



**CESA 8**

# Connection

September 2011

## **This Will Be the Last Issue of the CESA 8 Newsletter**

After nearly 40 years, the last edition of the Connection is being sent to you. We are halting production for many of the same reasons so many districts have for cutting their programs. There was a loss of revenue and the attendant loss of staff which pushed us to this decision. If at some future time, there is a change in circumstance we will clearly bring the Connection back.

Thank you for being readers of our official information resource.

## **"Is Teaching About Stuffing the Mind or Teaching To Think?"**

What is thinking and why is it so important? Thinking is defined as an intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by observations, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication. My experience also tells me it is about thinking about how to think. Merely having knowledge or information is not enough to be effective in the workplace or in their personal life. Students must be able to solve problems and make effective decisions; they must be able to think and do it critically.

Critical thinking is not a new concept. For years, we have struggled with "how" to engage students in critical thinking activities. Students however, seldom use critical thinking skills to solve complex real-world problems. Why? The answer may be in our instructional methods: often we teach students what to think instead of how to think. It is strange that we expect students to learn yet teach them very little about learning.

Focused critical thinking speaks to the issue of instructional design. Students who have the ability to think may often not actively think. That is like those who have the ability to hear, but do not often actively listen. *Critical thinking is to knowing as listening is to hearing.* That means it is a learned skill that must be developed, practiced, and integrated into the curriculum. Focused attention needs to be placed on the application of content into the process of learning and methods of assessment.

Asking a series of questions can be important to figuring out how to do this. First, how will the students get instruction? Lecture and memorization do not lead to long-term knowledge or the application of that knowledge to new situations. Instructional strategies that employ students' higher-order thinking skills lead to improved critical thinking skills. Subjective tools such as essay questions and case studies require students to apply their knowledge to new situations and are better indicators of understanding than are objective true/false or standardized multiple-choice assessments. Though it is possible to create multiple-choice questions that require critical thinking, it often takes more time than today's teachers have.

Present day emphasis on teaching to the test distracts from the learning process. Student-centered instruction places the emphasis on content not understanding. But if the focus is turned to student learning, the student should be given the freedom and responsibility to explore content, analyze resources and apply information. Unfortunately students are not typically taught to think or learn independently. We know, however, they can pick up these skills on their own. In a science classroom, if students learn the process of the scientific method, they also learn the process of critical thinking.

Time constraints are often barriers to integrating thinking skills in the classroom. Instructors often have a great deal of content to cover in a short period of time. When the focus is on content rather than on student learning, shortcuts such as lectures and the objective test become the norm. Lecturing is faster and easier than integrating project-based learning opportunities. Objective tests are faster to take and grade than subjective assessments. However, research indicates that lecturing is not the best method of instruction and objective tests are not the best method of assessment.

Some recent research emphasizes the importance of asking the right questions to stimulate students' critical thinking skills. Other research is focused on integrating questioning techniques in the class discussions to support an educational environment where students can demonstrate and practice critical thinking. Some sample questions used in the studies I read included the following:

What do you think about this?

Why do you think that?

What is your knowledge based upon?

What explains it, connects to it, leads from it?

How are you doing it?

Should it be viewed differently?

These questions require students to evaluate how clear and how accurate their thinking is. They also ask him or her to look at the depth and breadth of their thinking. Additionally, the questions ask them to consider all the alternatives. Simply the key is "do they know why they think the way they do?" Students need to determine whether the content they are using is relevant to the thinking processes.

All educators would like to instill critical thinking skills in their classrooms. To accomplish that, they must think of their students not as receivers of information, but as users of information. Learning environments that actively engage students in the investigation of information and the application of knowledge will promote the students critical thinking skills. Students may initially resist instructional questioning techniques, if they previously have been required only to remember information; not to think about what they know. They may even struggle with assessment questions that are not taken verbatim from the book. However by encouraging students throughout the process, and by modeling thinking behaviors, student critical thinking skills can be improved. Research tells us that effort made is worth the reward. We'll get students who can critically think for themselves. Maybe one of them can help solve real world problems that we seem to have many of these days.

*-Robert Kellogg, CESA 8 Administrator*

## **Cesa 8 Years of Service Awards**

### Twenty-Five Years of Service

Betty Kaliebe    Kaye Lietz  
Tina Newton    Marcia Wittrock

### Twenty Years of Service

Debra Dear  
Joanne Hammett

### Fifteen Years of Service

Elke Sellen  
Margaret Wysocki

### Ten Years of Service

Joelle Halla Fisher    James Heider  
Emma Jean Hill    Melissa Lewis

### Five Years of Service

Vicky Behnke    Amber Cooper    Joni Gegare  
Jennifer Gehm    Lori Glatz    Russ Grant  
Amanda Hanson    Renee Melotik    Roman Miller  
David Moyle    Sue Schuettpelz  
Brenda Tauscher

# PBIS News

Welcome back everyone! We hope that everyone had a great summer and has a great kick-off to the 2011-12 school year!!! I say “we” because I would like to welcome Jennifer Grenke as my Co-Coordinator for the Northern Region! We have been busy planning, training, and supporting teams for the upcoming school year. The WI RtI Center has added 5 full-time academic Regional Coordinators. Sarah Nelson is the new Academic Coordinator for the Northern Region.

Thanks to all that attended the 2011 WI PBIS Conference; over 650 attended and heard from National, State, and Local Speakers and Exemplars. If you missed it, all materials can be found on our WI PBIS website! And Mark Your Calendars, the 2012 conference will be August 14 and 15th, the Keynoter will be George Sugai and space is limited so signup early!!! The upcoming National Forum is October 27 and 28th in Chicago; information can be found on the Illinois PBIS website.

PBS Surveys is now PBIS Assessment!! You will love this newly designed site for entering your survey data and developing action plans, [www.pbisassessment.org](http://www.pbisassessment.org)!! All of your data from PBS Surveys has been transferred over to the new site. If you need assistance or reminders on how to enter and use your data give us a call.

Coaches Corner:

---Check out the new Coaching Calendar link on the Coaches section of our website for more information

---Coach Networking Meetings:

CESA #8, Wed, Oct. 5, 9:00-12:00

---Upcoming Trainings in the North:

CESA #8, UTA300, Fri, Sept. 30, 8:30 (Universal Team, Day #3)

- *Dave Kunelius, PBIS Northern Region Co-Coordinator*

Let **UW-Green Bay** help YOU connect learning to life through quality credit and noncredit offerings designed to assist you in:

- . Obtaining license renewal
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- . Achieving your professional learning goals

Convenient locations including online learning formats!

It's easy to register for our courses! No extra application fee; No need to send your transcripts; enjoy quick, easy, and friendly registration!

For course information, enrollment options, and online registration visit our website at

<http://www.uwgb.edu/educationoutreach>

Or, contact Mary Ann at 920-465-2480 or 800-621-2313 or Email us at [educationoutreach@uwgb.edu](mailto:educationoutreach@uwgb.edu)

Join us and discover fresh, energizing approaches to teaching and learning!

# Driver Education Needs Parent Support

The driver in the car that just passed you didn't signal a return to your lane and cut in less than one second ahead of you. The truck coming up on that side road rolls right through the stop sign and causes you to hit your brakes. You look inside these vehicles and you see they are not teenagers, but adults. So how can we expect young people to obey common sense rules of the road and traffic laws if adults don't?

One of the most effective ways to help assure young people display any proper behavior is for their parents and other adults to model it. But it appears many adults have either forgotten this simple truth or just don't care; pity if it is the latter. It's basic, what kids see adults do, they mimic. If adults want young people to pay attention to traffic laws, they must first model the behavior. Here are a few reminders on traffic safety:

- Stop signs mean you stop completely. Rolling stop signs can cause approaching side traffic to be hidden behind the windshield frame posts until it is too late.
- Exceeding posted speed limits to pass another vehicle is illegal, period.
- Driving faster than posted speed limits on highways (generally 55 to 65 mph) is not only illegal, but can cause a 7-23% reduction in fuel economy according to both the U.S. EPA and U.S. vehicle manufacturers.
- Wisconsin law requires the use of turn signals for all turns and lane changes. Besides, it is good common sense to communicate your intentions with other drivers. Unless you like slamming on your brakes.
- And of course, pull off the road to use a cell phone. Distracted drivers are causing an increasing number of crashes injuring or killing others, and in many cases, themselves.

The # 1 cause of death for teens in America is motor vehicle crashes – more than the next three causes combined. Young drivers from the age of 15-20 are involved in crashes that kill more than 15 people every day.  
*National Safety Council*

For more information on driver and traffic safety, you may contact John Knickerbocker at the CESA 8 office by e-mail at [knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us](mailto:knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-855-2114, Ext. 227. Drive safe out there!

- *John Knickerbocker, Driver Education Instructor*

## Vocational Diplomas: A Key to Economic Success for Students and Our State?

What if our students could not only earn a high school diploma, but a vocational diploma as well? State Representative Mark Radcliffe of Black River Falls is working on legislation that would allow Wisconsin's high schools to issue vocational diplomas in addition to a regular academic ones. With much emphasis being placed on the need for skilled workers, it only stands to reason the sooner we can help students begin training for careers the better.

The legislation Radcliffe is proposing would give local districts the power to develop special programming to help meet the employment needs of the communities they serve. Students could be learning employable technical skills while also getting their basic education. Students would still be encouraged to seek higher education, and would, in all likelihood, gain post-high school credits through technical colleges and universities having taken courses with rigorous curriculums.

With local businesses and schools working together, the impact of helping assure qualified employees to keep communities' enterprises competitive in this ever growing global economy. What can you do in your community to help promote positive economic growth? Keep an eye on Madison and support efforts to help students better prepare for futures as responsible, productive citizens.

For more information on this or other topics related to Wisconsin's Education for Employment (E4E) Standard, please contact John Knickerbocker, the CESA 8 E4E Coordinator via e-mail at [knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us](mailto:knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-855-2114, Ext. 227

- *John Knickerbocker, CTE Coordinator*

## Celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week

Did you know there was such a thing? Well there is. Global Entrepreneurship Week is November 14-20. Entrepreneurship is one of America's foundation stones. Where do you think companies like Microsoft Harley-Davidson, Coca-Cola got their starts? Some of the world's richest people and largest companies started in basements and garages with little more than a passion.

One way to help our communities (and schools) grow is to educate and encourage entrepreneurship as a viable career option. The best businesses are home grown. They start small and may wind up employing hundreds of people. Look around. I bet you can name a few in or near your community.

What will you do to promote entrepreneurship in your schools and communities (and satisfy the Social Studies Academic Standards related to business and the E4E Standard)? I strongly encourage you to visit <http://www.unleashingideas.org/> and see what other communities in Wisconsin are doing to promote entrepreneurship. If what you see seems too complicated, check out the ideas below. November is nearly 2 months away. So you have some time to work with. If you need some simple ideas, here are a few ideas I dreamed up.

- Hold a poster contest (elementary through high school) along the theme of encouraging kids in the entrepreneurship spirit.
- Have social studies classes concentrate on American entrepreneurs and inventors during that week.
- Invite local entrepreneurs in to talk to kids about how they got started.
- Hold a contest to see what kids can "invent" using straws from the cafeteria. Have a local marketer judge the ideas.
- Hold a trivia contest about inventors and entrepreneurs.
- If you have funds available, have students visit a local business that started small and grew to a major employer.
- Hold a contest to see which student (you can do it by grades) can list the most businesses in your community. Entries must be handwritten (penmanship practice).
- Challenge high school students to play Junior Achievement's Titan on-line game about running a company. It can be found at <http://titan.ja.org/>. It could be played as part of a business or economics class. Or how about an after-school event?
- Have students participate in a localized and shortened version of The Entrepreneurship Game (see <http://strategy.sauder.ubc.ca/hellmann/pdfs/Entrepreneurship%20Game%20Thomas%20Hellmann.pdf>) using a local economic development person as a mentor

I've started this snowball. Now it's your turn to see how big you can make it. E-mail me back your events at [knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us](mailto:knickerb@cesa8.k12.wi.us) and I will highlight them on the CESA 8 website. If you have questions or want some help, you can call me at 920-855-2114, Ext. 227.

- *John Knickerbocker, CTE Director*

## ATOD and Related Department has a New Name

Please note as a follow up to information shared in an article published in the CESA 8 Newsletter last winter the ATOD and Related Department will be undergoing changes to better reflect the expanded vision of school and community based prevention at the State and Federal levels. Our longstanding CESA 8 ATOD and Related At-Risk Department will officially, starting July the first become the Healthy Schools, Communities and Related Programs Department. Yes I know that is a mouth full so please feel free to unofficially refer to us as the "Healthy Schools and Communities Department". Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of CESA 8 and its programming.

- *Jeff Bentz, Director of the Healthy Schools, Communities and Related Programs Department*



13th Annual Institute for  
Learning Partnership Fall Conference  
**October 20-22, 2011**



**Keynote Topic: Elevate Your Professional Practices  
with 21st Century Skills**

“To ensure 21st century readiness, we must fuse the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) and four Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation).”

— John Kuglin

**About the Keynote Speaker**

Technology pioneer and education leader, John Kuglin, and other local experts, offer advice to educators who want to explore, experience, understand and gain current 21st century skills.

**Thursday evening,** Conference keynote and pre-conference workshop,

**October 20** UW-Green Bay

**Friday morning,** Meeting (live and online via Elluminate) with

**October 21** administrators from CESA 7 and 8 schools,  
Green Bay School District administrative offices

**Saturday morning,** Educator workshops,

**October 22** Green Bay Preble High School

For more information contact Juliet Cole of the Institute for  
Learning Partnership at (920) 465 - 5094 or [colej@uwgb.edu](mailto:colej@uwgb.edu).



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# Items of Interest, Classroom Ideas and Internet Sites to Visit

**AESA Online News** – visit us at [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us) Please click below to go to the AESA web site to read the new issue of the NAMTC/AESA Big Deal Book of Technology Newsletter [http://www.aesa.us/Pubs/Big\\_Deal/Tech.html](http://www.aesa.us/Pubs/Big_Deal/Tech.html) You'll find timely reminders, fabulous freebies, best sites and more “worth the surf” information.

**A Perfect Match: Using Data & Standards to Drive Program Design** for combined administrator and educator teams. Questions? Call Barbara Marler at 224.366.8555 or visit the website at [www.thecenterweb.org/irc](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc)

**CCBC Web Site Materials** go to <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/>

**Channel Weekly** a weekly newsletter by the Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction <http://dpi.wi.gov/channel/chweekly.html>

**Curriculum Hotspots** – Here is the latest DA guide to the best education sites on the Web:  
[http://www.districtadministration.com/viewpage.aspx?pagename=staticpage/CurriculumHotspots\\_07.htm](http://www.districtadministration.com/viewpage.aspx?pagename=staticpage/CurriculumHotspots_07.htm)

**Excellence in Teaching Economics & Financial Literacy Awards** - for more information go to <http://economicswisconsin.org/teach/EITAaward.htm>

**Fact Monster** a cool math site to assist children with math problems <http://www.factmonster.com/mathmoney.html>

**FERPA** – [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/safeschools/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/safeschools/index.html)

**Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation** has several resources available such as [www.KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org](http://www.KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org) a free website to help student's pretest for the ACT and SAT. To learn more about it go to [www.mygreatlakes.org/testprep](http://www.mygreatlakes.org/testprep)

**Green Bay Autism Center Opens...check out their link** [www.greenbayautism.org](http://www.greenbayautism.org)

**Life Smarts** Learn about personal finance, the environment, technology & more! Go to [www.lifesmarts.org](http://www.lifesmarts.org) for more information.

**Learning ZoneXpress** is a premier producer of health and nutrition education resources for schools nationwide. Visit us at [www.learningzoneexpress.com](http://www.learningzoneexpress.com)

**Master's Degree in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning**, UWGB, to learn more about the program contact us at 920.465.2003 or at [www.uwgb.edu/alt/](http://www.uwgb.edu/alt/)

Check out the following **NASA opportunities** for the education community at <http://www.nasa.gov/education>

**NCTE** has many resources for elementary school teachers in reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary check us out at [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

Visit the **Neville Public Museum** and be amazed! Check out their website at: <http://www.nevillepublicmuseum.org/>

**NAMTC/AESA Big Deal Book of Technology Newsletter** [http://www.aesa.us/Pubs/Big\\_Deal/Tech.html](http://www.aesa.us/Pubs/Big_Deal/Tech.html)

**National Rural Education Association**...check out the grants available to teachers at [www.nrea.net](http://www.nrea.net)

**NWTC is ranked as one of the top 10 percent** in the country; supported by national leaders in business, education and labor...visit our website at [www.nwtc.edu](http://www.nwtc.edu)

**Peace Corps** is reaching out to schools across the United States. Designed to bring the world into U.S. schools, the Peace Corps' CWWS program includes free standards-based classroom resources and programs. Coverdell World Wise Schools...at [www.peacecorps.go/www](http://www.peacecorps.go/www)

**Practical Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners**, offered through UWGB. Email: [educationoutreach@uwgb.edu](mailto:educationoutreach@uwgb.edu)

**Preventing Teen Rx Abuse** through Take Back Programs at the Coalitions Online newsletter at [www.drugfreecollier.org](http://www.drugfreecollier.org)

**Programs to Prepare Teachers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children** at UW Milwaukee visit us at [http://www4.uwm.edu/soe/departments/ex\\_ed/](http://www4.uwm.edu/soe/departments/ex_ed/)

**Public Health Information & Referral Services for Women, Children & Families** log on to [www.mch-hotlines.org](http://www.mch-hotlines.org) to search the database of community resources and click on search on the left menu.

**Reading Made Easy** to enrich and improve the lives of millions of people worldwide by making information accessible through the use of affordable technology at [www.readingmadeez.com/](http://www.readingmadeez.com/)

**Response to Intervention Webinars** - Creating new opportunities to help your students thrive. To register: <https://pearsononline.webex.com/pearsononline/j.php?ED=100519522&RG=1&UID=0>

**Test Prep** a FREE Great Lakes online tool for ACT and SAT test preparation, visit [www.KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org](http://www.KnowHow2GoWisconsin.org) to take advantage.

**Transition Resources from Wisconsin DPI:** <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/tranopndrs-self-determination.pdf> & <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/tranopndrs.pdf>

**University of Wisconsin Marinette Website** [www.marinette.uwc.edu](http://www.marinette.uwc.edu)

**WIOC teacher professional development courses** <http://www.wioc.wisc.edu/bulletin/110124.htm>

**WIScareers now offers an Elementary online resource.** Go to <http://wiscareers.wisc.edu/Default.asp>

**Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story** a great resource for teachers. For sample pages visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org/textbook](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/textbook)

**Wisconsin School for the Deaf** has summer program offerings. Visit our website at [www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us)

**Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium** is requesting proposals at [www.uwgb.edu/wsgc](http://www.uwgb.edu/wsgc)



## Worth Surfing

See the "Surf Report" at: <http://explore.ecb.org/surf> Check out this month's feature along with other current and archived "Surf Reports."

<http://pbskids.org/> by kids, for kids, about kids ages 9 – 12 and organized across five topic "channels": friends, family, school, body and emotions, with no subject off-limits.

[www.pbs.org/teachersource/](http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/) PBS Teacher Resource

[www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov](http://www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov) has resources available, including an online resource kit with 22 downloadable documents.

<http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/ecitizens/index.htm>

Identifies and analyzes about 400 websites, created for and by youth that engage youth in civic affairs.

[www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com) contains lesson planning, professional development, technology integration and more [www.rif.org/readingplanet](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet), an online world of books for kids, grades K-8.

[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) Internet safety and security information

<http://wiredforbooks.org>, features audio and video presentations of book/poetry readings, including children's stories and author interviews.

[www.infosoup.org](http://www.infosoup.org) check out the new and improved library system!

[www.wpr.org](http://www.wpr.org) Wisconsin Public Radio

[www.wpt.org](http://www.wpt.org) Wisconsin Public Television

