



Holiday Newsletter

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- Christmas Message
- RESA Collaborative
- Principal Regional Institute
- RESA Staff Directory
- Learning Schools
- ASCD Leadership Conference
- Diploma Planning Institute
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Regional Science Bowl
- PBIS
- Coats for Kids

Merry Christmas

There is a list of folks I know
 All written in a book,
 And every year at Christmas time
 I go and take a look,
 And that is when I realize that
 Those names are a part
 Not of the book they're written in
 But of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
 Who has touched my life sometime,
 And in that meeting they've become
 The "Rhythm of the Rhyme"
 I really feel I am composed
 Of each remembered name,
 And while you may be aware
 Of feeling quite the same,
 My life is so much better
 Than it was before you came.

For once that you have known someone
 The years cannot erase,
 The memory of a pleasant word
 Or of a friendly face.
 So never think my Christmas cards
 Are just a mere routine
 Of names upon a list.
 For when I send a Christmas card
 That is addressed to you,
 It is because you're on that list
 Of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I've known you
 For many years or few,
 In some way you have had a part
 In shaping things I do,
 So every year when Christmas comes
 I just realize anew,
 The biggest gift that God can give
 Is knowing folks like you!

Nick P. Zervos

RESA School Improvement Collaborative (RSIC)

Spring 2016, members from each RESA, the WVDE Office of School Improvement and the WVDE Office of Federal Programs joined together to form the Regional School Improvement Collaborative (RSIC). This collaborative is continuing into the 2016-17 school year. The vision is to create and maintain a collaborative working relationship among all LEAs, RESAs, SEA and other entities to ensure a sustainable school improvement process. The Mission is to build capacity for continuous school improvement.

Meeting monthly, Christy Miller, Executive Director of the Office of School Improvement, serves as the meeting monitor as each RESA creates and uses exemplary products, practices and tools that support both local and state initiatives for LEAs. RESA 6 has led two of these meetings this school year, sharing the RESA 6 Data Management System and the resources and tools for the implementation of Policy 5500, Professional Learning for WV Educators, more commonly referred to as the "Learning School Initiative". The FAST Team actively participated in the "Unconference Session" led by RESAs 3, 5, and 7 where participants share their own topics of concerns, successes, and "Big Picture Ideas" in a collaborative environment.

RESA 6 is looking forward to future meetings as we work together for a common goal of state-wide school improvement.



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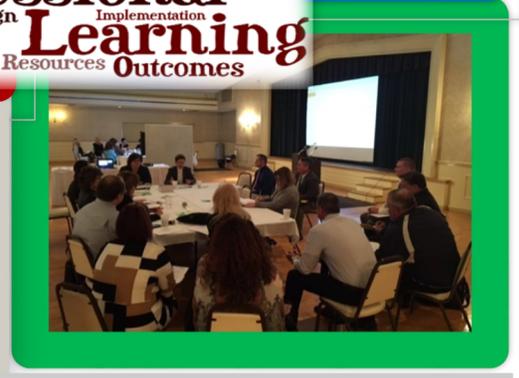
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Season's Greetings!



The **Principal Regional Institute (PRI)** was attended by Administrators from all five counties on October 25 & 26, 2016 at The White Palace, Wheeling Park. The focus was Policy 5500: Learning Schools. Each programmatic level (Elementary, Middle School and High School) met and participated in a PL You protocol for discussion of progress of Policy 5500 in their schools. They conversed about enhancers and challenges they are facing.

- Programmatic Level groups also participated with:
- * *Assessments with Stacy Murrell, EdD, WVDE*
 - * *Office of Educational Performance Audits (OEPA) Susan O'Brien, Executive Director*
 - * *"How to Conduct an Investigation" with Kathy Finsley and Michelle Dougherty, Steptoe & Johnson Law Firm*

The annual Satisfaction Survey was completed by attendees and rated RESA 6 as 4.6 on a 5 point scale for services provided to schools the past year. Attendees provided many complimentary Testimonials as well as referencing specific services of RESA 6.



Policy 5500: Learning Schools

Leaders of Learning Schools (LOLS) Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) teams from 18 schools across the region participated in follow-up training October 4, 5, 6, & 7. The focus was Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and the tools for success.

Teams updated their 30-60-90 day Plans and prepared to share "the Learning School Journey" at Principal Regional Institute (PRI) with their peers.



The FAST Team, divided into five sub-teams, made school site visits to support the implementation of Policy 5500: Learning Schools. Superintendents received an update about school site visits on October 13. Schools designated as Focus, Graduation 20/20 and

Foundations of Early Literacy are part of the school site visits with a continued emphasis on Policy 5500: Learning Schools integration with all schools. The embedded professional learning being modeled will continue with school site visits in November and December with a Superintendent update sent in December.



LOLS TOTs will reconvene in January by Programmatic Levels to continue the conversation about Policy 5500: Learning Schools. If you have questions or would like additional support, please do not hesitate to contact any FAST Team member at <http://resa6.k12.wv.us> or 304.243.0440



LEARNING SCHOOLS

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Diploma Planning Institute

Graduation rates in RESA 6 continue to rise but that did not stop fourteen schools from across the region in attending a 2-day working event to strive for higher graduation rates. On November 3rd and 4th the **National Dropout Prevention Center for RESA 6** presented the Diploma Planning Institute at the WesBanco Arena. Dr. Mark Wilson, a previous National High School Principal of the year, and Dr. Sandy Addis, Executive Director of the National Dropout Center, laid the foundation as they discussed the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention.

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Addis guided school teams through a process that produced a graduation rate improvement plan utilizing locally specific action steps. School teams looked at local data and challenges, reviewed research-based dropout prevention interventions, and developed specific plans that can be integrated with existing school improvement plans. Graduation 20/20 teams will be implementing their school action plans through the 2016-2017 school year.



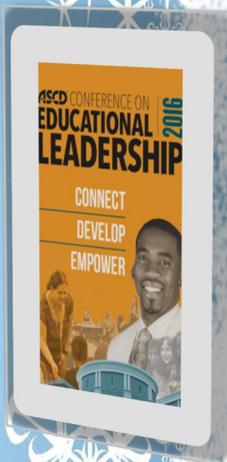
ASCD Leadership Conference

Representatives from RESA 6, Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Wetzel County Schools attended the ASCD National Leadership Conference on November 3-6 this year.

The conference focused on multiple types of Leadership and Leadership building strategies. Among the host of presentations and resources provided, some of the specific events attended were Robert Marzano's Key note speech; From a Process of Evaluation to a System for Effectiveness; Brain Research, Literacy, and Mindfulness; Deeper Learning; Leveraging the Principal's Influence; Restorative Practices; Tools for School Leaders; and Keys to Distributive Leadership.

At the conclusion of each day at the conference, participants from the RESA 6 region were given time to debrief, review what was observed and learned, and to include information from the conference for potential use in the county's school improvement efforts, which are documented on the 30-60-90-180 day plan.

The information presented at the various conference events was insightful, and the time given for members of each region to reflect, discuss, share, and plan brought a deeper level of meaning to the conference overall.



Youth Mental Health First Aid

West Liberty University students were certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) on October 14, 2016. YMHFA Certification is a requirement for all students taking *HE 320 Mental Health and Drug Use/Abuse* course.

Kathleen Wack, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education at West Liberty University, organized the training. Wack was certified in YMHFA in June 2016 at the Kids Strong Conference coordinated by the WVDE. She was so impressed with the 8 hour course she wanted to include the certification as a course requirement and contacted Caryn Puskarich, Regional Wellness Specialist and YMHFA Trainer. Wack explained, *"Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, YMHFA helps you assist a youth experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis as a first responder."*

Youth Mental Health First Aid provides an overview of mental health and substance abuse challenges for youth and provides a 5-step action plan to assist participants to help students in non-crisis and crisis situations. WLU students felt the training was beneficial. For example, Junior Alyssa Culp posted on social media, *"I highly recommend getting YMHFA certification. I*

learned so many symptoms, signs, and ways that I can help those who are suffering from a mental illness before, during, and after a crisis. We should all be a little more educated on such illnesses so that we can help prevent possible tragedies like suicide."

For more information about how to receive certification contact Caryn Puskarich at 304-231-3816 or cpuskari@k12.wv.us.



Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Spring Events

- TOTs Training—January 10, 11, 13, & 19—at RESA 6
- PBIS - January 24, 25, & 26—at The White Palace—Wheeling Park
- Spring 2017 Principal Regional Institute (PRI) - March 22 & 23 at The White Palace—Wheeling Park
- Upper Ohio Valley Fire & Rescue School—March 25 & 26 at Brooke High School



Science Bowl

Service Agencies
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Once again, the region's high school youth sharpened their Science skills and strengthened their empirical knowledge foundations to compete in the annual National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), RESA 6 Regional Science Bowl on Thursday, December 8th. This year's participants were Wheeling Park High School, Wheeling Central High School, John Marshall High School, and Paden City

High School. Over 60 students from the region competed for a qualifying position to the State Science Bowl in Morgantown this coming February.

The final results for the RESA 6 regional competition were:

1st place:

Wheeling Park High School — Team A

2nd place:

Wheeling Park High School — Team B

3rd place:

Wheeling Central Catholic High School — Team A

4th place:

John Marshall High School — Team A

RESA 6 wishes to thank all participants and volunteers, and West Liberty University for hosting the event at the Highlands Center. It was a good day, a great competition, and an excellent display of the region's youthful intellect. Until next year, keep hypothesizing and theorizing, and never stop questioning.



RESA 6 will be hosting a three day Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Academy in January 2017. The PBIS initiative is collaboration with the WVDE Office of Special Education and WV Autism Training Center (WVACT) and is aligned with Policy 4373-Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools, Policy 2322-Standards for High Quality Schools.

All five counties are expected to have an aggregate of fifteen schools participating in the PBIS Academy. Each school will have four to six participants and each county will have one to three coaches completing the Academy.

To participate in the Academy, each school:

- Executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that included signatures from the county office, including the superintendent, and RESA 6.
- Identify team members from each school (Administrator is a **requirement**, suggested: general education, special education., counselor, psychologist, social worker, behavior specialist, etc. are some ideas) and coach (the coach can be one person or a couple different people)
- Finish the application process by:
 - Completing the PBIS Readiness Check-Sheet
 - Signing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Academy Requirement checklist with School Administrator signature included as an attachment.

Once the Academy is completed, each school will:

- Identify Target Areas for Instruction
- Develop a Goal for School Strategic Plan
- Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate progress
- Provide periodic program status
- Attend additional trainings as needed

The goal of PBIS is to make schools effective and efficient by building equitable learning environments for all students. By improving culture and climate and building relationships with student and staff, academic outcomes will be improved.



RESA 6 is excited to host PBIS and the WVACT.



RESA 6 employees expressed joy in giving new, warm coats to Elementary, Middle and High School students in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties. Project co-chairperson, Ronda Kouski, reported that RESA 6 exceeded the goal of 40 coats this year by 40, allowing superintendents to distribute 80 coats to students who are in need among the five counties in the Northern Panhandle. The coats, purchased by RESA 6 Employees, Family and Friends, were delivered to students in Christmas gift bags by donations from Pat Catan's Craft Center.

■ Pictured are project co-chairs, Ronda Kouski and Patti Dei.