

FEBRUARY MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- There are currently fifty-three students enrolled in the K Plus program. Allison Gnad and Peggy Raube presented the Kindergarten Plus program at the No Child Left Behind Conference earlier this month.
- The Student Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended. Overall, 95% of parents attended this February. We had 100% attendance from our parents with students in the bilingual program.
- The Beautification Committee has been working on numerous projects around the school to create an inviting and motivating environment for students, staff and parents. The latest project was a mural in the parent waiting room of Wiley the Wildcat.

ELEMENTARY EAST AND WEST SCHOOLS –submitted by Dr. Ken Hyllberg (Elementary East) and Ann Goldbach (Elementary West), principals

- 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, daily 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.
- The 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!
- OLSAT testing took place the week of February 17th. First and second grade students participated and the data will be used as an additional data point for cognitive ability.
- 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.
- The scheduling committee convened to gain feedback on the draft schedule. The elementary schedule will more closely align with the Intermediate and Middle school schedules. It will also include more time for Tier 2 interventions, common planning times and incorporate daily PE.
- The Elementary West 2nd grade music program titled "A Road Trip Across America" was very successful this year. Ms. Underwood and Ms. Floeter did a wonderful job teaching the students complicated musical pieces combined with singing, instrument and movement. 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.
- Student, parent and teacher conferences took place this month as well. Participation levels were high. At Elementary East, 93% of the parents attended conferences with their children. At Elementary West, 86% of the parents attended. Students shared their growth in learning through their portfolios picks.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Kent Ashton, principal

- *ISAT Testing:* As the Intermediate School is preparing for the upcoming State testing the first week of March, we are implementing a student preparation component in an effort to improve test scores. Research has shown that if students have a snack just before taking a standardized test they are able to concentrate better. Therefore, we will be providing each student a snack, created and developed in collaboration with Arbor food service, prior to taking the test each day during the four-day ISAT test week. In the past, several teachers have provided a snack for their children out of their own pocket. This program will make the practice uniform throughout the school by providing a piece of fruit and snack cracker for each child just before taking the test. Our hope is this will indeed lead to improved scores on our state tests.
- *Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences:* Our Student/Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended this February. We experienced an 88% attendance rate. Our staff works very hard to accommodate parent schedules in an effort to communicate student progress.
- *In-School Field Trip:* Representatives from the Lake County Forest Preserve provided some of our 5th grade students with an exciting educational experience during their in-school field trip lesson on birds. Students learned interesting facts about birds of prey and were dazzled when they got an up-close view of a magnificent Red Tailed Hawk! We appreciate the collaboration of other governmental agencies that partner with us to provide these educational experiences for our students.
- *Abraham Lincoln Turns 200:* On February 12th, our entire school took a moment to pay tribute to President Abraham Lincoln. In honor of his 200th birthday, the Intermediate School participated in the nationwide choral reading of the Gettysburg Address.
- *Positive Behavior Intervention Systems:* The Intermediate School has begun the process of implementing the Positive Behavior Intervention System. This is the same program the Middle School implemented this year. The Intermediate School core team has been established and attended the required two-day training on the implementation of PBIS on February 3rd and 4th. There will be 15 staff members on the team including Dr. Ashton and Dr. Tyrell. We are planning an introductory presentation for staff in May along with a survey to gather data on greatest areas of need for improvement concerning discipline. Our kick-off event will be held during teacher institute days in August.
- *Gurnee Breakfast Exchange Club:* On February 24th of this month, one of our fourth grade students, Elise Clock, received the Outstanding Citizen award from the Gurnee Breakfast Exchange Club. This award is given to students that display outstanding citizenship at school, at home, and in the community. Her teacher Sharon Clark, nominated Elise for the award. The Exchange Club is recognizing students from all area Gurnee schools this year (Gurnee 56, Millburn, Warren Twp HS, and our District). The ceremony was held at the Warren Township High School O'Plaine campus with the Exchange Club members and Elise's parents in attendance. Dr. Ashton was on hand to represent the Intermediate School along with Mrs. Dagley who is the district representative to the Exchange Club. This is the organization that presented the Intermediate School with the Freedom Shrine plaques last year.
- *Hoops for Heart:* The Intermediate School again participated in the American Heart Association annual fund drive. In the past we have hosted the Jump Rope for Heart program. This year for a change of pace, the physical education staff facilitated the Hoops for Heart

program. The students raised a total of \$23,017, short of our school wide goal. This is yet another sign of the difficult economic times we are currently in. The Intermediate School has consistently ranked among the top ten schools in the Midwest region in past years for funds raised. Last year's total was in excess of \$40,000. Still this is an impressive amount that is donated to the Heart Association for the research and education of heart disease and stroke.

- *Spring Musical*: The Intermediate School hosted the annual Spring Musical "Annie Jr." on Thursday and Friday, February 26 & 27. Fifty-three cast members and sixteen stagehands made up the cast for "Annie Jr." under the direction of Andrea Little, April Cooksey, and Amy Werner. It is quite amazing how professional this performance has become. Our directors do a great job with the students. Rehearsals started in early December, which requires a tremendous amount of dedication on behalf of the directors and cast members. This was a delightful performance that was well attended each night.
- *Community Outreach*: March is Music In Our Schools Month and to celebrate, the Intermediate bands will perform three very special community outreach concerts. The 6 bands will join together into 3 groups to perform. Members from the internal and external community have been invited to listen to these talented musicians and enjoy some light refreshments with the children after the music. The students made invitations for their concert, and are working very diligently on learning new music to perform. The bands are very excited to perform new songs from the Patriotic Favorites book, which was purchased with the help of Music Boosters. In preparation for these performances, the students have been given the opportunity to audition to play a solo at the concert. The concerts were held on: Wednesday, March 18th – 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. (Copland & Haydn Bands) (Members from the Park District, Village Hall, Educational Foundation, Rotary Club, a senior housing complex, internal community); Thursday, March 19th – 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. (Bach & Mozart Bands) (Warren Township Senior Center; Thursday, March 19th – 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. (Beethoven & Sousa Bands) (Bus Drivers, internal community).

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- *Oney Judge Presentation* – On January 22nd, nationally known living history presenter Shelia Arnold treated WMS 7TH grade students to a presentation. Ms. Arnold appeared in the character of Oney Judge, personal maidservant to Martha Washington for four performances in our LRC. Ms. Arnold has done such presentations at Colonial Williamsburg and the National Social Studies Association's national conventions. Her vivid portrayal brought colonial history to life for our students as she told Oney Judge's story and answered questions about the lives of African Americans in the Colonial Era. This was Ms. Arnold's second visit to our school and was sponsored by the Woodland PTA Cultural Arts Committee.
- *Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences* - Our Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences held February 11-13 were well attended. Conferences were held for 75% of our students.
- Our Family-School Partnership coordinated a staff dinner of Brown's Chicken and mostaccioli during the evening of student/parent/teacher conferences.
- *Taste of College* – In cooperation with the Lake County Chamber of Commerce and three of our local colleges and university, 65 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 digital photography, hands-on science experiments, computer science, and oil painting.

- *Woodland Wishes -Woodland Educational Foundation Fundraiser* – Many WMS teams and staff members have been planning and preparing auction items for the Woodland Educational Foundation’s fundraiser, *Woodland Wishes*.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY – submitted by Dr. Anne Swanson, Assistant Superintendent

- Spring MAP/Assessment testing takes place from April 7-30 (schedule varies by school).
- Illinois Textbook Loan funds will be used to update math books at the Middle School. This year's funds are for the purchase of books in grades 7-12. The books have been identified and the representative from McDougall-Littell had good information for our teachers.
- Based upon feedback from the Board forum and follow-up survey, the district will begin a thorough review of our technology curriculum in FY10 as well as the after school foreign language program.
- Char Cain, the Northern Illinois Reading Recovery trainer who is housed at Woodland, held a regional Reading Recovery training for teachers from all over the area. The group met for a morning. Reading Recovery was identified by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the best, evidenced-based, interventions on its "What Works" clearinghouse.

HUMAN RESOURCES – submitted by Kim Burke, Director

- *FY10 Teacher Recruitment Fairs* – On March 7, 2009 the district will attend the Lake County Education Job Fair to recruit for the FY10 school year.
- *FY10 Student Teacher Placement* – We have begun processing our student teacher placement for the FY10 school year. It is important for Universities to get a head start with placements to ensure we have the staff to accommodate the number of requests we receive. Additionally, throughout the year we place student teachers for observation hours, which range from 15 – 30 hours.
- *Wellness Screening* – This marks the third 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 \$68.50. 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 is scheduled for April 14 and April 21, 2009.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES (O&F) – submitted by Don Selzer, Director

- Elementary East heat trace system over the computer lab (room 102), has been in operation for two snow falls and appears to be operating properly.
- Gurnee Fire Department conducted mid year inspections at Middle School, Elementary East and Primary with no major discrepancies.
- Gilfillan Callahan Nelson (GCN) Architects have conducted preliminary noise level surveys in the MS cafeterias and are preparing a solution to reduce noise levels in the cafeterias.
- O&F leadership team has been meeting with South Campus principals and staff to create a solution for increased shelving in classrooms with new univent systems. There is Health Life Safety money in the FY09 budget for this expense.

- The O&F staff set up and monitored 175 after-school or non-school events for the month of February, thanks all O&F staff.
- The District's public service program realized 918 hours of work for the month of February, thanks to all District Representatives for Public Service. The work accomplished consisted of snow removal and detail work (clearing storm drains, fire hydrants, etc.), install racking and tool box on grounds trailer, continued installation of racking at South Campus pole barn, trash pick up throughout the District and vehicle cleaning/inspections as weather allowed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS –submitted by Jennifer Bova, Public Relations Specialist

- *External Committee:* The committee has begun its work to review the findings and recommendations from the Jasculca-Terman report.
- *Taste of College:* Our third annual Taste of College program kicked off on February 19 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 12 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. at Warren Township High School. The following workshops are being held:
 - **College of Lake County-19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL**
 - Digital Photography
 - **DeVry University-1075 Tri-State Pkwy, Suite 800, Gurnee, IL**
 - Science: Experiment with Oobleck
 - **Robert Morris College-1507 Waukegan Rd., Waukegan, IL**
 - Oil Painting
 - Computer Exploration through the game of Jeopardy!

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director

- *Computer Replacement:* Implementation of the new computers at Primary and Intermediate was completed on Thursday February 19th. The project was completed four weeks ahead of the originally planned schedule.
- The LRC software replacement was approved at the February 25th board meeting. Follett Destiny Quest was the selected software package and vendor.

TRANSPORTATION – submitted by Roberta Magera, Director

- Currently we have 79 drivers on staff.
- We have conducted our second bus stop committee meeting on February 9th. In addition to community members we have several administrators that are part of the committee. During this meeting we used small groups to discuss the different ways that guidelines could be used to establish the maximum distance students could walk to bus stops. Members also reviewed the maps marked with the 1-1/2 mile radius of each of our schools and the various stop locations that we have for each grade center level. We also discussed how stops are created at this time and briefly touched on how routes are established. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 9th and we will be providing committee members with information on how far current students walk to a bus stop. It is our hope that we will be able to set the guidelines by the end of this meeting.
- Woodland Transportation will be hosting the Lake County Association for Pupil Transportation's first annual school bus rodeo on Saturday, May 2nd. The rodeo consists of skills testing in several areas, in addition to driving skills. The winner of our local area will

receive a trip to the Illinois State rodeo this summer to compete. Additional information will be available next month.