

AUGUST REPORTS

The following reports were submitted in writing for the month of August:

Primary School

- Kindergarten classes will be starting with an average of 17 students. More updated numbers will be provided in the September report.
- 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.
- Our Back-to School staff meetings were informative. Primary's Going for the Gold theme was incorporated throughout the two days. The second day was spent doing curriculum and assessment planning and review. Kindergarten teachers used assessment data to compare their previous class data to the whole school data. Sub-groups of gender, race and ethnicity were examined.
- Once again this year the Primary School started Early Childhood two days before Kindergarten. This works very well and allows us to focus on each group of students when they arrive instead of having them all arrive on the same day.
- This year a new parent pick-up procedure for all students at Primary will be instituted. When parents come to pick up their child for the first time they must show identification and be on the approved list of people on Skyward who may pick up the student. The person is then given a "Primary Pick Up Ticket" and must present that ticket to the adult on parent dismissal duty to have their child released to them. Anytime a child is picked up the person must have a "Primary Pick Up Ticket." The district is always looking for ways to improve our students' safety and security. So far, parents have been very pleased with the increase in security.

Elementary School

- The administration 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 became familiar with the Woodland learning community. Throughout the year, new staff members will meet frequently with their mentors to review procedures and complete the monthly mentor checklists.
- Staff development for the LA implementation is going well. On August 18, the reading specialists inserviced classroom teachers on the new series and curriculum. They were given specific information for Smart Start and Unit 1. Smart Start is the initial review unit for the McGraw-Hill series for grades 1 and 2. It reviews essential concepts for students before moving on to Unit 1. Teachers had plenty of time to read the materials, plan the first few weeks of instruction and organize their schedules to fit in new components of the curriculum. During the first day of teacher institute, the representatives from Scott Foresman provided an overview of the series for 3rd grade teachers. Teachers received lesson plans, all the components of the curriculum and pacing guides.

Intermediate School

- Our Bridges program began smoothly this year. Mr. Simmons and Dr. Tyrell worked very hard in collaboration with our Bridges teachers, Karen Sweeting and Ellen Harris, to review student data and determine which students were in need of the program to help ensure success on the ISAT test. Lists for students were developed for each quarter. Students for the first quarter started classes the first full day of student attendance.
- Our new School Improvement/Team Leaders (SI/T Leaders) met on August 18th with the leadership team to discuss how the team could better support the District's Strategic Plan. The group was restructured into three teams, each one focusing on one of the District Strategic Plan Goals:
 - Goal #1 - Student Achievement. This team is made up of five SI/T leaders and will target areas that include RtI, MAP, Differentiated Instruction, LA Adoption and Data Management.
 - Goal #3 - Internal Community. There are three SI/T leaders on this team, and they will focus on PBIS, Golden Paw and Climate Survey Initiatives.
 - Goal #4 - External Community and Staff Support. This team of three SI/T Leaders will gather survey information from staff, students, and parents. They will also develop task lists and monthly reminders for staff.

Our SI/T Leaders will meet weekly and will approach the different tasks assigned them as a team instead of the past practice of assigning one or two school improvement leader(s) to a specific committee.

- Our teacher in-service activities were well received by staff. On Monday the 25th there was a state of the school presentation delivered by the leadership team focusing on MAP data and climate survey data. Proposed school goals were presented for staff input. Team Leaders presented the new SI/T Leader structure through the use of the game show Family Feud.
- General music teachers continued developing the drama curriculum for their classrooms over the summer. This year we will have the drama curriculum fully implemented for both fourth and fifth grade students. Students will be learning the drama portion of the curriculum for approximately two weeks each quarter. The timing will depend on teacher pacing with the music syllabus, along with the sharing of the drama resources among the teachers.

Middle School

- *PBIS Kick-Off* – WMS students began their school year learning to R.O.A.R., an acronym for: ***Be Respectful, Take Ownership, Be Accepting and Be Ready.*** Staff in-service activities on Monday and Tuesday, August 25 & 26th focused heavily on Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). Our staff ROAR Committee trained all staff in the lessons that they then presented to students throughout the day on Thursday, August 27th. 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. A letter to parents introducing PBIS was sent home on Friday, August 29th.

Curriculum and Instruction

- The revised ISAT scores were released in August rather than November as originally stated by the Illinois State Board of Education. We will have a complete and detailed report at the September Board meeting and will include scores with and without LEP students so that we can compare FY06 and FY07 scores with our FY08 scores.
- Language Arts training for the new adoption took place in grades 1-3 on August 18th and grades 4-5 on August 14th. Training is scheduled throughout the year during Institute Days and SIP days.
- The reading specialists are to be commended for their extraordinary support of teachers in terms of staff development, distribution of new language arts materials, inventorying of new materials to ensure that teachers have everything they were supposed to have, development of pacing guides, photocopying of transparencies for teachers, etc. The implementation is on-track and the new assessments that are part of the adoption have begun.
- ESL and bilingual teachers have received new materials in conjunction with the language arts adoption. The materials are in English and either replace or support (depending upon the child's English proficiency) the grade level curriculum.
- Curriculum Night for gifted programs was held on September 2nd at the Intermediate School. Approximately 400 parents met their children's gifted teachers and had an opportunity to ask questions. The administration received several suggestions from parents about improvements to this event.

Human Resources

- The annual hiring report including staff retention will be provided to the Board at the September Board meeting.
- The Human Resources Department is revising the substitute teacher handbook.

Operations and Facilities

- The O&F department and Citywide worked very hard this summer to prepare the Middle School for the district wide Proof of Residency, August 13-16, 2008 and Sneak Preview district wide on August 23rd.
- O&F staff attended training regarding the recently installed "Green" cleaning solutions and mixing stations.
- The District's public service program realized 383 hours of work for the month of August, thanks to all District Representatives for Public service. The work accomplished consisted of grass cutting, weed trimming/pulling, planting of flowers, trash pick up and District vehicle cleaning and body repairs.

Student Support Services

- Bruce Bohren, Board President, and Dr. Joy Swoboda, Superintendent presented a power point presentation on Woodland District 50 developed by the External Committee at the August 26, 2008 meeting of the Breakfast Exchange Club.
- The Middle School had a successful kick-off to the PBIS initiative. The administration already has received positive comments from parents during curriculum nights. Penny Dagley is working with the Intermediate and Elementary School Administrators to discuss timelines for implementation of PBIS in their schools as well.

- The Parent Student Handbook was distributed to youngest only. This is a return to our past practice where they were distributed at Proof of Residency.

Technology

- The cabling required for the new phone systems was completed at the South Campus. Information regarding new phone numbers for the district's schools will be forthcoming.

Transportation

- * We currently have 3 driver candidates in training with 79 regular drivers.

