

NOVEMBER MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- In support of establishing district wide consistency in teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors in school, the Primary Core Values committee has implemented the Golden Paw – High Five Program. Each classroom in the Primary School has a High Five Hand poster hanging in the room to remind our students of the High Five Core Values: Eyes Watching, Ears Listening, Hands and Feet Still, Brain Thinking and Hearts Caring. Lessons and activities are created for each month.
- Students brought in cans of vegetables during the month of November for our “Celebrate the Harvest-Veggie Math” lessons. Kindergarten completed a variety of math activities, and Early Childhood 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.
- On Friday, November 14, 2008, a Fall Open House was hosted for area preschools. The open house included: a presentation on developmental guidelines and Kindergarten readiness for preschool age children, and a 45 minutes observation in a Kindergarten classroom followed by a question/answer session. Representatives from 10 preschools attended.
- Congratulations to Kindergarten teachers Kathy Opal and Peggy Goettsch who will present “Amazing Alphabet Adventures” at the 28th Annual Illinois ASCD Statewide Conference for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Educators in March.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Ken Hyllberg and Ann Goldbach, Principals

- Language Arts pilot teachers at Elementary East and West met for a half day to articulate about the new Language Arts units and assessments.
- The HANDS program for first grade students is underway. This program involves training parent volunteers to work with students on handwriting, fine motor skills and appropriate pencil grip. The program will start after Thanksgiving break and will continue based upon need.
- The staff climate survey results were shared with all staff members. Committees at East and West will be discussing and addressing the areas of improvement and writing action plans.
- “Dollars for Denim”- Staff members may wear jeans from Thanksgiving through Winter Break for \$1 per day. The money is going to various charity funds such as Summer School Scholarships.
- During American Education week (November 17-21), Elementary staff received treats from the administration as a thank you for their service to the children.
- Rhythm Revolution assembly took place this month. The second graders enjoyed music from Japan and seeing their teachers and peers participate in dances. Students were provided an opportunity to dance and play the drums. We are thankful to the PTA for their financial support of cultural arts.
- The Arbor Food Service Committee met this month. One parent, nine third grade students, and some of the playground supervisors were in attendance. The members discussed food choices to include healthy options, reducing the amount of pizza served, and possible future menu alternatives.

- 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.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal

- *MAP Goal Setting:* The leadership team has met with all students to discuss their MAP Rit score goals for the spring session.
- *Golden Paw Celebration:* The Intermediate School held its first quarter Golden Paw Celebration on Friday, November 14th. The afternoon’s events were designed to not only celebrate the fact that the student body had met both its academic (84%) and behavior (95%) goals for the first quarter, but also to re-teach the expected, appropriate and respectful behavior. The agenda included skits on model hallway behavior, and a “Dancation”, led by faculty members in four designated locations. Throughout the celebration, all students and teachers wrote their goals for the 2nd quarter on strips of green and white paper that were made into chains and displayed in the main hallway of the school. All members of the Intermediate School Learning Community participated in this festive and educational experience.
- *Fire Safety Celebrations:* The Gurnee Fire Department hosted a Fire Safety Celebration for all 4th graders. Students learned the importance of fire safety and worked with their families to create a Family Fire Safety Plan.
- The fall play, “A Tale of Snow White”, hosted over 300 in attendance for both performances on Thursday and Friday November 20th and 21st. Thank you to the directors April Cooksey and Pam Valkenaar. They worked with the children and organized parent volunteers who created costumes, painted scenery, worked the bake sale, and sold performance tickets.
- Mrs. Fuhrer, Associate Principal, and Dr. Ashton, Principal, have been taking the time each week to have lunch with a small group of students during Friday lunchtime. These “Lunch with the Principals” meetings allow the administration to monitor how the children feel about attending the Intermediate School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – submitted by Scott Snyder, Principal

- The Middle School Review Committee has continued to meet. Via the team leaders, information is shared regarding the National Middle School Association’s fourteen characteristics of a successful middle school. The committee is seeking feedback on the areas staff feels the middle school is in need of more training and/or support including best practices on teaming.
- The school level Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies Committee (R.O.A.R. Team) presented first quarter discipline data to the staff at its November staff meeting. The number of suspensions has increased as compared to first quarter of last year. However, the ROAR Team noted that the seriousness of the offenses and the duration of the resulting suspensions were down considerably.
- The Lake County Regional Office of Education held its 20th Annual Fall Attendance Week the week of October 27th – 31st. Woodland Middle School’s attendance rate during this week was 96.68%. This was nearly a 1% increase over our total during last year’s Attendance Week.
- WMS administrators Scott Snyder, Tiffany Drake, Vicki Marble and WMS staff members Tracy Mann and Kelly MacDonald have volunteered their time to assist the Woodland Foundation with its spring *Pot-of-Gold* fundraiser to be held on April 18, 2009.

- The WMS Student Leadership team conducted a holiday clothing & toy drive. All items received will be distributed to local charities. WMS teacher Carrie Peterson and her Student Leadership students coordinated the event.
- At the request of several staff members, Detective Jim McDermott and Karen Page will present an hour-long session entitled *What's New Among Lake County's Gangs*. This session will provide staff with information about current activities among the gangs in Lake County and the impact they can have on middle school children.

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

- Letters were sent to parents for all children whose Fall MAP score is below the recommended level to be proficient on ISAT (math and/or reading) in the spring.
- Deb Pelletiere and Dawn Luebke will travel to Dallas to Scholastic's math leadership showcase to view a program to support math remediation in grades 2-6. Scholastic provides funding to help reduce costs for districts of over 5,000 students.

HUMAN RESOURCES – submitted by Kim Burke, Director of Human Resources

- Open enrollment was held for employees to change or add to their medical and dental benefits as well as to enroll or re-enroll in the flexible benefits program.
- The recruitment plan for the Elementary West Principal has begun.
- The district was selected to complete a survey from the School Reporting Committee of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The EEO-5 survey is a compliance survey required by Federal law and regulation. This survey is a joint requirement of the EEOC and the Office for Civil Rights and the National Center for Education Statistics of the Department of Education. All three agencies use the data collected on this survey for their respective equal employment opportunity programs. This survey is a compliance survey required by Federal Law and accompanying regulations of the above agencies.

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

- Dr. John Barbini, Education Consultant, Lake County Regional Office of Education, conducted the District's Health/Life Safety Annual Inspection. There were minor discrepancies noted, such as missing basketball backboard inspection forms, missing occupancy signs, low batteries in emergency lighting, storage in corridors, properly stored flammables, and missing elevator certificates of inspection. A plan has been implemented to address these issues.
- The District's public service program accrued 613 hours of work for the month of November. The work accomplished consisted of continued organization (installing heavy duty shelving) of Middle School and Primary School maintenance garages, trash pick up and District vehicle cleaning.

SUPPORT SERVICES – submitted by Penny Dagley, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services

- Our holiday food drive has begun! A new twist this year is that we are staging a school bus in front of each school during conference week setting our goal to “fill the bus”. At the same time we are gathering the names of families in need this year and will be distributing food on December 16, 2008. The district is lucky to be assisted this year by the Elementary East Math Specialists and Ginger Wienke, a social worker from Intermediate school.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director of Technology

- Police, local sheriff’s office and Fire Department completed 911 testing of the Woodland School District phone systems.
- All new computers for Intermediate and Primary schools have been received.

TRANSPORTATION – submitted by Roberta Magera, Director of Transportation

- Currently we have 82 drivers on staff.
- Construction continues to be an issue in all parts of the district. Drivers have become quite creative with rerouting and asking permission to do so. They are also reporting to each other, which helps anticipate backups on the road.

