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IMLEA Office: 317/894-2937  
Fax us at 317/894-9807  
website: [www.imlea.org](http://www.imlea.org)  
Email - [IMLEA@IASP.org](mailto:IMLEA@IASP.org)

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- Region 3  
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(open)
- Region 6  
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Marc Gianfagna - Brownsburg East MS
- Region 9  
David Dean - Greenwood MS
- Region 10  
Jim Voelz - Doe Creek MS
- Region 11  
Gina Scales - Castle JHS
- Region 12  
Kristin Boehlein, Hazelwood MS

**Middling Around**

Is a Publication of the  
Indiana Middle Level Education Assn

Submissions may be made to your  
Regional Coordinator or to

Vicki H. Wertz, Editor  
[IMLEANews@comcast.net](mailto:IMLEANews@comcast.net)  
Phone 317.255.8349

*Deadlines for submissions:*

Fall - August 1; Winter - November 1;  
Spring - March 1



**THE INDIANA MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

***IMLEA will host three Town Hall Meetings in September to provide Indiana educators and parents the opportunity to hear both candidates discuss their educational platforms. At the end of the presentations, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions.***

The candidates are:

**Dr. Tony Bennett**

**Superintendent of Greater Clark County Schools**

**Dr. Richard Wood**

**Retired Superintendent of Tippecanoe School Corp**

***Both candidates were invited to speak at all three events. Dr. Bennett could only present at one event due to his schedule and responsibilities as Superintendent.***

**No admission will be charged.**

**Wednesday, September 10**

Dr. Tony Bennett and Dr. Richard Wood, candidates for State Superintendent, will both speak about their educational platforms from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in Northview Middle School auditorium at 8401 Westfield Blvd, Indianapolis.

**Wednesday, September 17**

Dr. Richard Wood, Candidate for State School Superintendent, will speak from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at Niels Science Auditorium on the Valparaiso University campus.

**Wednesday, September 24**

Dr. Richard Wood, Candidate for State School Superintendent, will speak from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at Mitchell Auditorium on the University of Southern Indiana campus in Evansville. This auditorium is in the Health Professions Building near parking lot A.

For further information, contact the IMLEA office:  
phone 317.894.2937, or email [imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org)

**Rhonda Mull, IMLEA President      Shirley Wright, Exec. Director**



...from the Executive Secretary

by Pam Millikan

# Relationships

***This summer I had one of those “Chicken Soup for the Soul” moments in my life...***

One of our maintenance men stopped me to ask if I remembered having him as a student when I taught. (Please know that I am a “senior” member of our staff!) After momentarily being offended because I thought he was talking about how old I was, he quickly began to relate the following story. When I taught English I would send letters to my students for something positive that they had done in my classroom. (I still do this as an administrator.) His mother had died recently and when they were sorting her belongings, tucked inside her Bible, they found the letter I had sent to her son so many years ago! He and his family were deeply moved that this letter had been so important to his mother. Up until this time, I had read stories such as this one and truly thought that people “exaggerated” to make a good sounding story. NO more! I am convinced that the relationships that we make with our students have lasting effects! It is not merely the subject we teach, but HOW we teach our students that makes all of the difference.

Rick Wormeli in his book *Day One and Beyond* states, “Our relations with one another—student to student,

student to teacher, teacher to teacher; teacher to administration—give purpose to everything else we do. Truly, when we look back, we remember the people more than the subject lessons.” Wormeli goes on to suggest that all teachers need to concentrate on the following items during the first day and first week of school.

1. Learn student names within the first week of school, even if you teach 150 or more. Do this by playing name games, practicing during class, after school or while walking down the hall. “Having your name remembered by a respected adult is a big deal to young adolescents.” (and adults!)
2. Tour your school’s boundary area to see where your students eat, shop, live, and play.
3. Regularly read the local paper to learn about your students. (This becomes a great conversation starter!)
4. Talk with students and their parents as often as you can—both in school, out of school, on the phone, or by e-mail. “Find out what’s going on and what’s important in their lives!”

Basically, trust, respect, and acceptance are the keys to successful teaching. I encourage you to read *Day One and Beyond*; it is full of detailed suggestions to make your teaching more pleasurable and meaningful for you and your students.

If you have had a similar experience where a student has shared with you how much you mean to them, keep those cards and thoughts close to your heart. THOSE times give meaning to what we do. Teaching is much more than teaching a certain subject or curriculum; teaching is about creating relationships and developing future citizens. As you begin this year, I encourage you to take a few extra minutes to write a note, call parents, thank a student, or recognize a student. The few minutes it takes to relay how pleased you are with something a student has done can and will make a difference.

Happy teaching! May you have a fantastic year as you teach the most delightful group of students—our young adolescents!

*The rest of the story, as a famous radio person would say, is that the man I described in the opening said he has now moved his letter to a safe place in his home so he can keep it for future reference!*

***Pamela Millikan is principal of Custer Baker MS in Franklin. You can email Pam at: millikap@fcsc.k12.in.us***

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## Prentice Hall Social Studies

Helping you chart the right social studies course

For more information please contact:

**Brian Young**  
Indiana Secondary Representative  
Tippecanoe County, South and West  
317-858-2484  
brian.young@pearson.com

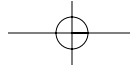
**Chuck Moulton**  
Indiana Secondary Representative  
North and East  
765-741-9655  
chuck.moulton@pearson.com



www.PearsonSchool.com

PEARSON

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# IMLEA Now Offers On-Site Workshops!

**Proven Professional Educators Will Come to Your District After School, Half-Day or Whole Day!**

Indiana administrators and teachers who have given these workshops at regional, state and national conferences will now provide them on-site. Check out the list of topics for these workshops below. To schedule one for your school or district, just contact the IMLEA office by email at [imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org) or call 317/894-2937 with your request. These workshops are great for in-service or professional days as well as after school. *(You may split the cost if you invite other schools.)*

<u>2 hour workshop</u>		<u>4 hour workshop</u>	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
\$250 for up to 75 people	\$350	\$500 for up to 75 people	\$600
\$400 for 76 - 150 people	\$500	\$650 for 76 - 150 people	\$750
\$500 for 151+ people	\$600	\$800 for 151+ people	\$900

**DATA IN EDUCATION**

- Real-life Applications of Data Analysis
- Dreams and Data
- Using Power Standards to Differentiate Instruction

**INSTRUCTION**

- “Brain-based Teaching”
- Curriculum Alignment
- Striving for AYP
- Differentiated Approach to Introducing Algebra in Middle School

**MENTORING, MOTIVATIONAL AND REMEDIATION STRATEGIES**

- Teacher-Student Mentoring Program
- Small Group Study Halls, Parent Tutoring Programs and Whatever It Takes to Reach Kids
- Being a “Rising Star” Beginning Teacher: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Year One
- Finding Time for Remediation and Enrichment
- Mentoring Underperforming Students
- Keeping the Faith: Keeping Your Staff Motivated in the Age of Accountability
- Planning for Understanding
- Student Expectation Systems: Making Incentive Programs Work with Middle School Concept Competitions for the Social Studies Classroom Center on US History and Geography

**MIDDLE LEVEL ADMINISTRATION**

- School-wide Discipline Plan
- BRIM and BRIM Overview
- Transition from MS to High School

**READING**

- Reading in the Content Area
- Reading Activities to Motivate Students
- Tying Writing to 6+1 Traits, Standards, Lit Text

**RELATED ARTS**

- Saving Your FACS Class
- Applying Reading, Writing and Math to FACS Class
- Creating Middle Level Foreign Language Class

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

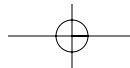
- Revamping Your Special Education Program
- Reorganizing Your Special Ed Delivery Model
- Making Special Education Inclusion / Team Teaching Work

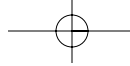
**TEAMING**

- Team Building
- Five Dysfunctions of a Team and Co-Teaching
- Building Relationships to Improve Academic Excellence
- Professional Learning Communities

**TECHNOLOGY**

- Creating an Applied Skills Technology Program
- Computer Integrated Technology: Applied Skills (integrating technology into the curriculum)
- TEAMS = Technology Enhancing Achievement in Middle Schools (multiple technology modes)
- Web Quests Using Quia.com to Disaggregate Student Performance
- PPT and Video and Using the Media Center





## Shirley's Desk

### **IMLEA Is Happening All Over the State!**

*Shirley Wright is the Executive Director for the Indiana Middle Level Education Association. Contact Shirley at the IMLEA Office by phone at 317/894-2937, or e-mail at [IMLEA@IASP.org](mailto:IMLEA@IASP.org)*

#### **An exciting new year for IMLEA....and for our members!**

There will be no IMLEA state conference in February of 2009 due to the **NMSA national conference coming to Indy November 5 - 7** of 2009. We want to have everyone concentrate their professional development time and money to attending the national conference. IMLEA is co-hosting the national conference and has a local steering committee already in place that has been meeting and planning since last spring. If you are interested in volunteering to help during the conference, please contact the IMLEA office by email or by phone.

#### **So....what's new for this year?**

August 20 – 22, IMLEA partnered with the HOPE Foundation to offer a \$40 discount for IMLEA members to attend their *Failure is not an Option* Summit conference at the airport Adams Mark hotel. IMLEA is also partnering with HOPE for their Chicago Summit October 22-24.

October 1, IMLEA is partnering with IASP in presenting a distance learning event on **"Adolescent Literacy in the Content Areas,"** featuring Nancy Meyer-Brown and Laura Kaiser. The two-hour workshop will be broadcast live from the conference room at the IASP office. Host sites will be available throughout the state. Registrations will be emailed and available on our website. See page 9 for more details.

In **September**, IMLEA will host **three Town Hall meetings** featuring the **two candidates for State Superintendent, Dr. Richard Wood and Dr. Tony Bennett.** Dr. Bennett and Dr. Wood will both speak on September 10, from 7 pm – 8 pm at Northview Middle School in Indianapolis. Dr. Wood will speak at Valparaiso University from 7 pm – 8 pm on September 17, and then also at the University of Indiana in Evansville on September 24. There will be time at all three events for questions from the audience. Check our website, [www.imlea.org](http://www.imlea.org),

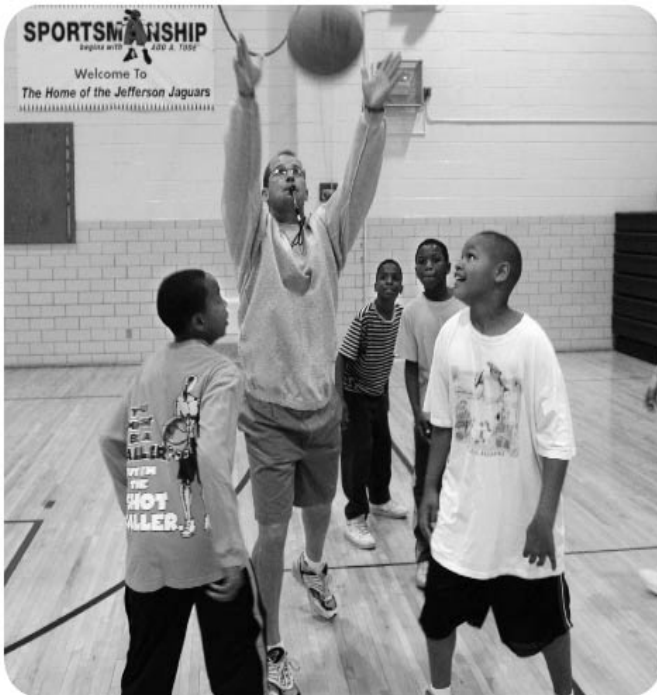
for further information.

We are continuing to provide **on-site workshops** at your school or in your district for a nominal fee. Check out page 4 for specifics.

During **January and February** of 2009, we will provide **five one-day conferences in the north, east, west, south and central regions of the state.** Workshops, break-outs and networking will be provided. Detailed information will be sent out by email and will also be posted on our website.

Belonging to IMLEA should be a *must* for every middle level (grades 4 – 8) educator in Indiana. IMLEA is the only state professional education association providing resources and professional development focused on middle level concerns and issues for administrators, teachers, university professors and pre-service teachers.

*Shirley*



### **We help educators reach their goals**

It would be nice if every financial decision you had to make were a slam dunk.

*Let us help you create a plan to reach your insurance and retirement goals.*

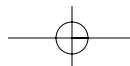
**Indiana Agency**

**317-846-8723**

**[horacemann.com](http://horacemann.com)**

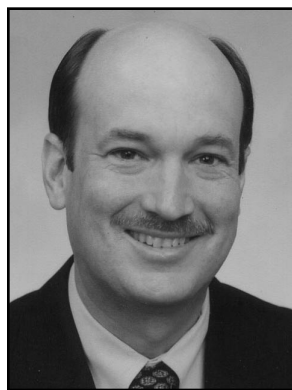


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# MEETING THE

DR. RICHARD WOOD AND DR. TONY BENNETT, INDIANA STATE SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Richard Wood is Retired Superintendent of Tippecanoe School Corporation**

**1. What is your main concern and what would your focus be for the middle school students of our state?**

Educational opportunities for Indiana's children must be a top priority. We need to be building good children rather than creating situations where we must repair adults. The middle school years are a crucial transition period for most students. (Note: During my tenure as a district superintendent the school corporation placed a major priority on the middle school model. We operated six middle schools ranging from 350 to 600 students as well as two alternative middle level academies.)

**2. How will you as State Superintendent seek input and advice from public school teachers and administrators?**

Success is a shared venture. An effective state superintendent is one who is able to bring credibility to any discussion of issues facing Indiana schools. School districts must have confidence that the Department of Education has an optimistic yet realistic view of our great potential as well as a feel on the pulse of local school communities. The state superintendent does not have legislative authority but does have the capability to be an advocate. Our legislators and governor will respond more effectively if they view the Department as an authority as to the impact of proposed change or lack of action. The state superintendent must ensure that the Department is fully aware of the viewpoints of all constituents, not merely those in the education field.

**3. What is your position on tax credits and/or vouchers for private schools and their possible effect on public school funding?**

Public funding should only be available to those institutions willing and

able to provide the appropriate services to any age-qualified student. Public funds should be available when the student is able to choose the district, not when the institution is able to refuse a student. We must also ensure that we do not violate the state and federal Constitutional requirement for religious neutrality.

**4. What will you do to support increased remediation funding in the 2009 budget?**

We need to ensure that the amount of money we spend on testing does not dwarf the amount of money we devote to remediation. If elected, I will draw attention to the imbalance that exists at the present time. I will also advocate a return to full funding for Project Prime Time.

**5. What efforts would you support to improve high school graduation rates?**

Our paradigm has changed. In the past we have been content to allow our students to sink or swim knowing that failure to conform to the system did not prohibit the ability to obtain gainful employment. We know this is no longer the case. While we know that the majority of our students function effectively in traditional programs we must continue to retool our secondary schools to meet the needs of those students we have let slide in the past. We can no longer afford to write off those students who march to the beat of a different drum. We must also recognize that those students who need non-traditional models may need more than four years to reach a functional level of educational competence.

**6. How do you propose to limit unfunded mandates on public schools?**

The state superintendent must be diligent in monitoring proposed legislation to identify any potential for mandates with unfunded liabilities. The superintendent must provide testimony and other public discourse to alert lawmakers and their constituents if proposals carry hidden costs.

**7. What should the Indiana Department of Education do to provide assistance to schools placed on "Academic Probation" according to PL 21-1999?**

The Department may need to reorganize and prioritize current services to ensure that such assistance is available to dis-

tricts in need. We should not expect quick fixes for problems that have taken generations to develop. I believe that our ability to obtain additional public funding for troubled schools is contingent on demonstrating that we are turning the tide.

**8. What do you think about the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and how (or if) it should be reauthorized?**

The intent behind NCLB is admirable. The design of the program is fatally flawed as long as the inability to master any one monitored element negates and fails to celebrate progress in other areas. It is unfortunate that many people judge the quality of a school by the advantages of the population rather than the progress of the student body. NCLB, if properly designed, could help alter such unfair perceptions. Until such time that the basic design is improved to focus on success rather than failure, the negativity of the design will doom the program.

**9. What is your plan for recruiting Highly Qualified Teachers for our state in order to limit the number of teachers on emergency permits?**

The current stringent requirements for full certification in Indiana are admirable but unrealistic given the developing teacher shortage. Transition to teaching programs and recent legislation to encourage retired teachers to return to the classroom are positive steps to address this challenge. I suspect that in the near future the state will need to offer salary incentives to teachers in shortage areas.

**10. What are the effective strategies to improve teaching quality, including evaluations, professional development and/or teacher testing?**

The ultimate success of a school district will be determined by the patrons of the community, not by the Indiana Department of Education. The Department must serve as a resource to provide local school boards and employees effective models to consider. Our state's educational service centers will continue to be a major component in the success of professional development and effective staff evaluation training.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief responses to these questions. Please visit our website at [www.richardwood.org](http://www.richardwood.org) for additional information.

# CANDIDATES

## CANDIDATES, RELATE THEIR RESPECTIVE VISIONS FOR INDIANA SCHOOLS.

**1. What is your main concern and what would your focus be for the middle school students of our state?**

The role of Indiana middle schools is vital to improving educational performance in our state. Middle schools present some of the largest educational challenges as students deal with changes in their body, a sense of independence and the rebellion that is often the byproduct of those two issues. My main concern for middle schools is that we build upon the foundation provided to students during their elementary years. We must achieve this by providing a more robust and challenging curriculum. Because of the challenges that are evident in teaching students during their pubescent years, we must successfully engage both parents and the community to ensure that we create a middle school environment that supports the students and helps them achieve during this difficult transition.

**2. How will you as State Superintendent seek input and advice from public school teachers and administrators?**

I am going to create a Department that is interactive with our "customers." We at the Department of Education will clearly understand that these customers include the students, parents, and employees of schools throughout Indiana. I will be meeting personally with principals and teachers throughout the state to identify ways in which the Department can support the local schools and school corporations. Under my direction, The Department of Education will move from a regulatory-focused entity to a resource-based organization that serves schools and helps them solve problems.

**3. What is your position on tax credits and/or vouchers for private schools and their possible effect on public school funding?**

This is a legislative issue and I will have more than enough challenges with improving the Department to stay out of legislative matters. However, I believe all necessary options and tools must be available to students and parents. I also believe that competition is part of our society, and we in public education should never fear that competition, and should passionately believe that if we perform to our highest abilities, Indiana public schools will compete and succeed in any arena.

**4. What will you do to support increased remediation funding in the 2009 budget?**

This is a legislative matter, but I believe it is the responsibility of the Department to help schools maximize the remediation dollars that they receive from the state. We will be aggressive in helping schools identify and share best practices. We will offer workshops and programs that provide schools with the ideas and tools that are necessary to help them provide remedial instruction. However, my biggest goal is to create a Department and system that works with the student throughout the year so that the need for remediation instruction outside the traditional school year is reduced.

**5. What efforts would you support to improve high school graduation rates?**

We must improve the educational foundation of the student from grades K-8. We must create a secondary level environment and that is adaptive and engaging for all students including, but not limited to paving multiple pathways for students to be globally competitive in their chosen postsecondary endeavor. Finally, we have to work with the families of Indiana school children to help them understand the importance and necessity of a high school diploma and a plan for post-secondary education and/or training that enables them to be productive citizens in our ever-changing society.

**6. How do you propose to limit unfunded mandates on public schools?**

I will ensure that the Department reviews all rules and mandates on public schools within my first 60 days so that we eliminate all unnecessary and costly unfunded mandates. I very much believe in providing academic freedom to schools so that they can address the specific needs of their students.

**7. What should the Indiana Department of Education do to provide assistance to schools placed on "Academic Probation" according to PL 21-1999?**

First, the DOE must actively engage with schools to make sure that all possible solutions are being considered. By this I mean that the Department of Education must be prepared to provide information to schools of successful models that have worked in similar types of school settings. Second, the DOE must provide

**Dr. Tony Bennett  
is Superintendent  
of Greater Clark  
County Schools**



resources to these schools (Technical Assistance Teams, curriculum experts, etc) that the school believes will benefit them. Finally, the DOE must help the school message to their community that this isn't an issue for just the school. The school must have the support of the parents, volunteers and community if education is going to improve. The DOE, under my leadership will take a very strong approach in this area.

**8. What do you think about the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and how (or if) it should be reauthorized?**

I think that the intent of NCLB is positive but it clearly has some deficiencies. Whether it is reauthorized or not is a federal matter, but I will offer suggestions to our Senators and Representatives on how NCLB can be improved. Most importantly, it needs to remove the costly unfunded mandates and review the categorization of schools. It simply isn't right that a school achieving in all areas but one is still deemed a failing school.

**9. What is your plan for recruiting Highly Qualified Teachers for our state in order to limit the number of teachers on emergency permits?**

We must create an environment in which young people believe that they will be respected, rewarded and recognized for being a teacher. This means that teachers should be empowered in their classroom to create a teaching style that is effective for them and isn't part of a pre-determined structure of how they teach. Secondly, we must create a compensation structure that rewards our most-effective teachers. Finally, we have to communicate to our young people the honor and respect that our state has for teachers. The modest tax credit that the Governor

See "Candidates' Answers" on p. 10 7



## Around the State...

### Region 1 Stacey Atwood, Region Coordinator



### WHAT THE TECH?

Web 2.0, Podcasts, Wikis. Blogs, Moodle, Virtual Classrooms, Social Networking... Don't blink or you'll miss the next new wave of technology! But are all these high tech tools really worth the time and effort? The answer to that question depends upon what you are trying to accomplish. These tools provide ways to help learners explore ideas, demonstrate their understandings, collaborate with others, and engage the "video generation," while gaining a deeper understanding of our own views. Sound great? If your school is internet-capable, many tools may just be within your reach.

Let's begin with something called a **Techno-Show**. A Techno-Show is a short presentation, usually done at the beginning of a staff meeting, focusing on one topic of interest to teachers who are possible technology users. Techno Shows have three major purposes: 1) to make the staff aware of the hardware and software available to them; 2) to inspire teachers to use technology in their teaching; and 3) to make the staff aware of what support may be available.

[http://moore.portlandschools.org/i/book/strategy\\_links.html#techno](http://moore.portlandschools.org/i/book/strategy_links.html#techno)

Most buildings have at least one technologically savvy teacher. Why not use their abilities to show what technology can offer? In five to ten minutes your staff can be introduced to a new technology tool. Seeing the tool in action is one of the best ways of introducing a new technology. Why? Because most teachers don't want the "ins and outs" of how to do something until they can decide for themselves if it will help their stu-

dents. So consider the rest of this article one big "techno-show" from my corner of Indiana to yours.

What's a **wiki**? A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses them to contribute or modify content, using a simplified language. (Yes, simple enough for basic computer users to contribute.) PBS published an article that you may find worth a read. Check out how a computer entrepreneur and father of four started a Wiki to promote safe blogging for teachers.

[http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/2006/06/using\\_a\\_wiki\\_to\\_promote\\_educat.html](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/2006/06/using_a_wiki_to_promote_educat.html)

So what's a **blog**? The term blog is short for weblog. Most blogs are text-based, but some provide access to other types of media called social media. (More on this next!) Blogs provide interactive opportunities for individuals to enter comments, descriptions of events, or even debate previously entered content. What better way to involve the "video generation" than in their own world? Consider the following My Place page which explores "What Might be My Place in the 21st Century." Created in the form of a webquest, you can explore this My Place project to learn just how blogging might play a role in your students' future.

<http://classportals.org/myplace/2007/10/09/aisv-term-4-webquest/>

**Social Networking**, or social media, involves the use of Internet-based media to create real-life connections between the world and your students. According to Wikipedia, "A social network service focuses on building online communities of people who share interests and activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. Most social network services are web-based and provide a variety of ways for users to interact, such as e-mail and instant messaging services." Dr. Annette Lamb, National Technology and Media Trainer, and creator of Eduscapes, an online teacher resource, has created online training that will enable you to explore some of these social networks including Moodle, Blogs, Wikis,

Podcasts, and more. Access this site at <http://eduscapes.com/sessions/decade/index.htm>

I hope I have sparked your interest and provided you with some "food for thought." As middle level educators, one of our biggest challenges is motivating our students. By meeting them on their own "virtual playgrounds," I believe we can not only engage them, but learn about ourselves in the process.

Stacey Atwood  
Boone Grove Middle School  
[atwood@ptsc.k12.in.us](mailto:atwood@ptsc.k12.in.us)

### Region 7

#### Sending Books to Africa

In October I had a chance to visit Kenya with my husband. While there, we visited three schools in Eldoret, Kenya. One school, The Lions Club School, had recently built a library attached to their school, but the shelves in the library were completely empty. I learned that most of the funds were put into construction and there was nothing left over to purchase books.

When I returned to Indianapolis, I discussed the situation with the members of our National Junior Honor Society of which I am the advisor. The students were all supportive of having a book drive for The Lions Club School. Book drives were held at both Creston MS and Warren Central HS. At the same time our library at Creston was holding the Scholastic Book Fair. The library placed a jar for students and parents to donate loose change for the cause.

Families were incredibly generous in their donations and the students did a great job of publicizing the book drive and encouraging teachers, friends and family members to donate. We even had several students that bought books from the Scholastic Book Fair just to donate. I haven't finished counting, but estimate that over 500 books have been collected. I am proud of the way our students worked to make this book drive such a success.

Meghan Wolfe  
Creston Middle School



**Region 4**  
**BeAnn Younker, Region Coordinator**

Tippecanoe School Corp Middle School Principals won the **Martha K Schrader Award of Excellence** for their "Map It for Student Success" Grant. The grant was awarded by the Tippecanoe Public School Foundation in partnership with the Lilly Organization. The Award recognizes a project's commitment "to fostering cooperation between individual schools, grades, and classes while promoting excellence in education and encouraging classroom innovation in academics." The TSC principals worked on the grant to integrate curriculum mapping across the six middle schools in Tippecanoe County. The process will begin with a curriculum council creating master maps with units of study and a general "roadmap" for teachers. This school year all middle school teachers will be creating their own individual maps based on the master maps during professional development days. IMLEA Region 4 Coordinators Neal McCutcheon and BeAnn Younker were among those principals honored with this grant award.

**Adolescent Literacy in the Content Areas**  
**Interactive Video Conference**

IMLEA and IASP celebrate the beginning of the Month of the Young Adolescent 2008 by co-hosting a **live workshop** with distance learning host sites around the state. Adolescent Literacy in the Content Areas is the application of reading skills and strategies within a subject area domain. While these skills and strategies act as a base, adolescents need ample opportunities to utilize other literacy tools such as writing processes, listening, thinking, and oral communication.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 1, 9:00 - 11:00 am

**What:** A live session presented by **Nancy Meyer-Brown**, Secondary Literacy Director for MSD Perry Township and **Laura Kaiser**, Special Education teacher at Scribner Middle School

**Topics:** Classroom environment; teacher beliefs regarding adolescent literacy acquisition in the content area classroom; immersing students in literacy opportunities; keeping it simple for both teacher and student; comprehending text & vocab development

**Audience:** Grades 4-12 Administrators and Teachers

**Why:** 21st Century Learning Requirements include the need for adolescent literacy in the content areas. We will begin with the end in mind, finding out where students are, where they will be at the end of the course--the journey of learning.


**Cost:** \$50 as IASP or IMLEA members; \$75 for non-members  
 \$200 for member 5 person teams;  
 \$300 for non-member 5 person teams


Two students start the same homework assignment at 8:32 p.m.  
**Which one will finish first?**

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Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's Homework Hotline offers FREE help with math and science homework for Indiana students in grades 6-12. We have copies of the textbooks you use, and our tutors are trained to help your students work through their homework.

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## NMSA School Visit Celebrate Your School's Successes

November 5 – 7, 2009 the largest most comprehensive middle level professional development opportunity in the world will come to Indianapolis. The National Middle School Association Conference brings middle level educators from around the world to discuss the challenges and rewards of implementing best practices. An important component of the conference will be School Visits to high performing middle level schools within a 25 mile radius within the Indianapolis area. These visits are golden public relations opportunities.

There may be no task more important today for middle level educators than public relations. Ongoing professional development has never been more critical. No matter the grade configuration of your school, if your work touches the lives of young people between the ages of 10 and 15, you have effective programs and strategies which demonstrate a "developmentally responsive middle school," and desire to celebrate your schools successes then you need to apply to be a site visit school.

Celebrating your successes is a great way to inspire the school family and communicate your value to the broader community. NMSA writes, "An organization that fails to consistently celebrate its successes hides those successes. One that celebrates accomplishments creates pride and motivates all associated with it to greater performance. Middle level schools that hope to develop community support should never forget that message."

Celebration in education stimulates students to greater performance, motivates staff, helps create a culture of success at that school, and develops community support. All staff members should understand everything that's right with the school. Planning the site visit and hosting a visit creates pride among the staff and motivates everyone in the school community to perform even better.

On the IMLEA website (IMLEA@IASP.org) you will find a **School Visit Provider Proposal**. The proposal must be submitted to IMLEA headquarters by Friday, Nov. 15, 2008. Schools' proposals selected for NMSA consideration will be notified by Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

If you have additional questions concerning the Site Visits, please visit the NMSA website or contact Shirley Wright at IMLEA headquarters: Email: imlea@iasp.org or Phone: 317-894-2937 or FAX: 317-894-9807.

*Kathy Deck*  
School Visit Committee Chairman

### "Candidates' Answers," continued from page 7

has proposed for teachers is a start and I would suggest that we build from that to create programs and systems that make the teaching profession one of the most prestigious in our state. If we do that, our best and brightest will want to become teachers.

#### 10. What are the effective strategies to improve teaching quality, including evaluations, professional development and/or teacher testing?

As with any profession, teachers must continue to enhance their skills to continue to be effective teachers. Thus, administrators should provide yearly evaluations of teachers that highlights their strengths and suggests areas in which they can improve. Additionally, professional development must be more effective at helping these teachers in the areas. We often talk about differentiated instruction in the classroom but it is rarely discussed for teachers. Our professional development model must not be a burden or administrative hassle for our teachers, but instead become a valuable tool to improving their instructional abilities.



**TripToCollege.org**

- A free Web site to help plan and pay for college.
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- A search tool that includes profiles of every Indiana college.

It's never too early or too late to start planning for college.

↑ PARENTS

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ON THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE

The road to the future can be intimidating. But students and their parents have two free, online resources available that provide all the help they need to map out their career plans and college education.

Log on to  
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for more information.

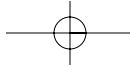
STUDENTS ↓

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- A fun, free, Web site for teens.
- Hop behind the wheel of a customized cyber car.
- Explore careers that match your interests and abilities.

Discover what preparation is required for a variety of career choices and get on the road to your future.





## Indiana Middle Level Education Association

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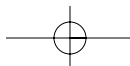
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<b>Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>DOE #</b>

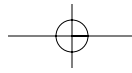
<p><b>Please check one:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>All memberships include Member Only Access to Website</b></u></p> <p><u>Individual Educator</u> - \$35.00/year</p> <p><u>Entire Certified Staff</u> (# of certified staff _____) - \$300.00/year – 15 Newsletters</p> <p><u>Team</u> (List 5 team members' names) - \$125.00/year – 5 Newsletters</p> <p>1. _____ Position _____ Email _____</p> <p>2. _____ Position _____ Email _____</p> <p>3. _____ Position _____ Email _____</p> <p>4. _____ Position _____ Email _____</p> <p>5. _____ Position _____ Email _____</p> <p>____ Retiree/Parent/College Student/Community Member - \$25/year</p> <p>____ NMSA/IMLEA Joint Membership - please call for separate form - \$95.00/year</p>	
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**IN THIS ISSUE -  
MEET THE CANDIDATES  
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