

The

SINE Post



A Quarterly Newsletter Dedicated to Lifelong Learners

Volume 1, Issue 3

August, 2002

from the Executive Director

Four Blocks For a Lifelong Love of Learning

The capacity to learn throughout one's life rests squarely on two basic abilities: to read fluently and easily, and to express oneself capably through writing. Children who fail to master these skills during their early school years are at severely increased risk for dropping out and rarely continue learning as adults.

To help address these issues in Southwest Indiana, SINE has actively promoted and provided teacher training in the Four Blocks teaching methodology. The Four Blocks - Guided Reading, Self-Selected Reading, Writing and Working with Words - represent four different approaches to teaching children to read. Not all children learn in the same way and Four Blocks supports all learning styles in the daily curriculum.

Over 500 teachers have already received SINE - provided Four Blocks training. SINE will also continue to offer Four Blocks training in various locations across the nine-county area throughout the

summer and fall of 2002.

In November and December of 2001 SINE awarded \$667,000 to schools for Four Blocks trained teachers to purchase classroom libraries. Students in these 667 classrooms will have easy access to a wide variety of grade appropriate reading materials. Teachers who complete at least 18 hours of Four Blocks training and have not previously received a classroom library grant are eligible in 2002 as SINE continues the grant program.

As a next step to more in-depth training, this summer SINE is sponsoring teachers from the nine-county area to attend the Southwest Indiana Education Center (SIEC) Advanced Four Blocks training. SINE's goal is to have a cadre of "teacher/trainers" in the schools to offer additional training and support to classroom teachers.

SINE is committed to its vision of "creating a culture for learning" in Southwest Indiana. The ability to read and write well is the foundation of a lifelong love of learning for our children.

Mary K. Smith
Executive Director

SINE to Train Educators

by: G.W. "Monty" Montgomery / Assistant Director

Throughout Southwestern Indiana there has been quite a stir among educators. SINE has discovered what astute observers already knew, that the teachers of our children are eager to become the best they can be. SINE has had hundreds of teachers attend workshops on improving the instruction of writing and reading and on teaching children of poverty more effectively.

During the coming summer nearly 1,000 teachers will be in workshops sponsored by SINE. These teachers will enter next year's classroom even more fully prepared to meet all the needs of their students. Southwest Indiana can expect to see ISTEP scores improve, children to be more engaged in learning, and more students reading books and magazines not only as a source of pleasure but as a source of knowledge.

Our teachers have exemplified professionalism and dedication to our youth. They have used personal time and resources with small incentives from SINE to enhance the education of our children and to enhance the culture for education throughout our region. It is with this knowledge that SINE asks communities in Southwestern Indiana to salute our teachers.

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S.I.N.E.

Southwest Indiana Network for Education

Learning for Life.

Teachers Appreciate SINE

Connie Holm
Perry Central Elementary

Thank you S.I.N.E. for giving teachers the opportunity to get together and learn new techniques and share old ones. I have truly enjoyed my trips to Evansville for the 4-Blocks workshops. The workshops were well organized and very informative. It makes me very proud to be a teacher when I look around and see so many others giving up a Saturday to better themselves. Thank you for giving us a chance to be better teachers.

Leigh Anne Cutrell
Westside Catholic

Thank you very much for the monetary gift that made it possible to purchase so many wonderful books for my students. In my twenty years of teaching, I have never received such a generous gift. You have enhanced and touched so many lives. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Jerrie Harris
Caze Elementary

My 2002 huggables and my future huggables thank you and all involved for the S.I.N.E. grant. My main goal as a second grade teacher is to open their eyes to the excitement, possibilities, adventure, and rewards of reading. Thank you so very much.

Carrie Staggs
Caze Elementary

I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for all the wonderful books that you've given to my first grade classroom. My little readers and I are enjoying each and every one. Thanks again!

Becky Heil
Harper Elementary

As the secretary at Harper Elementary School, I just wanted to thank you for the recent grants awarded to our teachers. As these orders are arriving they are so excited and it's fun watching their faces when I tell them they have a package!!

Char Bennett
Principal
St. John

Thank you - my teachers have been so pleased with the Ruby Payne sessions!



Susan E. Anderson
Stockwell Elementary

I teach third grade and thank you whole heartedly for the grant I received. Recently I learned through a Four Blocks training session that the majority of male readers prefer non-fiction stories. Being a female teacher, many of the books I had previously chosen for my classroom were quality children's literature, but many were fictional stories. I've been trying to supplement my library with good non-fiction, but it has been slow going over a period of two years. When I received the S.I.N.E. grant, I focused on making almost all my selections interesting non-fiction stories. The students found a comfortable spot and eagerly read these interesting new books. Their excitement was contagious. Not only did they come back for another, but another student came with them!

Thank you for making such a big difference to the readers in my room this year and years to come.

e-mail from
Judy VanHoosier
Good Sheperd School

I have been in education over 30 years and S.I.N.E. is one of the best things to come along in all that time.



Kudos

from the Kidos

Dear S.I.N.E.,
Why did you give us \$1,000.00? I love the bookes.
My favorite book is trucks trucks trucks.

Ethan Head

Dear S.I.N.E.

We are so grateful you gave us so many wonderful books! Our shelves are full of exciting stories.

My favorite books are the Junie B. Jones series. I also enjoy joke books. I love laughing at jokes!

Books can take us anywhere. Space, the ocean, a farm, and even on the moon! That's what's great about books.

And the best thing about books, our teacher always says, is they can teach you.

If you can read you can do anything!!!!

Your Friend,
Jennifer Atherton

Dear S.I.N.E.,

Thank you for the \$1,000.00 you gave us to get the books. I love the June B. Jones book. Right now I'm reading June B. Jones and the Mushy Gushy Valentine. The books are really really nice thank you very very much. Books are good for your mind and for your smartness.

Your Friend
Danielle Pfender

Dear S.I.N.E.

Thank you for the money. Thank you for hleping by the books.

Thank you,
Chase B.

Dear S.I.N.E.

I reley appreciate your cidenis my favorite book is MAGIC Tree House.

Love
Bryan Roales

Dear S.I.N.E.

Thank you for the Books. \$1,000.00 is a lot I appreciate the Books.

Love
Nick Strader

Dear S.I.N.E.
Thanks for all the wonderful book money. All our shelves are full of awesome books! One of my favorite books is Kidbits. It's packed with cool facts. I learned that Timon and Pumbaa (from the Lion King) are the most favorite cartoons.
Thank you for the money.

Scott W. - Grade 4

Dear S.I.N.E.
Thank you for geving us the \$1,000. We have bot tons of books. I hope I can read all of them.
Thank you

from
Tyler P.





Professional Development

July 15-16, Oct 15 & Nov 13

Poverty in the Classroom

Initial Training

Location: Perry County

4-H Fairgrounds

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Lead Consultant: Penny Gaither

July 22-25

Poverty in the Classroom Training the Trainer

Location: Weston Hotel, Indianapolis

Time: To be determined

Note: Attendance restricted to
selected educators

September 28 & October 26

Four Blocks Training

Academy One Workshop for Group Three

Location: Boonville High School

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Lead Consultant: Jackie Kuhn

September 14

Advanced Four Blocks Summer Institute

Advanced training conducted by SIEC

Location: Jasper Holiday Inn

Conference Center

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Coordinator: Claudia Wheatley, SIEC

July 29-August 2

Four Blocks Training

Academy Two Workshop
utilizing students

Locations: North

Daviess Elementary and

Perry Central Elementary
Schools

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Lead Consultants:

Mida Creekmur, North Daviess

Mary Roberson, Perry Central

**Space is limited-
sign up now!**

Contact SINE toll free at **1 - 866 - 380 - SINE .**

SINE of the Times

Learning exchange

by: Rhonda Hunt

The Learning Exchange provides an avenue for educators, students and the region's business community to learn from each other. Workplace education has also proven to be of particular value in working with at-risk and underachieving students. This program increases communication among these groups by mandating collaboration to achieve educational goals. Workplace education helps students realize the connection between what they learn in school and how that learning can make them successful in employment.

The Learning Exchange is designed to foster education and business/industry partnerships to enhance current programs that demonstrate the relevance between education and employment success. Students will be better informed about workplace expectations and will be better prepared for career readiness and awareness. Teachers will be better informed about the needs and expectations of businesses. Business/industry's knowledge of the challenges and needs facing educators will be enhanced. The links between education and workplace realities will be strengthened.

adult literacy committees

by: B. Todd Mosby

SINE is committed to improving the adult literacy rates in our region. SINE county coordinators have organized current providers and businesses associated with the adult literacy field into working groups. These "committees" have been represented by school corporation personnel, business leaders, social services reps, Chambers of Commerce directors, public library directors and other concerned individuals.

The start-up process began in February. The committees were tasked with problem solving regarding the high rate of illiteracy. This planning process is nearing an end. The committees have worked through qualifying the needs, identifying absent organizations, goal setting, selecting a fiscal agency, debating funding needs, grant writing and much more.

Once the planning process ends, SINE may grant each county a predetermined amount of money based upon an evaluation the counties participated in earlier in the year.

The process will soon move into a new phase. Funds will be granted and then the hard part begins. It will be up to the same ten or fifteen individuals to manage the creation of what is basically a whole new organization.

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Daviess County:

- Adult Literacy Council to receive \$282,139.

Gibson County:

- Educators Attend Learning Exchange Meeting

Knox County:

- S.I.N.E. is making itself at home in many ways.

Perry County:

- Workshops for teachers held this summer.

Pike County:

- Plans for the Adult Literacy project are underway.

Posey County:

- Erasing Adult Illiteracy-Coalition Building

Spencer County:

- Adult Literacy programs & professional development of teachers enhanced by S.I.N.E.

Vanderburgh County:

- Adult Literacy committee requests funds.

Warrick County:

- Plans for the Adult Literacy project are underway.

go to
SINEonline.com
for 9 county news
complete stories



Rhonda K. Hunt
County Outreach Representative
Knox and Daviess Counties

a b o u t
Our Staff

Rhonda's duties include acting as SINE's representative to the Knox and Daviess County school systems and facilitating teacher training in programs offered by SINE including "Four Blocks" teaching methodology, "Accelerated Reader", and "bookadventure.com", an online program which also allows parents to work with their children at home. Training in programs for at-risk youth will also be provided. As well, Rhonda will collaborate with businesses and communities in establishing and promoting Adult/Family literacy programs.

With a background in business, and BS and MS degrees in Education from Indiana State University, Rhonda worked as an elementary teacher at Vincennes Catholic Schools for four years before teaching grades 1-3 at North Knox Elementary School for eleven years. Most recently she taught at-risk adolescent youth at the Southwest Indiana Youth Village in Vincennes. A native Hoosier, Rhonda lives in Vincennes and has been an aerobic instructor for 13 years. She also runs 5K races, and, like all of SINE's staff, is a voracious reader.

And what does Rhonda like best about her position? "I enjoy the challenge of organizing business-based programs," she says, "and extending SINE's influence into all areas of Southwest Indiana."

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