



Southwest ABLA Resource Center

Exposure

“Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.” ~ Don Marquis

During the last part of May and into June we're all concentrating on graduation ceremonies and finishing up our program year. We should also be thinking about one other thing- did I meet my professional development requirement? Will I be able to put a next to that on my close of year activity checklist?



Let's just admit it! We all are busy. We all have good intentions. We all procrastinate. If you have spent the year “waiting until later” to get professional development, “later” has arrived. There are a few face to face opportunities left (e.g. OAACE on May 1st, Math Statewide Day on April 24).

Another option is to check out a media package from the Southwest Resource Center Library or something from another Resource Center Library. Or, you might do an online offering. Check the ABLA calendar by going to www.ohioable.org, click on Resource Center Addresses, and open the Southwest site.

If you will be seeking financial support for your professional development, all requests must be received in our office by June 15, 2009. You can check the policy for eligibility and access the PD1 stipend form online at the [Southwest website](#).

April/May 2009

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Best of the Internet

New websites go up daily on the internet. Google searches can bring up hundreds or even thousands of hits. Sorting through sites can be very daunting.

Larry Ferlazzo is a teacher in California who has taken the time to do some sorting for his fellow teaching community.

His “Best of” lists cover everything from math, reading and writing to technology and science. He even has a section on teaching resources. All can be found by visiting his site at <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/about/my-best-of-series/>

See Other Teachers in Action



We know that teachers learn from other teachers. But how can teachers find the time to visit other classrooms when they are busy in their own classrooms? The Media Library of Teaching Skills (MLoTS) offers “virtual” visits to adult basic education classrooms through their web site, <http://mlots.org>.

MLoTS' purpose is to provide a window into classrooms and tutorials that adult education teachers, programs and literacy resource centers can use for professional development activities. The MLoTS videos are linked to state adult education content standards, research and/or best practices and to many more short, free, online adult education classroom videos made by others in our field.

Tech Tips

One of the best ways to use technology is to have it filter through the massive volumes of information available into usable chunks.

Keep Up With the Changes in Ohio ABLE Through OhioLit

There are many changes coming to ABLE programs in Ohio in the near future. One way to find out about new policies and procedures is to join OhioLit, Ohio ABLE's electronic message list.

In addition to the new things happening in ABLE, subscribers to OhioLit can also find out about professional development opportunities and free or inexpensive resources. OhioLit is a message list, not a discussion list. Those who are subscribed already find the information sent out over the list helpful and informative.

To subscribe to OhioLit, send an e-mail to major-domo@literacy.kent.edu with only the word "subscribe" in the message. All directors, teachers and staff are encouraged to subscribe. Contact Dianna Baycich at dbaycich@literacy.kent.edu with any questions.

Watch for more Tech Tips in upcoming issues of SW Exposure. If you have any questions about this article or technology, please contact Jenny at the SWRC via jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu.

Staff Appreciation Corner for April/May

Spring has sprung in Ohio and hopefully the last holds of winter are past us!

One great way to show staff how much they mean is to thank them for helping the program grow and thrive. Small packages of seeds or plant starts can be picked up at your local grocery or garden center. Small clay pots are usually also available at the local dollar stores. Combine together with a thank you note and ribbon.

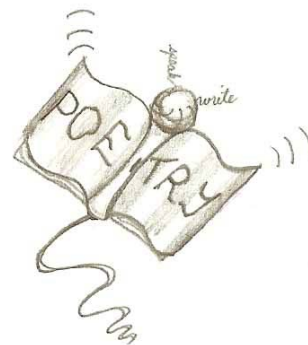
This small token of thanks can go a long way to showing staff how much they are appreciated.



Let's Celebrate

Much Ado about Literacy in April: National Poetry Month

Each year, the month of April is set aside as National Poetry Month, a time to celebrate poets and their craft. One of this year's returning, most celebrated programs is Poem in Your Pocket Day in which anyone can select a poem they love and share it with friends, family, or colleagues on April 30, 2009.



If you suspect that your students think poetry is "stuffy," try reading aloud a humorous poem and widen their poetry perspective. ReadWriteThink selected "Sick" by Shel Silverstein as a favorite of both adults and kids. Here's a link to the full text of the poem: <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/16480>

For more National Poetry Month lesson plans and other classroom resources, visit: www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=478

Announcing Choose to Read Ohio program and National Library Week, April 12-18

The State Library of Ohio has created a new program called **Choose to Read Ohio** which will be unveiled officially during **National Library Week – April 12-18, 2009**, and also at the **Ohioana Book Festival** on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Libraries and schools will have the rest of this year as well as through 2010 to offer a six-week book discussion program based on any of the books listed. In the next few months, fifteen toolkits will be added to the program website: <http://oh.webjunction.org/ohctrointro>. Libraries and schools will be able to download these kits FREE of charge.

To check out other monthly events, visit:

- <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>
- <http://brownielocks.com/>

Spotlight on Library Resources

Occumatics, by Scott Poor

Now, more than ever, incorporating real world scenarios with skills instruction is a “must” in ABLE classrooms. *Occumatics* presents reproducible lessons that lead students to apply math skills to real life situations that adults encounter. Going beyond math, *Occumatics* also introduces occupations and the math skills used in those occupations. Here’s a way for teachers to respond to that age-old question, “When are we ever going to use this?”

Summarization in Any Subject: 50 Techniques to Improve Student Learning by Rick Wormeli

Educators agree that the ability to summarize – to identify salient information and structure it in a meaningful way – is an essential academic skill. Research affirms summarization’s reputation as a highly effective way to boost comprehension and achievement. In this book, Rick Wormeli makes the case that summarization is not only one of the most effective ways to improve student learning, it’s also highly engaging. His techniques for all ages and content areas are presented with ample directions and vivid examples.

Teaching with *Workplace Essential Skills*

What: *Workplace Essential Skills* is a complete program offering video, print and web support that reaches intermediate-level learners who need to improve their opportunities in the workplace. Workforce development professionals can connect adults whose goal is to get into the workplace or get ahead at work using these materials. This workshop introduces you to the materials and provides hands-on training on how to best use the materials in a classroom setting, in one-on-one instruction, and in independent study.

When: Thursday, May 21, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: The event will be held at the local PBS Television Station in your area (see list and contact information below).

FREE materials provided: Attendees will receive training on the *Workplace Essential Skills* series and how to implement/use it in the classroom and to support students with home-based study. They will also receive a FREE 4-volume set of *Workplace Essential Skills* workbooks and handout to guide teachers and students to FREE web resources for online study or streaming videos that accompany each of the 25 lessons.

Dayton ThinkTV, 110 S. Jefferson St.
Mary Anne Kirk at (937) 220-1707
mkirk@thinktv.org

Cincinnati WCET, 1223 Central Parkway
Diane Smiley at (513) 381-4033
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Columbus WOSU, 2400 Olentangy River Road
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Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
April 21	ABLE and EL/Civics Bidders go to "Calendar of Events" on www.ohioable.org to register	Local sites
April 24	Advanced Technology	Sinclair Community College
May 1	OACE Spring Conference www.oace.org	Columbus, Ohio
May 8	Writers Conference	Columbus, Ohio
July 26-28	ACTE Conference www.acte.org	Columbus, Ohio

SWABLE's Ongoing Alternative PD

Online Training	Media Packages
REA 101: Reading Overview	How to Improve Your Questioning Techniques
WRT101: Writing Overview	Building Academic Background Knowledge (Vocabulary)
Writing for the GED (from KET)	Comprehending Content
Developing Writers: Writing for Different Audiences	Thoughtful Reading
	Reading in the Content Areas
	Focus on Spelling

We also have **Literacy Trunks** for check-out in our library. Trunks contain "ready-to-go" lessons and activities, including user's guide, resources, handouts and online sites.

For information on upcoming trainings, please contact SWABLE at 800-558-5374 or 937-512-5375. You can also visit www.ohioable.org to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.