

From: Lori Casey, Principal of Woodland Primary School
RE: November Board Report

Learning...to find solutions

Going Well

- Students brought in cans of vegetables during the month of November for our “Celebrate the Harvest-Veggie Math” lessons. Each kindergarten class came to the Math Lab with their vegetables to do a variety of math activities. Early Childhood classes chose how to incorporate the lessons into their new Creative Curriculum. The vegetables were sorted in different ways, the cans were put in order from smallest to largest, a real bar graph of the different types of vegetables was created, and much more. The canned vegetables were donated to local food pantries and to our Woodland Food Drive.
- As we examined how we could further bridge the home school relationship, the Primary School is trying to increase our opportunities for parent education and involvement. On the evening of October 28, several members of our Gender Research Committee presented to parents on brain research and development of boys and girls. A representative from Warren Newport Library presented on Phonemic Awareness activities parents could do at home to assist in early literacy development. Approximately thirty parents attended. All of the evaluations were positive and parents said it was a very valuable use of their time and it definitely increased their knowledge.
- All of the schools have created a Veteran’s Day bulletin board to honor those who have served our country. A paraprofessional, Debbie Rottweiler, created the board for Primary and displayed over one hundred pictures and stories. Many staff and parents have commented that the display is very moving and important for our students to see.
- Our Early Childhood students are studying Community Helpers this month. All of the classes took an educational field trip to the Fire Station. The teachers felt the students understood the role of firefighters more thoroughly with the visit as opposed to having the firefighters come to the classrooms. The teachers are making a dinner of chili and cornbread to thank the men and women for the wonderful job they did with our children.
- There are 56 students enrolled in the K+ program and have received this service for 5 weeks. Tuesday, November 10th was Parent Involvement Day. A total of 25 parents participated in a brief in-service given by the Social Worker. The Social Worker discussed the sanitary precautions that the Primary building has begun to teach the students for flu and illness prevention. The parents then participated in math and literacy “make and take” games with their child in their classrooms.
- The Primary Infusing Technology Committee has taken a new approach this year. Our committee consists of teachers and paraprofessionals that feel confident as users of technology. We meet with Judy Ihlenfeldt, our technology advisor to discuss and decide on training and staff development. Each committee member has a small group of staff that they are responsible for training on technology topics for each month.

This has proven to be successful. The teacher leaders have trained their small groups on topics ranging from iBook lessons, CD-ROMs to enhance curriculum and the use of software programs like Kidpix and Graph Club. By keeping our small groups, the trainers can meet the needs that the teachers are having and the teachers then feel more confident and prepared to deliver technology integration for their students. We will continue to train and grow as our teachers prepare for the arrival of SMART boards in our winter session. I also attended an extremely informative administrative workshop regarding WEB 2.0 tools and look forward into incorporating those into my work at Primary.

- Our Beautification Committee invited a group of parent volunteers to weed and clean up our flowerbeds that we planted last spring. We will utilize an Eagle Scout in the spring as he has volunteered to build a table or bench for our butterfly garden. Last, we are putting a tree in our butterfly garden to decorate with different holiday symbols so that all staff and students can enjoy it during the winter season.

From: David Brown and Ken Hyllberg, Principals

Re: Elementary School Board Report

Date: November 23, 2009

Student Achievement

- As indicated in our School Improvement Plan, our teachers are analyzing MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) data to determine individualized achievement goals for their students. These goals will be shared with parents during November conferences and will be implemented for the remainder of the school year.
- Also as part of our School Improvement Plan, our staff continued their efforts in the RTI (Response to Intervention) initiative. To support RTI, our Reading and Math Specialists are working with our grade level teams to support the data collection process. Using the collected data, teachers make instructional decisions and are better able to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of their students. The interventions for Language Arts and Math are implemented by teachers to close the learning gaps that students may have in those subject areas and are designed to increase the students' ability to access their learning.

Internal Community

- "Dollars for Denim"- Staff members are allowed to wear jeans from November 30th through Winter Break for \$1 per day. The money is going to assist local families in need.
- The week of November 16th-20th was American Education Week. We celebrated our staff efforts throughout the week.

External Community

The Reading Incentive Committee created “Reading Book Bags” to be distributed during conference week. The bags include a variety of materials to help parents coach children to read.

From: Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal
Ana Fuhrer, Associate Principal
Re: Board Report – November 2009

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RTI

Meeting the academic needs of all our learners continues to be the main focus in our school. As Parent/Teacher Conferences are taking place, teachers are having conversations on specific ways parents can support the learning at home, as well as the various ways in which our school is working to provide support at all academic levels.

PBIS

We are continuing the commitment and practice of recognizing students for their good behavior. Individual students and entire classrooms are celebrated and given school wide recognition on a random, yet continual basis. The November Monthly Booster activities were, once again, a big success. Students had the opportunity to look at the office referral data, which shows that the high frequency behaviors are improving. Afterwards, students viewed a clip from President Obama’s speech about the importance of obtaining a good education.

School Play

This year, Intermediate students gave a stellar performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. Our school hosted over 300 parents and family members for both performances on Thursday and Friday November 12th and 13th. We appreciate the dedicated efforts of the directors April Cooksey and Pam Valkenaar, and the assistant director, Jordyn McCormack. They worked with the students and organized parent volunteers who created costumes, painted scenery, worked the bake sale, and sold performance tickets. All funds collected from the presentation are deposited into our student activity fund to be used for future student plays.

Lunch with The Principals

Dr. Ashton and Mrs. Fuhrer have been hosting a lunch meeting each Friday with a small group of students from each side of the school. These meetings allow for the monitoring of how students feel about attending the Intermediate School and how their school year is going. Prior to attending the principal lunch, students are given a list of questions to consider that include items such as: What is the best thing about our school? And, What would you change if you were the principal? Our goal is to have met with groups from every classroom in approximately 18 weeks.

American Education Week

On Wednesday, November 18th, the Intermediate School administrators hosted a morning gathering for staff in honor of American Education Week. We highly appreciate the Board of Education providing the funds for this token of appreciation for all the members of our learning community.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

The Alan Mann Award

The members of the Alan Mann Tribute to Excellence in Teaching Committee at the Intermediate School had the enjoyable task of surprising 41 certified staff and 16 support staff who were nominated for this year's award. The nominees were presented with a certificate personally signed by Dr. Swoboda, along with information on how to proceed with the nomination process. These presentations made their day as each staff member graciously accepted the honor that someone had noticed their hard work.

FROM: Scott Snyder, WMS Principal

RE: Woodland Middle School Report for November 2009

Learning ... to Find Solutions

Student Learning

Response to Intervention/Problem Solving –

The WMS RtI Committee, which is comprised of core teachers (6th, 7th and 8th grade), special education teachers and PE/Exploratory teachers, has been working diligently to gather resources needed to develop teacher-friendly materials designed to assist staff in understanding the basics of RtI. Once completed, the committee will re-meet with individual teams to review the documents and assist teams with managing individual student RtI folders.

WMS Mission/Vision Development

Our Mission/Vision Subcommittee of the Middle School Review Committee has been meeting to condense the ideas and themes provided by staff into sample mission and vision statements. The subcommittee plans to finalize the mission and vision statements by the winter break.

Fiscal Responsibility

FACT Meetings with WMS Staff

I have held six separate meetings thus far with various groups of WMS staff members who will likely be impacted by the pending budget reductions (one each with 6th grade staff, 7th grade staff, 8th grade staff, paraprofessionals, exploratory staff and non-tenured staff). While the level of concern among staff members is high, the vast majority of the staff appears to understand the economic factors at work and realize that these measures are necessary. Following each meeting, I have had various staff members approach or email me expressing their gratitude to me for taking the time to meet with them personally.

Internal Community / Climate & Culture

American Education Week

In recognition of American Education Week, our administrative team hosted an ice cream social after school for our staff on November 17th. Ice cream served by the administrative team and all the favorite toppings were available. It was a relaxing way in which to spend some quality time with our staff.

External Community

Hall of Heroes

The district's *Hall of Heroes* campaign for Veteran's Day was well received at WMS. Our school display contains the photographs and biographies of over 40 veterans and active duty personnel. The display will remain posted for the entire month of November.

District 50 Holiday Food Drive

Along with serving as a collection site for the district's annual food drive, the WMS staff will be joining the rest of the district in a fundraising effort to support the food drive by collecting \$1 per day per staff member during the week of November 30th for the privilege of wearing jeans to work. Funds raised will be used to purchase Wal-Mart gift cards to accompany the food baskets.

From: Dr. Anne K. Swanson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability
Re: November Board Report

Learning . . . to find Solutions

NCLB

Woodland has been selected to pilot math and science tests in grades 3, 5 and 8 during the first week of December. We received notice of this pilot last week.

We are currently completing the District Improvement Plan (DIP) for Board approval. The DIP is a compilation of the two School Improvement Plans already approved.

Dates for FY10 ISAT are:
3/2 – 3/12

MAP/Assessment

Remaining testing dates for FY10 MAP are:
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)

Curriculum

Writing curriculum will be the focus of staff development in grades 1-3 for the remainder of this year.

ESL/Bilingual

The ISBE now requires that we test and service ELL students in our Pre-K programs. The Pre-IPT assessment will be used to identify children acquiring English.

Response to Intervention (RtI): Tier I and Tier 2

On November 13, a trainer was in the district for a full-day training on “ReadAbout” a Tier 2 reading program for implementation at the Intermediate School and possibly at the Middle School.

On November 17, a representative from Scholastic trained math specialists on “Do the Math” a new Tier 2 math program.

Reading and math specialists are all working with students in Tier 2 (supplemental) services. Our goal is 100% grade level proficiency and achieving AYP.

Technology Review Committee

The Technology Review Committee is now working in three groups of grade level spans: early elementary, elementary and middle school. The goals of the committee are to review our current technology instruction, align our curriculum to the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) and to increase the integration of technology into our daily classroom instruction. The goal of the committee is to have a written computer curriculum by the end of the year. The committee is comprised of technology teachers, classroom teachers and administrators.

Woodland is now able to host Moodle at Woodland rather than on the WTHS site. Lily Melamed, Middle School language arts teacher, has been the pioneering user of Moodle at Woodland.

From: Don Selzer, Director of Operations & Facilities

Re: Operations & Facilities Report for November 2009

“Learning...To Find Solutions”

Going Well

- The South Campus maintenance staff attended training for the new wireless clock system, November 5, 2009.
- The O&F Leadership team met with Waste Management, November 12, 2009, to discuss ways to reduce costs through co-mingling of recyclables.
- Don attended the administer academy class “Technology for Administrators: How to Lead Change in the Classrooms with Blogs, Wikis and Podcasts”, November 19, 2009.
- O&F staff received annual Slip, Trip, Fall and Strain Prevention training, November 23, 2009, from the District’s workers comp insurance provider.
- The O&F Leadership team were guests at the Northeast Illinois Association of School Business Officials meeting, November 6, 2009. Numerous Facility Managers were invited as well to generate interest in establishing a Facility Manager group to discuss the many facility issues we all encounter daily and hopefully standardize some practices.
- The District’s public service program realized 296 hours of work for the first two weeks of November, thanks to all District Representatives for Public Service. The work accomplished consisted of: mowing District properties, raking leaves, turning over playground mulch, sweeping parking lots, various grounds tasks throughout the District, trash pick up throughout the District and vehicle cleaning/inspections as weather allowed.

From: Jennifer Tempest Bova

Date: November, 2009

Re: November Board Report

Learning...to find solutions

Going Well

- **Community Newsletter:** Our fall newsletter was mailed out this month to all taxpayers. It is also available as a pdf on our website and was sent electronically to our families, residents and media representatives through our electronic communications: Special Delivery and Key Communicators. We anticipate sending out the winter edition in February.

- **Media Communications:**
 - Press Releases: 39
 - Articles: 55
- **Transportation Communications:** As mentioned in last month's report, we are working with Honeywell so that they may assist us with the creation of bus route groups. Our hope is that the transportation staff will be trained soon so that they will be able to manage the system and further enhance communication with our families.
- **Website Counter:** As of November 23, 214,568 people have visited our website homepage since July.

FROM: Penny Dagley, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
 RE: November Board Report

Learning.... To Find Solutions

Going well

- With the assistance of the nurses and the office staff in the schools I am monitoring the incidence of flu in the district both among students and the staff. To date student absenteeism is pretty consistent with our expectations for this time of year. There has not been an escalation of staff absenteeism either. The nurses have met with all of the students in their schools to review proper hygiene and I have met with the staff in all of the schools as well. We have a website for the flu to keep our parents and community aware as well.
- The November SPEAC meeting was held on Tuesday November 17, 2009. The topic this month was transition. Parents were invited to come and meet the supervisor of the school to which their child will be transitioning. As an example, parents of students who will be moving from Elementary to Intermediate next year had the opportunity to meet Harriet Jones, the supervisor at the Intermediate. We also invited the supervisors from both Warren and Grayslake High School to meet with our 8th grade parents.
- We have received positive feedback from parents at the Elementary School about the Let's Talk boxes.
- Staff from Elementary West, Elementary East and Primary will be trained in PBIS on December 2nd and 3rd. This is in anticipation of implementing PBIS at these schools for the Fall 2010.

FROM: Dann Giesey, Directory of Technology

RE: November Technology Board Report

Technology Update

➤ Computer Replacement Project

Following is the status of the Computer Replacement at Elementary East and Elementary West Schools:

- Elementary West School Classrooms Completed
- Elementary East School Classrooms will be completed by November 23.

Staff has scheduled the lab implementations for the week of November 23 during conferences so that instruction would not be disrupted.

Elementary East and Elementary West computer replacement will be completed by November 25.

Feedback so far has been very positive.

➤ Xerox Copier / Laser Printer Replacement Project

Implementation of the school and building copy centers has been completed including the installation of new Xerox printer drivers on all computers.

We sent out a survey to staff to gain information regarding the reliability and further training needs. Those results will be compiled by the week of November 30 and will be provided to the print and copy committee on Wednesday December 2.

The technicians completed the removal of the laser printers at all schools and buildings with the exception of libraries, labs, special education and specific administration requirements. We are investigating options and will be creating a disposition letter for the board's approval by February board meeting.