

AUGUST MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- Below are the enrollment comparisons.
09/10=618 Kindergarten students and 114 Early Childhood /WELE Students
08/09=625 Kindergarten students and 101 Early Childhood/WELE Students
- For the 2008-2009 school year the Primary School will have the following school level committees: External, YLP/Assessment, Social, Family School Partnership, Core Values/Discipline, Playground, Hands, Infusing Technology, Problem Solving – Response to Intervention, Pre-School, Early Literacy, Reading Incentive and Beautification, Gender Research.
- Our Back-to School staff meetings were informative, motivating and fun for staff. Primary's "Under the Sea" theme was incorporated throughout the two days. The second day was spent on curriculum and assessment planning and review. Kindergarten teachers used Test Tracker data to compare their previous class data to the whole school data.
- This year the Primary School is focusing on more ways to include all of our parents into their child's education. Stacey Anderson developed the idea to have "Kindergarten Kickoff" the first day of school rather than on a Saturday. We advertised this program at Proof of Residency, Sneak Preview and Kindergarten Welcome Time.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – Submitted by Dr. Ken Hyllberg and David Brown, Principals

Student Achievement:

- We enjoyed meeting our new staff members during the three-day New Teacher Orientation. Teachers had a chance to tour the school, receive overviews of district and school procedures and learn more about available support services. New staff met with their mentors, worked in their classrooms to prepare for the first day, and become familiar with the Woodland learning community.
- During the August 24th and 25th Teacher Institute Days, staff meetings were held to review and discuss the school goals, RtI, DI, and meet Union officials. Staff also received LA and Math curriculum updates in first through third grade.

External Learning Community:

- Sneak Preview was a success again this year. All Woodland families, especially new students and our new 1st grade students, looked forward to visiting classrooms and becoming familiar with their new learning environment.

Internal Learning Community:

- The Elementary School is continuing the use of the online version of the Teacher Handbook. Staff will be able to access information such as calendars, meeting schedules, forms and procedures. Since its inception, feedback on it has been positive and is a worthwhile venture.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal and Ana Fuhrer, Associate Principal**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

As part of our first Institute Day with staff, we shared our MAP and ISAT results for 2009. We are in the process of writing a School Improvement Plan, which will delineate strategies to improve student learning.

School Improvement Leaders

This year we have two school wide initiatives, Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RtI). Our School Improvement Leaders are playing a key role in the execution of the PBIS program and the advancement of our systems related to RtI. Of the eight School Improvement Leaders, four are dedicated to the leadership of initiatives within the RtI model and four are taking a lead role in the implementation of PBIS. They have undergone training and have worked over the summer to prepare for the school year.

Positive Behavior Intervention System

PBIS has been smoothly launched at the Intermediate School. On August 24th, the PBIS Team began training the staff in the area of PBIS and the tools that are available for their use. On the 25th, ALL Woodland Intermediate Staff participated in the high-energy, fun-packed *Amazing Race* to learn about the teaching of the Cool Tool Social Skills and Behavior Expectations.

Response to Intervention

We are very excited about our progress in the area of RtI and the problem solving process. During the 2009 school year, we began phase one of the implementation of our new Language Arts series. This year, as we enter phase two, teachers will implement more interventions at the Tier 1 level in the classroom and will work with data to better target the needs of their students.

Beginning this year, we will utilize benchmark data to identify low performing students early in the school year and immediately provide them with interventions at the Tier 2 level. Students who qualify will receive small group instruction with our Specialist Teachers (Reading Specialists, ESL Teachers, and Bridges Teachers) during the morning Flex Time. We will use the data to determine the effectiveness of the interventions, and also to monitor and maintain the validity and fidelity of our program.

STAFF CLIMATE & CULTURE

Our Welcome Back meetings with staff were highly varied and energetic. Our School Improvement Leaders presented staff with the results from the 2009 Climate Survey.

FACILITIES

Sneak Preview was a success once again this year. The building was immaculate and highly welcoming to our families. Parents expressed an appreciation for the new schedule with staggered times. The two-hour time slot offered families plenty of time to tour the school

MIDDLE SCHOOL – submitted by Scott Snyder, Principal Student Achievement

- *New Teacher Orientation* – Our ten new certified staff members participated in New Teacher Orientation on August 18th, 19th, and 20th. Topics covered with them included: general school practices, NWEA *Stepping Stones* (M.A.P.), technology training, time with their mentors to review their respective curricula and time to work on setting up their classroom.

- *August In-service* – WMS staff officially returned to school on Monday, August 24th and participated in in-service activities both Monday and Tuesday. Sessions included:
 - An overview of our 2008-09 achievement data (ISAT and MAP).
 - A review of our discipline and PBIS survey data from last year. All staff also rotated through stations and received training in the expectations that they would be outlining for their students on Thursday, August 27th.
 - Blood-borne pathogens
 - DCFS Mandated Reporting Guidelines
 - District 50 Technology Acceptable Use Policy
 - Life Threatening Allergies
 - Time was also provided for teachers to work with their teams and in their classrooms.

Internal Community

- *R.O.A.R. Kick-Off* – WMS students participated in our R.O.A.R. kick-off activities on Thursday, August 27th. They began their school year learning to R.O.A.R., which is an acronym for: ***Be Respectful, Take Ownership, Be Accepting, Be Ready***. Every student received a R.O.A.R. pencil as they entered the school from their school bus. Throughout the day, students were trained on our school's behavioral expectations in various areas of the school (i.e. classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, gyms, locker room, cafeteria, LRC, school bus and during emergency drills). Each of these lessons took place on location and the expected behaviors were demonstrated to students. Posters outlining our expectations in each specific area have been posted throughout the school and on the school busses.

External Community

- *Sneak Preview* – Our Sneak Preview event held on Saturday, August 22nd was quite successful. The incoming 6th grade students and others new to our school seemed to make up the majority of the visitors.

Fiscal Responsibility

- *Teacher Flea Market* –Our LRC Staff held its annual “Teacher Flea Market”. Last spring as the staff packed their rooms for the summer, they were encouraged to bring any unwanted/unneeded teaching materials and supplies to the LRC for the flea market. This past week, our newly hired staff was given first shot at the flea market. They could take any items that they felt they could use in their classrooms. Once the new staff had been through, the flea market was opened up to the entire WMS staff.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY – submitted by Dr. Anne Swanson Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability

NCLB

The Intermediate School has been identified by Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as a piloting school for the 4th grade ISAT writing test. The piloting will take place October 5-8th.

Individual 2009 ISAT student score sheets have arrived. They will go home with either the 1st quarter report card or midterms.

Dates for FY10 ISAT are: March 2, 2010 – March 12, 2010

MAP/Assessment

The Class Roster File (CRF) for Fall 2009 (current) testing will be uploaded to NWEA (the publishers of MAP) by September 2nd. It is from this database that all teacher, school, district and student reports are derived.

Testing dates for FY10 MAP are:

9/16 – 10/02 (Grades 2-8 in math and reading)

1/11 – 1/15 (Grades 4-5 reading, special education Grades 6-8)

4/13 – 4/28 (Grades 2-8 in math and reading)

Testing dates for 1st and 2nd grade FY10 Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) are:
1/25 – 1/29 (Grades 1 and 2, verbal and non-verbal cognitive testing)

Staff Development

Substantial curriculum writing and realignment and work on Tier 2 interventions took place over the summer. Over forty teachers worked from one to six days on the following:

- School Improvement Plans
- Writing curriculum
- Middle School Art
- Trailblazers item analysis for ISAT and computation
- Challenge Math grades 3 and 4 (new programs this past year)
- Progress Monitoring assessments for Tier 2 interventions
- Geometry
- Middle School math technology training
- Middle School language arts review of exit outcomes
- Pacing in language arts for grades 4 and 5
- Adjustments to ESL curriculum in grades 4 and 5
- Elementary music (adjustments for new schedule)

ESL/Bilingual

Placement testing was ongoing throughout the summer for kindergarten students who may need ESL or bilingual services.

Given that the district did not make AYP in reading for ELL students, we have been actively engaged in improving our delivery models for ESL services. These are the changes for FY10 that are in place:

- Full day kindergarten program for all LEP students (bilingual and ESL) not just bilingual and K-Plus students.
- ESL will be in addition to rather than in place of language arts in grades 4 and 5 at the Intermediate School.
- New block schedule at Elementary will allow daily ESL support in grades 1-3.

We will review the districts Annual Measures of Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) another measure for districts to review the progress of ELL students.

Gifted

Gifted Curriculum Night was held on August 26th at the Intermediate School. The evening attracted approximately 500 parents. Teachers reported very positive comments from their meetings with parents. This year the three Middle School advanced math teachers presented as a group. They have new textbooks this year with substantial technology support. Teachers demonstrated the technology to the parents.

Response to Intervention (RtI): Tier I and Tier II

Steve Thomas conducted data meetings with reading specialists to identify students for reading interventions in grades 1-3 (Reading Recovery, Bridges and Reading Specialist)

- Initial tier II class lists were established in the spring
- We identified students needing services for the first half of the year.
- We will hold quarterly data meetings to review benchmark data and reevaluate students identified

In addition, the math specialists are adding Fast Math (software) and Do the Math to their Tier II interventions. They are already using Math Perspectives.

While our above grade level children outnumber our below grade level children, these interventions are intended for children not at grade level.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES – submitted by Don Selzer, Director of Operations and Facilities

- The heat trace installation project at South Campus has been completed.
- The Middle School asphalt/seal coating project has been completed.
- The Elementary casework installation has been completed.
- The Middle School cafeteria noise abatement project has been completed.
- The new Elementary parent drop off signage and striping has been designed and completed.
- All district sprinkler systems were inspected and tested.
- Gurnee Fire Department conducted their annual inspection on all district buildings.
- O&F and Tech departments assisted with installation of 65 Xerox copiers throughout the district and are scheduling training for staff.
- The district's public service program realized 625 hours of work for the month of August, thanks to all district representatives for Public Service. The work accomplished consisted of: mowing all District properties, turning over playground mulch, various grounds tasks throughout the district in support of Sneak Preview, trash pick up throughout the district and vehicle cleaning/inspections as weather allowed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – submitted by Jennifer Tempest Bova, Public Relations Specialist

- **Fall Newsletter:** The Public Information Department is working on our fall newsletter that will feature information about FACT, ISAT trends and other current news from the district.
- **Media Communications:**
 - Press Releases: 10
 - Articles: 10
- **Media Meetings:** This summer, I have spent time with our local reporters and editors to discuss communications from the district. I still plan to meet with The Chicago Tribune and Daily Herald. At this time, the feedback given has been very positive. The press is very appreciative of our timely responses and willingness to collaborate with the media. The common theme I've heard this summer is the fact that they continue to ask us for story ideas as they no longer have the staff to conduct the research and investigate the stories.

- **Triblocal:** As noted earlier this month, Triblocal has launched coverage in the Gurnee and Grayslake area. The paper version will not be launched until October, but when visiting triblocal.com, you will be able to view press releases that the district has posted on the site. It also features a counter that indicates how many people have viewed the release/article.
- **Website Counter:** As of this month, 71,798 people have visited our website since July 2009.

SUPPORT SERVICES – submitted by Penny Dagley, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services

- The ARRA grants were submitted and have been approved. We have begun purchasing much of the software for Tier 2 interventions as well as the material for our two new special education classrooms.
- Training for our staff on our new electronic IEP from ESPED was held the week of August 17, 2009. We are using a trainer of trainer model so we selected at least two staff from each school as well as our supervisory staff to be trained. They in turn have trained all of the staff at each school. Our final training will be held on Friday September 4, 2009 for our primary staff. We are all very excited about the potential for this system.
- I have conducted our Bloodborne Pathogens and other required training for Elementary, Middle School and Primary. Intermediate will be conducted September 15, 2009.
- I provided a two-hour training to the bus drivers on Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS).
- Woodland participated in the first Resource Fair hosted by Healthy Community/Healthy Youth. Our goal was as to distribute free backpacks provided by Joy Lutheran Church as well as to offer parents with information on free/reduced services for those in financial need. The backpacks were gone in under an hour. Some parents took advantage of the other information we had available. The committee has not met since the event to debrief and discuss whether it is something we will repeat next year.
- As part of New Teacher Orientation, new staff received armed intruder training by officers Tom Agos and Jim McDermott of the Gurnee Police Department. Jim is our police Liaison Officer. I provided training on life threatening allergies.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director of Technology

- Computer Replacement Project
 - This year we will replace the computers at Elementary East and Elementary West schools and the mobile carts at Middle School. We have completed our analysis of the computer needs for both schools and computer carts. We have reviewed with the principals and the curriculum department and have submitted a master list and schedule to Apple.