

MARCH MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Learning...to find solutions

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- The Smartboards have arrived! During March all Early Childhood and Kindergarten classrooms received an adjustable Smartboard. An Interactive White Board is a broad name for a device that, when used with a computer and some type of large video display, makes the surface of the display become touch sensitive in some manner and allows it to be used to control the computer. A letter was sent home to parents explaining the Smartboards and the Title 1 funding which was allocated toward their purchase.
- On Friday March 12 the Primary School was buzzing with Leaders are Readers Day! Area mayors, police officers, and firefighters were among the many community members who read to our students that day. It is a fun motivating day for all and a great way for stakeholders to come into our school and become part of our learning community! An electronic slide show was made and was displayed on our new LCD monitor for all parents to see when they came for conferences.
- March is Frog and Toad month in Kindergarten and thanks to PTA all of the classrooms enjoyed David Stokes a.k.a. “The Frog Guy.” Mr. Stokes is a humorist and naturalist who presents information through songs and movements. The children love the live frogs and toads that he brings for them to see and touch.
- Our Student- Parent Conferences were well attended and successful! Below is some overall percentage information:

93% of our Kindergarten Parents attended conferences
100% of our Kindergarten Bilingual Parents attended conferences
99% felt the conference provided parents with a clear understanding of their child's progress
98% of parents feel their child's academic needs are being met
100% of parents feel their child's behavioral needs are being met
99% of parents feel the teachers share high expectation of their child's learning

- During the month of February, students and staff from Woodland Primary School collected items for the “Pooch Pantry” to incorporate our school's core value of ‘Hearts Caring’. The Pooch Pantry is a place where cat and dog owners can go to get needed items for their pets. Families who can't afford to

feed their pets can get food and other items at the Pooch Pantry at no cost to them. This way the families are able to feed and care for their pets and not have to give them up to shelters and rescue organizations. Pooch Pantry was very grateful when Frank Dzik, our school custodian, dropped off all the donated items. We were told that the pantry was at risk of shutting down if not for the donations from our dedicated Woodland families.

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

Student Achievement:

- From March 2nd-12th, ISAT tests were administered to all third grade students. Each student was tested in math, reading and writing. Though some students were out due to sickness, proctors were able to complete all makeup test sessions. Monitoring systems for security included recording of test booklet numbers, administration manuals and reader scripts being recorded for accountability of test materials.
- MAP schedules were completed in preparation for the spring MAP testing. This year testing occurred from April 13th through the 27th – Math: April 13th – 19th and Reading April 19th – 27th. As indicated in our School Improvement Plan, teachers have worked together as teams this year to use their students' MAP data to plan effective instruction.

Internal Community:

- The Book Fair was held in the Elementary Schools during our Open House in April. As a kick off to the Book Fair, our PTA asked our families to donate their change to the "One for Books" program. One for Books, offered by Scholastic, matches every dollar donated to support providing books to Haiti for their libraries as they rebuild. In addition, our teachers will receive the same amount in books for their classroom. The classroom that collected the most money will win lunch with the principals. As an added incentive, the winning classes from East and West will compete in the first-ever elementary kick-ball championship.

External Community:

- Student, parent and teacher conferences took place March 17th-19th. Participation levels were high for both the east and west schools. At Elementary East, 96% of the parents attended conferences with their children. At Elementary West, 93% of the parents attended. Students shared their growth in learning through selected work samples and reflections within their portfolios.

- Leaders are Readers was a success on March 26th. Local police officers, firefighters, military personnel, physicians, lawyers, a professional football player, as well as teachers and administrators took time to read books to students emphasizing the importance of literacy. In addition, many parents read to students throughout the day.
- Plans are underway for the West Harvest Garden. The committee is working with our Operations and Facilities department to coordinate the building of our garden shed, which was purchased through a grant from Lowe's.

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

Student Achievement:

- **ISAT Testing**
The Intermediate School had a successful ISAT testing session. We worked to ensure that procedures were well planned and communicated clearly to all staff. Schedules were developed to allow for the appropriate amount of student testing time for all students and additional schedules for makeup tests were implemented as well.
- **Choir – In School Field Trip**
On Monday, March 15, 2010, The Woodland Music Boosters sponsored a presentation from the Emerald City Theatre Company from Chicago for our choir students. The theatre group performed the musical, "Peter Pan" as an in-school field trip. The original songs were composed especially for the group of 3 actors who were double casted to play two-character parts in the story. The theatre group performed with minimal, but very creative scenery, props and costumes. The choir students enjoyed the interaction in the story when the characters would turn to the audience and ask them questions such as, "Which way did Peter Go?" The choir was treated to this show through their annual Music Booster fundraising.

External Community:

- **Girl Scouts visit our 5th Grade Girls**
On March 15, 2010, "The Forward Four", our own Woodland 8th Grade Girl Scouts, delivered a lively and meaningful presentation to the 5th Grade girls at Intermediate. The event included advice and information regarding life at the middle school. An informative PowerPoint was shared and the girls asked and answered questions. This presentation was made

during the 5th Grade Girls' recess period and was well received and appreciated by all.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – submitted by Scott Snyder, Principal

Student Achievement:

- *ISAT* – Illinois Standards Achievement Testing concluded at WMS on Friday, March 12th. Testing went extremely smoothly due to the combined efforts of our administrative team and staff. Because of the great attention to detail on the part of all involved, we were able to test 100% of the students in attendance during the testing window. All but six of our 2365 students took every one of the eight tests that comprise the ISAT. Of the nearly 19,000 tests given to our students, 99.88% of them were completed! Given the unavoidable nature of student absences this is as close to perfection as we were ever likely to get.
- *Regional Science Fair* – The regional Science Fair took place on Saturday, March 19th. Eighteen of the 38 projects presented by WMS students were rated as outstanding and will move on to the state level competition that will be held May 8th at the University of Illinois in Champaign. For the fourth year in a row, WMS was awarded first place overall for the number of projects rated as outstanding.
- *IGSMA District Competition* - Our bands and choirs performed at the Illinois Grade School Music Association district-level competition that was held at the Park School Campus in Round Lake Beach on Friday, March 12th. The WMS Jazz Band performed at their district competition at Fremont School in Mundelein on March 18th. Our bands and choirs brought back five Division I and one high Division II ratings. Our Symphonic Band I earned a perfect score from all three judges! This was the first time in the last four years that our band has earned a perfect score. It was also the highest score earned by any ensemble at the competition.
- *Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences* - Our Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences were held March 17-19th. Feedback received via the parent surveys was extremely positive:
 - 96% of the parents responding reported that the conferences provided them with a clear understanding of their child's progress.
 - 98% reported that they feel that their child's academic needs are being met.
 - 80%, or approximately 1,435 parents, indicated that the change in conference format was beneficial to them

- *8th Grade Physical Education Pilot* – When our 8th grade students return from Spring Break, they will be part of a new pilot program in their physical education classes. Our physical education staff has developed a menu of two to three-week units from which the students can select their top three choices. The staff is anticipating that the creation of these short-term, interest-based offerings will result in increased student motivation/participation at a time of year when our eighth grade students tend to “drift away” a bit.

Internal Community / Climate & Culture:

- *Challenge Leadership Day* - On Thursday, February 25th, 195 middle school students participated in Challenge Leadership Day. Run by Ted Wiese, of Wiese Training and Development, Leadership Day was brought to the middle school to allow students to participate in challenge activities, build leadership skills, and experience the power of positive thinking. This year, in an effort to involve more students, we conducted three, two-hour, grade level sessions rather than the one three-hour session as we’ve done in the past. The students worked with eight of their teammates on the activities, then brought the ideas back to their teams and shared them with their Advisory class. Teacher and student feedback was extremely positive.
- *R.O.A.R. Store* – Our new school store, *The Lion’s Den ROAR Store*, has been in operation since Winter Break and has been highly successful. Each morning, members of our Student Leadership Team, students in our instructional special education classroom, and staff volunteers operate a small school store where students can use ROAR tickets they have earned for school supplies and healthy snack items. To date, over 5000 R.O.A.R. tickets have been redeemed.

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

NCLB:

- ISAT testing for 2010 is complete. All materials have been sorted, boxed, labeled and returned to Pearson for scoring. Once again, our schools did a great job of trying to get every child tested in order to report 100%, or nearly 100%, participation on the 2010 Illinois School Report Card.

Curriculum:

Grayslake High School shared the following EXPLORE data regarding our FY09 8th graders, now FY10 9th graders. While we have only a small portion of the class, the EXPLORE scores of our former students are very

positive. In each area, former Woodland students scored well above grade level averages.

	Number of students	Composite Score	Math	Science	Reading	English
Woodland	42	18.29	19.00	18.90	17.21	17.29
Grayslake Total	697	16.94	17.07	18.05	16.03	16.15

Warren Township High School (WTHS) shared data indicating that students who enter with one (Algebra I) or two (Geometry) years of high school courses completed by the end of 8th grade are overwhelmingly achieving college readiness standards. Approximately 35% of our students complete Algebra I. WTHS and Grayslake honor that course as a prerequisite. We are exploring the possibility of increasing the number of students completing Algebra I.

Gifted:

Plans are underway at the Middle School for embedding gifted classes on to three of next year's seven 6th grade teams. Our current advanced/gifted 5th graders will be placed on three of next year's seven teams of 6th graders, rather than be dispersed across all seven teams as they are currently. There is no change to Challenge classes, which are already taught on each team. It is our hope that by embedding the advanced math classes in the same manner we embed the Challenge classes we will eliminate the disruptions to instruction resulting from testing, field trips, team celebrations, etc. that vary from team to team.

ESL/Bilingual:

The ISBE has increased the scores on ACCESS that are needed to exit services. This change went into effect on January 1, 2010. The increase in exit criteria will likely swell our enrollment of ELL students.

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 early intervention appears to be a success.

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 will capture these additional funds for the following:

- 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)
- I-touch technology

Current funds offset the FY10 salaries of four of the six bilingual teacher assistants. With the additional funds, we will be able to offset FY10 salaries for the remaining two bilingual teacher assistants. Nothing will be purchased until the amended grant is approved.

Technology:

The SMART Boards installation is finished at the Primary School. The SMART boards are budgeted with federal funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The staff and students appear very excited. During our informal walkthrough we have seen the boards being put to good use. The students are using their SMART boards for their opening calendar activities and taking attendance. Also, literacy activities have begun to transition to the SMART Boards. Ongoing staff development has come from the Primary School Technology Advisor, Assistant Principal and the Infusing Technology Committee. They have developed a weekly idea and tip sheet and are using morning preparation time to help the staff learn and practice the technology.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT – submitted by Kim Burke, Director of Human Resource

Wellness Screening:

This marks the fourth year a comprehensive health screening will be made available to all Woodland employees. The wellness screening is available at no cost to all Woodland insurance eligible employees and at no cost to all covered spouses and dependents 18 years and older. All non-insurance eligible employees and non-covered spouses and dependents 18 years and older may participate on a self-pay basis at a cost of approximately \$71.00. 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 screenings are scheduled for April 28th and May 5th.

Support Staff Training:

On April 9, 2009 support staff will have the opportunity to participate in training. Karen Page, Behavior Modification Liaison will be presenting Gang Awareness Training.

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

- O&F Grounds staffs attended University of Illinois' Pesticide Safety Education Program and were certified as pesticide applicators, March 2 & 3, 2010.
- O&F Leadership attended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 8-hour course for Lead Safety for Renovation, Repair, and Painting, March 24, 2010. Participation in this program qualifies attendees as Certified Renovators allowing them to perform lead-safe work practices safely and effectively.
- February 2010 was the first month of using CenterPoint as the District's natural gas provider. Our Maintenance Technicians expertise of their heating systems along with Siemens realized 6,639 less therms used than February 2009 even though the average daily temperature for February 2010 was 2 degrees colder than 2009. The lower therm usage resulted in \$17,204 savings from February 2009.
- The O&F staff set up and monitored 153 after-school or non-school events for the first three weeks of March.
- The O&F staff set up and provided assistance for Sunday building access for 97 staff for the first three Sundays of March.
- The District's public service program realized 490 hours of work for the first three weekends of March. The work accomplished consisted of: grass repairs resulting from snow removal, trash pick-up throughout the District, deep cleaning of various storerooms, various grounds/snow removal equipment repairs, district and vehicle cleaning/inspections as weather allowed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – submitted by Jennifer Tempest Bova

- **Media Communications:**
 - Press Releases: 105
 - Articles: 149

- **Taste of College:** As stated in last month's report, our fourth annual Taste of College began February 18 and concluded on March 11 with a reception at Warren Township High School. Over 70 of our Middle School students participated in the program this year. Student feedback received thus far has been very positive.
- **Tom Morris Scholarship:** With May quickly approaching, work has begun to market the Tom Morris Scholarship to our 8th grade students. The committee intends to review applications in the middle of May in order to announce this year's \$500 Tom Morris Scholarship recipient at our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony in June. Once again, we will include a peer, community member and staff submission, two of which must be completed as part of the nomination. Each nominee must complete a personal statement.
- **Twitter:**
 - Followers: 19
 - Tweets: 34
- **Website Counter:** As of March 25, 2010, 438,871 people have visited our website homepage.

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

- Woodland continues to work with neighboring school districts in developing local implementation procedures for the new specific learning disability (SLD) eligibility guidelines from ISBE. Our procedures will need to be in place for the start of the 2011 school year.
- The topic for our special education parent group (SPEAC) in March was on how parents can assist with children experiencing swallowing difficulties.
- Plans for Summer Wonders are moving ahead. As a result of the recommendations of the Board of Education we will increase the cost per class to \$87.00. Transportation costs will be \$30.00 each way.

We are pursuing software to move to an on-line registration process. In the past, registration has occurred in the middle of April. This year we will move registration to May 22. We will still offer an opportunity to register in person to those who do not have access to the on-line process. This will still allow for time to make class changes based on enrollment.

To conserve on paper we have put the class offerings on the district website so parents can review the class offerings. Those families who wish a paper copy will be provided one upon request.

- The External Community Committee has been focusing their efforts on the redesign of the Website. Feedback has been obtained from the committee and the Director of Technology is meeting with the administrative team at each school to gather input from them regarding their thoughts for their school sites. He also met with the Educational Support Team (EST) to gather their input.
- The administrative teams met this month to discuss changes they would like made in the Parent-Student Handbook. A report will be presented to the Board in April with a draft handbook for the May meeting. This early process is necessitated by the need to have revisions made for preparation for the printing of the student planners at Intermediate and Middle Schools.
- The district RtI committee has finalized our parent brochure describing RtI.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director of Technology

- Website Replacement
 - We are continuing our interview process with principals and staff and will be preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be sent out in early April. This project has been budgeted for in Technology.
- Audio Visual System Replacement
 - We are collecting data for the RFP. This project is funded through ARRA.

TRANSPORTATION – submitted by Roberta Magera, Director of Transportation

We currently have 82 drivers and have one driver in training.

All Transportation Department staff received CPR training with the exception of three drivers who were out ill. The Regional Office of Education (ROE) will offer additional mandatory training during April and May. This training will replace the regularly scheduled ROE training in August. The adjustment of the timing of these classes will provide us with more time for other types of training in August.

LOOKING FOWARD:

Preparations are being made for the 2nd Annual LCAPT School Bus Rodeo, which take place on May 1st at the Transportation/Primary Campus. We anticipate several of our drivers will participate in this event along with drivers throughout the county.