

FEBRUARY MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Learning...to find solutions

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- WELE Parent Involvement Night: On Tuesday, February 23rd, our Woodland Early Learning Experience teachers along with our WELE paraprofessionals hosted a special Parent Involvement event for families of our WELE program. Families participated in activities, there was a special speaker on the topic of Kindergarten Readiness, and they enjoyed a meal as well. It was a good turnout with 125 people attending. Our social worker along with our teachers and paraprofessionals planned a meaningful night and the parents and students enjoyed this special event.
- Busy Brains Traveling Museum: The Primary School welcomed a special in-house field trip experience that every student participated in during the last week of February. The company is called Busy Brains and they are a traveling museum. They brought out nine different exhibits for students to participate in with hands-on materials and manipulatives. Each topic was science based and students were able to visit the museum for an hour-long experience. Thank you to the Woodland Parent Teacher Association for funding this program for our students.
- Helping Hearts for Haiti: In order to assist in the tragedy in Haiti, the Primary staff and families participated in a fundraiser. We invited staff to donate money for the cause. Families were invited to donate money and to hang a heart up in our large school heart to show their support. The fundraiser ran from February 1st-12th and due to our generous families and staff we raised a total of \$1,063.20 that will support the cause and relief in Haiti.

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

Student Achievement

- As we have in years past, this month we celebrated our 100th Day of school! Teachers celebrated this day with their students in many different ways. Some of these ways included a variety of math activities based on the number 100, DPP math problems, and 100-day coins calendar. The math specialists even had the students participate in a 100th day store where the students used a combination of coins equaling \$1.00 and purchased items. Literacy activities include reading 100 books, writing activities, creating 100-day mobiles, and 100 piece puzzles.
- Our reading incentive committee continues to successfully get students interested in reading. This month the students decorated a heart with their family name and wrote on their heart a book's author and title, a character, or a summarization of the book based on their grade level. This activity also involved the parents with reading because the project was a family homework assignment. The purpose of this activity was to point out the value and importance of books and to include an at-home connection. These projects were displayed in the hallway for everyone to see!

Internal Community

- Valentine's day parties provided a fun time for students. Parent volunteers helped to supervise the students, create fun games and provide healthy treats to eat.
- We had the opportunity for Mrs. Soriaga's first grade bilingual class and Mrs. First grade class to take a field trip on February 23rd to tour a new fire safety trailer in association with the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association. This trailer was purchased through a grant from DeWitt Stern Insurance and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and company representatives and possibly local media will be on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

External Community

- The Elementary West's 2nd grade music program titled "A Day in Music Class" was a great success this year. Ms. Underwood and Mrs. Bush did a wonderful job teaching our students musical pieces combined with singing, instruments (boomwhackers) and movement. The selections focused on the key concepts of music such as meter, note scales, and tempo. Evening concerts welcomed parents who enjoyed the celebration reflecting of all the hard work both students and teachers put into the music program since September. In addition, the students displayed art they had painted to Mozart as decorations for the concert.
- Our Woodland PTA had their annual Fun Fair on Saturday, February 20th at the Elementary East. Many teachers and administrators attended, as well as volunteering to support this worthwhile event.

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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

PBIS, ROAR Booster Activity

Every four to six weeks, the Intermediate students and teachers participate in a PBIS ROAR (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) (Respectful, Ownership, Accepting, Ready) Booster event.

The focus of our latest booster event was to revisit the basic concepts that were taught in the fall.

The event began with celebrations and recognitions of students for exhibiting ROAR behavior throughout the school, followed by a review of our data. The behaviors we have been addressing consist primarily of "solving problems peacefully" and "keeping hands and feet to self". The next portion of the event was a video relating to the area of focus for the upcoming month, "Back to Basics". The video depicted several student leaders interviewing fellow students about the importance of ROAR behavior and giving real life examples of the behaviors they have been demonstrating. They illustrated the behaviors they SHOULD be exhibiting as we work to meet ROAR expectations. The video was followed up by a brief discussion of ways in which students can meet the

behavioral expectations we have in place. The event wrapped up with students participating in team building activities in various locations throughout the school.

Reading Incentive Program - Scholastic Reading Counts (SRC)

SRC was implemented during the second quarter as a reading incentive program for the Intermediate School. We set a school wide goal for all students to read three books and take a SRC quiz on books read. One of the three books was to be at or above the student's Lexile (reading level) - according to the Fall MAP data. The goal was differentiated for higher-level readers by raising the expectation to five quizzes taken, with two at or above their lexile.

Here are the stats:

1,209 students participated	→ 78.9% of total student population!
696 met the minimum goal	→ 45% of total student population
389 met minimum goal and more!	→ 25% of total student population

**10 students read 30 books or more!*

We are very proud of our students! Those meeting the goal will be recognized with a custom bookmark, and their name will appear in the newspaper. Students going above and beyond will receive the custom bookmark, a custom pencil, and their names will be entered in a drawing to win various prizes.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

Author Visit

The Intermediate School was host to an author February 16-22. Author, Alan St. Jean entertained all of our students in the LRC with his charm, wit, and engaging personality. Students prepared for this visit by listening to the author's first book in a trilogy called, Aidan of Oren as their teachers read the book aloud to them. The book is a fantasy that contains lots of conflict. Mr. St. Jean discussed the writing process he had to go through in learning about conflict and resolution. "All great stories, children, have conflict and resolution." He also showed the students how the illustrator brings the story to life with pictures; pictures that sometimes take months to draw to get just right. He explained that the next step in the process is to create the storyboards that show how the book will look, followed by adding the color. Mr. St. Jean also writes music and entertained the kids with some of his music videos based on his "tater tot" books.

Some comments from the kids were: "He was so funny!" "I learned a lot." "I could not stop laughing!" And even, "He was so inspirational." We also hosted a parent night with Alan St. Jean where 75 parents and guests attended to hear him speak and receive autographed copies of his books.

Haiti Relief Fund

During the weeks of February 1st and February 8th our students participated in the district-wide dollar drive for Haiti. A large bucket was set up in the main hallway for donations with a thermometer graphic to chart how much money was received. During the two weeks of collections the Intermediate school collected \$481.65, which will be combined with the other schools in the District to be given to the Red Cross for their relief efforts.

Spring Musical

On Wednesday, February 24, our students put on a musical portrayal of Beauty and The Beast. The performance was phenomenal! The group received glowing reviews from the parents, staff, and community members who attended. The level of sophistication that our fourth and fifth grade students demonstrate in the arts is truly astounding. We thank their directors, Amy Werner, Andrea Little, and April Cooksey, and the assistant director, Carol Magin for their hard work and dedication – it has certainly paid off!

MIDDLE SCHOOL – submitted by Scott Snyder, Principal

External Community

Taste of College – In cooperation with the Lake County Chamber of Commerce and three of our local colleges and university, 60 of our eighth grade students are participating in this year's *Taste of College*. As part of the program, students from Woodland and Viking Middle Schools will visit the College of Lake County, DeVry University, and Robert Morris College. Students will participate in seminars on plant science basics, directions in business, computer science, and oil painting.

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

MAP/Assessment

Woodland is participating with a group of Lake County schools in a study about MAP results that Lake Forest District 67 is spearheading. The results have been interesting and reaffirm that using Spring-Spring growth results are a more accurate measure for school improvement purposes than Fall-Spring. We test later in the fall and earlier in the spring so our weeks of instruction are substantially fewer than the weeks of instruction NWEA uses to measure Fall-Spring growth norms. Using yearly growth eliminates that discrepancy.

Curriculum

The Regional Office of Education (ROE) held the quarterly countywide curriculum meeting on February 19th at Libertyville High School District 128 offices.

The primary topic was Rtl. The curriculum leaders in districts are beginning an Rtl quarterly round table through the ROE.

ESL/Bilingual

The Primary School has shared very positive data for ESL children in our full day ESL program. This is the first year we have provided this full-day option for ESL kindergarten students and the early intervention appears to be a successful one.

We have been granted additional funds through Title III. As is the case with most federal funding, we have parameters for the ways in which the money may be spent. Our amended grant to capture these additional funds will include requests for additional supplies for the new ESL program at Primary, SMART boards for ELL classrooms in schools without this technology (Middle School, Intermediate, Elementary East and West) and I-touch technology. Nothing will be purchased until the amended grant is approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES – submitted by Kim Burke, Director of Human Resources

Wellness Screening – This marks the fourth year a comprehensive health screening will be made available to all Woodland employees. The screening includes a Panel C that provides a cholesterol analysis and identifies early warning signs of heart disease, diabetes, liver abnormalities, nutritional disorders, kidney disease, thyroid disease, anemia and cancer. The screening will be scheduled for mid April.

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

- O&F Leadership attended Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, informational seminar concerning Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP), February 18, 2010.
- The Gurnee Fire Department conducted their District-wide semi-annual Safety Inspection, February 16 & 24, 2010. No major discrepancies noted.
- The O&F leadership team attended the semi-annual District-wide Safety Inspection with the Gurnee Police and Fire Departments, February 19, 2010.

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

- Woodland will be working with neighboring school districts in developing local implementation procedures for the new specific learning disability (SLD) eligibility guidelines from ISBE. We feel it will be beneficial to have commonalities in our procedures since we have several students who move between and among our districts.
- We held our annual safety meeting with the police and fire departments on February 20, 2010. In attendance were three representatives from the police department, two from the fire department, the Principals, Don Selzer and Scott Burke from Operations and Facilities and me. We reviewed the crisis plan, discussed our code red/yellow emergency drills as well as ongoing needs in the schools to insure the safety of all students in the case of fire and other emergency drills.
- We have a student who has been selected as a recipient of an Infinitec Outstanding Student Technology Award. He and his parents will be honored at a dinner on April 22, 2010. This is a tribute to the hard work of our assistive technology team.

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

- **Media Communications:**
 - Press Releases: 91
 - Articles: 134
- **Taste of College:** Our fourth annual Taste of College program kicked off on February 18 and has been a success thus far. Nearly 60 middle school students are participating in the program at this time. The program will conclude March 11 with a reception at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Township High School. Principal Jeff Brierton will serve as the Emcee that evening. The following workshops are being held:
 - **College of Lake County**
 - *Plant Science Basics:* This session will provide students with an overview of up-and-coming plant related careers as we move toward sustainable, green solutions to many of our environmental challenges. Students also will get an introduction to the basics of horticulture and botany, including the chance to create a small terrarium of their own using propagation principles and cuttings.
 - **DeVry University**
 - *Directions in Business:* A workshop designed to provide hands-on experience to those interested in exploring business careers. Students will learn about organizational structure, creating a business plan, business finance, project management and marketing.
 - **Robert Morris College**
 - *Computer Science:* A combination of exploring enhanced computer research followed by an interactive Jeopardy game pitting teams against each other for points.
 - *Oil painting:* Presentation of some basics of drawing and painting followed by hands-on oil painting. Each student will come away with an oil painting they have created.
- **Website Counter:** As of March 2, 2010, 400,539 people have visited our website homepage.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giese, Director of Technology

- **Website Replacement**

The Technology Group has been working with the external review committee to begin to develop criteria for developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the replacement of the district web infrastructure. We will be working with internal staff beginning in March with the goal of distributing an RFP at the end of March.