

# The Collaborative



Volume XVII Issue IV

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## Innovations: Skyping Classrooms

- Skype is a video conferencing software and service available for free on the Internet that allows people to talk to one another via a video chat format anywhere in the world.
- Campbell County Day Treatment has utilized this technology in an innovative program that allows teachers from other schools in the district to teach day treatment students while engaging their own class at the same time. Sara Althenhofen, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade middle school teacher in Campbell County, participated in a pilot program that allowed students at the day treatment to receive the same content as those in the middle school. She used Connected



Mathematics, a curriculum developed through a grant at Michigan State University focusing on important mathematical concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning, in geometry, measurement, algebra, probability and statistics.

Ms. Althenhofen noted that, "Skyping is very interesting and I hope to continue to use it not only with Day Treatment, but by connecting with other classes. I want my students to use it as a tool to interact with students."

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## Program Spotlight: Maryhurst

Founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1843, Maryhurst is the oldest operating child welfare agency in Kentucky. The Sisters provided a caring environment for girls who suffered physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as homelessness. Located in Louisville, Maryhurst serves over 400 children per year providing residential, in-home and community-based treatment programs. Believing the worth of children and strength of families are cornerstones for a better world, Maryhurst is dedicated to providing care and commitment, strength and support, healing and hope to children and families in great need.

This philosophy is particularly apparent in the Arts Enrichment and Service Learning Program at Maryhurst, directed by MaRi' Renn, Enrichment Instructor at the Maryhurst School. Her work often bridges education and treatment as well as service work that is intellectually enriching, emotionally healing and community building. She has helped the girls create a coloring book and short story collection written at a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading level as part of a Literacy Partnership for the children of St. Joseph Children's Home; she helped the girls create a calendar featuring their nature and art

Maryhurst  
Enrichment  
Instructor,  
MaRi'  
Renn



Continued on page 3

# Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan

I was a senior in high school in 1991, before KERA was enacted and forever changed the face of educational standards in our Commonwealth. During my senior year I was getting ready for college, working full time in the evenings and weekends at Rose's Department Store in Corbin and taking a regular course load at my school. Just a few days ago, I was sharing my high school English experience with my colleagues as we reflected on how things have changed over the years. In 1991, my senior English research paper was actually a theatrical play. In those days, my teacher allowed students to decide between several options for completing the senior requirements. We could write a research paper, a short story, or, as I decided, perform a play that I had written and researched. I decided to pair up with a classmate and together we researched, briefly, the natural child birthing practices of Native

Americans. Admittedly we did little research and instead focused much of our attention on the dramatic delivery of the information we had half-heartedly written just moments earlier. After about three minutes of reading our research from index cards, my partner and I quickly moved to the dramatic part of our presentation. Imagine the surprised looks on the faces of other students and our teacher as my co-writer squatted on the ground and delivered a child (albeit a plastic doll) right there in the middle of that classroom. She screamed, she squeezed my hand mercilessly and spouted what she suspected would be the appropriate words to describe the experience. Exhausted from the childbirth, she collapsed on the floor as I held the doll up in the air for everyone to see. To a roar of applause, we took our bow. And that was it. That was our senior research project. We had spent maybe an hour or two working on it. We didn't have to write anything to turn in, we just had to perform! We both got an A on our project.

A lot has changed in the intervening years, educational standards were toughened and expectations were higher than ever before. My English teacher retired after that year, noting that she was not going to grade all those portfolios! At the time, resistance to the raised bar

was evident in our discussions and in the reactions of some of our colleagues, but they were also seen with lots of optimism. Indeed, it changed how we deliver services and the expectations we have of our students.

Today we are facing a similar change. Educational standards at the state and federal level are being examined more closely than they have in years and change is just around the corner. In Kentucky, we are reviewing our standards, our core curriculum and our expectations. As a student in 1991, I can honestly say that at the time I felt lucky that I didn't have to really push myself too much in that course. In hindsight, I see what a wasted opportunity it was. In a rigorous senior English class, I could have better prepared myself for college work. I might have avoided remedial English in college had I expected more of myself and had I thought someone was watching. Our students deserve to have high standards. They crave them and in the years ahead they will look back and appreciate them. As we move to strengthen our standards and raise our expectations, I know those of us who work with state agency children will rally support to help our students excel both in the classroom and in life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Nolan".

## Programs Across Kentucky



## KECSAC Updates

The KECSAC Annual Census is available on our webpage. If you have any questions about the census, feel free to contact Kaye Parker, Associate Director ([kaye.parker@eku.edu](mailto:kaye.parker@eku.edu) or 859-622-0011). The Census gives a comprehensive view of the demographics of state agency children (SAC), the challenges they face (especially in terms of the high incidence of disabilities among

SAC), their distribution in the types of KECSAC programs and their average length of stay. It is a powerful reminder of the vulnerability and resilience of state agency children in Kentucky. Go to:

[www.kecsac.eku.edu](http://www.kecsac.eku.edu)

The projected per child rate for the 2010-2011 school year is estimated to be \$3,115.

photography for the 2009-2010 school year; she regularly brings in guest artists to mentor and help the girls execute big projects and she organized an exhibition of the girls' art at the Shepherding Images Gallery in Louisville called *My Life's Journey: Listen to Girls, A Visual Journey*, from May 22<sup>nd</sup> -June 25<sup>th</sup>.

These enrichment programs have an impact on the girls and on the very grounds of the school. In 2007, they built an outdoor classroom space and Koi pond with the prize money from the Brightside Fred Wiche Award. This year, with the help of guest artist Jeneen Wiche, they are building a labyrinth, for meditation and prayer. Labyrinths are found in many cultures and world religions. In the Christian



*Students raking the gravel for the labyrinth.*

4,000 years and recently labyrinths have experienced a revival in popularity on church and park grounds. Some people use the walk for clearing the mind and centering while others enter with a question or concern. The time in the center can be used for receiving, reflecting, meditating, or praying, as well as discovering one's own sacred inner space.

To begin the project, Jeneen Wiche brought a cloth version of a labyrinth to familiarize the girls with the concept of a walking meditation—they learned about the history and origins of labyrinths, how they are used and they walked the path of the indoor, cloth labyrinth together in silence. The girls agreed that this would be a worthy addition to the Maryhurst campus and then they started the hard labor of clearing the area, evening the surface, distributing the gravel and laying out the stones. The project was extensive, and it will be completed in the summer of 2010. At both the entrance and exit of the labyrinth, there are stone benches in order to prepare for the journey and to reflect once it is completed. There is

also a statue of the Virgin Mary, hand depicted in the act of giving her blessing at the start of the walk.

These extraordinary projects are physical manifestations of the treatment philosophy of the home and school as well as the commitment of teachers such as MaRi' Renn and volunteers such as Artist Jeneen Wiche. Ms. Renn summarized her teaching philosophy and mission in life as: "I am here to empower our future teens by nurturing



*Students enjoying the Koi Pond built in 2007 with the prize money from the Brightside Fred Wiche Award.*

their creativity, dreams and imagination by promoting the use of honesty, integrity and a preservation of the magic within ones soul. Guiding children on a bridge of understanding, to soar with integrity, and a fortress of realized dreams that anything is possible when one believes. To enjoy every moment along this journey finding laughter, love, and happiness with each day that passes--art, nature and writing is an integration of the soul."



*Students laying the stone for the labyrinth.*

tradition during the medieval period, they were symbolically used to represent a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Labyrinths and labyrinth designs found on pottery go back at least

### **BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT Diocesan Catholic Children's Home**

Congratulations to the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home who won a Kindle Digital Book Reader. They were entered into a contest for the Kindle Reader when KECSAC's External Evaluation team at REACH sent out a survey to gauge program feedback about the quality of services that KECSAC provides. Kindles can hold up to 1,500 digital books—truly a library in the palm of your hand.

### **BULLITT COUNTY Bullitt County Day Treatment**

Bullitt County Day Treatment middle and high school students and staff developed a community service project called "Shoebboxes for Troops." The day treatment students collected over 1,800 items that would be useful for troops serving overseas and filled 65 shoe boxes that were easily packaged and mailed to U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. School Administrator

Doug Robert's son, who just returned from the U.S. Air Force Base in Kuwait, served as an advisor to the project, helping students identify what would be most useful and appreciated. The postage for the parcels was paid for by Republic Bank and Zappos.com donated the shoe boxes. Doug Roberts noted that "our kids and staff came through AGAIN with great enthusiasm and energy!"

## PD Spotlight: At-Risk Conference

KECSAC will host the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk" Conference, July 27-29, 2010 at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. The conference is designed to provide educators and administrators who work with state agency children and other at-risk students the skills and resources they need to adequately meet the various challenges they face in the classroom. It will highlight instructional strategies, curriculum innovations, assessment techniques, enrichment activities and service projects that may help to bridge treatment and education in KECSAC programs and motivational tools for working with students at-risk.

Featured speakers include: Dr. Stephen Sroka, educator and motivational speaker who integrates cutting edge research with reality based strategies for dealing with the issues that face our youth today including sex, drugs, violence, academic achievement as well as mental health and school safety; Elizabeth Breaux, master

educator and author who believes that a calm, caring environment, innovative teaching strategies and constant positive feedback are key to at-risk student success; Maria Banks, master educator and K-12 Literacy Development Supervisor for the Wissahickon School District in Ambler, Pennsylvania, will present "Making it Work: Strategies & Tools to Use for Differentiation"; and Kentucky's own Hasan Davis, the Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice who will deliver the closing keynote emphasizing his personal story of triumph and change.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



*Dr. Stephen Sroka*



*Elizabeth Breaux*



*Maria Banks*



*Hasan Davis*

In addition to the excellent keynote presentations at the conference, some of the breakout sessions include: "Culturally Responsive Teaching in Appalachia," "Assessing Principles of Restorative Justice and Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports to

Address Discipline Issues with School-Age Youth," "Writing for Hope and the Community Connection" and "Real World Number Sense."

Keeping within the tradition of the conference, a three credit hour graduate course will be offered that provides a comprehensive review of research-based best practices that can ensure all students learn effectively and achieve high academic standards. You must be admitted to Eastern Kentucky University's graduate program in order to register for the course.

As part of registering and attending the conference, participants will receive a copy of Elizabeth Breaux's book, *How to Reach & Teach: ALL Students Simplified*. For the second year in a row, thanks to the generosity of KECSAC's State Agency Partners, the conference fee of \$150 will be waived for all participants. KECSAC recognizes that districts are facing fiscal challenges, and to make quality professional development available to as many educators as possible, we are happy to offer this conference free of charge.

assessment notebook so they can track their academic progress. Each week, students who give their best effort in class, have good attendance and behavior enjoy participating in Fun Friday Rewards during their wellness time.

### PULASKI COUNTY

#### **Pulaski Somerset Day Treatment**

Written by BJS, a student at PSDT

The Kentucky Nutrition education program encompasses two separate USDA programs: The expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program (SNAP-ED). Both programs are administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, and target low income families and individuals with nutrition education. The goals of both are to educate limited resource families with young children and Food Stamp clientele to plan nutritious meals on a limited budget, acquire safe food handling practices, improve food preparation skills and change behavior necessary to have a healthy lifestyle.

Allison Taylor is EFNEP Assistant at the University of Kentucky. She comes to my school once a month, to teach

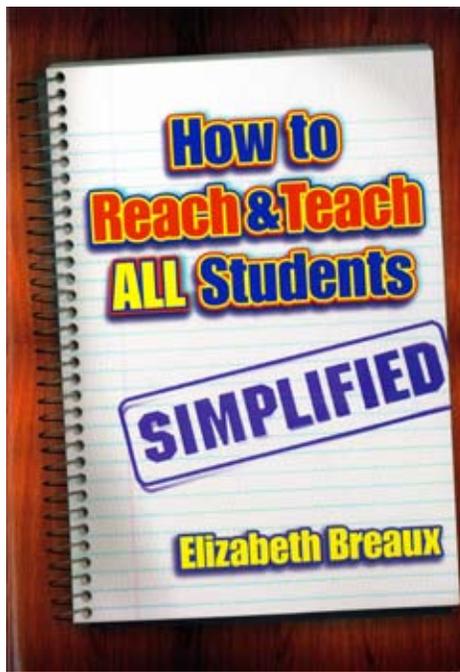
Continued from page 3

### PERRY COUNTY Buckhorn Children's Center

Buckhorn Children's Center is proud to note that with grants and funding from the Perry County Schools and the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, new computers and SMART board technology are utilized to enhance instruction in every classroom. Students are administered online Personalized Achievement Summary System (PASS) achievement tests in reading and math every 30 days upon their enrollment in the school. The results are available in an individual

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**How to Reach & Teach: All Students Simplified** explores the vital connection between connecting with students as individuals and teaching them as unique learners.



The author, Elizabeth Breaux, will give a key-note speech at KECSAC's *Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference* July 27-29, 2010. She contends that ALL students are teachable and reachable. The book takes the reader into the classrooms of various teachers who face the complex challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century school environment and provides some strategies that work and some that fail. She details how to achieve a calm, caring and structured environment; she contends that students respect authority if that authority is fair, kind, consistent and genuine; and she emphasizes: Children First!

All KECSAC educators attending the July Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference will receive copies of **How to Reach & Teach: All Students Simplified**

## Excerpt

*We cannot teach students until we reach them. We may possess numerous academic degrees, many years of experience, and a high IQ. We may employ the most effective lesson plans in a state-of-the-art facility with the most advanced technology. But these do not matter if we cannot first reach our students. Great teachers not only teach us well but also touch us on a human level—they reach into our inner depths and capture our hearts and souls, and they open our minds to all the knowledge they have to impart. They are the true teachers of the world. We thank them because we could not be who we are today had they not reached into our minds, touched our hearts, and imparted their infinite amounts of wisdom... When making decisions that affect our children, we must always consider first what is truly best for the children, not what is most comfortable or familiar to us. We chose this profession because we love children above all. We continue to choose this profession every day as we make life-changing decisions that will influence lives forever. Our influence never ends.*

## KECSAC's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Retreat

KECSAC held our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Retreat at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park on June 9-10, 2010. The working retreat was quite successful and the KECSAC Central Staff, in cooperation with our IAG (Interagency Advisory Group), outlined priorities for the coming year, continued to set policies and goals, renewed interagency and community partnerships and processed the preliminary results of the External Evaluation by REACH of Louisville. The agenda focused on the budget, the per child rate, MOA updates and ADM collection procedures, an overview of



*Margaret A. Pennington and Ben Birkby present the preliminary results from the External Evaluation of KECSAC, conducted by REACH of Louisville.*

the KECSAC Census, a presentation regarding the development of a new database, a presentation regarding the 2009-2010 monitoring data, updates made to the KECSAC SIDE and Tool documents, possible revisions for the monitoring process and reflection on REACH's presentation and report.



*KECSAC staff listen to the REACH report.*

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## Skyping Cont.

She continued, "I wish that students could have interacted more this year with one another using Skype, but due to confidentiality they were not permitted to interact with each other or at least the students in day treatment and the students in my class. The students in my classroom participated more often when I was Skyping than on days when I was not Skyping."

The program at Campbell County Day Treatment is still in its infancy, but faculty and staff hope to extend its scope to include multiple disciplines and subjects in the future.

my fellow peers a variety of topics. I'm always eager to attend group with Mrs. Taylor, because I'm always willing to learn new things.

At the beginning of each school year she meets with us and we discuss the importance of hand washing. We perform various activities such as: proper sanitation, budgeting, meal planning, and learn nutritional facts. I enjoy all of the activities. We prepare various meals ranging from breakfast meals to dinner meals. On several occasions we concentrated on "crock-pot" meals. These were quite simple and tasted delicious. One of my favorites was Lazy Lasagna- yes made in a crock pot. However, breakfast pizza is my favorite of them all, and the recipe is quite lenient:



### Breakfast Pizza

2(8 ounce) tubes reduced-fat crescent rolls  
 ½ pound breakfast sausage  
 1 cup(4 ounce) of mushrooms chopped or sliced  
 ½ cup of chopped onions  
 ½ cup of chopped tomatoes  
 4 eggs, well beaten  
 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Press crescent rolls onto the cookie sheet with fingers to create one even sheet of dough. Pinch up edges holding toppings.
3. Brown sausage and drain.
4. Sprinkle sausage, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, and tomatoes evenly over the dough.
5. Pour eggs over top and sprinkle with cheese.
6. Bake for 20 minutes.

Everyone who participates learns new things that will help us in the future. All students enjoy cooking as well as eating the finished product. We all have a sense of accomplishment and gratitude after cooking a delicious dish.

### ROWAN COUNTY Morehead Youth Development Center

Five students at Morehead Youth Development Center participated in technology training and certification this spring through Kentucky Elevate. Elevate America, sponsored by Microsoft, provided free vouchers for online training and certification opportunities in Windows and Office Suite programs. Kentucky was the 12<sup>th</sup> state to participate in Microsoft's initiative to prepare workers for the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

Mrs. Kazez, MYDC Office Technology instructor, learned of Kentucky Elevate through Joe Morgan of the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) and moved quickly to register advanced students in her program. "We started with one student going through the online training. Surprisingly, she finished very quickly. Much of it served as a review for her, having worked through many of the concepts in the Office Technology class." Mrs. Kazez then urged her to study from the textbook on sharing, protecting, and preparing documents as she continued working through the course task list. "We knew she would be leaving the facility soon, so we had to work fast." With the aid of folks in OCTE and the Office of Employment and Training, Dessie was able to complete and pass her certification testing for MS Office Word 2007 on her very last day at the facility.

In April, Mrs. Kazez was thrilled to learn there were still vouchers available. Four more students were registered and the training began. They knew they would

have to work hard and make it a priority. "This is a tremendous opportunity, for these students in particular, to obtain certification in areas where they have been building skills. This is a real chance to impact their future, and given their circumstances, they may need it the most."

While it wasn't easy, and all five students failed their first attempt, the staff and faculty at MYDC are proud to announce that all five students successfully passed and have been awarded certificates as Microsoft Certified Application Specialist in Word 2007. Please congratulate Dessie Watkins, Desiree Galliher, Jelishia Brown, Kamesha McGuire, and Angel Butcher. Mrs. Kazez certainly hopes that Microsoft will choose to continue this initiative and she is confident that students at MYDC will continue to excel and benefit from this program.



*From left to right, Angel Butcher, Jelishia Brown, and Desiree Galliher (picture printed with permission).*

### For the Collaborative

**Does your program or district have news to share? Something to brag about? Would you like to highlight your summer program or any special projects in the works?**

**Please submit vignettes, tidbits, articles or article ideas OR if you'd like a member of KECSAC's staff to come visit your program and write up a story, contact Heather Carpenter ([heather.carpenter@eku.edu](mailto:heather.carpenter@eku.edu) or call 859-622-5780).**



## KECSAC Deadlines

### July 2010

School Districts will receive year-end reimbursements for the 09-10 school year.

16<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for end-of-year MUNIS reports due to the KECSAC Central Office.

### **2010 AP Summer Institute at Western Kentucky University**

Western Kentucky University will host the Advanced Placement Summer Institute June 27–July 2. Teachers can engage in stimulating conversation, establish a strong network of colleagues and leave eager to challenge students in the fall. There will be multiple offerings in mathematics, English, science, social studies, art and foreign languages. For more information, call (270) 745-5991. [www.wku.edu/gifted](http://www.wku.edu/gifted)

### **Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual *Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference* is calling for presenters for its event Dec. 1-3 in Lexington. Focal points for the

conference are advocacy, children, disabilities, leadership/non-profit management, prevention, prosecutions, trafficking and treatment. For more information, contact Tana E. Bentley at the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, (502) 226-2704, ext. 300.

<http://kyasap.brinkster.net>

### **Mad Science**

Mad Science offers a large selection of after-school, preschool, summer programs, workshops and special events. All Mad Science programs are presented at your location by highly-trained professional instructors equipped with awe-inspiring gear. Contact Andrea Wright at [awright@sevencounties.org](mailto:awright@sevencounties.org) or (502) 419-3934 for more information.

[www.madscience.org/kentucky](http://www.madscience.org/kentucky)

# Professional Development

July 27-29

*Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference*  
Perkins Conference Center, ECU

All Conference Fees Waived

Register at:

[www.kecsac.eku.edu](http://www.kecsac.eku.edu)

### **Why Files Website**

The mission of The Why Files website is to explore the science, mathematics and technology behind the news of the day, and to present those topics in a clear, accessible and accurate manner. The site is based at the University of Wisconsin--Madison, but The Why Files covers science at all institutions that engage in scientific exploration and discovery. The website provides teacher activity pages for curriculum suggestions on using 13 popular Why Files in the classroom. Teachers also can select from a list of National Science Teaching Standards for links to specific Why Files that address each standard.

<http://whyfiles.org>



KECSAC

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