**Important PD Coming Up in Spring and Summer 2014…**

…and not yet posted on our website. For planning purposes, here are several important professional learning opportunities that will be going up on Kent ISD’s website right after the holiday break.

**QUICK LOOK:**

* **West Michigan Debate Academy (Prospective Teacher/Coach + 2 Students)**
* **Teaching Gifted Kids in Today’s Classroom with Dina Brulles, Ph.D., Paradise Valley Unified School District (AZ) and Arizona State University (Elementary Teachers)**
* **CLUSTER GROUPING with Dina Brulles, PhD., Paradise Valley Unified School District (AZ) and Arizona State University (Administrators)**
* **COOPERATIVE LEARNING with the Kagan Institute (Elementary & Secondary)**
* **WRITING WORKSHOP with KELLY GALLAGHER (Secondary with Prerequisite)**

**LEARN MORE:**

1. **WHAT: West Michigan Debate Academy**

Students and coaches who complete the Debate Academy should be prepared to form the nucleus for a fledgling debate team in each of their high schools.

Separate strands for prospective teachers/coaches and students.

Multiple Experienced Trainers, including Ellen Zwarensteyn, East Kentwood High School Debate Coach and teacher.

**DATE(S):** **8 evenings, 4-7 p.m. – March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29** & Snow Date May 6, if needed

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Team of High School teachers or coaches with two students interested in starting a Policy Debate Team at their own high school. Students may currently be in 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. Coach may be a community member who has the support of the high school.

**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:** Participation in competitive policy dramatically raises academic performance in terms of graduation rates, college readiness, test scores across the board, increased grade point averages, and much more. Students become knowledgeable regarding politics, philosophy, and public policy. Through academic research, students explore personally relevant topics and delve deep into rich, complex text. Debate also affects behavior as students learn to win with words. There is a significant body of research on the impact debate on students in urban schools, including <http://academicjournals.org/journal/ERR/article-abstract/1967ABB6575>

**ESTIMATED TRAINING COST:** $384 for team of one teacher/coach and two students (Please plan on arranging transportation for students to each Debate Academy session at Kent ISD.)

1. **WHAT: Teaching Gifted Kids in Today’s Classroom with Dina Brulles, Ph.D., Paradise Valley Unified School District (AZ) and Arizona State University**

**DATE(S): Tuesday, March 4, 2014 *DATE CHANGE***

**TARGET AUDIENCE: Elementary Teachers**

**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:** I have been logging calls and emails I receive from teachers and parents about high achieving students and how to work with them in our classrooms. Most are about elementary students. Dr.Brulles will share practical, classroom-tested strategies and step-by-step instructions for how to use them using The 2012 edition, updated for today’s classrooms, of the Susan Winebrenner classic and perennial bestselling teacher’s guide to meeting the needs of gifted learners in regular classrooms, which Dr. Brulles co-authored. The new edition provides information on using technology for accelerated learning, managing cluster grouping, increasing curriculum rigor, improving assessments, boosting critical and creative thinking skills, and addressing gifted kids with special needs and is sure to be welcomed with open arms by teachers everywhere. Digital content includes a PowerPoint, customizable reproducible forms from the book, additional extension menus for students in the primary and upper-elementary grades, and a special supplement for parents of gifted children.

**ESTIMATED TRAINING COST: $70,** includes book, *Teaching Gifted Kids in Today’s Classroom: Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use* by Susan Winebrenner, M.S. and Dina Brulles Ph.D. (2012)

1. **WHAT:** **Cluster Grouping with Dina Brulles, PhD., Paradise Valley Unified School District (AZ) and Arizona State University**

**DATE(S): Monday, March 3, 2014 *DATE CHANGE***

**TARGET AUDIENCE: Administrators, especially building principals**

**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:** In today’s standards-driven environment, how can teachers motivate and challenge gifted learners and ensure that all students reach their potential—without major budget implications? Dr. Brulles presents a compelling answer: the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model (SCGM). She will explain how the model differs from grouping practices of the past, and it offers a roadmap for implementing, sustaining, and evaluating schoolwide cluster grouping. Educators will find a wealth of teacher-tested classroom strategies along with detailed information on identifying students for clusters, gaining support from parents, and providing ongoing professional development. Book features Digital content, including customizable reproducible forms and a PowerPoint presentation designed for in-service training.

**ESTIMATED TRAINING COST: $85,includes *The Cluster Grouping Handbook, A Schoolwide Model: How to Challenge Gifted Students and Improve Achievement for All* by Susan Winebrenner, Dina Brulles, and Bertie Kingore.**

1. **WHAT: COOPERATIVE LEARNING with the Kagan Institute**

**DATES: June 23-26, 2014** (Must register by May 23rd. Decision to run will be based on registrations received as of May 23rd.) Limited to 80 teachers, minimum 40 teachers.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Secondary teachers implementing project-based learning, elementary teachers wanting to boost engagement, and any teacher wanting to build powerful classroom learning teams and motivate students.

**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:** To meet the expectations of Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, it is essential to know how to build powerful learning teams in your classroom, methods for team formation, teambuilding, and classbuilding, management of a project-based learning classroom and how to teach higher-level thinking and the requisite social skills. Cooperative Learning is MUCH MORE than simple group work! Teachers leave with dozens of Kagan Structures that are easy, practical, hands-on ideas grounded in sound research and theory. Students delve deeper than you can imagine and prove that real learning can be real fun!

**TRAINING COST:** $449 per teacher (Includes all materials.)

**You Will Learn**

1. **WHAT: WRITING WORKSHOP with KELLY GALLAGHER**

**DATE(S):** **July 30-31, 2014**

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Secondary Teachers, limited to those who attended Write Like This in May 2013, because this workshop will build on the foundation laid last May.

**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:** Teachers told us that what they have already learned from Kelly is making a difference in their classrooms and a follow-up survey in early October told us that they are hungry for more…even if it means giving up a couple of days of summer.

**ESTIMATED TRAINING COST:** $162 per teacher (Limited to 80 teachers, who previously attended Write Like This ) for two full days. We expect to give KLC districts a few weeks of private access to this course. Watch for details!