

Communicator



eNews from The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative

October 20, 2004

Matters of Interest:

New Personal Strength Skills Group Generates Excitement



“I’m too dumb-I can’t” syndrome plagues many of our struggling students. As a result, School psychologist, Anna Sikula-Miller, initiated **Personal Strength Skills Group**.

Based on the principles of Multiple Intelligences, students learn that there are many other ways to be “smart” besides in reading, writing and arithmetic. They learn to identify their

own personal strengths and weaknesses. These Learning Differences (rather than Learning Disabilities) are shared and discussed in the group.

The small groups heard from a motivational speaker who as a youth, had been in Special Education himself. This was a powerful way to reach many of the resistant learners in the group. Student enthusiasm was conveyed in thank you notes sent to the speaker.

"Co-teaching" system boosts special education test scores

A "co-teaching" system that puts two teachers -- one certified in English or math and the other in special education -- in most classrooms has led to academic gains in the Shelby County, Tenn., school system. Under the plan, about 70% of the county's special education students have two teachers. A Guide to Co-Teaching can be found at www.cec.sped.org/bk/catalog2/new_pubs_03.html

Co-op News :

Welcome New Co-op Board Members



Left to right: Bruce Wallace, Darby Superintendent and Bill Edwards, Florence-Carlton Superintendent

The two new superintendents joined the Co-op board comprised of superintendents from member Hamilton, Lone Rock, Stevensville and Victor.

HELP WANTED

Computer Application Mentors

The Co-op is looking for District or Co-op employees with computer application knowledge who are interested in becoming paid mentors. Mentors are paid a modest stipend (up to \$100 depending on depth of instruction) to tutor Co-op staff members in software application use at mutually agreed upon times (generally over lunch period or after school).

If you have specific knowledge in use of MS Word, Windows, Excel, Outlook, Publisher, PowerPoint or other common applications used in education settings and would like to be included in a pool of mentors: Send email message to Kathy Stamm <stammk@stevensville.k12.mt.us>

- Identify the application(s) in which you have expertise
 - Give name, email address, phone # and best time to reach you
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To contribute to a future edition of this newsletter please send an email message to Kathy Stamm at stammk@stevensville.k12.mt.us