



Southwest ABE Resource Center

Exposure

Southwest Region Retirees

"In retirement, every day is Boss Day and every day is Employee Appreciation Day." — Unknown wise person



This is the time of year when we know there are ABE folks who are busy emptying file drawers, dumping crates and bags from their cars and handing off their best practices to their colleagues. **AND, they're doing that with a smile on their faces.** Whether it is retirement or other reasons, the Southwest ABE Resource Center would like to thank you for your service to adult learners in the southwest ABE region. You have made a difference in many adult lives.

We don't have everyone's name but here are a few that have let us know that they are moving on.

Walter Pierce (YWCA)
Pam Green (MVCTC)
Brother Bob Wiethorn (Cincinnati)

Kathy Petrek (Hamilton)
Barb Flory (Middletown)

Best Wishes to All of You!

May—June 2011

GED Update

The Ohio Department of Education's GED Office and Ohio Board of Regents State ABE team wants to ensure that ABE program administrators and teachers understand that the current GED 2002 test series is scheduled to end in early 2014. If students have not passed one or more parts of the 2002 series, they will have until early 2014 to pass. They may only take the test up to three times during a calendar year. Once the new 2014 series is released, they will need to take the entire test to receive their GED. Prior scores from the previous GED test will not be counted. The cost of the 2014 series will increase and that cost has not yet been determined.

To learn more, please go to: www.GEDtestingervice.com.

Ohio Writing Project

Twelve teachers from Ohio ABE programs participated in this year's Ohio ABE Writing Project. The project involved participation in an online course, "Developing Writers," developed by the Annenberg Foundation. Each of the eight workshops in the course included an hour-long instructional video, related journal articles, an online discussion forum and classroom applications. The discussion forum provided a good venue for sharing the classroom lesson and activities that were suggested and modeled in the videos and support materials. The group also reviewed writing rubrics and suggested ways to incorporate wider use of rubrics in ABE classrooms – for assessing student progress as well as for instructional purposes.



Seated, left to right: Marelese Stever; Leah Otto; Carol Summers; Kathy Petrek; Tawna Eubanks
Standing, left to right: Linda Williams; Stephanie Reid-Taylor; Sheryl Risner; Kathy Knall; Mary Lou Jacklin; Barbara Harris; Linda McBride
Not pictured: Pam Chaney

Teachers will carry their learning and new practices into FY 2012; we hope to continue the online discussions and will invite teachers around the state to join in and learn from their colleagues.

Reading Tip



Building Vocabulary with Word Parts

While American English pulls in vocabulary from around the globe, the majority of our language is formed from Greek and Latin roots. As students transition into the workplace and/or post-secondary education, they will encounter specialized vocabulary associated with their chosen field of work or study. By teaching students to break down words into their word parts (prefix—root—suffix), they can work to determine meaning and make connections to other words with similar word parts.

Good sources for word parts include:

- www.learnthat.org/vocabulary/pages/view/roots.html
- www.vocabulary-lesson-plans.com

A good source of word origins and meanings can be found at www.etymonline.com

Online quizzes can be found at:
<http://tinyurl.com/3rt6xcp>

Math Tip



Online Math Help: How do I ...?

When developing their math skills, students often need visual support to remind them how to solve a problem. Two great websites can help give students out of classroom help that is available 24/7.

[WebMath.com](http://www.WebMath.com) is a service of Discovery Education that generates answers to specific math questions and problems from basic math through Calculus. Students can see step-by-step how to solve their particular math question. Teachers and/or students can also create basic math worksheets in the four operations using whole numbers, fractions or decimals at www.webmath.com/wsheets.html.

[Math.com](http://www.Math.com) is another online help where students can learn how to solve different math concepts. Each concept is covered in four steps: First Glance, In Depth, Examples and Workout. This design provides students with numerous practice opportunities. The site also includes games. Teachers can find links to lesson plans and resources.

Writing Tip



Teaching Grammar: Why Don't Students Remember the Rules?

Be selective. Students benefit much more from learning thoroughly a few key grammar rules than from trying to remember and practice many terms and rules. Experiment with different approaches. Some teachers like using the tried and true sentence diagram. Others focus on discussing relevant grammar while expanding sentences with phrases. Some emphasize the verb as the key part of speech, showing students how the sentence is built around it.

Grammar practice will be more meaningful to students when it is anchored in their own writing assignments or when reading authentic texts. Try using newspapers or journals as sources for grammar examples and exercises. In real texts, students can see how sentences connect and contract to each other through the grammar.

Adapted from NCTE: Some Questions and Answers about Grammar, 2009.

Technology Tip



Summer is a great time to investigate the latest resources and supports available to ABE teachers. Check these out!

CITEd: For those of you interested in integrating more technology into your instruction, be sure to check out the Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITEd) at www.cited.org. You can learn about the latest tools, how to integrate into your classes, what research is saying about connecting technology and learning plus lots more!

Teach Web 2.0: There are an ever-growing list of Web 2.0 sites and tools that educators can use for instruction and management. Sometimes hearing recommendations from other teachers is the best place to narrow the massive lists of sites. Check out <http://teachweb2.wikispaces.com> to learn more and to join the discussion about what sites are working for educators and their classes.

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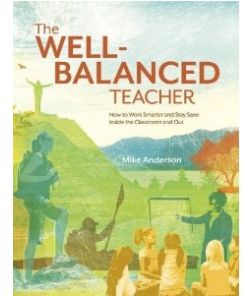
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Please contact SWRC with training questions. You can also visit www.ohioable.org to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.

Spotlight on Library Materials

The Well-Balanced Teacher: How to Work Smarter and Stay Sane Inside the Classroom and Out

by Mike Anderson



This might be a good summer read as you recharge your batteries for the new program year. The author describes ways teachers can take care of themselves - in order to care for their students.

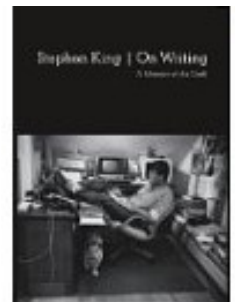
In addition to paying attention to nutrition, exercise and spiritual and emotional refreshment, teachers also need:

- Belonging: having positive connections with others, both in and outside of school
- Significance: knowing they make a positive difference through their work
- Positive engagement: keeping alive the energy and passion for teaching
- Balance: setting boundaries and creating routines so that they can have rich lives both in the classroom and outside of it

Mr. Anderson describes in frank detail his own struggles and offers a multitude of practical tips to help readers find solutions that will work for them.

Stephen King On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

Part memoir, part instruction, this volume is a revealing and practical view of the immensely popular author's writing craft.



His advice on how to write is grounded in childhood memories through his emergence as a professional writer, as well as his near-fatal accident in 1999. The book is friendly and inviting; it will empower and entertain readers (and writers).

Many ABLEResource students are Stephen King fans; even if they have not read his books, they have probably seen movie versions of his work. Try selecting a few passages from the book to read aloud in class; some interesting discussions may ensue!

Be sure to catch up on the latest professional resources and materials available through the Ohio ABLEResource Center Network Library. We are open all summer!