1. **GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE**

U.S. EPA Region 5 invites 6th-8th graders in IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI to participate in the Green and Healthy Schools Art Challenge. To enter, create a drawing or a painting responding to the question, "What Makes a School Green and Healthy?" and submit your art and entry form to the EPA. Your artwork must be one-dimensional and must be 11” X 17” or smaller. Winners will receive a plaque and other prizes in addition to having their artwork displayed on the U.S. EPA website. Deadline: **March 25, 2011.**

Tamyra Kelly, ext. 1005

2. **THE HOOSIER RISING STAR AWARD**

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced that she is now accepting nominations for the Hoosier Rising Star Award. The Hoosier Rising Star, created by Lt. Governor Skillman in 2007, acknowledges Hoosier youth, in grades K-12, who have made a significant difference in their Indiana communities. A completed nomination form is required. Nominations forms can be found on the Lt. Governor's website, [http://www.lg.in.gov/](http://www.lg.in.gov/). Nominations may be supplemented by the student's resume or biography, up to three letters of recommendation and any relevant press clippings. The nomination form and any additional materials must be submitted by **February 28, 2011.**

Tamyra Kelly, ext. 1005

3. **EXPLORING HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR TEACHER AND INSTRUCTORS**

Students are affected by conflicts around the world. They need analytical skills to understand the rules governing war and their impact on human life and dignity. The Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) program offers high-quality materials to help teachers connect real-world events to the classroom. The program offers interesting and flexible resources that fit into existing lesson plans. The program is aligned with the National Council for Social Studies ten thematic strands for secondary education and is designed to fit seamlessly into a wide variety of courses in addition to social studies, including history, law, literature, civics, and gifted programs. EHL professional development training offers teachers Continuing Educational Units (CEUs). This course is offered to secondary teachers and college instructors free of charge through a special grant and through the collaboration of the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana and the IPFW Division of Continuing Studies. Registration: Seating is limited - please register by March 31st. Cost: Free, but there is a $40 fee for CRU/PGP/CEU documentation if requested. For more information contact: Irene Paxia 260-484-9336 X233 or paxiai@usa.redcross.org. See **Enclosure # 1.**

Chris Hissong, ext. 1005
4. **INDIANA GEOLOGICAL HISTORY**

Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society is visiting Fort Wayne, March 5, 1-3pm. They will be presenting Indiana's Geological History with Dr. Solomon Isiorho from IPFW, The Origin of Rocks and Minerals by Larry Kemp, Fossil Pile Digging and Identification as well as activities for 4th and 5th grade students will run simultaneously. The Indiana Geological Survey will have a booth of activities as well. Contact 449-3246 to sign up as a teacher of Earth Science or as a student. See *Enclosure # 2* for more information.

Tamyra Kelly, ext. 1050

5. **ATTENTION GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, PRINCIPALS AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALISTS:**

Erin’s House Teen Retreat is the newest addition to Erin’s House programming. It is a 2-day, 1-night bereavement peer support retreat for teens between the ages 14 and 19 who have experienced the death of a loved one. The Teen Retreat will be held in the spring at Camp Adventure in Pierceton, IN. The Teen Retreat offers a safe haven for teens to explore and express the memories and feelings associated with the death of their loved one. The teens participate in activities throughout the day that build camaraderie, trust, leadership and promote healing. Trained staff and facilitators will assist in this process. Please distribute *Enclosure # 3* to interested and eligible families or students.

Britt Magneson, ext. 3143

6. **REGION WIDE SEARCH FOR CONNECTORS TO CREATE & INFLUENCE CHANGE**

Connectors are individuals who cross social and economic boundaries and are willing to connect other individuals for the benefit of our community now and in the future. Connectors know people who know people and they are willing to help connect, refer and be used as touchstones in organizations, businesses and communities. The goal in this first group is to identify and recognize 101 individuals throughout the northeast Indiana region who are Connectors -- people who act on their ability to visualize, create and influence change at every level of our regional community. IPFW, in partnership with Leadership Fort Wayne & the Journal Gazette, will survey those identified for the purpose of understanding the personal, processional and leadership characteristics common among the individuals most responsible for our community’s success. To receive a nomination form/details go to: [http://www.leadershipfortwayne.org/connector.html](http://www.leadershipfortwayne.org/connector.html). The deadline is February 27th.

Tamyra Kelly, ext. 1050

7. **WEBSITE OF THE WEEK**

Kidopo is an innovative start up, aiming to improve children’s basic skills of reading, drawing, math, crafts and computers- preparing them for tomorrow’s world. Our vision is to be the online source for children learning and playing on the net, within a safe and educational content. [http://www.kidopo.com/](http://www.kidopo.com/).

Bill Diehl, ext. 3125
Exploring Humanitarian Law for Teachers and Instructors

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Registration: Seating space is limited in each class, please register by March 31st.

Cost: FREE
($40 fee for CRU/PGP/CEU documentation, if requested)

For more information:
Irene Paxia
(260) 484 - 9336 x233
paxiai@usa.redcross.org

http://www.redcrossofnei.org/

Bring Complex Issues to Life in the Classroom
We are exposed to war in the news media each day, but few of us understand the challenges on the ground or how we can make a difference for vulnerable people in conflict zones.

The Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) program offers high-quality materials to help teachers connect real-world events to the classroom. The program offers interesting and flexible resources that fit into existing lesson plans.

A Critical Subject for Today’s Students
Students are affected by conflicts around the world. They need the analytical skills to understand the rules governing war and their impact on human life and dignity.

The Red Cross EHL curriculum is a flexible toolkit of resources that gives teachers easy-to-use materials to help students understand how conflicts—at home and abroad—intersect with the rights and protections of those impacted.

With more than 30 hours of activities that teachers can use as a whole or mixed and matched into their lessons, EHL helps students connect current events and real-life questions to the classroom. Through high-quality primary source materials, including news accounts, photos and letters, students explore different perspectives on the rules of conflict while grappling with their effect on human life and dignity.

Aligned with Standards
Aligned with the National Council for the Social Studies’ ten thematic strands for secondary education, EHL challenges students to investigate real situations and discuss some of the most important humanitarian questions facing us today. From the treatment of prisoners of war during the Revolutionary War to the establishment of international courts at Nuremberg to the use of child soldiers in conflicts around the world, EHL is designed to fit seamlessly into a wide variety of courses, including social studies, history, law, literature, civics and gifted programs.

Professional Development
EHL professional development trainings offer teachers the ability to learn how to best fit EHL resources into classes while earning Continuing Education Units at the same time.

The American Red Cross is an authorized provider of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). CEUs are available for half-day workshops as well as 1, 2 and 3-day trainings.
Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society to visit Fox Island County Park!
Saturday, March 5, 1-3PM
Call 449-3180 to pre-register!
FREE program,
pay $2.00 park entry at gate post.

Presenting:
Indiana Geological History
The Origin of Rocks and Minerals
Fossil Pile Digging and Identification

Program for teachers, trail guides and other adults interested in introducing youth to Earth Science. Activities for 4th and 5th grade students running simultaneously. Bring rocks, minerals or fossils from home for identification! Indiana Geological Survey booth as well as Dr. Solomon Isiorho from IPFW.
TEEN RETREAT

Erin’s House Teen Retreat is the newest addition to Erin’s House programming. It is a 2-day, 1-night bereavement peer support retreat for teens between the ages 14 and 19 who have experienced the death of a loved one. The Teen Retreat is held in the Spring at Camp Adventure in Pierceton, IN. Outdoor activities include a climbing wall and zip line, canoeing, fishing and walking trails.

Like Camp Good Grief, the Teen Retreat offers a safe haven for teens to explore and express the memories and feelings associated with the death of their loved one. The teens participate in activities throughout the day that build camaraderie, trust, leadership and promote healing. Trained staff and facilitators assist in this process.

Teen Retreat is free to all participants. For more information, please contact Teen Retreat Director, Cindy Maldonado-Schaeffer at (260) 423-2466 or Cindy@erinhouse.org
Erin’s House presents
The 2nd Annual Teen Retreat

March 26th & 27th
Ages 14-19

Teen Retreat is back and we would love to have you or your teen be a part of this memorable weekend. The deadline for applying is March 11th, so please get your applications in as soon as possible. Below are links to more information and the application packet.

Please join us at our second annual Teen Retreat!
Contact Cindy Maldonado-Schaefer at 260-423-2466 for more information.
1. EACS SCHOOLS WITH EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

The following schools had excellent teacher attendance February 14 – 18, 2011:

√ Woodburn Elementary - 98.1%

√ Leo Jr. Sr. High - 93.2%

GREAT JOB!

2. LILLY TEACHER CREATIVITY FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Paul Harding High School ESL Curriculum Facilitator, Robert Weber! Mr. Weber was awarded the Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship Award for the summer of 2011. Robert will explore the two straw (paja toquilla) hat making cultures of Ecuador: the Pacific Coastal people of Manabi Province and the Andean Highland people of Azuay and Cañar provinces. In Manabi, he will live and work in a small family run hat business. In Cuenca, he will live and work with an employee of a large internationally known hat exporter. He will study the language, culture, familial, and hat differences between the two regions.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. WEBER!

3. LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT AWARD RECIPIENT

New Haven Middle social studies teacher Mr. David Broerman recently was awarded a very prestigious Lilly Endowment grant. The 2011 Teacher Fellowship grant will allow Mr. Broerman to receive professional art instruction, study the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War by visiting and painting the eastern battlefields, and research ancestors' involvement in the war during the summer. The East Allen County Schools Education Foundation will benefit from paintings donated for auction at their annual scholarship auction.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. BROERMAN!