

Of Interest to Teachers

Adventist Education Forum: The Teacher's Meeting Place

Challenge: Many teachers feel isolated. They want to be able to share ideas and discuss professional and personal growth issues with other teachers.

Solution: Join the Adventist Education Forum! It's free and it's fun!

The Adventist Education Forum is intended to address the specific needs of the Seventh-day Adventist educators across North America

and around the world and to give them an opportunity to dialog with other teachers. It is sponsored by the Michigan Conference Office of Education.

The Adventist Education Forum has four main sections: the main forum for online discussion; Mel's Megalinks, featuring hundreds of links to help educators and administrators use technology and the Internet in their classrooms and schools; a li-

brary with useful files and online software; and an electronic calendar listing upcoming events and activities for teachers and classrooms.

The forum has general discussion sections for News and Announcements, Classroom Management, School Administration, and a Town Hall for general discussions.

In addition, educators will find sections for questions and discussions on specific curriculum areas, (i.e., math, English, science, etc.), technol-

ogy, and home schooling. Local conferences or committees can have password-protected areas for private discussions, and can post announcements unique to their geographic areas.

A separate section features discussion of articles and topics in THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION.

The Internet site for the Adventist Education Forum is <http://edforum.adventist.org>. Join today!

Picture
Removed

Schools Behind in Y2K Computer Repairs

An August report from the White House said that America's schools and colleges appear to be lagging in the race to finish year 2000 computer repairs. Only 28 percent of local school districts and about 30 percent of colleges had completed their Y2K fixes, showing "disturbingly small levels of compliance," said John A. Koskinen, President Bill Clinton's troubleshooter on Y2K issues.

A third of the schools and colleges are still assessing the scope of their Y2K problem, Koskinen said at a news conference, noting, "It is getting very late in the day to be at that stage of preparation."

Computers with Y2K glitches could disrupt the processing of student grants and loans, student records and class registration, and could even lead to breakdowns in controls for heating, air conditioning, and card-reader security systems at dorm entrances, Koskinen said.

Education Secretary Richard W. Riley, in a letter to university leaders August 5, said a substantial number of colleges will not be Y2K ready until October or later, leaving "little time to adjust if schedules slip or problems are discovered."

Riley said only 22 of more than 5,800 colleges and lenders participating in student-aid programs successfully ex-

changed data with systems at the Education Department. Without proper testing of data exchanges, Riley warned, defects in Y2K repairs would not be found and could lead to "significant delays" in the disbursement of student aid next year.

The data on which the government is basing its estimates may be somewhat out of date since it relies on surveys of 3,500 school districts and 2,100 colleges that were returned to the Education Department in early June, according to the report.

Koskinen warned that the global arena is "the most difficult one for us to get accurate information from." While major U.S. trading partners say they are prepared, some developing countries are likely to fail to complete all their Y2K repairs, he said.—Based on a *Washington Post* article, August 6, 1999.

Idea Book for Involving Parents in School Activities

If families are to work with schools as partners in the education of their children, educators must provide them with opportunities and support. Once they initiate the dialogue and bring parents in as full partners, families are typically ready and willing to assume an equal responsibility for the success of their children. Ideally, this partnership occurs in a context where education policymakers, community groups, and employers share the goals of the school and actively

Of Interest to Teachers

contribute to their attainment.


Family Involvement in Children's Education: Successful Local Approaches: An Idea Book, identifies and describes successful strategies used by 20 U.S. schools that have overcome barriers to parent involvement. These strategies include:

- overcoming time and resource constraints;
- providing information and training to parents and school staff;
- restructuring schools to support family involvement;
- bridging school-family differences; and

• tapping external supports for partnership.

The *Idea Book* also contains profiles of 10 successful partnerships and shows the varied strategies they used to overcome major barriers to family involvement, descriptions of the 20 diverse programs studied, and resources available from the U.S. Department of Education and elsewhere for building successful

partnerships.

To order *Family Involvement in Children's Education: Successful Local Approaches: An Idea Book*, contact New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. The stock number is 065-000-01085-2, and the price is \$13. This publication is also available via the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov>. 

Separate Articles
Removed