From the OEP

Just to remind you, you can find the OEP Awards report here. Last week we highlighted top performing elementary schools in each region, and next week we will look at the middle schools.

Be sure to take a look at the articles below and visit our In the News section on the web. Have a great weekend!

News from Around the Natural State

First-Year Lottery Take Predicted
Arkansas’ fledgling lottery would raise an estimated $102.3 million for college scholarships based on $400 million in ticket sales in its first year under a preliminary budget proposal unveiled Wednesday by the lottery’s executive director.

Arkansas Teacher of the Year Finalists Announced
Fifteen public school teachers from across the state have been selected as finalists for the 2010 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. All finalists will be recognized November 6 at the state's first Arkansas Teacher of the Year Gala, during which the winner and runner-up will be announced.

Schools Brace For Flu Clinics
The Arkansas Department of Health is gearing up to offer the seasonal vaccine to every person in the state. The massive inoculation program has two phases: mass clinics for residents and school clinics for students.

News from Around the Nation

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Says Rewrite of No Child Left Behind Must Start Now
U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said that the $24.8 billion in federal funds available annually to the nation's schools should support reforms that prepare students for success in college and careers.
**Common Core Standards Earn a B from Think Tank**
A draft of the multistate, “Common Core” standards earned a B grade in both language arts and math from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a higher mark than those given to some prominent national and international standards documents.

**Site Seeing**
We recently added a new section to our website to post previous OEP Web Links (OWL) blasts. In case you need to refer to a past story or are just interested in reading a past e-mail, you can visit the **O.W.L. Weekly E-blast** section of our website.

**Mark Your Calendar**
Friday, October 9, 12:00 – Lecture Series: Marcus Winters, *The Influence of Peers on Student Proficiency in Elementary School* (U of A, Graduate Education Building)
Tuesday, October 13, 8:00 and 1:00 – Great Arkansas Workshop (Little Rock, AR)
Wednesday, October 14, 8:30 – Special Education Program: Digital Materials Access Workshop (Easter Seals Technology and Curriculum Access Center)
Friday, October 16, 12:00 – Lecture Series: Lisa Snells, *Universal Preschool isn’t a Silver Budget* (U of A, Graduate Education Building)

We recently updated the **OEP Calendar** and invite you to take a look. Let us know what you think and if there are events you would like to see added to the calendar.

**Final Thought**
“*Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.*” – John Dewey

**Thanks for reading! See you next week!**
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