

ABLE News

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ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) is part of a statewide program that provides free instruction for adults who wish to improve their basic academic skills and/or prepare to take the GED (General Equivalence Diploma) tests. Students study reading, math, and language arts. There are also lessons in science, social studies, life skills, employability skills, and basic computer skills.

Joe's Blarney

ABLE programs throughout the state are wondering how our programs will be affected by the move from the Ohio Department of Education over to the Ohio Board of Regents. Well, all I can say is this: we will need to wait and see but continue offering services to those in need of literacy education and GED preparation. Our program will continue to work with adults most in need of our services and we will continue to prepare folks for the GED test. We are already ahead of our yearly average with only 5 months into the program. We have 35 GED graduates at this time with another 15 ready to take the official GED test in December.

One thing for sure, with all the new changes, we will be more involved with the concept of "Transition". This will involve getting more and more of our adult learners thinking about some sort of post-secondary training, be it the Adult Career Center, the 2-year colleges or perhaps apprenticeship training. Our One-Stop can do the preparation work in getting folks ready for post-secondary school and/or seeking employment. We have done this for over ten years now. I guess these new initiatives won't be new to us but I can see our role expanding and involving more collaboration with the local post-secondary institutions. We welcome the challenges our times bring to us and we hope we can continue to offer the excellent service our customers expect.

Happy Holidays

Joe



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The Work Station will be closed
Thursday, Dec. 25 and
Thursday, Jan. 1.





Neighborhood News

The GED tests will be given at Hocking College on the following dates: December 3 and 4 and again December 10 and 11. The test will begin at 9:45 A.M. each day and end about 2:00 P.M. If you have taken the test before, you must call the tester, Jennifer Yanity (740-753-7102), to register for and schedule the test. It is suggested that you allow 2 weeks for the registration process.

Children's Buy-In Insurance

The Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services began the Children's Buy-In (CBI) program in April. CBI expected to serve 5,000 children but so far only 2 have been enrolled. CBI targets working families with income ABOVE \$42,000 per year. If you know of working families that cannot afford or do not have access to health insurance, please spread the word.

For more information visit the web site <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/cbi/index.stm> or contact Toni Bigby, Consumer Advocacy Director, CareSource Management Group, 65 E. State Street, 8th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 255-4673.



Athens County ABLE Program

Main Lab

Location: The Work Station
70 N. Plains Road, Suite C, The Plains
(Country Corners Shopping Center)
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday - 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday - 8:00 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Phone: (740) 797-1405 or
toll free 1-877-351-0405
Fax: 797-3105

Nelsonville Lab

Location: Tri-County Career Center
Smith-Parkins Building, Room 114
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
1:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Phone: (740) 753-5400
1-800-637-6508 ext. 4400

Partners at The Work Station

Each month representatives of several local agencies come to The Work Station so that they will be easily available to Work Station clients and other county residents. If you wish to speak to one of these partners, please come in. Appointments are nice but not required.

Every Day
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Job Services Customer Services
Representatives
(Brian Lent)

Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 - 4:30
Veteran's Representative
Gordon Adkins

Tri-County Adult Career Center
(Tina Warthman)
(Schedule varies. Call The Work Station to
schedule an appointment.)

Monday, Thursday
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Other times may be available by
appointment
Mature Services
Cathy DeWeese-Wakeland

Parents' Page

Top 10 Parenting Christmas Wishes

I dream. I imagine. I wish. But, sometimes, I dream, imagine and wish for the impossible. As a parent, I am sure, you'd understand what I will be talking about...

Here are my Top 10 Parenting Christmas Wishes... all of which are impossible to have:

10. To have an invisible fourth hand.
9. To have an invisible eye behind my head.
8. To be able to read a teenager's mind.
7. To be able to hypnotize my son to eat more vegetables.
6. To have an appropriate answer for every question a toddler has.
5. For my battery to last longer than my children's who are like Energizer bunnies.
4. To have an invisible third hand.
3. To have a parenting manual that really works.
2. To develop "patience" as my strongest value.
1. For a day to last 48 hours so I can get 8 hours of sleep and still have enough time to do everything else.

Merry Christmas. May at least some of your wishes come true.



Charlie's Computer Corner



It's a scary world out there if you are a personal computer attached to the Internet. There seems to be a virus, worm, power surge, and peanut buttered hands lurking out there everywhere to make your computer burst into flames. There are a few things you can do to help protect your computer.

1. Wash the kids and husband's hands before they touch the computer.
2. Make sure you have some virus protection software installed and running.
3. Update the virus definitions file weekly if not every time you get on the Internet for your anti-virus software. Ten to fifteen new viruses are created each week. You are playing software roulette without these updates.
4. Check and install any critical updates for windows weekly. Here's how. While you are on the Internet, click the START button and choose WINDOWS UPDATE. You need the critical updates. If you have not done this before it may take quite awhile to download. You may have to do this a couple of times and restart the computer to a couple the first time you install the updates.
5. Once every 6 months or so the hard disk should be reorganized, just like the papers on my desk. Do this from Start/Programs/Accessories/SystemsTools/DiskDefragmenter. This can take a lot of time the first time it is done so start the process, microwave some popcorn, and watch your favorite DVD.
6. And just in case..... you should backup any important information (resumes, documents, tax records, etc.) This can be hard copies (printouts) or better yet a copy on diskette or some other media.

Kid's Page

Can you find the missing vowels to make these Christmas words?

1. Cl••s
2. Tr••
3. C•n•
4. H•lly
5. •ggn•g
6. C•ndl•
7. S•nt•
8. •gl••
9. N•rth
10. Sn•w
11. T•ns•l
12. C••k••s
13. S•ck
14. S•ng•ng
15. P•l•r
16. T•ys
17. L•tt•rs
18. •lf
19. L•ghts
20. R•d•lph

1. Claus
2. Tree
3. Cone
4. Holly
5. Eggnog
6. Candle
7. Santa
8. Igloo
9. North
10. Snow
11. Tinsel
12. Cookies
13. Sack
14. Singing
15. Polar
16. Toys
17. Letters
18. Elf
19. Lights
20. Rudolph

Christmas Jokes and Riddles for Kids

- Q. What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective? A. Santa Clues
- Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A. It's Christmas, Eve.
- Q. Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden? A. Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!
- Q. What do snowmen wear on their heads? A. Ice caps.
- Q. What is a snowman's favorite lunch? A. An iceberger.
- Q. How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico? A. Fleece Navidad!
- Q. What did the ghost say to Santa Claus? A. I'll have a boo Christmas without you.
- Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a shark. A. Frost bite!
- Q. What do you get when you eat the Christmas decorations? A. Tinsel-itus

Student Page

Ever wonder why people come to southeastern Ohio? Many of our young people can't wait to leave. This is a story from a young lady who chose to come here.

Moving

Would you get up and move twenty-five hundred miles away from the only place you have ever known? I did. It took my husband four years and five days to convince me to move. As we were driving to Ohio we had to think about our children, starting over from the bottom, and working our way up. I wanted a better life so I left California.

I was born and raised in California. I have many childhood memories there. Three of our children were born in California. All my family and friends are there. There were also some people that I didn't want to leave, but I did. I had to think about my children and myself and how to better our lives.

My husband's father came out to help us move to Ohio. I have moved plenty of times in my life but never this far from my home state. Moving here with no friends, no family, and no place to live was very dramatic for my family and me. Everyone that I have met in Ohio in the past four years has been great. This part of the world is so much different than California.

Starting over was the best thing that could have happened to my family and me. It has been said that starting over is a great experience for everyone. Since we have started over, we have a new house and a new baby (our fourth). We also have great friends and some family here.

So, in conclusion, I have moved twenty-five hundred miles to a better life for my family and myself. It has taken a toll on everyone but it was worth it in the end.

Tabatha Button



????????? Kim's Brain Teaser ???????????

Christmas Trivia

1. What is the biggest selling Christmas single of all time?
2. In the song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" what did Grandma go get?
3. What one reindeer is never mentioned in "The Night Before Christmas"?
4. What holiday film annually appears on television more than 300 times?
5. On every street corner you hear what song?
6. Who yelled "STOP" to Frosty?
7. How many times is the name of Santa Claus used in "The Night Before Christmas"?

Candy's Kitchen

It's holiday time. Time to make treats for friends and family. Enjoy.

Scotcheroos

- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups peanut butter
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Generously butter a 9x13 inch baking pan. Set aside. In a large pot, mix together corn syrup and sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring until syrup starts to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in peanut butter until it melts. Stir in crisp rice cereal. Transfer mixture into a well buttered 9x13 inch pan. With your hands well buttered, pat it down into pan. In a medium saucepan, over medium low heat, melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips until smooth. Spread over top of bars and let bars cool. Cut into squares when warm. (If you wait until it cools, cutting is difficult.)



Near Instant Peanut Brittle

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup dry-roasted peanuts
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

In a 1 1/2-quart microwave-safe bowl, stir together the sugar, syrup, peanuts, and salt, mixing well. Microwave on high for 6 minutes. (Times will vary depending on microwave wattage. We based these times on an 850-watt oven.) Carefully swirl the butter or margarine and vanilla extract into the mixture; don't stir. Microwave for another 30 seconds. The peanuts should be light brown, the syrup will have darkened slightly, and the mixture will be very hot (300° on a candy thermometer). Add baking soda and gently stir the mixture until it's light and foamy. Pour it onto a lightly buttered cookie sheet. (Tip: For a thinner brittle, first warm the sheet in the oven.) Let the brittle cool for 30 minutes to 1 hour, then break it into small pieces. Makes 2 pounds.

Caramel Popcorn Recipe

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 pound margarine
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 7 to 8 quarts popcorn

Boil sugar, margarine, syrup and salt to the soft ball stage, from 234° to 238° on a candy thermometer. Add soda and stir well. Pour over popcorn. Bake in 200° oven for 1 hour, stirring every 10 to 15 minutes.

Answers for Kim's Brain Teasers

1. White Christmas
2. Her medication
3. Rudolph
4. It's a Wonderful Life
5. Silver Bells
6. The traffic cop
7. None

