

Shakespeare Theater offers seminar for HS English teachers

Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier is recruiting high school English teachers to participate in its free, 30-hour professional development seminar, *Bard Core Curriculum: Reading into Shakespeare*, now in its sixth successful year.

The course introduces English teachers to a range of skills that help break open Shakespeare's texts in general education, high school classrooms. Bard Core trains teachers to actively teach Shakespeare, combining rehearsal techniques with best practices in literacy.

The 30-hour seminar includes five summer morning sessions, August 3 through 7, and three Saturday morning sessions, September 19, November 14 and February 6. Sessions include text work, arts-integrated writing, and drama-infused pedagogical strategies for teaching difficult texts to reluctant and struggling readers. Teachers also receive 20 free tickets to a student matinee of Chicago Shakespeare's abridged *The Comedy of Errors* in March 2010.

Offering CPDUs and Lane credit, Bard Core has trained more than 100 high school English teachers from some of the district's struggling and most challenged schools. Teachers are encouraged to participate in pairs; no more than two candidates per school will be accepted. Priority will be given to candidates representing neighborhood, small and new schools from across the city. For more information and to receive an application, please e-mail mbalperin@chicagoshakes.com.



DePaul University's Family Lab provides affordable tutoring

As a single parent, Steve Ercoli, faced a dilemma when his son Antonio's teachers at Agassiz Elementary School recommended private tutoring, but he couldn't afford it. Mr. Ercoli sought help at The Family Lab in DePaul's School of Education, where tutoring services are provided on a sliding scale depending on a family's ability to pay. A year later, Mr. Ercoli claims The Family Lab has not only helped improve Antonio's reading skills, but it has also helped improve his self-confidence.

The DePaul University Family Lab, located in the Schmitt Academic Center, 2320 N. Kenmore Ave., on DePaul's Lincoln Park Campus, has served students age 6 to 16 in the Chicago area for 40 years. Children with learning disabilities and/or reading difficulties are able to fully utilize the diagnostic and remedial services available in the lab's newly renovated space. It has served nearly 1,300 clients since 1998.

The state-of-the-art facility is equipped with the latest technology and equipment, including tu-

toring and counseling rooms with cameras, sound monitors and computers so professors can monitor graduate student workers and offer support and feedback. DePaul graduate students in the final quarters of the reading and learning disabilities program tutor students in reading and other subjects to bring their clients' academic skills up to grade level while fulfilling their program's practicum component.

"While the clients we see gain hands-on tutoring support services, graduate students working toward a reading specialist degree receive clinical experience," said Julie Harris, Family Lab coordinator, who is currently pursuing her master's degree in education at DePaul. "It's a wonderful setting for learning to take place on both ends."

Soon, graduate students in human services and counseling, nursing and other DePaul programs will be able to provide families with myriad additional services while fulfilling their practicum requirements. Students and staff are working to expand lab services to include health screenings

for children and adults, wellness seminars and sign language classes to help new parents communicate with their infants.

"The best-practice concept in education is wraparound services that recognize the multiple needs of students," said Beverly Trezek, co-director of the lab and an assistant professor in the language, literacy and specialized instruction program.

Joy Whitman, co-director of the lab and an associate professor in the School of Education's human services and counseling department, said providing clients with counseling services would benefit the Family Lab and the graduate program by providing students with clinical experience. "It's a win-win situation, and it allows us to provide more services to community residents," Whitman said.

For more information about the Family Lab, visit <http://education.depaul.edu/AboutUs/Center-Initiatives/FamilyLab/index.asp> or call 773-325-7745.

Grant applications available for Walk and Roll to School Day

Each October, millions of children, parents, teachers and community leaders across the globe walk, bicycle, skate, scooter or roll to school to celebrate Walk to School Day. It is an energizing event, reminding parents and children alike of the simple joy of walking and rolling to school.

Schools are invited to apply for funding to promote Walk and Roll to School Day on October 7, 2009. Walk and Roll to School is part of International Walk to School Day and celebrates children getting to school in safe and active ways.

Previous grant winners have staged Walk



and Roll to School events, including rallies and breakfasts. Some have used the grant for incentives that encourage students to walk, bike and roll to school year-round.

Grant packages include \$500 in cash and a variety of promotional materials and refreshment items. Only individual schools can apply.

The Walk and Roll Mini-Grant guidelines and application form is available online at www.activetrans.org/walkandroll. For questions or additional information contact the Mini-Grant Coordinator at 312-427-3325, extension 236 or e-mail minigrants@activetrans.org.