

**Superintendent's message**

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**4. Collaborate routinely with their colleagues.**

*While traditional teachers labor in isolation, the teachers of learning communities share ideas about practice. They recognize that the solutions to some school problems require collective action, and they accept personal and professional responsibility for contributing to those solutions.*

**5. Are students of teaching and consumers of research.**

*Teachers are expected to stay current – to learn about emerging concepts of “best practices.” New concepts warrant consideration, experimenta-*

*tion, debate, and assessment before they become part of the standard practice. The ongoing analysis of advances in research on curriculum and teaching is vitally important in improving schools. However, this analysis requires that teachers function both as “students of teaching” and “consumers of research.”*

**6. Function as leaders.**

*Leaders must be effective communicators. Like all great leaders, teachers recognize that what they pay attention to is a powerful means of communicating what is truly significant. They monitor student achievement of essential outcomes and respond when students*

*are experiencing difficulty. They confront students who do not give their best effort and celebrate those who do.*

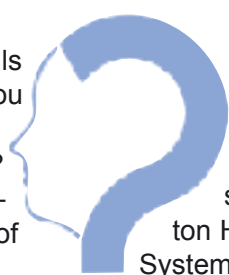
While some schools are content to accept things as they are and other schools are quick to adopt any program with a hope that it provides the “right” results, the members of learning communities will stay the course. By staying the course, learning communities will provide the MCCSC and its schools with the foundation necessary to respond to future challenges because they maintain, as a community of learners, their focus on teaching and learning.

## Brain Teasers Exhibit Provides Intellectual Challenge

January 29-May 30, 2004

**H**ow do you balance 13 nails on the head of one nail? Can you simultaneously move two balls to opposite corners of a rocker? These are the kinds of 3-D puzzles that will challenge visitors of all ages in Brain Teasers, a special educational exhibition at WonderLab. Other mind-boggling puzzles involve ropes, rings, pegs and blocks.

Brain Teasers will provide hands-on learning opportunities that relate to Indiana science and mathematics standards. Further enrichment will be offered through a special activity station, which will be open weekends and selected times on weekdays. Associated special programs will include Your Brilliant Brain



# Brain Teasers

(Saturday, March 6) and Family Math Night (Friday, March 26).

Brain Teasers is sponsored by Bloomington Hospital & Healthcare System. Media support is provided by The Herald-Times and WFIU. The exhibition was created by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

WonderLab is located at 308 West Fourth Street in downtown Bloomington. For more information, visit the museum's website, <http://www.wonderlab.org>, or call (812) 337-1337.



Visitors of all ages enjoy the challenge of 3-D Brain Teaser puzzles at Wonderlab.

*Photo courtesy of Sara Kichler/Wonderlab*

