



OVER THE BACK FENCE

August 2008 Issue number 2

Robert G. Rogers, Executive Director
219 North Branch, Bluffs, IL 62621

E-mail rrogers@adams.net

Phone: 217 754-3726

Web address: www.airssedu.com

Fax: 217 754-9966

Please duplicate and send to members in your district.

"Pursuing Excellence in Small and Rural Schools"

REAP CONTACT IN WASHINGTON

This is repeated for new superintendents. If you have questions about your REAP Grant, you can contact Mr. Eric Schulz. He is the Illinois contact at the U.S. Department of Education. His office phone number is 202 260-7349. Eric's e-mail address is: [Eric.Schulz@ed.gov].

AIRSS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Several school districts and ROE's have already returned their membership dues. We appreciate your support.

If your district was one of the 271 schools who received REAP funds (small school and low-income) this year we urge you to spend \$150.00 to join the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. We are the only association who represents rural and small schools and supports maintaining the Regional Offices of Education.

"IT'S OUR RIVER DAY"

The Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn with partners AT&T and Friends of the Illinois River is sponsoring the fifth annual "It's Our River Day" celebration, a state-wide event occurring on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

Many organizations and communities are holding events open to the public that encourage recreation, education and conservation of Illinois's rivers and streams.

The Lt. Governors Office wants to coordinate with schools across the state to provide activities for their surrounding area and communities.

Please consider joining the event! For more information contact Marc Miller, Senior Policy Advisor, at 217 557-5625 or email him at: Marc.Miller@illinois.gov. For more information go to www.standingupforillinois.org. Thanks to Carolyn Brown Hodge for this information.

BICYCLE "SAFE ROUTES" PROGRAM

Register today for a **free** two-day conference Aug. 13-14 that will give you everything you need to know to build a successful Safe Routes to School program. Registration is limited so don't delay, register today at www.biketraffic.org/saferoutes. For more information contact Shana Hazan at shana@biketraffic.org. Thanks to Carolyn Brown Hodge (Lt. Governors Office) for this information.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

You might pass this information along to teachers in your district. Here is the website for more information on these and other grants. Go to www.foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp and browse by subject "Education" on the upper right side of the page. You will find grants like these.

[Surdna Foundation Invites High School Arts Teachers to Apply for Fellowships](#)

Eligible applicants this year include teachers working in specialized public arts high schools and arts-focused magnet and charter high schools; grants of up to \$5,500 will be provided. **Deadline:** November 14, 2008 (Letters of Intent)

[National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Invites Applications for Equity in Mathematics Grants](#)

A grant of \$8,000 for materials and lessons will be awarded to an individual teacher or small group of teachers working to improve math achievement in a grade six through eight class. **Deadline:** November 14, 2008. (Thanks to Lt. Governors Office for this information)

100th ANNUAL NREA CONVENTION

The 2008 Annual NREA Convention "NREA: Opening Another Century of American Education" will be held in San Antonio, Texas October 25 through 28. Sunday October 25 is the Research Symposium. This is an additional cost. The convention begins Monday and ends Wednesday at noon. You can register on line by going to www.nrea.net and click on Events.