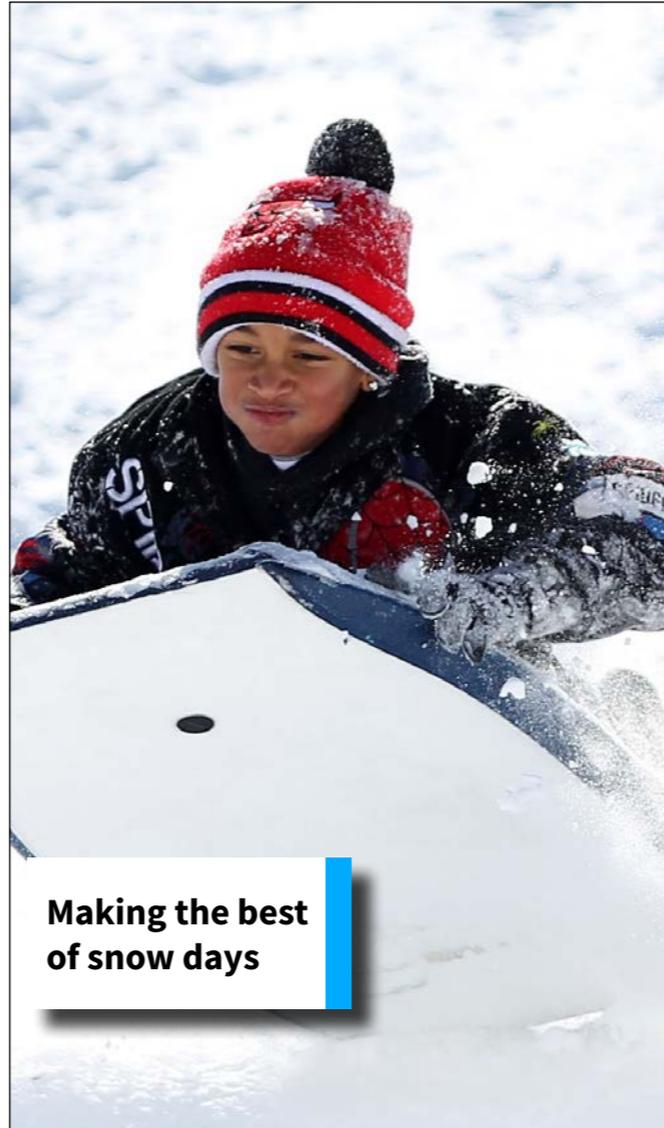


ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

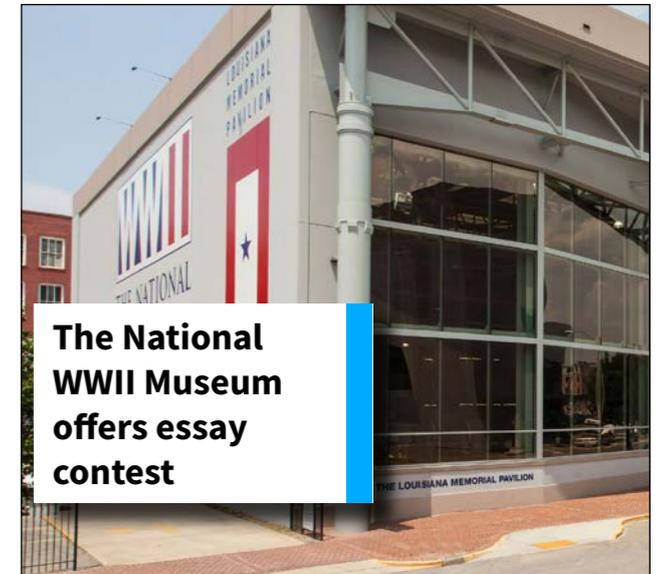
February 27, 2015



Nominations sought for AppLE Awards



Opportunities to get involved in Kentucky's public schools



The National WWII Museum offers essay contest

Links:

- [Kentucky's lowest-performing schools making gains](#)
- [Commissioner's Blog: One educator's thoughts on increased age of compulsory attendance](#)

Making the best of snow days



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

Additional content:

- Middle school students can access EarthKAM
- KET's program on the Kentucky Core Academic Standards rescheduled



Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Making the best of snow days

The swath of snow days this month may have been cursed by parents and cheered by students, but when the sleds are put away and the snowmen melt those missed school days will likely have to be made up.

The snow caused some districts to miss more than a week of school while other districts missed just a few days of instruction, but most will have to refigure their 2014-15 school calendars.

Local superintendents decide when to close schools but state statues lay out the number of days schools must be in session. Under state law, Kentucky students must be in school a minimum of 1,062 instructional hours and no less than 170 student attendance days.

In some districts the regular school day includes more than six instructional hours, so those districts choose to “bank” the extra time to offset hours missed due to bad weather.

Other districts build “make-up” days into the school calendar just in case. Once a district has missed 20 days, it may request a districtwide disaster day from the Commissioner of Education.

This year Kentucky Department of Education is allowing 13 districts to use virtual or other non-traditional means of instruction to replace up to 10 snow days that would otherwise have to be made up. The districts submitted plans for alternative methods of instruction, with most relying on virtual learning through the Internet. Click [here](#) read more about the department’s non-traditional instruction program.

Most districts encourage parents to keep their children learning when school is canceled. Children can read, build or explore sites such as www.wonderopolis.org to keep the learning going. Students can learn about [frost flowers](#), [snowflakes](#), [sleds](#) and [igloos](#) at the site from the National Center for Families Learning based in Louisville.



Three opportunities to get involved in Kentucky's public schools

Parents who want to learn how to help their own child and all children in public schools succeed can apply to one of three Governor's Commonwealth Institutes for Parent Leadership. The institutes will be offered in Louisville, northern Kentucky and at Morehead State University this fall.

The Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, also known as GCIPL, is a 17-year old program of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence that is designed to help parents and other adults learn how to support children in school and to engage others to work to improve the academic outcomes for all students. Participants receive training in leadership and communication skills, how to analyze student and school achievement data and to understand Kentucky's public education system.

The training is free and includes meals, hotel room and training materials. Participants must commit to attending all five days of training at one of the following locations:

Louisville – Sept. 11-12, Oct. 9-10 and Nov. 7

Northern Kentucky – Aug. 21-22, Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and 24

Morehead State University – Aug. 28-29, Sept. 25-26, Nov. 13-14 (evening on the 13th and day on the 14th)

To apply or find out the school districts and counties included in each institute location go to www.gcipl.org. To have an application and reference form mailed to you, call 859-233-9849 ext. 227. The deadline is April 17.



Participants in the 2014 GCIPL in northern Kentucky. (Photo provided by GCIPL)

Nominations sought for AppLE Awards



The 2014 AppLe winners included Paula Gray, director, Paula's Family Child Care, Pulaski County, Joyce Bowling, teacher, Manchester Elementary School, Clay County, Alicia McClurg, coordinator of Youth Services Center, Morgan County High School, Noel Crum, principal, Johnson Central High School, Johnson County, James Hurley, president, University of Pikeville, South Kentucky RECC, Pamela Branam, assistant director, Menifee County Adult Education and the Pike County Youth Leadership Council. (Photo provided by Forward in the Fifth)

Forward in the Fifth, a nonprofit education organization that helps to raise educational attainment levels in the Fifth Congressional District, is seeking nominations for its Appalachian Leaders in Education (AppLE) Awards. The awards recognize leaders in education, including local parent and student groups, who have made significant contributions to promote and support education in Forward in the Fifth's 45-county primary service region.

The AppLE Award categories for nominations include:

- Educator (early childhood, K-12, higher education, adult education)
- Community/business Leader
- Parent or parent group
- Student or student group

Click [here](#), then click on the "awards" tab for more information on the award categories and eligibility requirements and for nomination forms. The nomination deadline is March 15.

The National WWII Museum offers essay contest

The National WWII Museum's National 2015 High School Essay Contest and 2015 Middle School Essay Contest is accepting submissions for essays. Students are asked to address the question, "How do you define a hero?" in their essays as the museum marks the 70th anniversary of the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi at Iwo Jima.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three essays in the high school contest and to one winning essay from each grade in the middle school contest. Winning essays and honorable mentions will also be posted on the museum's website.

The deadline is March 31. Each contest is limited to the first 500 entries. Click [here](#) for more information.



Photo courtesy of The National WWII Museum

KET's program on the Kentucky Core Academic Standards rescheduled



Due to the recent winter weather, Kentucky Educational Television will now air its planned Education Matters "Inside the Common Core" on April 13 at 9 p.m. ET.

The program — which will feature panelists joining host Bill Goodman to discuss the state's adoption and implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) — had previously been scheduled to air on Feb. 23.

Education Matters is a KET production, produced by Tom Bickel. Nancy Carpenter is the executive producer. Click [here](#) for series information and streaming video.

Middle school students can access EarthKAM

Sally Ride EarthKAM (Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students) is a NASA educational outreach program that enables parents, students, teachers and the public to learn about Earth from the unique perspective of space. Middle school students can request images of specific locations on Earth during EarthKAM missions when its camera on the International Space Station is operational.

The entire collection of EarthKAM images is available in a searchable image archive.

The image collection and accompanying activities are resources that can engage students in Earth and space science, geography, social studies, mathematics, communications and art.

The next EarthKam mission is scheduled for April 14-17; there are about four missions annually. Click [here](#) for more information or to sign up to participate in a mission.

