

CHANGING TIMES

It hasn't been very long ago that if you mentioned that a SIRI (State Institutes for Reading Instruction) workshop was being offered at a particular location (anywhere), the only teachers who would register for the workshop would be reading or language arts teachers. After all, it was the responsibility of the reading/language arts teachers to teach students how to read. However, times change, and often so do our perspectives on any given situation. More and more, reading is being seen as a subject area that commands the attention of all teachers across the curriculum. You see, if a student has reading difficulties, that will not only affect his/her performance on the reading proficiency test, it will also affect the student's performance on other tested subjects, such as math, science, and citizenship. Furthermore, that student will continue to have problems functioning in the adult world after high school days are over.

We are currently offering in our school district a workshop series for our teachers on Adolescent SIRI. The series consists of four Saturdays, from January 29th through February 19th. So, what's so great about this? While we have been able to offer other SIRI courses here in the past, our teachers have not had the opportunity to take the Adolescent SIRI workshop series within Adams County. The chances of this happening again anytime soon are not very good. Secondly, the class roster of 22 participants includes teachers from all but one of our buildings. Therefore, this training and its possible effects will be realized in almost every building. Thirdly, grade levels 5-12 are represented by the group of teachers participating in this workshop series. This is great! After all, it is an Adolescent SIRI training program. Finally, this workshop is being

attended by a group of teachers who teach a broad spectrum of subjects. There are reading teachers, math teachers, science teachers, social studies teachers, special education teachers, and an administrator. I tip my hat to this group of educators. They represent a change in attitude during changing times. All students and parents benefit when we come to the realization that training successful readers is in everyone's best interest. I plan to present these educators with their Certificates of Completion at the February Board of Education Meeting. This is something that I have never done before. Many thanks to these educators for their interest and participation, along with their willingness to give us four consecutive Saturdays to receive this instruction from our Curriculum Specialist, Mrs. Peggy Ginn.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

I recently gave each of our building principals an assignment to submit to me a list of potential supporters for new elementary schools and renovated high schools. Since we have much work to do, and the November 2005 election will be upon us before we know it, we need to assemble a grassroots group of parents and community members willing to become informed and work on the campaign to help us secure our local share of funds needed for this project through the ballot box.

The lists that have been submitted to me by the building principals are by no means all inclusive. I can assure you that there has been no attempt on my part, or that of the building principals, to exclude anyone from helping us with this all-important task. I am

reminded of an old saying, "Many hands make light work." If you were not contacted by a building principal, but would like to serve on this team or if you would just like more information, please get in touch with me immediately. You can do so either by telephone (544-5586) or E-mail (pkimble@scoca-k12.org). Weather permitting; this team will have its first meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center. I look forward to seeing you then. Remember, completing a successful building program takes time, energy, vision, people, and some sacrifice. See you on February 22nd!

SOME DISCUSSION ON TAXES

You probably noticed an increase in your real estate tax bill received recently. This results primarily from a reappraisal of property which is required by law to occur every six years. As a result, the taxes received by the school district will increase. However, the state funding formula, which determines how much money the state sends to our district, recognizes this increase in local tax receipts and, in turn, reduces the amount of state support for any school district. This is part of what makes up the term "phantom revenue." Therefore, increased local taxes do not result in any increase in total funding to our school district.

I realize that it may be a concept that is hard for most of us to understand. This is the animal that school districts live with on a daily basis. It is known as the convoluted formula for funding schools in the state of Ohio. It is why so many school districts have

to go back to their voters repeatedly to try to bring in extra dollars through increase millage.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent