

# BULLETIN

## RESA 2 SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS

As a gesture of gratitude and support for our troops, RESA 2 staff gathered items to send to troops currently deployed overseas. In previous years staff members have helped families in need. This year we decided to “adopt” an Army Unit that doesn’t have the opportunity to spend Christmas with their family.



Deployed EOD Unit at work.

RESA 2 staff members brought in items that they believe will remind these young men of home and would show them how much we appreciate their service. The gifts were then packed into boxes and shipped. The generosity of the staff included items such as beef jerky, macaroni & cheese, board games, t-shirts, hard candy, Christmas Lights



Our soldiers enjoying their gifts.

with adapters, a Christmas wreath, money for shipping expenses, and so much more. The one thing that filled each box, but could not be seen, was the appreciation of each staff member for all service men and women who sacrifice so much to keep this country safe.

As you celebrate this special time of year, please take a moment to thank a soldier for their service. We are a free country because of brave young men and women like these (past, present and future).

## BALANCED LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

More than forty principals from schools located within Regional Education Service Agency 2, participated in the first two of a series of four Balanced Leadership Workshops on October 16-17, 2012 and November 7-8, 2012 at the Huntington Ramada Limited. Two additional workshops will be held on two consecutive days throughout the school year on March 14-15, 2013 and April 15-16, 2013. The purpose of the workshops is to provide sustained support to principals and assistant principals in developing strategies to create and sustain high performing schools. The initial session provided participants with an overview of the latest McREL research pertaining to the characteristics of effective

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principals and provided activities allowing participants to collaborate on additional effective leadership strategies (e.g., focus, purposeful community, trust, balancing leadership/sharing leadership, planning change diagram and self-assessment/goal setting). Principals were also asked to identify at least one of the 21 leadership responsibilities and develop a strategic plan to improve these area(s) during the time between the October and November sessions.

The second session provided principals with a review of the characteristics of effective principals and introduced the Balanced Leadership Framework: Purposeful Community. Principals were provided a variety of opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from across the RESA 2 region in several learning activities.

Greg Cameron, Senior Director for the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), delivers the professional development sessions. Mr. Cameron has worked extensively with nationally known educational researchers Robert Marzano and Timothy Waters. McREL is a private, non-profit education research and development corporation founded in 1966 to turn knowledge about what works in education into practical guidance for educators.

“Research supports that effective principals significantly impact student achievement”, says Dr. Karen Davies, RESA 2 Assistant Executive Director of Program Development, who coordinates the McREL initiative. “RESA 2 principals participating in the Balanced Leadership Workshops are provided with a unique opportunity to work with a nationally recognized organization for the purpose of building effective principal leadership skills.”



Participants attend Balanced Leadership Workshop

## WALK ACROSS AMERICA

Walk across America - that’s what eighth graders in Mingo County are doing. In response to Mingo County being

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charged with having the second highest rate of Type 2 Diabetes in West Virginia. The Mingo County Diabetes Coalition knew they had to raise awareness and change habits.

In a collaborative approach with Mingo County schools, the coalition provided middle school physical education (PE) teachers with pedometers and asked them to track mileage. In order to produce cross curricular lessons in alignment with Next Generation Standards, Social Studies, Math, and PE teachers decided to have the middle schools compete to see who could Walk across America first.

Students not only keep track of mileage, but they turn in activity logs and food journals. This comprehensive approach to teaching a healthy lifestyle encouraged students to, "Be more active and more aware of Type 2 diabetes", said Gilbert Middle Assistant Principal, Mark Dean. Students were rewarded with tickets to be put in a drawing for valuable prizes as they made progress and turned in these logs. The culminating event is a 5k walk or run in which every 8<sup>th</sup> grader participates.

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CONFERENCE

RESA 2 held their 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech-Language Hearing Conference on Monday, November 5, 2012 at the Ramada Limited located at 3140 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Huntington, West Virginia.

This year Martha Coen-Cummings, Ph.D. CCC-S presented on Central Auditory Processing – Language and Auditory Processing Evidence-Based Practices. Dr. Coen-Cummings has been employed in the Speech Pathology Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital for over 20 and is currently the Coordinator of the Outpatient Mason Speech Pathology department.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR STUDY AT GUYAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Frankenstein*, a novel published in 1813, combines elements of a gothic novel within the Romantic Movement, but is also argued to be the first science fiction novel. This novel has influenced pop culture and literature as well as spawning an entire genre of horror stories (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankenstein>).

The popularity of *Frankenstein* became a cross-curricular and multi-grade level study at Guyan Valley Middle School. What started as collaboration between Mr. Hartley, the English language/arts teacher, and science teachers to

teach the scientific method spread to other grade levels as well as math and art departments. Teachers worked together to craft an interdisciplinary approach to learning, producing a school wide opportunity for communicating and planning.

## CO-TEACHING in RESA 2

Co-Teaching is essential to the education of all students, and our counties know that it takes team building and sustained collaboration to foster growth. All Region 2 counties are striving to better facilitate Co-Teaching but Mason, Wayne, and Mingo counties are participating in a specialized co-teaching team initiative this year. Mason Co. identified Wahama, Point Pleasant, and Hannan Jr./Sr. Highs, while Mingo and Wayne chose middle school teams to foster action.

Teams consist of the principal, special education teacher or teachers, and at least one regular education teacher who co-teaches. These teams participated in an all day professional development session led by Barbara Null and Eugenia Damron who used the Bureau of Educational Research training model. These teams learned to create parity and shared leadership, while learning strategies and skills to meet the needs of all students.

Mason Co. Co-Teaching Teams met Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> for a second session of professional development and shared learning. Teachers provided videos with the flip cameras they had been provided and worked collaboratively to address needs and share their work. Mingo and Wayne counties are scheduled to participate in this professional development as well.

The third level of this sustained embedded professional development is the use of Teacher Studio. This interactive media site allows teachers to collaborate through discussions and videos. By working together throughout the year, teams are developing skills and strategies for sharing within their building and then throughout their county.



Mason County co-teachers.