

July 13, 2009

Dear Staff,

I am very excited to be starting my eighteenth year with Three Lakes Educational Cooperative. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments we have made during the last seventeen years. The cooperative has brought in over three million dollars in grant funds to improve services to our students. The grants not only provide advanced training for regular and special education staff, but also allow you to showcase your exceptional skills and expertise. It becomes readily apparent why we are recognized as one of the most innovative cooperatives in the state. These accomplishments would not be possible without the combined efforts of our board, teachers, paraeducators, and support staff

As educators we are charged with teaching the ABCs. According to the Master Teacher:

*Let us remember, our children are on loan to us...
growing into the thinkers and doers of tomorrow.
They belong to the future.*

*Give them all that they need to begin the journey,
wiser than their predecessors.*

Teach them first the ABCs of living.

Adventure is all about life-long learning.

Believe in something bigger than yourself.

Character exemplifies integrity.

Do the 'right thing' – it's never wrong.

Excellence is a choice.

Find your passion.

Give more than you get.

Hold on when everything seems impossible.

Ideas mean you are thinking.

Judge intention.

Know who you are.

Laugh at yourself.

Make a difference.

Never fear.

Own your thoughts, your words, your actions.

Plan your future; don't just let it happen.

Qualify your actions...know why you do what you do.

Read everything you can get your hands on.

Search for your dream.
Truth is what you are striving for.
Use knowledge for the betterment of mankind.
Vote...it is your voice.
Work is the only way to get from here to there.
X is the unknown, waiting to be comprehended by a curious mind.
Yes! Say yes to life!
Zest for living makes every day new.

I know as a staff you teach our students the ABCs of living. An important part of accomplishing this task is our new staff. Each year we attempt to search for the best and the brightest professionals in the field. Please welcome these new staff members to our cooperative:

DJ Bookout, Interrelated Teacher, SFT High School
Kelly Chambers, Gifted Teacher, Lyndon/MdCV/West Franklin
Maggie Henry, Interrelated Teacher, Appanoose School
Janine Henry, Interrelated Teacher, Williamsburg School
Sarah Kuhn, Speech/Language Pathologist
Kristy Markham, School Nurse
Robert McConnell, Interrelated Teacher, Carbondale
Donna Morris, Interrelated Teacher, Overbrook
Aaron Poston, Interrelated Teacher, West Franklin High School
Danielle Thomas, Speech/Language Pathologist
Jennifer Vennart, Occupational Therapist
Russell Whittington, Interrelated Teacher, West Franklin High School
Rachel Wood, Speech/Language Pathologist

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the August inservice:

**New Professional Staff Inservice – August 3, Three Lakes
Cooperative Annex in Lyndon**

Professional Staff – August 4 – Osage City School

Paraeducator Inservice – August 10 – Osage City School

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barnhart, Ph.D.
Director of Special Education