume 1st Month will end 08/30/13 and 2nd Month will end 10/01/13. Continue to check the calendar in case I am not right.

Discipline is now entered via WOW through DIS.301. Green screen discipline is no longer used for entering data, but green screen reports will still work. Green screen reports will reflect all discipline entered (GS and DIS.301); but DIS.301 screens/reports will only reflect DIS.301 discipline. This page has wonderful resources for DIS.301: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/WOWDisciplineReportingTutor.php>

Please do not hesitate to call us if you need assistance of any kind. We are here to serve, and if we cannot answer your question, we will help you find the person who can!

WVEIS Staff – Karen Turner and Nicole Workman – 800-251-7372 or 304-872-6440 ext. 6

We're on the Web (Click Control + Link)

<http://resa4.k12.wv>

SSDI and SPI Are they just more acronyms?

This summer, RESA 4 educators had the opportunity to participate in four academies sponsored by the Office of Special Programs. SSDI is the acronym for *Support for Specially Designed Instruction*. This academy provided participants ways to provide access for exceptional students to the WV Next Generation Standards and Objectives (WVNxGCSOs) and the WV Common Core Essential and Community Elements (WVCCECEs); writing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs); and developing structures to close the achievement gap.

The *Support for Personalized Instruction (SPI) Academy* worked with teaching teams from K-12 to examine how formative assessment, Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction (DI) can be used to personalize the implementation of the Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives.

Mathematics Academies provided enhanced teacher content knowledge and instructional practices in mathematics resulting in student achievement gains in math, especially among special education students. Teachers deepened their understanding of mathematics to be able to meet the rigor of the WVNxGCSOs and move from a rote understanding of procedures to a deeper understanding of concepts.

The annual *Autism Academies* continued supporting teachers of students with autism and will extend during this school year to include a focus on the pre-k population. Counties were provided a \$5,000 grant to support travel and stipends for participants in these academies. Representatives from all six RESA 4 counties participated in a blend of the academies.



MEDICAID UPDATE

The Medicaid program is going well and keeping me very busy while school is out for the summer session. We have just transitioned over into the new fiscal year, and I am hard at work trying to get everything submitted and caught up for RESA 4 counties.

I traveled to Weston in June to meet with **Kim Turner** from RESA 7, who graciously let me tag along with her so I could see how she conducts reviews of her counties. She taught me that the reviews are very important and completed to help the counties prepare for an audit. When we do our reviews, we check to see if everything is in order and properly documented. If there are mistakes, we mark those and let our counties know what needs fixed. By doing this, it helps the counties know what the auditors will be looking for.

I also traveled to Nitro in June for a Medicaid meeting where we were updated on any changes to the Medicaid program.

I know once school is back in session, things will get even busier, and I am looking forward to it!



Kim Turner, RESA 7, providing training to **Misty Carpenter**, RESA 4's Medicaid Specialist, regarding county audits.

**Visit RESA 4 Resource Catalog Resource
Library Department at <http://resa4.k12.wv.us>**

Literacy Resources (The Benedem Foundation grant, FY13)

1800.55 Teaching Reading in the Content Areas: If Not Me, Then Who?, 2nd Edition - (Rachel Billmeyer, Mary Lee Barton, McREL, ASCD, 1998) – All grade levels – A detailed teaching resource to define specific skills/knowledge and environment needed for reading. Extensive strategies section and instructional planning guidance for how and when to use each one of the 40 strategies described. Includes section on research. **5 copies**

The supplements listed below present research throughout. First four sections include helpful statements of **Things to Think About** within the section. Reading Strategies section begins with: **What is it?**, **How could it be used in instruction?**, and **How to use it** for each strategy recommended.

1800.56 Teaching Reading in Mathematics, 2nd Edition - A Supplement to Teaching Reading in the Content Areas – If Not Me, Then Who? (2nd Edition) – (Mary Lee Barton, Clare Heidema, McREL, ASCD, 2002) - An index guide to strategies is organized by vocabulary development, informational text, and reflection strategies. All grade levels. **5 copies**

1800.57 Teaching Reading in Science – A Supplement to Teaching Reading in the Content Areas – If Not Me, Then Who? (2nd Edition) – (Mary Lee Barton, Deborah L. Jordan, McREL, ASCD, 2001) - An index guide to strategies is organized by vocabulary development, informational text, and reflection strategies. All grade levels. **5 copies**

1800.58 Teaching Reading in Social Studies – A Supplement to Teaching Reading in the Content Areas – If Not Me, Then Who? (2nd Edition) – (Jane K. Doty, Gregory N. Cameron, and Mary Lee Barton, McREL, ASCD, 2003) - An index guide to strategies is organized by vocabulary development, narrative text, informational text, and reflection strategies. All grade levels. **5 copies**

**Place loan request online; call 304-872-6440 /
1-800-251-7372, ext. 17; or fax 304-872-6442**

Department of Technology



The RESA 4 Technology Department just recently completed cabling at the new Gauley River Elementary in Nicholas County. The job consisted of almost 300 drops made up of computer, telephone, and camera installations. The department used the summer break to do many white board and cable installations while the schools were empty. The Technology Department will be using a new work order system developed by WVNET. The work order system will allow better tracking of repairs for both the counties and the RESA 4 Technology Department. Please contact **Aaron Williams** at 304-872-6440 ext. 37 with any requests or concerns so we can continue to serve our counties in the best possible way.

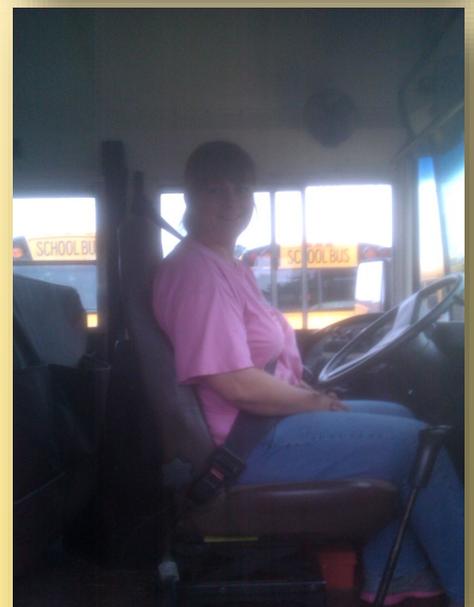
RESA 4's Bus Operator Training Program

Bus operator training is currently taking place in Braxton, Nicholas and Webster Counties. Trainers being utilized in those classes are **Fritz Deuly, Terry McGuire** and **Roy Garvin**, respectively. Classroom training has been completed, and behind the wheel training is in full swing for two counties. Six Nicholas County students have successfully passed certification examinations in August, administered by examiners **George Brooks, Fritz Deuly** and **Leon Shrewsberry**.

Nicholas County welcomes a new Transportation Director, **Mr. Rocky Roberts**. Also, **Mrs. Ruth Bland** is the new Transportation Director for Pocahontas County. We look forward to working with both new directors in our bus operator training program.



Pictures are of Nicholas County bus operator students, **Kelly Davis** and **Dennis Cherry**, in various stages of behind the wheel training, including pre-trip and completion of paperwork.





Child and Adult Care Food Program—CACFP

Contact Vickie Johnson
CACFP Coordinator
304-872-6440, ext. 24

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is required to furnish annual training for day care providers who are enrolled in our program. The training topic this year is **“Leap of Taste.”** Multiple trainings have been conveniently held in three counties throughout the year. One final make-up training is scheduled for August 20 at RESA 4. This will complete the State-required annual trainings conducted by the CACFP for this fiscal year which began October 1, 2012.

Information regarding the description and requirements of participation in our program has been recently published in our six-county newspapers to highlight the many nutritional and monetary benefits of enrollment in the CACFP.

Specific information regarding our program can be found on our website below:

(Click Control + Link) <http://resa4.k12.wv.us/>.



RESA 4 Receives a New 21stCCLC Afterschool Program Grant

On July 31, 2013, the WVDE announced that RESA 4 would receive funding to provide 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs in four middle schools. The \$220,000 grant, called **SPLASH (Supporting Personalized Learning After School Hours)** will be used to provide academic tutoring and enrichment, homework help, positive youth behavior/healthy lifestyles courses, counseling, and visual and performing arts instruction at Braxton County Middle School (Braxton County), Glade Middle School (Webster), Marlinton Middle (Pocahontas), and Richwood Middle (Nicholas). The programs will run four days per week for 25 weeks beginning September 30, 2013.



RESA 4 currently has two 21stCCLC Afterschool Program grants that will be continued this year. The **FAST (Fayette After School Time)** grant will begin its third year. The three sites in this grant are Ansted Middle School, Collins Middle School and Oak Hill High School, all in Fayette County. The **Connections** grant, in its fifth and final year, serves students at Braxton County High School (Braxton), Valley High School (Fayette), and Webster County High School (Webster).

Funding for all 21st Century Community Learning Centers is provided wholly or in part by a grant from the United States Department of Education under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title IV Part B, with grant administration carried out by the West Virginia Department of Education.

The three programs are directed by **Mr. Dana Thomas**. For information about **SPLASH**, **FAST**, or **Connections**, please contact Mr. Thomas at 304-872-6440, ext. 27, or by email to dethomas@access.k12.wv.us.

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RESA 4 Regional Council Membership

Braxton County

David Dilley, *Superintendent*
Kathy Parker, *Board Representative*

Fayette County

Keith Butcher, *Superintendent*
David Arritt, *Board Representative*

Greenbrier County

Sallie Dalton, *Superintendent*
Bob Toothman, *Board Representative*

Nicholas County

Beverly Kingery, *Superintendent*
Barbara Taylor, *Board Representative*

Pocahontas County

C. C. Lester, *Superintendent*
Kenneth Vance, *Board Representative*

Webster County

Dr. Martha Dean, *Superintendent*
Harold Carpenter, *Board Representative*

WV Depart. of Education

John Miller, *Executive Director Office of Instructional Technology*

Higher Education

Dr. Ron Childress, *Marshall University*

Teacher Representative

Valerie Zahuranec, *Greenbrier County*

Principal Representative

Christina Bailey, *Nicholas County*

Chief Instructional Leader Representative

Kim Dennison, *Braxton County*

WV Board of Education

Thomas Campbell

RESA 4

Arthur Lowell Rogers, Jr., *West Virginia Board of Education*

Main Phone Numbers

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ext. 11 and 12

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ext. 37 and 29
(available from
6:00 am until 2:00 pm)