

ARCC - A - TECT

“PLAYING A PART IN BUILDING BETTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS”

Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium

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4th Quarter 2009



www.arcc.org



Oct/Nov/Dec

ARCC Governance Board Members: Chair: Kim Josephson, Cloquet; Clerk/Treasurer: Scott Wirtanen, Hibbing.
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Denise Bohrer, Controller/Director's Assistant x102
Kris Schmidt, Office Manager x100

FINANCE/UFARS

Jeff Yeager x110
Cathy Erickson x113
Cindy Olson x101
Kevin Lindquist x123
Kris Schmidt x100

PAYROLL/STAR

Nikki Logan x103
Carol Knight x104
Kevin Lindquist x123

STUDENT/MARSS

Kerry Chaffey x109
Teri Henderson x107
Kevin Lindquist x123
Jim Livesay x121
Dale Nielsen x108

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Jim Livesay x121
Bob Buchanan x122
Kevin Lindquist x123
Dale Nielsen x108



Happy Fall!

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Next Board Meeting: October 8, 2009
Hermantown Admin Bldg, 4307 Ugstad Rd; Hermantown
10:00 a.m.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ATTEND

ARCC Office Location ~

Before I talk about the ARCC office location, I would first like to welcome everyone back to school. I hope your 09-10 school year is a great one!!



Some of you have heard that ARCC is considering moving our offices and have asked me for further details. The remainder of this article will hopefully help everyone understand what is currently underway.

For the first 22 years of ARCC's existence we were housed in and paid rent to a member district. When we needed to relocate in 1998 we were pretty much forced to look in downtown Duluth as we need access to fiber. Our current lease in downtown Duluth expires on September 30, 2012.

When the ARCC Board started discussions on where ARCC should be housed in the future it was decided that since bandwidth was not nearly the limiting factor it once was, we would prefer to again pay rent to a member district as long as moving would make economic sense and not cause us to lose staff. I was therefore directed to talk with the administration in the Cloquet, Esko, Hermantown and Proctor School Districts to determine whether they had space and an interest in renting to ARCC. The Esko administration has informed me that they do not have any space to rent us. I am continuing discussions with the other three districts as well as with our present landlord. We will ultimately do what is deemed best for our member districts. We are fortunate to have the luxury of moving anytime between now and September 30, 2012 or to just stay at our current locations. Please feel free to contact me if you still have any questions or concerns on this issue.

~ Marv Roberts

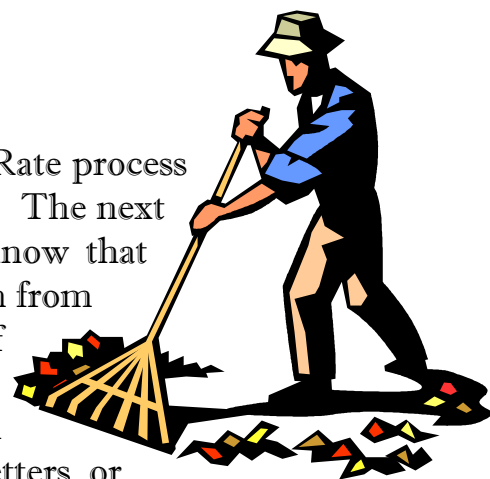
Fiscal Year 2009 E-Rate Work

It is YOUR responsibility to be sure that you collected the correct E-Rate discount – EVEN IF YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER BILLED SLD AND DISCOUNTED YOUR BILL. We have been made aware that some service providers are giving you an automatic credit of 1/12th of your e-rate discount each month without calculating the actual discount. Summarize **ALL** of your E-Rate eligible bills for fiscal year 2009 and calculate your e-rate discount to be sure that your service provider gave you the correct E-Rate discount. If you find out that you have received too much in E-Rate discounts, let me know and I'll show you how to return the excess funds.

If you are using the BEAR form to collect your e-rate discounts, remember the deadline for submitting a correct BEAR form is October 28, 2009. I will download data in the beginning of October to see if there are any outstanding funding commitments and forward that data to the region's E-Rate group mail list so that we can be sure our schools receive every penny that is due!!

Fiscal Year 2010 E-Rate Work

Twenty-five of the 38 districts that ARCC assists with the E-Rate process have received their E-Rate funding notices for fiscal year 2010. The next step in the process is to complete a form 486 to let SLD know that services have started. You have 120 days to complete this form from the date of the funding commitment decision letter or start of service (whichever is later). If you haven't received funding yet, don't worry. SLD has been busy with their system upgrade and has not sent out any funding commitment letters or processed any payments for two weeks, but should be back online soon.



Statewide ITV E-Rate Session

Mary Mehsikomer from Region I and I will be attending the USAC E-Rate training in Mid October. We will coordinate a statewide E-Rate session via ITV on October 28th to update everyone on the upgraded computer system and any new E-Rate issues/topics. ARCC and NESC will both host this ITV session. Mark your calendars. An agenda and RSVP will be sent out at the end of September once we have timelines finalized.







FINANCE - Cathy Erickson, Cindy Olson, Jeff Yeager

UFARS Reporting ~ Jeff Yeager

Is your audit done? Make sure a final Audited UFARS file was sent to MDE. All submissions are Unaudited unless you tell us to send Audited.

Reporting Dates:

-  11-30-2009 - Final audited district UFARS data due at MDE.
-  11-30-2009 - UFARS Compliance Table completed with audit information (via MDE web page). Update this page with final numbers, if preliminary data was entered.
-  Budget Publication is due no later than November 30, 2009 or 1 week after the board accepts the audit.
-  12-31-2009 - Audit report due at MDE.

Save the Adopted (Original) Budgets ~ Jeff Yeager

Remember to save a copy of the original budget as Adopted10. Lock the Adopted10 budget after it is imported. Lock all budget codes prior to FY2010 to prevent changes. Please call or email Kris or Jeff if you have questions.

MICR Check Reorders ~ Jeff Yeager

The finance check inventory is scheduled for reevaluation by late November 2009. Let us know if your supply is inadequate to continue printing checks past January 2010.



PAYROLL - Nikki Logan

STAR Reporting

Due to an increased demand for current data, MDE is now asking that STAR submissions be completed twice a year starting this fiscal year. The first submission will still be a snapshot of your employees as of October 1, 2009 with a reporting due date of November 6, 2009. The second submission will be a snapshot of March 1, 2010 with a reporting deadline of April 2, 2010.

Reminder: Don't wait to get your variances – start applying for them now. STAR has stated that there will be no extensions again this year!

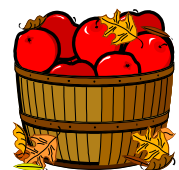
Mark Your Calendars

The Calendar Year End and Payroll Round Table meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 17th at the Hampton Inn in Duluth. Further details will be sent via email in the near future.

PERA Rate Increase

Employer rates will increase on January 1, 2010 for the coordinated plan.

Date of Increase	Employee	Employer
Current Rate	6.00	6.75
Rate as of January 1, 2010	6.00	7.00



STUDENT - Kerry Chaffey, Teri Henderson, Dale Nielsen

Campus News – Teri Henderson

Lost and Found:

Lost ... June, July and August of 2009. If found, please return. No questions asked.

Did your summer go by as fast as mine did? If you would like to have summer back, raise your hand!

We would like to welcome two new districts to the Campus Point of Sale food service program ... Esko and Nashwauk-Keewatin. The Aitkin School District is new to Campus this year and we welcome them as well.

Don't forget the upcoming Campus User Group (CUG) meeting on Tuesday, October 6th. Registration information has been sent out in an email. If you haven't registered already, please do so soon!

The Minnesota Campus Interchange is coming up in October. They have restructured their event calendar and Minnesota's Interchange is going to be earlier in the year. Have you thought about attending? If so, you can find more information at the Infinite Campus website ...

http://www.infinitecampus.com/pages/support_menu/interchange/minnesota.php Dates for the Interchange are Wednesday, October 21st and Thursday, October 22nd.

An email was sent out in August concerning the status of the new SERVS data being implemented by the Minnesota Department of Education. There is some MARSS information that you need to be aware of.

1. Science Indicator – this is no longer required. If your software has a checkbox or other option for Science Indicator, you can ignore it. MDE is no longer requiring it.
2. There will be a new MARSS file format document on the MDE website. Appendix J-10 is the file layout for FY10.
3. Special Education Evaluation Status 9 (clarification of MARSS reporting changes, FY2010)
 - Applies to students age three (3) through grade 12 who have an IEP that requires indirect services only with no direct instruction provided by licensed professional special education staff members
 - Enrollment record should have a valid Primary Disability and Primary Disability Instructional Setting
 - Special Education Service Hours should be greater than zero
 - Students are eligible for December 1 Child Count and included in Tuition Billing if applicable
4. Primary Disability Instructional Setting (clarification of MARSS reporting changes, FY2010)
 - **Definitions for Primary Disability Instructional Settings 31-33 revert back to FY2009 definitions**
 - New Setting 34 is **not** valid for FY2010
5. Transportation category added to the enrollment record (clarification of MARSS reporting changes, FY2010)
 - A new enrollment line is needed when transportation aid is determined on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the time the student was transported for a particular category. Situations would be the following ...
 - Student transportation category changes to an 03
 - Student transportation category changes from an 03 to another category
 - Student transportation category changes to an 04 when prior transportation category was an 00, 01, 02, 05 or 06
 - Student transportation category changes from an 04 to another category
6. There is going to be Opt-Out MARSS submission codes that will be required for the fall submission, December 2009. This will be a Y (yes) or N (no) option ... yes will mean "yes, I want to opt out" and no will mean "no, I do not want to opt out". This information is collected on the Application for Education Benefits effective fall FY10, item #4.

4. If your children are approved for school meal benefits, this information may be shared with MinnesotaCare and General Assistance Medical Care programs to identify children eligible for Minnesota health insurance programs. See back page for more information. Leave the boxes blank to allow sharing of information.

Do not share my information with the MinnesotaCare health insurance program. Do not share my information with the General Assistance Medical Care program.

5. I certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct. Because federal and state funds may be paid on the basis of this information, I understand that

Minnesota Care Opt Out will be either Y or N located in the 'B' file

General Assistance Medical Care Opt Out will be either Y or N located in the 'B' file.

You can get updates on SERVS by checking out the URL
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/School_Technology/Data_SIG/index.html




There will be training provided by MDE for districts for the Pass at Individual and Student Academic Performance (GPA and Class Rank) closer to the end of 2009. Because of the delay of SERVS Financial, these two submissions have been delayed until a new target date of January, 2010.

MDE will be sending out information about all of this. Please watch your email for more info!



Infinite Campus Data Warehouse Q & A ~ Jim Livesay

What is Data Mining?

-  Generally, data mining (sometimes called data or knowledge discovery) is the process of analyzing data from different perspectives and summarizing it into useful information - information that can be used to increase revenue, cuts costs, or both.
-  Data mining software is one of a number of analytical tools for analyzing data. It allows users to analyze data from many different dimensions or angles, categorize it, and summarize the relationships identified.
-  Technically, data mining is the process of finding correlations or patterns among dozens of fields in large relational databases.

<http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/faculty/jason.frand/teacher/technologies/palace/datamining.htm>

What is the Infinite Campus Data Warehouse?

Understanding Through Visual Analysis

Leverage the data collected within Infinite Campus to better understand results, see relationships and find patterns to make optimal decisions. Stakeholders can continue to leverage the embedded reporting and analysis tools for use across the organization within Infinite Campus or you can invest in Campus Data Warehousing to undertake enhanced reporting, analysis and visualization.






Data from the Infinite Campus transactional system is exported to the Campus Data Warehouse so districts can use a visualization tool of choice for real-time decision making

Integrated Solutions

The integration of Campus Data Warehousing and Infinite Campus gives users the ability to:

- Leverage the integrity and breadth of the transactional student data being collected at the point of data entry to populate the operational data store
- Build complicated ad hoc queries via the data warehouse freeing the transactional system
- Quick access to flattened views with no slowdown affect on the transactional system

Key Features

-  Leverage Campus Hosting and ARCC to manage the data warehousing server
-  Scheduled backup of transactional data
-  Cleans and checks data for undesired or inactive data
-  Produces materialized views or tables from most Campus views
-  Uses tables with indexes for efficient queries





What is Tableau?


[Tableau Software](#) is a provider of data visualization and business intelligence software. The company has 30,000 licensed users and several thousand customer accounts.

Tableau Products

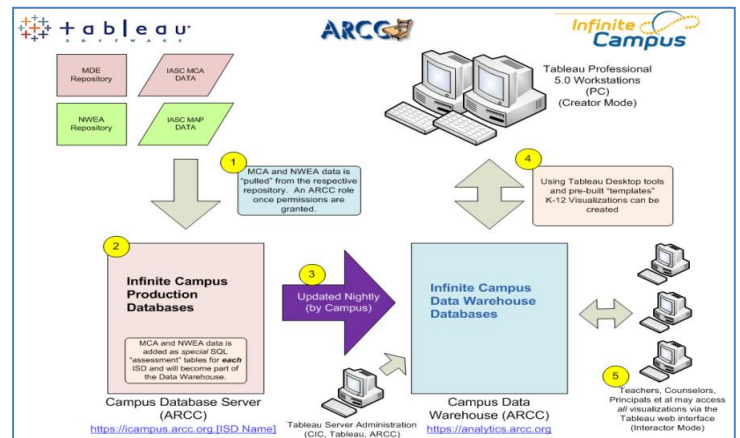
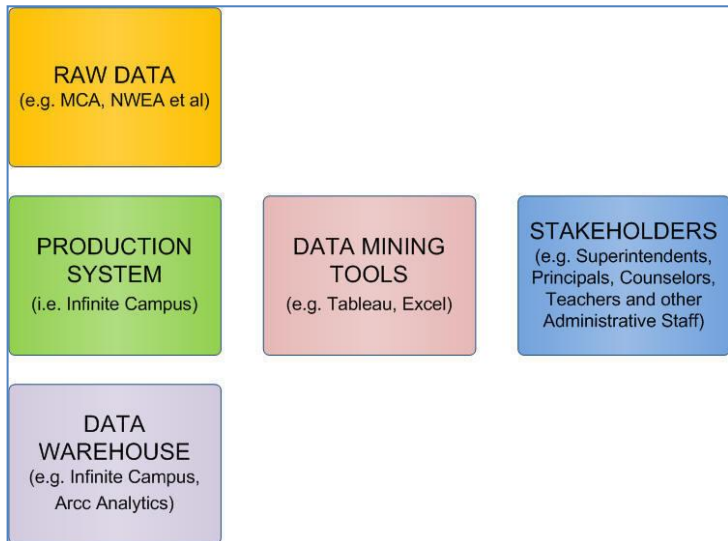
Tableau Software offers three main products: **Tableau Desktop**, **Tableau Server** and **Tableau Reader**.

 **Tableau Desktop** is a software application that enables people to connect to a data source and create analyses and summaries of large amounts of data through a drag-and-drop interface.

 **Tableau Server** is a Web-based solution for sharing analytic visualizations across workgroups and organizations.

 **Tableau Reader** is a no-charge application that allows people to read Tableau workbooks created by Tableau Desktop.

How does it all fit together?



Helpful Links:

 **Campus Data Warehouse Overview** http://www.infinitecampus.com/pages/product_menu/district-edition/data-warehousing.php

 **Tableau Software** <http://www.tableausoftware.com/>

 **Computer Information Concepts** <http://www.cicesp.com/>

 **K-12 Data Mining Overview** <http://www.techlearning.com/article/13862>

How can I find out more?

Contact ARCC via Campus_support@arcc.org or call Jim Livesay 218-723-1700 x121.

MARSS Submissions – Kerry Chaffey

The final EOY 09 electronic MARSS submissions are due to ARCC on or before October 23rd. All changes after this point will need to be processed manually directly with MDE.



Fall MARSS submissions are due to ARCC on October 9th and November 13th. The final Fall FY10 MARSS submission is due to ARCC on or before December 11th. Any changes needed after December 11th will need to be processed manually directly with MDE.

KRIS' KORNER

How to Make Wax Ice Candles

Ice candles are a lot of fun and easy to make during the winter months. You'll need the following:

- Ice
- Paraffin wax
- Color and scent (optional)
- A taper candle
- A cardboard container, like a milk carton
- A double boiler, or crock pot

Melt the paraffin wax in the double boiler. Make sure that the wax is never placed directly over the heat, or you could end up with a fire. While the wax is melting, you can prepare your candle mold. If you want to add color or scent to your candle, this is the time to add it to the melted wax.

Place the taper candle into the center of the cardboard carton. Fill the carton with ice, packing them loosely in around the taper candle. Use small chunks of ice -- if they're too large, your candle will be nothing but big holes.

Once the wax has melted completely, pour it into the container carefully, making sure that it goes around the ice evenly. As the hot wax pours in, it will melt the ice, leaving small holes in the candle. Allow the candle to cool, and then poke a hole in the bottom of the cardboard carton so the melted water can drain out (it's a good idea to do this over a sink!). Let the candle sit overnight so the wax can harden completely, and in the morning, peel back all of the cardboard container and your candle is ready to display and burn!

Ice Candle (Pail)

Fill a few pails, or any deep plastic containers, with water to within an inch of the top. If you want a colored ice candle add food coloring to the water.

After sunset place the containers outside on a thick piece of rug, folded blanket or a newspaper (to insulate the bottom) and leave them overnight. A minimum of 14 degrees F is best so take advantage of the cold nights. The water will freeze from the outside inward and get thicker the longer you leave it out. Unless you leave it out too long, the center will still be liquid and because you insulated the bottom it should also still be unfrozen. In the morning, bring the containers inside for 5 - 10 minutes to thaw and loosen the sides a little.

Once loose, bring it back outside, carefully flip the container upside down and lift it off the ice candle. Some unfrozen water will pour out while doing this so choose your spot well. You could also do this in your bathtub or sink quite easily.

Break away the thin layer of ice that may have formed on what is now the top of the ice candle and pour the remaining (colored) water into an empty container for re-use. Repeat step 4 and 5 with the other containers. Place a candle in the hollow center and keep outside, preferably in a shaded area.

Quote of the Quarter ~

"Don't knock the weather.

If it didn't change once in a while, 9 out of 10 people couldn't start a conversation."

~ Kin Hubbard



Tis Apple Season . . .

Apple Brown Betty

4 slices white bread, toasted
3 cups sliced, peeled baking apples
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 cup butter – melted

Tear toast into bit sized pieces; place in a greased 1-1/2 qt casserole. Top with apples. Combine sugars & cinnamon; sprinkle over apples. Drizzle w/butter; cover & bake at 350 for 1 hour, stirring after 30 minutes. Serve w/ice cream.

Apple Macaroon

5 med apples
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon

Mix together & put in bottom of lightly greased 8x8 pan.

Mix: 4 Tbsp butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1/4 tsp salt, 1/2 cup flour, 1 tsp baking powder, a little milk to thin. Spread over apples. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until a golden brown.



ARCC WILL BE CLOSED



Nov 26 & 27 ~ Thanksgiving
Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day



Have a Safe Holiday!

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Please contact ARCC with any address or name updates