

ARE WE REACHING OUR GOALS?

“When one can’t reach the goals, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.” I am not sure who stated this quote, but we, at RESA 4 are trying to adjust to the challenges that have been presented to us throughout this school year. Our main mission is to serve to the best of our abilities to support student achievement. Before reading through our newsletter, I would like to congratulate Ms. Tamara Banks of Collins Middle School in Fayette County. Ms. Tamara Banks has been named School Counselor of the Year. When I asked her if we could highlight her in our newsletter, she said that our newsletter needs to highlight all the Fayette County Counselors because “we all work really hard and really are ahead of the curve!” So, to honor her request, I wanted to make sure that it not only is mentioned, but full coverage of newspaper article is presented in this newsletter. As you read, you can see we are very busy making positive changes for our students and educators in RESA 4. The RESA 4 staff will continue to maintain a rich, educational environment to support student success. As always, we want to thank everyone for your support of RESA 4 as we continue to promote making educating students as job one!

Dave Warvel, Executive Director



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21st CCLC Afterschool Program Highlights

The most recent project that the students completed was gathering donations for “Blessing Bags.” This project is a monthly event held by the mission of Warm Hands from Warm Hearts. The students took up collections of toiletries such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. and small nonperishable snacks. The students then wrote an encouraging note to place in each bag. These bags were distributed to those in need by the Midland Trail Football Team.

This after-school program has provided the students of Ansted Elementary with not only academic assistance, but also enrichment opportunities as well. The students that attend this program are very eager to help one another and others. Respect, responsibility, empathy, and successful life skills are incorporated into daily activities. The BLAST Program hopes to do a community outreach program at least once a month as they continue their regular educational studies.



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Professional Learning

RESA 4 designs ongoing professional learning opportunities in response to requests and needs of educators throughout RESA 4. January and February content included co-teaching strategies, school culture, mathematics, literacy, student engagement, school culture and professional learning communities. Content was delivered through collaboration with schools, counties and WVDE. Other support offered included the Instructional Materials Caravan, IPI, CPI, PBIS and Substitute Teacher Training.

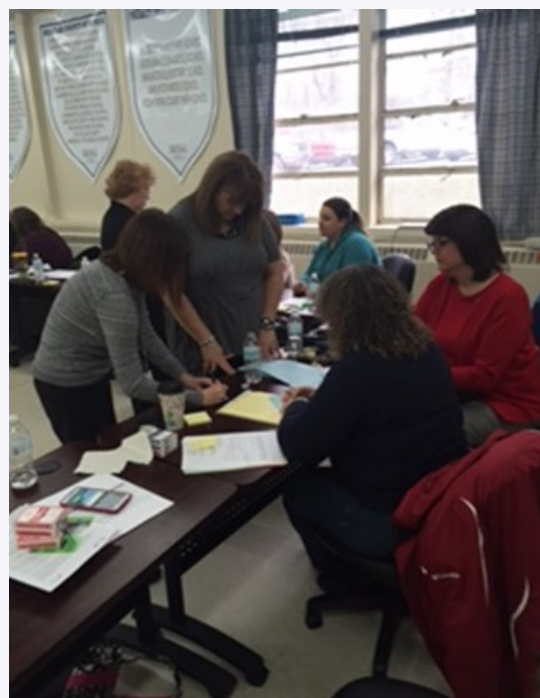
Greenbrier County TACS share technology strategies with fellow instructional coaches and TISs from the RESA 4 counties. The group is composed of participants from all RESA 4 counties and meets monthly to collaborate and learn together.



Josh Grant and Jody LeRose share research and movement activities targeting cognitive engagement of students.

Dr. Anthony Muhammad Seminar Series

January 21st was the 3rd of 4 seminars with Dr. Anthony Muhammad of Solution Tree. There is still time to register for the final seminar to be held on March 1st at the Summersville Convention Center. Sign up for this exciting session today by following the link on the RESA 4 web page!



Instructional coaches and TISs engage in activities designed to support co-teaching.



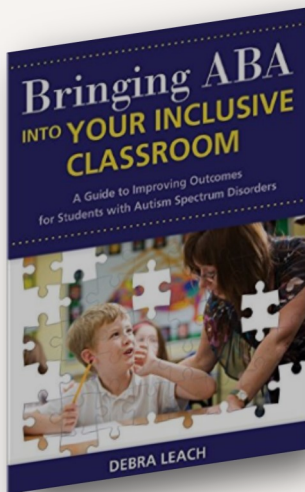
READYROSIE LAUNCH

On January 4, 2016 dedicated educators gathered at the Summersville Armory to meet with Kevin Roden from ReadyRosie. Teachers and county coordinators learned many ways Ready Rosie can be used to support students both inside and outside of the classroom. ReadyRosie provides high quality support for school readiness directly into the hands of parents and caregivers of 0-5 year olds. Every parent and caregiver of a 0-5 year old within the RESA 4 service area can utilize this resource. For more information, contact your county Pre-K Coordinator.



Teachers Learn ABA Practices For An Inclusive Classroom

On February 3, teachers and psychologists gathered together to more deeply investigate Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques in the classroom. The session, led by WVDE Autism Coordinator, JoDonna Burdoff, was the second session in a book study of *Bringing ABA into Your Inclusive Classroom: A Guide to Improving Outcomes for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Not only did participants receive this book, but also received *Show me the Data* and multi-colored markers for data collection.



CPI Dates

Upcoming Full Day Classes

Monday, March 7, 2016 at Braxton Co BOE
Monday, April 11, 2016 at RESA 4

Refresher Class

Monday, May 16, 2016

Email slee@k12.wv.us to register.

School Climate Survey

In December 2011, the West Virginia Board of Education enacted [*Expected Behaviors in Safe and Supportive Schools*](#) to provide a framework for developing optimal learning conditions for both students and school staff. Implementation of the policy calls on school districts and schools to establish a process to gain school-wide input from students, staff, parents and the community, and to build a commitment to school climate/culture improvement. Although it is up to schools to decide how to gain the input, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) offers the **West Virginia School Climate Surveys** for that purpose at no cost to districts or schools.

As part of the data-driven planning process, schools may conduct three interrelated surveys: 1) *Student* (separate versions for elementary students and for middle/high students); 2) *School Staff*; and 3) *Parent/Caregiver*. These surveys are conducted online and provide critical information about the learning and teaching environment, the health and well-being of students, and supports for parents, school staff, and students. The WVDE offers two opportunities each school year for schools to participate in the surveys; the first in the fall semester followed by a second opportunity in the spring semester. The WVDE also makes every effort to provide schools reports of their survey results in as short a time as possible after the close of each survey window. Examples of selected survey products are available http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/wvscs/wvscs_products.html.

During the spring semester of the 2015-2016 school year the surveys will be open between **February 29** and **May 13, 2016**. Below are links to resources for schools interested in participating. A guidance document is provided which contains detailed information needed to plan for, schedule, and successfully administer the surveys. To participate schools must register. A link is provided to the online registration page which will be open from **February 1** through **May 6, 2016**. It is also important that school staff, parents, and students have an opportunity to see survey questionnaires prior to participation. Links to printable pdf versions to each questionnaire are listed. Finally, for the student surveys parental informed consent is an important and necessary step. Generic parental consent forms are contained in the appendix of the guidance document, however links to both pdf and MS Word format versions also are provided below.

For more information, please visit: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/wvscs/>

MEDICAID UPDATE

Medicaid is moving right along with some upcoming trainings that I will be attending. Programmers are working on resolving the billing issue, where we are not able to complete any Medicaid billing from October 2015 to the present, due to needing additional spaces in WVEIS to add multiple diagnosis codes. Each billing service must now have its own code that must match the service for which we are billing. In the past, we had one diagnosis code shared for every service. Hopefully, this will be fixed soon so we can get some money coming in for the counties.

Misty Carpenter

Medicaid Specialist, 304-872-6440, ext. 212, macarpenter@k12.wv.us

21st CCLC Afterschool Program Highlights, *continued...*

Congratulations Richwood Middle School



Congratulations! The SPLASH (Supporting Personalized Learning After School Hours) Program at Richwood Middle School was just awarded a STEM Mini-Grant for \$3,000. Through this grant, written by the Mathematics/STEM Instructor, Lisa Cole, students will have the opportunity to participate in a creative science investigators project. They will be able to analyze a variety of elements involved in a crime scene to solve the crime through cooperative problem solving. It stresses using analytical skills in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology by having students: calculate measurements, create fingerprint castings, assemble bones of a skeletal remain, extract DNA, analyze shoe impressions, analyze fingerprints, analyze handwriting samples, create teeth castings to study bite marks, and analyze footprints. In addition, students will have the opportunity to tour the forensic lab at Glenville State College to view hands-on college level study of forensics.

Richwood Middle School's SPLASH Program currently offers many exciting opportunities! One opportunity is to learn and apply computer coding skills. Gavin Knight and Tyler Jones were anxious to illustrate what they have learned.



Another offering to not only students at RMS, but also to high school students and adult community members from the Richwood area is the WVDNR (West Virginia Division of Natural Resources) Hunter's Education course. These students participated in a ten hour class that emphasized hunting ethics and firearm safety. Students are required to pass a written exam followed by a hands on application of firearms handling in order to be issued a hunter's education certificate. This is a state requirement for purchasing West Virginia state hunting licenses.



Ansted Elementary School Reaching Out

The BLAST (Building Learning After School Time) Program at Ansted Elementary has developed a true sense of community. Beginning in January, students were able to walk to the Ansted Nursing Home to read to some of the residents; because this was such a success it will be a monthly program, with different students reading each month. Students also participated in a cooking activity where they made cookies for a local family who lost their home in a fire.



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The schools working with the Graduation 20/20 program are really starting to make progress and implementing action plans that will help ensure that students graduate on time. Plans are underway for a spring meeting for school Graduation 20/20 teams so that they can learn more about year two of the program as well as having time to share their school's progress with each other.



RESA 4 Substitute Teacher Training Program

Would you like to be a substitute teacher? RESA 4 offers monthly online classes and testing.

If you have any questions about the RESA 4 Substitute Teacher Training program, please feel free to contact:

Sherry Sparks-Francisco at
304-872-6440, ext. 201
ssparks@k12.wv.us

21st CCLC Afterschool Program Highlights, *continued...*

On February 1st, the students also worked to help raise money to buy food for a local food bank. Each child created a bowl from clay. The bowls will then be auctioned at an event at The Place – United Methodist Temple in Beckley on Saturday, March 19th from 11 AM – 2 PM. Quota International of Beckley is sponsoring their 3rd annual Empty Bowls Luncheon/Silent Auction. For \$15, you can purchase a handcrafted bowl and receive a meal. The money raised by the sale of the AES students' bowls will go towards providing funds for food pantries in and around our area. If you would like more information about this project, you can access their Facebook page - Empty Bowls.



SPOTLIGHTING FAYETTE COUNTY

Collins counselor receives state recognition: 'We are willing to do anything we possibly can to help a child.'

Gone are the days of school counselors who merely monitor testing, schedule classes and help with postsecondary educational opportunities. Today's counselors are tasked with issues of child poverty, domestic violence, bullying, teen pregnancy and drugs.

For her work making a difference in Fayette County students' lives, Collins Middle School counselor Tamara Banks has been named Middle School Counselor of the Year 2015-2016 by the West Virginia School Counselor Association.



Tamara Banks
Collins Middle School Counselor

"Our role as school counselors has changed a lot over the last decade, and even more over the last two or three years," explained Banks. "We deal with anything that is thrown at us. We have kids that don't have their basic human needs met, and we coordinate resources to get them shoes, clothes and school supplies."

Counselors have conducted suicide assessments for many years, but those are becoming more frequent, and counselors are often the first line of defense to refer students for therapy or psychological evaluations, she said.

She helps students experiencing domestic violence put together a safety plan and even makes home visits when she feels they are needed to speak with parents and guardians. "As counselors, we are willing to do anything we possibly can to help a child, no matter what problem is sitting in front of us," Banks shared. These efforts are in addition to typical academic concerns and normal teasing and bullying issues.

Middle school counselors are also in a unique position to identify students whose attendance records already show they could be at risk of dropping out in high school and help remedy the many reasons students miss.

Banks said she only wishes that all parents would see school counselors as allies. Banks has experienced physical threats and legal threats. Many parents see her as a help, but some are not as open, she explained.

Last year Collins Middle School experienced a facility crisis and Banks' students were split among three buildings. That remains one of her largest challenges. If a student experiences a crisis, Banks is sometimes at another facility and can't respond immediately. Thankfully, she said counselors stationed full time at Oak Hill and Fayetteville high schools are willing to work together and provide help for the Collins students if she is at another facility.

"Probably my biggest issue is that I don't have a private space to work. All three schools are so crowded that I don't have a dedicated telephone to privately call a parent if needed," she shared.

Anna Kincaid-Cline, director of secondary education for Fayette County Schools, said Banks is always willing to try new initiatives with Collins students.

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- * As stated in a previous newsletter article, it is important that all users of WVEIS have attached to their WVEIS user ID a valid and actively used @k12.wv.us email account. WVEIS County Contacts can use the menu item USR.ACCT in WOW to check that users have a valid email address attached.
- * Have you started the 2016-2017 scheduling process for your school? Call us for any help needed in getting started. It is never too early to start!
- * Last year was the first year in all RESA 4 counties that schools were directed to begin posting grades to transcripts at all levels (not just in high school). These transcript grades are used by the BrightBytes early warning system to assist in identifying at risk students. Your courses should be correctly defined as to whether credits are attached or not, but if you suspect any issues with your course definitions, now would be the time to look before the transcript process is run this summer.
- * Now is the time to schedule us for your in-service needs for next school year. Book now to get your best date and time.
- * The 2016 WVEIS 26th Annual Data Conference will be held over the days of June 22-24 (with county contact meetings on June 21) at The Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown, WV. Watch your email or the <http://WVEIS.k12.wv.us> website for more details as the date gets closer.

Call or email with any questions or concerns:

Karen Turner, WVEIS Director, 304-872-6440, ext. 215 or keturner@k12.wv.us

Nicole Workman, WVEIS Specialist, 304-872-6440, ext. 214 or nlworkma@k12.wv.us

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Banks has developed an environment of thankfulness and giving back by having students help out local shelters and food pantries. This has a lasting effect on students, said Kincaid-Cline.

Banks was chosen for this honor, but she points out that Fayette County has one of the strongest counseling programs in the state, having implemented national American School Counseling Association models long before other counties.

"Where we are is because of Anna Kincaid-Cline. We have had monthly counselor meetings for years, and that in and of itself is something many other counties don't do. That simple initiative gives us an opportunity to brainstorm, work together and share ideas," said Banks. "We are so far ahead that we have already implemented models that other counties are only now talking about."

The West Virginia School Counselor Association has also named Matthew Armes, Martinsburg High School, as High School Counselor of the Year and Tonya Zickfoose, Buckhannon Academy Elementary, as Elementary School Counselor of the Year.



Tamara Banks would like to highlight all the Fayette County Counselors because "we all work really hard and really are ahead of the curve!"

Article courtesy of:

By Sarah Plummer Register-Herald Reporter
Feb 15, 2016

Email: splummer@register-herald.com;

The Child and Adult Care Food Program completed the first round of required annual training for child care providers in our six counties. This year's training was entitled, "**Discover MyPlate**"—an exciting educational journey through the world of nutrition and health—developed under the USDA Team Nutrition initiative. These fun and inquiry-based lessons foster the development of healthy food choices and physically active lifestyles during a critical developmental and learning period for children.

Due to conflicting schedules and inclement weather impacting providers who were unable to attend the initial round of classes, make-up classes will be held in April. Letters will be sent during the month of March to inform providers of exact date and time slots available.

For more information about our program,
please contact:

Contact Vickie Johnson
CACFP Coordinator
304-872-6440, ext. 211

RESA 4 Resource Catalog

304-872-6440 --- 1-800-251-7372 --- fax 304-872-6442
See RESA web site Resource Library for online browsing/ordering
SUBJECT: Differentiated Instruction

Books - Reading

1400.07 **Differentiating Textbooks: Strategies to Improve Student Comprehension Motivation—Benefits Struggling Learners Too!** Grades 4m-12 (Char Forsten, Jim Grant, Betty Hollas, 2003) –Strategies beneficial for all students to use from year to year and class to class. Shows teachers how to quickly organize by pairs or small groups when collaboration is preferred; how to adapt textbooks (and include student input); how to help students focus with before- during- and after-reading strategies. Teacher tips are throughout. Reproducibles and research/reference section. [5 copies]

1008.05 **Graphic Organizers and Activities for Differentiated Instruction in Reading:** 50+ Reproducible, Leveled Literature-Response Sheets That Help You Manage Students' Different Learning Needs Easily and Effectively. Grades 4-8 (Witherell and McMackin, 2002)

Books - School Leadership to Support Differentiated Instruction

1400.05 **The Differentiated Instruction Coach's Guide for Observation & Feedback: Part of the DI Coaching System—for Principals & Other Mentors,** Grades K-12 (Betty Hollas, 2009) and *The Differentiated Instruction Journal for Reflection, Discussion & Planning.* (Guide plus 10 journals) – A strategic coaching tool to help administrators (coaching style) encourage and support teachers learning to use DI in the classroom. Defines the six components of DI, and gives *Keys to Success* and *Suggestions for Growth* for each component.

1008.01 **Leadership for Differentiating Schools and Classrooms** – The authors begin with foundational principles, practices, and vocabulary; and then examine research, theory, and observations which support differentiation. Includes discussion of practical strategies for planning school change; a case study of one school district's experience (including commentary analysis); extensive references section; resource lists with most chapters; and an appendix of documents for guiding and organizing school change. Elem/Secondary (Carol Ann Tomlinson and Susan Demirsky Allan, 2000, ASCD)

Department of Technology

The Computer Repair Department at RESA 4 has been very busy over the past few months. The repair staff completed a long fiber run at Alderson Elementary to provide Internet to their band room. Also installed were over 20 projectors at Gauley River Elementary in Nicholas County. In Greenbrier County we installed several cameras at Greenbrier West High School. Our department continues to provide router and substitute calling system support to all six of our counties.



Aaron Williams 304-872-6440 ext. 202 or alwillia@k12.wv.us

RESA 4 Substitute School Bus Operator Training Program

Since July, 2015, twenty-three students from five counties have successfully completed our substitute school bus operator training program and received their state certification. Currently, classes are being conducted in Braxton, Fayette, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.



Examiner, George Brooks, administering certification exam for Fayette County student, Carlyle Fitzgerald, who successfully passed.

If you would like any information about our program, please contact
Paula Hamilton

304.872.6440
ext. 213 or email
pdhamilt@k12.wv.us



Examiner, Fritz Deuly, administering certification exam for Fayette County student, Bryan Cox, who successfully passed.

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RESA 4 Regional Council Membership

Braxton County
David Dilly, Superintendent
Kathy Parker, Board Representative

Fayette County
Terry George, Superintendent
Lou Jones, Board Representative

Greenbrier County
Sallie Dalton, Superintendent
Bob Toothman, Board Representative

Nicholas County
Dr. Keith Butcher, Superintendent
Bob M. O'Dell, Board Representative

Pocahontas County
Terrence Beam, Superintendent
Cheryl Beverage, Board Representative

Webster County
Scott Cochran, Superintendent
Harold Carpenter, Board Representative

WV Dept. of Education
Sterling Beane, Chief Technology Officer

Higher Education
Dr. Louis Watts, Marshall University

WV Board of Education
Thomas Campbell

RESA 4
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