

## MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER ITEM

The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE), which consists of two days of testing, is scheduled to be administered to our high school juniors at the end of April 2010. Students will be required to take the American College Testing (ACT) during the first day. According to the ACT Inc., there are two types of preparation for the ACT: long-term preparation and short-term preparation. The former involves the education and training our students have received since their preschool days, while the latter involves what I have started to do with my junior students in my English classes, i.e., a thorough revision within my area of expertise of all the topics on which the ACT tests our students, ranging from English to reading to writing. Please encourage your children to give the ACT packets I distribute in class enormous consideration, in view of the benefits that a high ACT score can offer our students. For example, a composite score of 31 (the highest score possible is at 36) has been known to make its owner the happy recipient of a presidential scholarship for \$40,000, renewable for the four year of college attendance. Is covering nouns and verbs worth \$160,000 for college tuition? A resounding YES would be the correct answer!

Additionally, the second day of testing, known as Work Keys and involving workplace reading, science, and math, is equally crucial in terms of its applicability towards what is known as a "Certificate of Employability", a document that the recipient can show a potential employer to prove his or her professional worth. In other words, our students stand to gain considerable benefits by achieving high scores on the above two standardized tests. With encouragement, guidance, and the correct expertise, our students are quite capable of blazing worthy academic trails. Just keep completing those packets!