

>> from WCTE President Lynn Aprill

Teachers need to talk about education, teaching

Let's face it — it's been a tough year. I know I experienced the same emotions as many of my colleagues; the frustration, disgust, and uncertainty made it difficult at times to stay focused and enthusiastic about teaching. It's enough to make teachers want to lock themselves away in their classrooms and wait for the storm to pass!

Add to this the constant constraints on our time, and there are days that go by when I don't even see another of my colleagues except during passing time, let alone have a meaningful conversation about, say, curriculum or literacy. One concern that I constantly hear from teachers in my district is that we just never have time to talk to each other!

But is face-to-face time really necessary? We've got

FaceBook, Twitter, email, webinars, Skype — the list goes on and on in this digital age. We can interact with people around the globe in a matter of seconds. We can search through hundreds of lesson plan sites for an idea for next week's class without leaving the couch. We can

have hundreds of our "friends" wish us well on our birthdays, even though we haven't actually conversed with many of them for years.

Just where does this leave organizations like WCTE? Doesn't all of this



Lynn Aprill

prove that belonging to state organizations like WCTE is passé? My answer to this question is a resounding NO!

Now more than ever, teachers need to talk about the importance of education and the profession of teaching. The Madison protesters this spring knew that it would take more than emails to their congressmen — they needed their voices to be heard.

Educational organizations like Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English should be an essential part of every teacher's professional development plan for that very reason.

- *WCTE offers its members the opportunity to network with English colleagues across the state and around the nation.*
- *WCTE keeps its members current with cutting edge information on state trends and initiatives through our English DPI liaison.*
- *WCTE makes sure your voice doesn't get lost in the cacophony.*

If you are an English teacher in Wisconsin, and especially if you are a new teacher, consider making membership and involvement in WCTE part of your own professional development program. Only by joining our voices, collaborating with our colleagues and mentoring our newest educators will we continue to keep Wisconsin the hallmark of education that it has been for years.

★ = NEW BOARD INITIATIVES



Topics vary by location

Join the conversation right in your own geographic area. >>Page 2-4



State-wide initiative for all

Students, adults encouraged to write about the influence of a teacher. >>Page 5



100 Years: Chicago 2011

The NCTE celebrates its centennial in Chicago, the city where NCTE was founded. >>Page 6



Update wins NCTE award

And it's time for you to apply for or nominate someone for WCTE awards. >Page 6



Differentiated membership

WCTE welcomes, supports all English teachers. Join the Diversity Committee. >Page 7



State of the State

Emilie Amundsen provides her final report as she moves up at DPI. >Page 8



Meet a Board Member

Amy Harter teaches at Sheboygan Falls High School and is a District 1 director. >>Page 9



Wisconsin English Journal

WEJ welcomes submissions of articles for upcoming issues. >>Page 9



Wis. English Teacher Events

Events, deadlines for the Wisconsin English teacher are all lined up for you. >>Page 10



Using interactive whiteboards

Ideas for English lessons. >>Page 11



I WANT YOU FOR WCTE

Call for Sectional Proposals

This fall, WCTE will be holding a number of district events rather than a fall conference, in order to free up teacher time and money to attend the NCTE convention in Chicago in November. These events will be held in different areas of the state and will focus on the Common Core English standards, specifically with regard to culturally responsive literature.

The first will be at UW-Milwaukee's Green Hall on Oct. 1 and will focus on low budget approaches to high impact teaching in English classrooms. The second will be in Green Bay on Oct. 8 and will address Response to Intervention as well as culturally responsive practices in classrooms. Events in other districts will be posted on our [website](#). Emails will also be sent. **TEACHERS FROM ANY DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY WCTE EVENT.**



District numbers
are the same
as CESA
numbers

District 1 event, Oct. 1

Mark your calendar: **STRIVING, Not Just Surviving, during these Challenging Times**, a fall workshop co-hosted by District 1 (greater Milwaukee area) and the Milwaukee Area Academic Alliance in English, will meet Saturday, Oct. 1 in Greene Hall with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Following a keynote, What You Need to Know about State Standards, Initiatives, and Mandates, a panel of area classroom teachers will share what they are doing to make do with smaller budgets and larger class sizes. Then attendees may ask questions and share their situations. Breakout sessions will follow, including a special edition of Poetry Outloud. WCTE then will then hold a brief annual meeting ending by 12:30. If you are a teacher who would like to be on the panel, contact Erin Schwane at erin.schwane@nbexcellence.org. **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

At a Glance

- Saturday, Oct. 1
- UW-Milwaukee
- Greene Hall
- 8:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m.

District 7/8 event, Oct. 8

WCTE will be co-hosting the Districts 7 and 8 event at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay with members of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English who are in the Upper Peninsula. This workshop will focus on the Culturally Responsive Teacher. The morning will be devoted to a keynote speaker, while the afternoon will be split into panels dealing with different culturally responsive literature (Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Black, Native American, Islamic, etc.). All teachers with book lists, suggested topics, lesson plans, or other resources that they would like to share at a district event as part of a panel is encouraged to complete the Call for Proposals which is on the next page. Registration for this event is on page 4. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.**

At a Glance

- Saturday, Oct. 8
- Green Bay
- Radisson Hotel
and Conference
Center
- 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

WCTE, MCTE Northwoods Event: The Common Core: Increasing Rigor and Culturally Response Literature in the English Classroom

- 8 - 9:30 Breakfast and Registration
- 9:30 Welcome
- Short video clip from NCTE 100 year video
- Introduction of writing initiative
- 10:00 Keynote speaker - Common Core - Increasing Rigor in the English classroom
- 11:30 Lunch - table talks at lunch (American Lit., reading strategies, writing, poetry, NEH summer fellowships)

Afternoon sectionals on Culturally Responsive Literature (round robin to all sectionals)

- 1:00 - 1:45 Session 1
- 1:50 - 2:35 Session 2
- 2:40 - 3:00 Break
- 3:05 - 3:50 Session 3
- 4:00 - 4:20 Reflection and Plans for Active Communication
- 4:30 - 6 Reception for all teachers/speakers (hors d'oeuvres and cash bar)

All the Details



Spring event >> stay tuned for more information, www.wcteonline.org

2011 WCTC/MCTE Northwoods District Event Multi-Cultural Program Proposal

Form due by Sept. 6 to Lynn Aprill, 2011 WCTE President. Email: aprillyn@bonduel.k12.wi.us Fax: (715) 758-4859.

Program Proposal:

Name	
School/Institutional Affiliation	
NCTE Affiliate Membership	_____ WCTE _____ MCTE _____ None at this time
Contact Information Address, City, State, Zip	Check one: () home () work
Contact Information Phone	Check one: () home () work () cell
Contact Information E-mail	Check one: () personal () work
Session Title (This should reveal the content of your session.)	
Abstract (A brief description of your session that will appear in the conference program. Approximately 50 words.)	
Culturally Responsive Literature Category (state which literature is targeted in your presentation: Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Black, Native American, Islamic, other)	
Session Length	All sessions are 35 minutes long.
Target Audience (Check all that apply.)	() Elementary () Middle () Secondary () College () Pre-Service Teachers () First-Year Teachers () General
AV Equipment (Specify if audiovisual equipment is needed. (Computers and projectors supplied by presenters.)	
Teacher Standards: (Indicate which Wis. or Mich. State Teacher Standards are addressed in your session. See http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/tel/stand10.html or http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/PSMT_SBE._Approved_5.13.08WebA_236811_7.pdf	
Description: Please attach a page to describe the format of the session, including topics to be covered and methods/activities to be used.	

Northwoods Event
2011 Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Districts 7 & 8
Michigan Council of Teachers of English
Saturday, Oct. 8
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay, Wis.

Please send a copy of the registration form below and payment in the form of a **check payable to Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE) or Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE)**, depending upon your affiliate. Purchase orders are acceptable to hold your place; however, actual payment by individuals or school districts must be sent **prior** to or received at the event.

Mailing deadline: Sept. 23, 2011.

Name: _____

Home mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email address: _____

School name _____

Please CHECK one:

_____ WCTE/MCTE members:	\$45
_____ WCTE New teachers (1st or 2nd year in the profession)	\$30
_____ WCTE/MCTE Student member	\$20
_____ WCTE Conference Only option**	\$10

Saturday conference **fees include affiliate membership for the 2011-2012 school year**, along with breakfast, afternoon reception, and lunch choice (please check preferred lunch choice):

_____ Lemon Dijon Chicken Salad (assorted salad greens mixed with grape tomatoes, red onion, cucumber, parmesan cheese, chopped hard boiled eggs and julienne chicken breast with lemon Dijon dressing)
_____ Parmesan Chicken and Ham Wrap (with lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise, and zesty Italian dressing)

Mailing address:

Tom Scott, Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, UW-Milwaukee, P. O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201

WCTE/MCTE have reserved a block of rooms for the event at conference rates of \$89 for single or double from Friday, Oct. 7 through Saturday, Oct. 8. In order to get the conference rate for the hotel rooms, you need to make a reservation by **Sept. 15, 2011**.

Registration questions? Contact WCTE President Lynn Aprill at aprillyn@bonduel.k12.wi.us or MCTE Past President Kia Jane Richmond at krichmon@nmu.edu

Remember to check www.WCTEonline.org or <http://mcte.info> for program details.

The "Conference Only" option is **ONLY an option to those WCTE members who have attended a previous district event during the 2011-2012 school year.



The Power of Teaching

The Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English is proud to promote a state-wide writing initiative. We invite writers of all ages to submit writing for publication in our online writing gallery. This year's theme is "The Power of Teaching." Submissions should reflect a response to the following prompt:

Teachers play a vital role in society — they cultivate knowledge in young minds, help students' ideas and abilities grow, and watch with pride as their subjects blossom into mature, creative, intelligent thinkers. Many of us have experienced the powerful, positive impact that a teacher can have on our lives, our ways of thinking and our visions of the future. Who was that teacher for you? Help us celebrate the power of teaching by telling us about a point in time when a teacher made an important, memorable difference in your life.

Submit entries online at URL: <http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/3136656>. You may also go to www.galleryofwriting.org, search for "Wisconsin" and "United States," and scroll down to find the WCTE 2011 Writing Initiative: The Power of Teaching. Along with your entry, please provide the following information:

- Your name, city, and e-mail address
- Your category of writing (narrative or poem)
- Your age category (adult, 9-12 student, or K-8 student)
- Name of the teacher you are honoring and the name of that teacher's school

All entries will be reviewed and considered for publication. Selected entries will be published, and a number of outstanding entries will receive special honors. **The deadline for submission is Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012.**

WCTE members: Please promote this initiative in your school and community... and please consider submitting your own piece to the gallery! Join us in celebrating the beautiful profession of teaching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for WCTE webmaster

WCTE's current website will soon be updated in Dreamweaver and may also migrate to a different location (although the web address will remain the same: www.wcteonline.org). We are looking to hire a new webmaster, proficient in Dreamweaver who can keep the website updated after its reincarnation. IF you are interested, contact our current webmaster, John Zbikowski, at jzbikowski@uww.edu for application and job information.

Looking for you to LIKE us on 

Consider this your personal invitation to LIKE WCTE's fan page. Post your comments, share classroom ideas, post questions, tell us what you're reading. Join us on [Facebook](#).





Join us at NCTE in Chicago

We all know that NCTE's Centennial in Chicago is the place to be this November for a once-in-a-lifetime event. So, fellow Wisconsinites, let's gather there to make our own memories.

WCTE has a block of 15-20 rooms at the Hampton Inn Majestic (down the street from the Palmer House). Double queen rooms for \$159 include complimentary hot breakfast and free Wifi. Reservations: 312-332-5052 or 1-800-Hampton. Ask for the WCTE block. And do it fast, because the block is only there for a month. Parking is \$42 for valet in and out or \$38 at the self-park. Make your reservations now.

Then on Saturday, after the Scholastic dinner* let's gather at The Hampton Inn Majestic to celebrate Badger-style with snacks and a cash bar. You may kick back and relax, exchanging stories, ideas and insights of the opening days and help us plan what and how to bring back the experience to those who couldn't make it.

You won't want to miss the unveiling of NCTE's new initiative leading the collaboration of many other professional groups, the opportunity to hear leaders in our field and the chance to network and form lasting friendships with English professionals from across the world. Please see the **WCTE website** for more details.

** Sign up for a complimentary Thanksgiving dinner Saturday evening at the Scholastic booth in the Exhibit Hall.*

WCTE Update wins NCTE Newsletter Award

The WCTE Update has been selected as the winner of the 2011 Affiliate Newsletter Award. A letter from Teri Knight, the Newsletter Award Chair, explained the selection:

"The judges specifically noted the beautiful design which allows for excellent readability, thoughtful graphics that highlight important information, and impressive depth and variety of articles that have relevance to a diverse audience. Another judge noted the continuity between newsletter issues and the clear purpose in the form of the key words at the top of page one. One judge wrote, 'There is a clear voice for English Teachers in Wisconsin!'"

WCTE will be honored at the NCTE Convention in Chicago. The NCTE press release noted that this award was established in 1992 to recognize outstanding newsletters of any NCTE affiliate. Copies of last year's WCTE Update will be on display at the Affiliate booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Chicago convention.

"As an additional national recognition of your work," said Milie Davis, NCTE director of affiliate services, "a brief summary of your program will be featured in 'Council-Grams' (the electronic newsletter for NCTE leaders). A press release will also be posted on the NCTE website. NCTE applauds your work!"

The WCTE Update is edited by Linda Barrington and published by WCTE.

Volunteers needed for board positions

We need you! Please volunteer to run for one of these positions:

- District 3 Directors
- District 4 Directors
- District 8 Directors
- District 9 Directors
- District 10 Directors
- District 12 Directors
- Second Vice President
- Awards Chairman

NCTE Promising Young Writers for Eighth Grade Students Coordinator

Contact Lynn Aprill at aprillyn@bonduel.k12.wi.us to let her know you are interested in one (or more) of these positions.

Don't forget to vote!

Upcoming election of directors will be in early September. Look for an e-mail with a link to send you to Survey Monkey to vote.



DEADLINE REMINDER FOR WCTE AWARDS

Don't forget that WCTE and NCTE have a number of awards available with due dates coming up this fall and winter. The following WCTE award applications are due Sept. 16. Go to www.wcteonline.org and click on "Awards and Grants" for more information:

Pooley Foundation Awards:

Robert C. Pooley Research Award (\$5000)

Jarvis Bush Award (\$500)

Lucille Pooley Award (\$500 and \$250)

Lee Burrell Intellectual Freedom Award

Chisolm Award for meritorious service to the English profession

WCTE welcomes diverse membership initiative

DIFFERENTIATED MEMBERSHIP

This year's buzzword: differentiate. We are being asked to do it in our classrooms, with our students and lessons in order to make sure everyone has what he needs to gain success.

What about us? Like NCTE, WCTE has been at the fore in working to improve our profession, but its members have been a pretty homogenous lot. In a deliberate effort to include English teachers who historically have not participated in WCTE activities we are forming a diversity committee.

What kind of activities, programs, or resources can WCTE provide to help teachers of color, teachers of varied ethnicities, LGBTQ teachers in their English classrooms? How can we persuade them to join us in making English/language arts policy for Wisconsin?

If you are interested in working on ways to differentiate so that all Wisconsin English teachers know we are supported and have resources appropriate to our diverse world views, please contact Abbie Fishman at 414-964-9649 or a.fishman@yahoo.com to join the WCTE Diversity Committee.



Abbie Fishman

Membership should be as diverse as our state.

~Abbie Fishman, English teacher at Riverside High School, Milwaukee

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

Executive Board reflects on purpose, direction

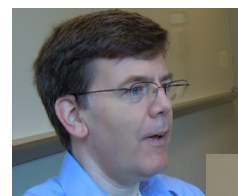
Why does WCTE exist? What utility does it provide? What is the biggest challenge facing English education? What can WCTE do about it? What can I do about it?

These are a few of the questions discussed at the July Board Meeting, reflecting on the state of WCTE. As a result of the lively discussions, several new initiatives are underway as described in this Update.

First Vice-President Katherine Nelson asked us all to consider this excerpt from Deborah Brandt's forward to the NCTE Centennial volume, "Reading the Past, Writing the Future."

What we take for granted in our professional background is there as a result of somebody's insight and effort. In retrospect we appreciate how the activism of our forebears built the house in which we do our work today: Reading as constructive. Writing as a process. Language as a heritage right. Assessment as formative. Teachers as leaders. Scholarship and pedagogy as one.

We assume these truths to be self-evident — but only because NCTE members studied, taught, argued and pressed them into existence, making them pragmatically real to the wider field. And so this begs the questions: Whose forebears are we? What do they need from us now?



John Zbikowski



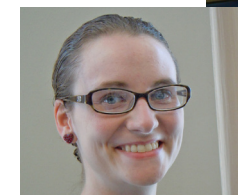
Jacki Martindale



Lynn Aprill



Erin Schwane



Amy Harter



Emily Ihrke

State of the State: a final report from Emilie

READ TO LEAD

In the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget, Governor Walker convened a “Read to Lead” task force to study how Wisconsin can ensure every third grader reads at or above grade level. The task force, co-chaired by the Governor and State Superintendent Tony Evers, and comprised of parents, legislators, educators and interested parties, has met three times and will continue to meet through September. Meetings have addressed interventions, universal screening tools, curriculum and interventions, teacher preparation and student retention policies. A report on their findings will be drafted and published this fall.

NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Gov. Walker and State Superintendent Evers will lead a collaborative effort with other educators, policymakers and parents to develop a new statewide accountability system for education that will seek to replace the system currently in place under NCLB. The overarching goal for the design team will be to develop a growth-based accountability system that will consider multiple measures of student and school performance focused on college and career readiness. Every publicly funded school — traditional public schools, charter schools, or choice schools — should be part of this new accountability system. The system will identify high-performing schools and replicate best practices across the state and provide technical assistance and support to improve the lowest-performing schools.

NEW ELA DOCUMENTS

Wisconsin DPI English Language Arts and Disciplinary Literacy Guidance documents will be released on the DPI website in early fall. Each guide will include the Common Core State Standards, Wisconsin specific approaches to using the standards, helpful resources for understanding and implementing standards, and resources and research for implementing Wisconsin’s Guiding Principles for Teaching and Learning. Please continue to check www.dpi.wi.gov/academicstandards for up to date information.

MOVING UP

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve in the role as English language arts consultant for the state of Wisconsin. After four years in this position, I have accepted a promotion at DPI and will now work as Assistant Director of the Content and Learning Team overseeing multiple content areas. The DPI will work quickly to hire a new consultant for English language arts. Please continue to check <http://dpi.wi.gov/hr/jbsintro.html> if you or someone you know is interested in pursuing this job opportunity. This position is an exciting mix of content knowledge and expertise, policy and research. The right candidate will have strong content knowledge and teaching practice, but will also possess a passion for education policy and statewide professional learning. Please consider this interesting role.



Emilie Amundson

Emilie has been promoted to Assistant Director of the Content and Learning Team at DPI. The WCTE Board thanks Emilie for her involvement in our organization, as she provided us with her expertise and kept us informed about what was happening at DPI and around the state. We wish her well, but will miss her. This is her final report for the WCTE Update.

WCTE BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Amy Harter, District I director

Amy E. Harter has been a member of WCTE for two years, and began her position as a District Director for CESA 1 in Fall 2010. An early career educator about to begin her third year of teaching, Amy is a dynamic, energetic educator who sees possibility in the future of education. She is a passionate advocate for quality English instruction in urban schools, and hopes that her work with the newly formed Diversity Committee will help WCTE extend even more support and leadership opportunities to urban English educators, particularly in her home city of Milwaukee:

"I started my teaching career in Milwaukee, and I'll continue to be invested in the ways that we as teachers of reading and writing are building roads of opportunity together alongside our amazing city kids."

Due to layoffs in Milwaukee Public Schools, Amy's initial teaching journey took a turn northward to the rural community of Sheboygan Falls, where she has been teaching since 2010.

"It was an huge cultural shift," she said, "but some things stay the same no matter where we teach... Things like student potential, the need for committed positive educators, and the incredible struggle and joy of teaching. More than ever, I feel that English educators need to stand together as one family of professionals that audibly, proudly cheer each other on. We need to celebrate the things that we share as sages of writing, reading and creative thought, which are so vital to the future of our society."

Amy cites her coursework at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her experience as a National Writing Project teacher consultant as influential



Amy Harter

factors in what she calls her "tenacious belief in the power of teaching."

Amy's professional interests include the relationship between visual images and language, variations on the traditional writing process, postmodern literature, creating professional learning communities, and project-based assessment. She maintains a blog at www.universeastext.com where she invites discussion on these and other teaching-related things. Amy currently teaches sophomore English, AP Literature and Composition, and theater arts at Sheboygan Falls High School.

PUBLICATIONS >> from Jessica Gallo, assistant editor

You can write or review for the Wisconsin English Journal. Here's what to do.

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The Wisconsin English Journal (WEJ) welcomes articles on all subjects related to teaching English in middle and high schools. In the coming year, we plan on featuring an article or articles in each issue that focus on a theme. For spring 2012, we have chosen the theme "Reading the Past, Writing the Future" in honor of the NCTE Centennial Celebration. Articles on other topics are welcome as well. The due date for the spring issue is February 1, 2012. The theme for the fall 2012 issue is Assessment and the due date is August 1, 2012. We believe that the juried journal process that we have organized is vital to developing

excellent articles for readers. We hope that all of you will be willing to be journal reviewers and help us support authors. Because we are a juried journal with each article receiving two anonymous reviews, the journal may hold more power for those concerned about the publication's impact on their careers. To become a reviewer for

Wisconsin English Journal, visit <http://journals.library.wisc.edu/index.php/wej> and click on "Register."

Please consider submitting an article to the Wisconsin English Journal. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your texts.

Publication dates: Oct. 1 and April 1.

To submit articles to the Wisconsin English Journal, log on to the [website](http://www.wisconsinenglishjournal.org) and follow the prompts. The deadline for submissions for the spring issue is Feb. 1, 2012.

Wisconsin English Teachers' Calendar of Events and Deadlines

September

- Sept. 10** WCTE Board Spring Gathering Task Force meeting at Kathy Nelson's house
- Sept. 16** Application deadline for three Pooley Foundation Awards. [More details on p. 5]
www.WCTEonline.org/Pooley.htm#Research
- Sept. 16** Application deadline for nominations for the Lee Burress Intellectual Freedom Award [p.5]
www.WCTEonline.org/Burress04.htm
and for Chisolm Award for meritorious service to the English profession

October

- Oct. 1** WCTE District I Workshop in Milwaukee
- Oct. 8** WCTE District 7-8 Workshop in Green Bay
- Oct. 31** Last day for online or mail-in registration for NCTE convention in Chicago, Nov. 17-20.
<http://www.ncte.org/annual/registration>

November

- Nov. 17-20** NCTE Convention in Chicago
- Nov. 20-22** CEL Conference in Chicago

December

- Dec. 23** Deadline for entries for WCTE Writing Initiative

January

February

- Feb. 1** Mailing deadline for Promising Young Writers: This school-based writing program emphasizes the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students. For more information, see
<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>
- Feb. 12** WCTE Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb. 15** Mailing deadline for NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: This school-based writing program encourages high school students in their writing and recognizes publicly some of the best student writers in the nation. For more information:
<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student> Mail school submissions to Erin Schwane, New Berlin West High School.

March

- March 9-10** WCTE State Gathering of English Teachers at Arrowhead High School, Hartland

April

- April 28** NCTE Literacy Education Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.
- April 28** Mailing deadline for NCTE/Norman Mailer Writing Award. The Norman Mailer Writers Colony and the National Council of Teachers of English jointly sponsor the Norman Mailer High School and College Writing Awards.
<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/nmwa>

May

- May 1** Deadline for nominating a student teacher of the Outstanding Student Teacher Award.
www.WCTEonline.org/studrfp.htm
- May 1** Deadline for nominating a first year teacher for the Nancy Hoefs Memorial Award for Outstanding First-Year Teacher
www.WCTEonline.org/Hoefsrfp.htm
- May 1** Deadline for Affiliate Nomination for NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence Award
www.WCTEonline.org/hs_teacher.htm

June

- June 30** Mailing deadline for Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines (PRE-SLM): This program for middle schools, junior high and high schools recognizes students, teachers, and schools for producing excellent literary magazines and encourages all schools to develop literary magazines, seeking excellence in writing and school-wide participation in production. 2012 brochure available in February. Submit to Kathy Nelson, Arrowhead High School <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>

July

- July 26-27** WCTE Summer Board of Directors meeting at Kathy Nelson's house and Arrowhead High School

Interactive white boards effective in English classrooms

If you're already using a Smart board or some other kind of interactive white board, you know it takes time to develop engaging, effective lessons while learning to use the IWB tools. So where can you go for help?

Ready-made Notebook lessons are available at <http://exchange.smarttech.com/#tab=0> and some are better than others, but at least these can give you a place to start. I particularly like the Notebook lessons that provide teacher instructions, including goals, standards and follow-up.

Even more helpful are the discussion groups where people not only share lessons, but also discuss ideas for improvement, assessment, strategies, etc. Many of the ideas on this page come from these resources.

Rubrics for growth in IWB use

<http://www.amphi.com/departments/technology/whiteboard/lessonplans.html>

http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/file/view/iwb_use_rubric.pdf

http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us/smart_rubric.pdf

<http://www1.center.k12.mo.us/EDTEch/SB/resources/spectrum.pdf>

Keep in mind, with effective IWB use, teachers do less and students do more. Minimize lessons where you are the "sage on the stage" and develop those where you are the "guide on the side," with students actively engaged with the IWB. Get the student to interact with the material, not you.

Even better, move to the student-centered stage with students developing their own presentations on the IWB, taking ownership for their learning and synthesizing information to create new knowledge for themselves.

IWB DISCUSSION/SHARING SITES

<http://iwbrevolution.ning.com>

<http://smartboardrevolution.ning.com>

DON'T MISS THIS:

Smartboard Revolution member Bruce White shares his tips for the following:

- Instructional White boards
- Tips on designing effective interactive lessons
- Classroom Response Systems
- Designing effective higher order questions
- Document Cameras
- Digital Cameras
- Video cameras and student work
- Cloud Computing / Web 2.0
- Adding Differentiated Instruction to lessons
- Teacher samples of lessons and activities (Bring and Brag)
- Teaching in the Digital Generation landscape

Download this file at Google Docs:

<https://docs.google.com/leaf?id=0B6PIBjeGHNNjNGUyNjk3MmQtZjE1YS00YzFiLTkzMTItYzQyY2U5ZmMlY2M4&hl=en&authkey=CKmx6pwM>

FOR SUCCESSFUL LESSON ACTIVITIES, TEACHERS NEED TO LEARN THREE SKILLS

1. INTERACTIVITY

- What bells and whistles do you add?
- Why do you need the particular activity or bells and whistles?
- What do you leave out?
- How do you engage all your students and tailor lessons and activities to include different learning styles?

2. PROFESSIONAL-LOOKING LESSONS

- The lesson isn't too glitzy too flashy, so students do not get lost in the glitz and bells and whistles.
- The WOW factor doesn't interfere with them understanding what they are to be learning.
- Consistent fonts and appropriate use of colors

3. SHARING

- When do you share, and where do you share?
- Copyright issues
- Use Creative Commons material

ASK YOURSELF:

What makes an effective interactive lesson?

What makes a digital lesson successful?

- Is the interactiveness appropriate for the grade and levels: are the students advanced users or just beginners?
- Is the content appropriate for where are the students in the course, year and skills?
- What was successful and not so successful about the lesson and what did the students learn compared to what you thought they would learn?
- Is the lesson shareable? Do you share?
- Are you reaching learning styles of the students in the classroom?
- Do you have links to the Web and other resources, video streaming.....
- Is the focus more on content than flash?

Adapted from Bruce White's blog at <http://smartboardrevolution.ning.com/profiles/blogs/designing-effective-notebook>

WCTE Update

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