



## *GAME ON! Ready to Teach* Institute set for Oct. 7

The I-KAN Regional Office of Education is once again hosting an area-wide teachers' institute. The event will

be on Friday, Oct. 7 at Clifton Central High School and Nash Middle School.

Deputy State Superintendent Susie Morrison will be the keynote speaker, leading the discussion on the Illinois Common Core Standards and Assessments and identifying the progress for its implementation and adoption and what it will mean for local school districts. "Dr. Morrison has been a driving force in the adoption and implementation of the Common Core Standards in Illinois and we are very excited to have her speak at the event," said I-KAN Assistant

Superintendent Gregg Murphy.

Institute participants will be able to attend three sessions -- one with Dr. Morrison and two breakout sessions of their choice. This year's session selection includes more than 43 topic areas. Not only is it an opportunity for teachers to receive professional development, it also provides an opportunity for educators from across the two counties to share ideas with one another.

A complete listing of breakout sessions will be mailed to each school three weeks prior to the event. For more information about I-KAN's area-wide teachers' institute, call Kristi Colbert at (815) 937-3944.



*Dr. Susie Morrison*

## Despite budget woes, for now it's "business as usual" for the I-KAN ROE

Both Kay Pangle and Gregg Murphy want to assure all served by the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education that services are continuing as usual -- at least for now -- even though Gov. Pat Quinn eliminated their salaries from the state budget on July 1. Funding for professional development also has been eliminated.

The governor's office stated that it is in discussions about temporary sources of money and plans to work with legislators to resolve the issue in October.

In the meantime, Pangle assures both she and Murphy will continue to work to support the schools. "Unfortunately, we are one of the best kept secrets in education," she said.

Dr. Pangle has served as regional superintendent since 1994 and previously served as assistant regional superintendent beginning in 1988.



*Dr. Kay Pangle is sworn in for her fifth term as Regional Superintendent by Judge Michael Kick on July 1 — the same day news came down from Gov. Pat Quinn's office that the salaries of all regional superintendents and their assistants were eliminated from the Illinois state budget. Gregg Murphy is pictured at far right.*

# I-KAN announces staffing changes; welcomes new faces

The I-KAN Regional Office of Education would like to announce the following staff changes, welcome new employees and thank our recent retirees.

**Gregg Murphy** has been named Assistant Regional Superintendent for Iroquois - Kankakee county schools effective July 1. His appointment comes after the retirement of **Vicki Hensley**, who will stay on part-time as Director of Professional Development. *Our thanks to Vicki for all she's done as assistant regional superintendent.*

Murphy has worked as an assistant to Kay Pangle since 2007. Prior to that, he was the technology director for the I-KAN ROE and two other school districts. He also taught sciences at Iroquois West and holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Illinois Wesleyan and a master's in educational administration from Olivet Nazarene University.



Gregg Murphy



Noelle Bradley

## Attendance Assistance Program (AAP)

**Noelle Bradley** is the newly appointed director of the Attendance Assistance Program (AAP). She is taking over some of the responsibilities previously held by **Marie Cardosi**, who retired as director of Student Services. Marie will continue to support students as the credit recovery coordinator for I-KAN's Alternative Programs. Caseworkers **Jim Moberly** and **Nancy Pittser** retired but are continuing to help on a part-time

basis. **Libby Wilken**, who is an AAP caseworker, will serve as a homeless liaison with Jim. Also, I-KAN welcomes **Stacia Sellers** and **Emily Aamoth** who have joined the AAP as caseworkers.

## Regional Alternative Attendance Center (RAAC)

**Mike Lamb** has been named program director for the I-KAN Regional Alternative Attendance Center (RAAC). Previously, he worked as a coordinator for the SALT I program. Also, **Kendall Jackson**, who was an educator for SALT I, is moving to the RAAC and will serve as both an educator and assistant program director. The RAAC also welcomes **Courtney Majerski**, who is the new student assistant coordinator

for both the RAAC and SALT I programs.

## Students All Learning Together (SALT I)

**Michelle Fitts** has been named the new director of the SALT I (Kankakee) program. Previously, Michelle worked as an AAP caseworker. **Caren Hunt** and **Marilyn Boma**, previously educators at the RAAC, are now teaching at SALT I.



Michelle Fitts

## Administrative Services

**Linda Massey**, formerly the office manager for the Family and Community Partnerships, is now working as a certification assistant in administration and **Lisa Themer**, communications specialist for Family and Community Partnerships, has moved to administrative services.



## Chronic Truancy Redefined

Effective July 28, 2011 the Illinois School Code has revised the definition of a chronic or habitual truant as *"a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days."*

Previously, the code cited a truant as any student who was absent without valid cause for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

Public Act 097-0218

# I-KAN joins with county government for hands-on civics lesson

The I-KAN ROE's Life Education program is teaming up with Bruce Clark, county clerk for Kankakee County and Lisa Fancher, county clerk for Iroquois County, to provide students with a lesson in the electoral process -- and healthy lifestyles.

Both County Clerk offices are working with area educators and will lend voting machines to the schools on Tuesday, Nov. 8 so that 7th and 8th graders can cast their vote. Schools will allow students to vote on a local issue and a region-wide question. This year, the region-wide vote will determine the winner of the Wise Highs Billboard Contest.

"The goal is to teach how the election process works from start to finish and show that one vote can really count," said Gregg Murphy, assistant regional superintendent. Students will start with a registration drive, then make their own registration cards, create poll books -- even provide election judges to assure that the electoral process is carried out to the letter of the law. Just like in a real election, votes will be tallied through the County Clerk's offices.

"This is a really great way for students to become part of the process," said Brenda Wetzel, director of the Life Education programs. "I mean, how many kids get a chance to see the inside of a voting booth before they are 18? It will make the lessons more meaningful and working with both Bruce and Lisa is a wonderful way for our program to continue connecting with the community."

The billboard contest is held annually for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders participating in the Life Education's ' healthy lifestyles and



substance abuse prevention classes. The design must incorporate the program's theme: "Choose Wise Highs . . . Choices You Can Live With." On Nov. 8, students will vote on entries submitted from the 2010-11 school year.

We're hoping to continue our partnership with the County Clerk's offices and let the students vote on the artwork on off-election years," Murphy added. For more information, about the Wise Highs Contest, contact Brenda Wetzel at (815) 936-4606. For details about the region-wide vote, call Gregg Murphy at (815) 937-2950.



Our thanks to Mary Hines of Catholic Charities, who took this photo of Dr. Kay Pangle - all suited up and ready to hit the field. She is pictured with George McCaskey, chairman of the board and co-owner of the Chicago Bears and his wife, Barb at the Back-to-School Fair held July 23 at Olivet Nazarene University. More than 1,000 families received assistance at the event.



I-KAN has joined the Facebook community and is inviting you to follow us as a way to stay up-to-date on the latest I-KAN happenings. We will post reminders about upcoming workshops, share photos from events, post articles of interest, offer teachers resources to share with parents and more.

Just visit our website at [www.i-kan.org](http://www.i-kan.org) and press the like button to become a fan!



# Newspapers In Education



**Thanks for all the information you deliver to our fingertips!**

**The BBCHS Library Study Hall Students**

The I-KAN Regional Office of Education is one of several area sponsors of the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program coordinated by The Daily Journal.

NIE is an international program and began in 1955 to advance the use of newspapers in

schools. Teachers use the newspapers as textbooks and supplements in areas such as reading, writing, math, science, history, economics, language arts, special education, English as a second language and more. The newspaper can be incorporated into nearly any classroom subject and grade level from

kindergarten to adult education.

Last year, 132 teachers from both counties benefited from the program. Here are a few of the many thank you notes The Daily Journal shared with us showing how the NIE program is being used by area schools.

If you would like to participate in the Newspapers in Education program, contact Cindy Bradley, NIE sponsorship coordinator at (815) 468-7349.

May 13, 2011

Dear Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education,

Thank you for paying for our school to get free newspapers. We have used newspapers in our classroom for scavenger hunts and grammar work. We appreciate your willingness to participate in our education.

Sincerely,  
Shelby Norton

Mrs. Throop's Fifth Grade



Dear NIE,  
It is with great pleasure that I write this HUGE THANK YOU to the many wonderful sponsors of Newspapers in Education. My class receives the Thurs papers and I create a 15-20 ques. Coverent events worksheet to be used on Fridays. I use the almanac, weather pg., Kid News and other pgs to create the activity. It is a nice Fri. Edg. activity. Thanks again for your generous contribution so my students have some newspaper exposure.  
Ray Snowden  
Liberty Intermediate

Dear NIE Sponsor

Thank you for the newspapers you provided for my school Mark Twain primary school. I really enjoy the kids page and the Sports page. Just again thank you.

Love, Aalish