

JANUARY MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- Per the Year Long Assessment Schedule, Kindergarten students took the Developmental Spelling Test, Math Interview and the Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy (ISELL) in January in order to assess students for needs of services.
- A Lock-Down Drill was conducted on January 22.
- The Institute Day held on January 16th was very educational and informative. In the morning staff chose from a menu of staff development options such as Spanish, Sign Language and Technology. In the PM Early Childhood and Kindergarten were engaged in activities for their specific population such as Test Tracker and Aimee Solutions.
- On Saturday January 24 Laurie Retsky and Evelyn Cacioppo, our Primary Social Workers, presented “Parenting 101” for approximately 30 parents.
- Our Family School Partnership has begun planning for the Readers are Leaders Day on March 13.
- The External Committee has been busy promoting the next Pre-School Screening by delivering flyers to apartment complexes and contact people in Park City. The screening on February 6th will be held in Park City. We are looking to increase our students who are eligible for the WELE program. Last year we had seventy-four students four-year-old students from Park City who did not attend pre-school.

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

- On the January 16th Institute Day, grade level teachers attended language arts inservices focusing on the new language arts series, writing and updated ISAT information. Teachers were actively engaged in developing lesson plans and learning how to assess reading extended responses.
- This month, 1st and 2nd grade teachers, LDR teachers and reading specialists participated in a 6-Traits writing workshop held during the day. Laura Beltchenko, Assistant Superintendent from Wauconda, presented ways to teach the different traits of writing using literature and mini-lessons.
- The mid year reading MAP assessment was administered to students who scored at or below the 35th percentile, resource students, bilingual students and any new students to the district. The purpose of this mid year MAP is to gather additional assessment data to monitor growth. This information will also be used to provide appropriate services from Bridges, reading specialists and math specialists.
- As part of our reading incentive committee work, the month of January is designated as Book Buddy Month for all three-grade levels. Students enjoyed reading books with buddies from their class. Many teachers from the same hall or house color shared the activity with each other. This promotes the love of reading and the importance that reading plays in our lives.
- In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr., students learned about his important historical contributions. His vision ties into our core values such as caring, kindness, respect and citizenship. Teachers and students read stories, made posters reflecting his achievements, and displayed them in the halls to share with other students.

- The schools continue to reward positive behavioral choices and build community with our students through various monthly activities such as handing out certificates, bumper stickers, house assemblies, lunches with the principal, etc.
- During the month of January, students from all grade levels enjoyed the MAD SCIENCE assemblies. The students learned about solids and liquids, gases, friction, forces and motion. The MAD SCIENCE assemblies fit perfectly with our science curriculum and support it with engaging hands-on activities. Again, we would like to send out deepest gratitude to the PTA who provides the financial support for our assemblies.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Kent Ashton, principal

- The Intermediate School held mid-year MAP reading tests for our students January 7th – 13th. Teachers have requested this mid-year reading test to gauge student progress toward their reading goals. This allows our teachers to make any mid-course corrections necessary to help prepare the children for the ISAT tests in March.
- The teachers in-service day held on January 16th provided a variety of choices for our staff members including language arts training and guided reading strategies.
- *Wildcat Burger*: The results in! We have an official burger for the Intermediate School! Arbor Management in collaboration with the Intermediate School's Food Focus group consisting of student representatives from fourth and fifth grades created four different types of burger creations to be considered for the Wildcat Burger; the BLT burger, pizza burger, taco burger, and chili burger. Students were allowed to vote in their classroom for their choice to be called the Wildcat Burger. The winner was the BLT burger. The winner was announced on January 14th and appeared on the menu January 21st. We appreciate the partnership with Arbor that allows students to have a voice in the school lunch menu items.
- During the last week of January, the Intermediate students and staff welcomed the return of our resident poet, Bill Buzcinski, with his program, A Child's Voice, to our learning community. All participants were treated to an amazing adventure into the world of poetry through group assemblies. The students were then given the opportunity to meet with Bill in smaller group settings, throughout the week. The students utilized that time to create and share their own poems. As usual, the most meaningful cultural experiences are brought to life by the generous sponsorship of our PTA Cultural Arts Fund.
- *Golden Paw*: On January 30, 2009, our second quarterly Golden Paw Event took place in the Intermediate Building. As part of our Positive Behavior Incentive Program, the event is designed to teach and re-teach the appropriate behaviors that are expected in our school. As part of the occasion, all Intermediate students attended assemblies that reviewed the importance of our High Five Behavior Expectations and teamwork. A game show format was utilized for the presentation and student involvement was used to model expected behavior. The students shared their experiences and the administrators served as the game show hosts. Following the assemblies, the students were divided into smaller teams amongst their hall color and staff members lead activities in teambuilding, cooperation, and working together.
- *School Newsletter*: In February we will be introducing our first issue of the new Intermediate School Newsletter! This will be a monthly communication published by the administrative team, with the purpose of communicating essential information and sending reminders to our families.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- On January 16th, WMS faculty participated in a day long workshop entitled *Teaming – Kicking It Up a Notch!* The workshop was presented by National Middle School Association presenters, Jill Spencer and Chris Toy. The day's activities were customized to meet the needs identified by both our staff and a recent middle school audit. The topics covered/explored included: Setting Team's Best Working Conditions, Moving from Good to Great, and Grading & Homework: Finding the appropriate balance between team autonomy and school-wide consistency. According to the feedback from the evaluations received from staff, they found the workshop very beneficial. The Middle School Review Committee will be working with information and feedback gained during this workshop to continue work on our school's action plan.
- The students in our Bilingual and ESL Programs will be taking the ISBE English proficiency test, ACCESS for English Language Learners, the weeks of January 19th and 26th. Each student will take tests on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The speaking test must be administered to each student individually. Our assistant principals and ESL teacher will be administering these tests. Unlike the ISAT, the ISBE requires the persons administering these tests to have specialized certification.
- On January 6th we conducted our school-level finals for the *National Geographic Bee*. Each team sent its "top geographer" to the finals. After five rounds of *very* difficult questions, eighth grade student Morgan Rowe came away with top honors. Morgan advances to the next round where she will be given a written exam that will determine whether or not she advances to the state-level competition. Seventh grader Patrick Burba earned runner-up honors.
- The top spellers from each of our 25 teams faced off on January 22nd in our school-level spelling bee. Eighth grade student Evan Yin repeated as our school champion having won last year as well. Eighth grade student Bryce Wenzel was runner-up. Evan will now move on to represent Woodland Middle School at the sectional bee to be held Wednesday, February 25th at Palombi Middle School.
- *Science Fair* – 96 students participated in the Woodland Science Fair held January 27^h. 45 of these students' projects were judged as outstanding and will move forward to the regional competition. These students are in the process of refining their science fair projects for competition at the regional science fair that will be held Saturday, March 14th at the Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights. We are extremely proud of the efforts put forth by our students, science department faculty, and the community members who served as judges in helping make this year's science fair such a success.
- Our 7th Grade Open House and Family Math Night was held on January 27th. The evening began with an awards presentation in the gym for the students participating in our school Science Fair. Following the awards ceremony, families visited classrooms to view the science fair projects and participate in family math activities.

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

- The EXPLORE tests will be administered to select 8th graders on Saturday, January 31st. WTHS identified those students they wished to assess and handled all aspects of the testing beyond ordering.
- Mid-year Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing and testing for students new to the district is finished. Mid-year testing is a site-based decision generally reserved for progress monitoring for at-risk and special education students.

- Illinois Textbook Loan funds will be used to update math books at the Middle School. This year's funds are allocated from the Illinois State Board of Education for the purchase of books in grades 7-12.
- The tech advisors are working with Primary on ways to use their new carts of laptops.
- ACCESS testing is underway. ACCESS is an additional state and federal requirement for our English language learners. The kindergarten materials are greatly improved (as is the scoring system for kindergarten), however, the test administration for kindergarteners is taking longer than in previous years.
- Students in 1st and 2nd grade will take the OLSAT February 17-20th. The test measures verbal and non-verbal school ability. It is a cognitive score and one of the factors, along with achievement and classroom performance, we look at to find children who may need advanced or remedial services.

HUMAN RESOURCES – submitted by Kim Burke, Director

- On January 22nd and 23rd screening interviews were conducted for the Elementary West principalship. The staff and parent/community panel interviews will be conducted on February 9th. Following the panel interviews a site visit will be conducted with the finalist. The final candidate will be presented and recommended to the Board of Education on February 25, 2009.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES – submitted by Don Selzer, Director

- The O&F staff set up and monitored 154 after-school or non-school events for the month of January, thanks all O&F staff.
- The O&F staff set up and provided assistance for weekend building access for 127 staff for the month of January, thanks to all District Representatives for Staff Access.
- The District's public service program realized 930 hours of work for the month of January, thanks to all District Representatives for Public service. The work accomplished consisted of snow removal detail work (clearing storm drains, fire hydrants, etc.), continued reorganization of the District's two maintenance garages, assisted with south campus maintenance garage office remodeling. Trash pick up throughout the District and vehicle cleaning as weather allowed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS –submitted by Jennifer Bova, Public Relations Specialist

- The district participated in a webinar hosted by the National School Public Relations Association on blogs. Key points addressed were the fact that the decision to maintain a blog involves a daily commitment.
- The Lake County Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting its annual luncheon that focuses on projections for the upcoming year. Known as the Forecast for Lake County, it will feature updates on Lake County businesses, tourism, and government issues affecting Lake County. William A. Strauss, from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, is the Keynote speaker.
- **Senior Outreach:** The Intermediate School's Band Department is collaborating with the Public Information Department to increase community outreach efforts, primarily with our senior citizens. Three band performances will be taking place from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on March 18, 19 and 20. Warren Township Senior Services has agreed to send a bus of senior citizens to the school for the March 19 performance.

SUPPORT SERVICES – submitted by Penny Dagley, Assistant Superintendent

- The district conducted a pre-school screening at the Community Center in Park City on February 6th. There are 20 students scheduled and will accept walk-ins.
- Our special education parent group met and heard a presentation from a professional in the area of estate planning with an emphasis on necessary considerations when you have a child with a significant disability. We received many positive comments from the parents who were present. The February topic will be Autism.
- A team of 11 Intermediate staff and Mrs. Dagley attended a two-day introductory training on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). The district plans to initiate this program at the Intermediate School in the fall for the 2009-2010 school year and Elementary and Primary in the 2010-2011 school year.
- Tiffany Drake, Ana Fuhrer and Penny Dagley attended an excellent conference on Diversity in Peoria, Illinois on January 31, 2009.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director

- Implementation and installation of the new computers at Primary and Intermediate has begun.
- The LRC staff and the technology team visited Grayslake Middle School on January 9th to see a live demonstration of the Follett Destiny product. District representatives also went to Fremont Elementary on January 15th to see Alexandria in use. A decision on new software will be on the Board agenda on February 25th.

TRANSPORTATION – submitted by Roberta Magera, Director

- Currently we have 80 drivers on staff.
- Weather has been an issue this month. Since we are unable to run our newer buses for any length of time, it has been very hard to warm the buses and eliminate the ice. We are searching for options to help clear windows and unfreeze the wipers.
- We held our first bus stop committee meeting on January 26th. In addition to community members we have several administrators that are part of the committee. At the first meeting the committee reviewed information on the laws and regulations that pertain to school buses. Members were also shown 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 discussed how stops are created at this time and briefly touched on what our goal is for this committee. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th.