



## Southwest ABLA Resource Center

# Exposure

## To the Southwest Region...

The staff at the Southwest ABLA Resource Center is thinking of you as we enter the last month of 2008. As you gather near or far during this holiday season, we wish for you the joy described here:

*"Joy is the feeling of grinning inside"*

~ Melba Colgrove

*"Joy is not in things; it is in us"*

~Richard Wagner



**December  
2008**

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## Ohio Skills Bank

<http://uso.edu/opportunities/ohioskillsbank/index.php>

Want to learn more about the Ohio Skills Bank?

Accessible through the University System of Ohio website, this link provides an overview to this piece of Ohio's educational and economic connection.

Under the *Data Tool* section, you can review economic indicators by region. SWRC is currently working with Economic Development Regions (EDR) 1, 4 and 5.

Under the *Presentations* section, you can learn more about Career Pathways to benefit your student.

Under the *Related Links* section, you can connect to helpful workforce initiatives and resources.

## Online Help in Preparing for College

Many programs are looking to expand their support services to students seeking post-secondary education and/or training options. These websites are a great resource for both teachers and students.

[www.ohiocap.org](http://www.ohiocap.org) - This website provides direction and resources to help prepare you to attend college in Ohio.

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org) - This website provides information to students in preparation for college before and during, and if you look on the left hand side of this map and click on the map of Ohio, and then click on the specific county you are in, it will give you a list of local access programs in your area.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) - This website provides opportunity to complete applications online for federal and state aid. Applications open for the 2009-2010 school year on January 1, 2009.

[www.ohiocan.org](http://www.ohiocan.org) - This website provides information to students in preparation for college before and during.

[www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org) - This website provides information to students in college planning and school selection.



## Tech Corner for December

Starting this month, each issue of *Southwest Exposure* will include a technology tip. If you have any specific questions or needs, please send them to Jenny at [jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu](mailto:jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu). This month we will discuss Basic Text Messaging.

Some key facts about text messaging:

- Since 2006, the number of text messages sent and received each day exceeds the world's population
- 80% of the world is covered by cell phone service
- All phones produced today have text capability (but most plans still charge for texts in and out)



To get started with text messaging, you need to verify your coverage with your cell phone provider. You may have unlimited, set number per month, free incoming with metered outgoing, etc.

Text messages are a growing means to communicate and/or to receive alerts/updates. Examples include weather, traffic and sports. Many local newspapers, television stations and other media outlets have alert systems that you can subscribe to.

- To try WHIO weather alerts, go to [www.whiotv.com/severeweather/index.html](http://www.whiotv.com/severeweather/index.html)
- For Cincinnati-area text alerts, go to: <http://cincinnati.zebramm.com/>

Have you seen a commercial or advertisement that says "Text — to —" and gives a 5-6 digit number? Those are called short codes and are a growing means for companies and other entities to reach many people because they work across all cell phone providers. Some states have tried using a short code for GED information and marketing. It is one of the fastest growing parts of text communication.

For example, Google's short code is 466453. If you text "define serendipity" to 466453, you get a text message back with the definition. To see more ideas for Google texting, go to: [www.google.com/mobile/default/sms.html](http://www.google.com/mobile/default/sms.html)

## December Holidays and Celebrations

**December is Write a Friend Month** — Catching up with friends is a common holiday season occurrence. Students can practice their writing skills by drafting a family letter. You can also find letter templates at [www.writinghelp-central.com/sample-letters-personal.html](http://www.writinghelp-central.com/sample-letters-personal.html).

**December is also Bingo Month**

— Bingo is a fun and interactive way to check a student's knowledge of a particular skill or concept. For a free downloadable templates, visit: [www.apollostemplates.com/templates-bingo/](http://www.apollostemplates.com/templates-bingo/)



To check out other December events, visit:

- <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/2886/INDEX.HTM>
- <http://brownielocks.com/month2.html>
- <http://www.suelebeau.com/december.htm>

## Staff Appreciation Corner for December

**Holiday Card Exchange** — many of us have spare, unused holiday cards left over from past years. Bring in those cards for a card exchange. Staff (and students) can participate and leave with a stock of beautiful cards to use this year.

**Gift Wrapping Center** — with a spare table, set up a wrapping center with tape, scissors, gift labels/stickers and ribbon. Encourage staff (and students) to bring in spare paper and/or colored comics.

**Other ideas for December:**

- Bulletin board with family holiday photos
- Celebrate the multicultural holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa
- Ornament exchange (can be handmade or price limited [Dollar Store])



# Office of Vocational and Adult Education Launches Online English Portal

Immigrants and other adults who want to learn or improve their English skills can log on to a new free Online English Portal called **USALearns**. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education, through its Division of Adult Education and Literacy, oversaw the design of **USALearns.org**.

Launch of the site completes a goal set by President Bush in his August 10, 2007 announcement of initiatives to address border security and immigration challenges in the United States — a plan to have the U.S. Department of Education develop and launch a free, web-based portal to help immigrants learn English, expand their opportunities, and make effective contributions to American society."

To access or learn more about the new Portal, visit <http://www.USALearns.org> or view a fact sheet at <http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/publications/pdf/USALearnsFactSheet08.pdf>.



## Spotlight on Library Resources

### **AMAZING STORIES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE: What A World**

What a World: Amazing stories from Around the Globe, is a three-book series that explores many fascinating topics from around the world and across history. Each unit opens with a question that is answered in the reading and continues with vocabulary, comprehension, discussion, writing and spelling and punctuation work.

### **101 AMERICAN ENGLISH PROVERBS : Understanding Language and Culture**

While directed toward the ESOL classroom, this learning kit is a rich resource for listening, speaking, reading and writing activities in any classroom. for teaching one hundred one of the most often used English proverbs, some of which border on being idioms. For each of the often-used proverbs, two sets of questions are provided to guide discussion of the meaning of the phrase. Two situations are provided as well so that students can work in pairs or groups to portray or write about the apt use of each proverb. After each section, there are three reproducible written activities (answer key included) that can be used for a review. Includes a teacher's manual, student book and 2 audiotapes.

### **LOGIC PROBLEMS FOR STUDENT GROUPS**

These 25 problems are a sure bet for helping your students think logically, make deductions, draw inferences, and work cooperatively. Just copy the master for a particular problem, cut apart the clues, and distribute them within groups of up to six students. Each student reads a clue to the group. Students solve the problem by trial and error, listing the possibilities, or designing a grid. The set includes a sample grid, optional clues, teaching hints, and solutions.

### **CAMP FRACTION Solving Exciting Word Problems Using Fractions**

Looking to make fractions fun for students? This activity book is filled with interesting problems based on true facts to help students get excited about math. Set around a trip to summer camp, students work with fractions while learning a little history, trivia, and fun facts. The activities provide opportunities for students to add, subtract, multiply, and divide like and unlike fractions, as well as mixed numbers.

## Southwest ABLEResource Center

c/o Sinclair Community College  
444 West Third Street  
Room 6130  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Phone: 937-512-5375 or  
800-558-5374 (Ohio only)  
Fax: 937-512-3434



Visit us on  
the web:

[www.sinclair.edu/  
facilities/swable](http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable)

### Staff

**Lynn Reese**  
Coordinator

(937)512-5202

[lynn.reese@sinclair.edu](mailto:lynn.reese@sinclair.edu)

**Kathy Knall**

Researcher/Trainer  
(937)512-5364

[kathy.knall@sinclair.edu](mailto:kathy.knall@sinclair.edu)

**Jennifer Davis**

Professional Development  
Specialist

(937)512-5374

[jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu](mailto:jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu)

**Ann Marie Convey**

Events Specialist  
(937)512-5375

[ann.convey@sinclair.edu](mailto:ann.convey@sinclair.edu)

**Ottilia Zimbowa**

Clerical Assistant  
(937)512-2326

[ottilia.zimbowa@sinclair.edu](mailto:ottilia.zimbowa@sinclair.edu)

# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
Dec 2	GED Fee Waiver Training	Chillicothe, Ohio
Dec 19- Dec 26	<b>Winter Break SWRC and Sinclair offices CLOSED</b>	
Feb 21	<b>New Teacher Orientation (NTO II)</b>	Sinclair Community College
March 6	<i>The Write Future: A Statewide Writing Training</i>	OCLC Dublin, Ohio
April 24	<b>Advanced Technology</b>	Sinclair Community College
May 1 <b>NEW DATE</b>	<b>Reading Strategies for Word Skills and Vocabulary (REA 102)</b>	Sinclair Community College

## 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](http://www.ohioable.org) to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.