

VISIONS

Serving the Schools of Northeastern Pennsylvania

February 2010

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

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“2nd Annual Riverfront Sports Challenge”

On Thursday, January 16, 2010, students from Victory Village and Marywood University sponsored the **2nd Annual Riverfront Sports Challenge**. Admission for the event was a donation of non-perishable food items which were donated to the *United Neighborhood Center's Angel's Attic* food pantry.

Approximately 75 students from several districts and Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit classrooms participated in activities such as, competitive soccer and basketball clinics.

Students with varying abilities and skills participated throughout the morning, with coaches, volunteers, classroom teachers, and paraeducators, all chipping in to assure that every student was able to participate in the sports challenge. Every student received a certificate of attendance, and of course lunch, provided by donations from Weis Markets, the Glider Diner, Price Chopper and NEIU.

Tom Nichols, owner and operator of Riverfront Sports Complex has donated the facility for this event for the past 2 years. **Roger Jacobs**, along with numerous volunteers conducted the clinics.

Victory Village is a transitional vocational program for special needs students which is administered by the NEIU.

The goal of Victory Village is to get students to a level of independence so they are able to transition from school to adult life successfully.

Victory Village has two sessions. The morning session is for students from 16-18. The afternoon session is for students 18-21.



Top Row: Lola Kranick, Scott Conniff Middle Row: Linda Kusy, Joan Murphy, Jamie Ross, Tim Townsend, Ann Mary Doyle Front Row: Jason Rutkowski, Jordan Gallagher, Ryan Leckey (WNEP), Katie Hanko, Francis Hudgick, Andrea Gross (Marywood University)

Students come from several districts throughout the NEIU geographical region.

Students are taught basic independent living skills such as how to take care of a home, cleaning, cooking, laundry, shopping and money management. Older students are getting ready for employment opportunities with skills such as, applying for jobs, time management, accessing public transportation, phone skills, preparing resume's, practicing interview skills, etc.

Several local businesses have allowed the students to practice work skills such as, filing, organizing, and other pre-vocational skills that have proven to be very beneficial to refining skills that would be transferrable to the work place. Plumpy's Pierogies, the American Cancer Society, David's Bridals, and other businesses have been major contributors to the program.

ARTICLES

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1200 Line Street
Archbald, PA 18403
570-876-9200 or
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

February

Monday, February 8, 2010

8:45am Safety Care
8:45am Transition for Visually Impaired Students Webinar

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

8:30am Teacher Induction Day 3

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

8:00am NASA Endeavour Day 3 Program
12:00pm Athletic Directors' Association Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2010

8:30am Teacher Induction Day 3
9:00am Professional Advisory Council Meeting
11:30am Special ED Supervisor & LEA Meetings

Friday, February 12, 2010

8:45am e-Strategic Planning

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

8:45am e-Strategic Planning

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

10:00am PaPOS/Post School Outcomes Survey: Overview & Procedural Training for Cohort #4
1:00pm PaPOS/Post School Outcomes Survey Cohort #5

Friday, February 19, 2010

8:30am Math Network
8:45am Safety Care

Monday, February 22, 2010

8:00am New Federal Programs Training
8:30am Math Workshop

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

8:45am Reading Network

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

8:00am Science Network/Science Academy

Thursday, February 25, 2010

9:00am Standards Aligned System

Local History Day V

Recently, the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit conducted its fifth annual "Local History Day." This year's focus was an invitation to authors of local history books to share their historical research with high school teachers from the twenty member school districts of the NEIU. Appropriately, the workshop was held at the Albright Memorial Library in Scranton, where, in addition to learning about local history, the teachers enjoyed a tour of this architecturally significant library building.

The emphasis of the workshop was to get teachers excited about the unique historical contributions of our area so that, in turn, the teachers would influence the students of Northeastern Pennsylvania to have a greater pride and appreciation of our communities.



Pictured, left to right, are the principal participants of the local history day events: Jack Finnerty, Library Director of the Albright Memorial Library; Dr. S. Robert Powell, author of numerous articles on local history who is currently preparing a book on the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company; David Crosby, author of Scranton Railroads, a photographic recollection of the railroad prominence of the Scranton area; Mary Slaby, author of Call Me Kate, a story of a teenage girl growing up in coal country-and her involvement with the Molly Maguires; Dr. Walter Barbe, co-author of The Glass Industry of Wayne County 1807-Present, and The History of Wayne County Pennsylvania (1798-1998); Dr. Fred R. Rosetti, Executive Director of NEIU, staunch supporter of promulgating the rich history, heritage and culture of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



Message from the Desk of the Executive Director

THINKING AND PROVIDING SERVICES "OUTSIDE THE BOX"

The NEIU is presenting quality high level Art Education to the greater

NEIU has established a wide spread partnership program involving agencies, social service agencies, health agencies, arts and cultural orga

Our major partnership for arts programming is the Pennsylvania Council Lackawanna County in the Arts Engage program. In our program, A Lackawanna County Family Court System and the Lackawanna County Department of Children Prison where we work with incarcerated adults and teenagers. We have created opportunities for inmates. In addition to working with the incarcerated, NEIU has created programs with the county

We have artists working in residential and non-residential placements centers with students who students. A strong mentorship program in partnership with Goodwill Industries and regional busin

NEIU works with health and wellness agencies in our arts program. We have conducted residenci Center and the Women's Resource Center. We work with arts and cultural organizations such Museum and Coal Mine, and Steamtown National Historic Site to name a few. Because of this Lackawanna County Library System and Scranton Tomorrow. We have established programs with

NEIU has a strong relationship with WVIA and the Scranton Times, as we developed student Artis

In each of these instances, we directly work with students or members of the communities we serv

Safe Transport of Wheelchair Bound Students

By Nicole Dixon PT, DPT



This past June, I had the opportunity to attend the Assistive Technology/Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Summer Institute in Hershey, where I took part in a seminar detailing safe transport of students in the school system. Portions of this seminar were highlighted in a recent in-service given to the NEIU Physical Therapy staff, titled Safe Transport of Wheelchair Bound Students.

From a legal standpoint, few things have been done to maximize the safety of our most vulnerable students during transportation. The Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA) requires that all children have the opportunity to receive a free and appropriate education regardless of their level of disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that space be provided in vehicles for transport of forward facing wheelchairs with both shoulder and lap belt restraints, however, it does not state that these restraints must be *used* during transport. The Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and Regulations (FMVSS) goes a little further, setting specific standards in 1994 regarding the securement of wheelchairs and their occupants on school buses.

Currently, there are no specific laws in place making crash testing of wheelchairs used for transport mandatory, so our only option for our wheelchair bound students is to follow "Best Practices". The Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America, or RESNA, has developed a voluntary standard for wheelchairs that are to be used as transport chairs, crash testing them at 30 miles per hour of deceleration. For a chair to meet RESNA safety standards, it is required that it does not fracture during the test, that it provides a stable and supportive seat for the crash dummy, and that it stays well secured to keep both the occupant and wheelchair in the vehicle. Chairs that meet these standards have tie downs that have a specific hook-shaped logo stating that they are "WC19 Compliant."

Best Practices for Transporting Students in Wheelchairs

- If at all possible, the student should transfer into a vehicle seat for transport (keep in mind the difficulty of the transfer, any postural supports that student requires, and any medical or behavioral issues that might make this difficult).
- If the child cannot transfer out of the wheelchair, use a WC19 Compliant chair for transport.
- If WC19 chair is not available, use a wheelchair that has an easily accessible frame for tie down securement and attach tie downs to wheelchair frame junctions for added stability
- Never tie down to a child's seat or to the child. The child should be belted in separately from the wheelchair with a 3 point system consisting of a lap and shoulder belt.
- Do not use 3 wheeled strollers or carts for transport. Position the chair in 30 degrees or less of tilt/recline, and do not transport students with their lap trays on the chair. Lap trays should be removed and replaced with foam trays so they do not become a projectile in the event of an accident.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Friday, February 26, 2010

9:00am CFF Coach Network Meeting

9:00am Standards Aligned System

Monday, March 1, 2010

8:30am TOSS

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

8:00am Defined STEM

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

9:00am PA Inspired Leadership Program

Thursday, March 4, 2010

9:00am PA Inspired Leadership Program

Friday, March 5, 2010

8:45am Aligning Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, Using Backward Design

Monday, March 8, 2010

9:00am Assessment & Intervention Strategies for Speech Sound Disorders: Emphasis on Linguistic Theory

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

8:45am Social Studies Network

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

8:45am eSp Teleconference with Lois Novak

Thursday, March 11, 2010

9:00am Professional Advisory Council

community of NEPA.

organizations from many sectors of the community. Through extensive arts programming collaborations, NEIU is working with government organizations, institutions of higher education and businesses.

on the Arts. As a regional partner of the state arts council, we manage a large regional partnership program for the state. NEIU is a partner with Art Save, we offer arts and academic opportunities for youngsters in high school who are from our school districts and who are placed by the Youth Services. Additionally, as part of an integrated framework for resiliency, we have established connections in the Lackawanna County for the community to recognize the importance of programming to reduce negative behavior in the prison and that lowers the recidivism rate for judges to work with adults adjudicated to Treatment Courts.

then attend our Art Save weekender program. Arts Alive, a summer institute for the arts is attended by educators and both at risk and traditional businesses is part of the Arts Alive program. We work with Goodwill to train both teachers and students to be mentors to at-risk youth.

es in the Gino Merli Veterans Center, in the CMC, Moses Taylor and Mercy Hospitals, senior citizens residential centers, the Scranton Counseling as the Everhart Museum, The Scranton Cultural Center, the Lackawanna Historical Society, The Anthracite Museum, the Lackawanna Trolley work we have relationships with such organizations as the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, The Scranton Chamber of Commerce, the h Keystone College, Lackawanna College, Marywood University, the University of Scranton, and Wilkes University.

st of the Week/Month programs with both organizations.

e. Our outreach program continues to grow and develop as we meet the needs of students and adults in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Fred L. Lavette

Riverside High School Life Skill Class Gingerbread House Display

Once again the sweet smells of candy, marshmallows, cookies and **68 pounds of icing** dominated the halls of Riverside High School. For three weeks, the 13 students in Barb Ricketts' Life Skills class spent their free time helping to design and decorate their own individual Gingerbread House. On December 15th, the houses left the classroom and were viewed by both the faculty and student body in the Commons area of the school. Oohs and aahs were heard frequently as hundreds passed by on their way to lunch. At the end of the day, the houses were once again transported back to the classroom and were then displayed in a village scene. On December 17th, the class hosted a brunch for parents, administrators and invited guests. When it was time to say, "Good-bye", each student took his or her Gingerbread House home.



Student Designers: (Left to Right) Ronnie Surplus, Jamie Hallock, Robert Ross, John Jendrek, Chris Delayo, Kelly Evanusa, Adam Oakley, Sammy Lomeo, Julie Matthews, Sarah Regula, Amy Thubborn and Chick Hebden. Seated is Tiffany Brad

Scholastic Bowl 2009-2010 Championship

The Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit has hosted the Scholastic Bowl competition for over twenty years. The Scholastic Bowl program is an academic competition for high school seniors. Twenty-seven teams participate in two competitions to determine who will move on to the semi-finals. The top three teams compete in a final competition and are honored at the annual spring "Scholar of the Year" banquet.



The 2009-2010 Scholastic Bowl Champions are:

1st Place, Scranton High School (Photo on Left)

Special Guest: Mrs. Eileen Pocius
Corey Kryptovich
Vinh Nguyen
Fred Chache
Craig Fisher
Advisor: Mrs. Charisse Kerrigan

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2nd Place, Blue Ridge High School: Debra Barton, Taylor Guinan, Michael Romano, Kenneth Seaman, Anthony Tompkins, Advisor: Mrs. Alicia Ross

3rd Place, Abington Heights High School: Randy Krevlen, Yuka Narisako, Ashley Novak, Eileen Voges, Advisor: Mr. Thomas Lavelle

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February 2010