

JANUARY MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Learning...to find solutions

PRIMARY SCHOOL – submitted by Lori Casey, Principal

- Kindergarten students took the Developmental Spelling Test, Math Interview and the ISEL, Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy, in January. These are some of the universal screening instruments we use for Response to Intervention (RtI).
- On January 20 we had approximately 130 people attend our Kindergarten Plus Parent Involvement Night! This is an incredible turnout! I would like to thank Peggy Raube, Allison Coltman, Barb Simon, Erin Landmeier and Danielle Mann. The evening was organized, fun and very educational for parents, students and their younger siblings! Those in attendance left with games that the teachers had made so they could continue playing educational games at home.
- Our Infusing Technology Committee has been working hard this year to bring more hands-on training to our teaching staff. Each committee member has been assigned to a small group of staff to mentor. They meet each month to discuss upcoming lessons for our computer lab and laptop centers in the classroom and they have also introduced the use of Flip video cameras. We are anxiously awaiting our Smart Boards. The funds to purchase the Smart Boards are allocated by an increase in the State Title I grant monies.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Submitted by Dr. Ken Hyllberg and David Brown, Principals

Student Achievement:

- On Monday, January 4th, our teachers attended the scheduled Teacher Institute activities. A presenter from the Illinois PBIS Network, Howard Atlas, introduced PBIS, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, to our staff as part of our district improvement initiatives. PBIS ties in directly with our Core Value and RtI (Response to Intervention) efforts.
- During our January 4th Teacher Institute, as indicated in our School Improvement Plan, our staff continued their efforts in our RtI (Response to Intervention) initiative. Grade level teachers attended language arts in-services focusing on Tier 1 classroom interventions. Teachers were actively engaged in developing interventions to meet the needs of their learners.
- The mid-year reading MAP assessment was administered to students. 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.

- 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.

Internal Community:

- We continue to reward positive behavioral choices and build community with our students through various monthly activities such as handing out certificates, Core Value Kids, house assemblies, lunches with the principal, etc.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – submitted by Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal and Ana Fuhrer, Associate Principal

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

PBIS

As we look back on the first half of the school year and evaluate the initial implementation of the program, there is evidence of staff members demonstrating the effective use of strategies to motivate and reward good behavior, as well as redirect inappropriate behavior in a positive manner. There is also a great focus on students learning and meeting the expectations for specific areas of concern. We are pleased to see these accomplishments!

RTI

We are now successfully piloting Tier 2 interventions in the area of math. Fourth and fifth grade students demonstrating the highest need of academic support in math are now receiving interventions during our morning flexible academic time – Smart Start.

This is a continuous intervention that will be adjusted based on the progress monitoring data. This knowledge is very useful for teachers as they continue to differentiate their instruction in the classroom.

Winter MAP Testing

Winter MAP testing in the area of reading was completed successfully. This assessment provides a good checkpoint for students, and serves to keep them focused on achieving or surpassing their target scores.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

STUDENTS

Our 5th Grade Student Leaders have been very active this year. With the addition of after school meetings, the group has been more cohesive and able to participate in a variety of activities to build awareness of bullying and what bystanders can do respectfully and safely. The group has had productive discussions on how to use the problem solving steps that have been a focus of the ROAR Boosters. Other activities include, making ROAR Announcements to acknowledge students who have demonstrated good behavior, helping with the Food Drive, tutoring peers, and creating bulletin boards for the school. A group of student leaders is currently assisting in the making of a video to be utilized at the upcoming ROAR Booster Event.

Student Leaders have also reached out to the surrounding community through various avenues like making trick or treat bags for the Millburn Community Church Youth Party, decorating Thanksgiving placemats for the residents at Winchester House Nursing Home, participating in the Fire Department Wreath Lighting Ceremony, and attending the School Attendance Ceremony to receive our school award with Dr. Ashton.

STAFF

The January Institute Day took place on the first day back from winter break. The focal point of this Institute Day was the development and expansion of Tier 1 interventions in the areas of reading and math. Teachers also worked on building up their classroom reward systems for good behavior.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – submitted by Scott Snyder, Principal

Student Achievement

ACCESS Testing – The 61 students in our Bilingual and ESL Programs took the ISBE's English proficiency test, ACCESS for English Language Learners, the week of January 11th. Each student took tests on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The speaking test must be administered to each student individually. Our assistant principals, ESL teacher and bilingual teacher administered these tests. Unlike the ISAT, the ISBE requires the persons administering these tests to have specialized certification.

WMS Mission Statement – We have concluded the process of writing our school's mission statement. Individual input was first collected from all staff members. Each academic team was then provided with the common themes found in the staff responses and asked to write a proposed mission statement that best reflected the ideas from the staff. Our Student Advisory Board provided similar input and wrote three sample mission statements. A volunteer writing committee took the sample statements provided by the teams and our students and synthesized it down to the following statement:

At Woodland Middle School we are committed to building positive relationships among all students and staff in order to provide a quality education in a safe environment that promotes academic success, respect for self and others, and life-long learning.

We will next present this mission statement to our PTA and then work on making this mission statement visible to all stakeholders via our website, classroom posters, and other media.

Science Fair – 108 students participated in the Woodland Science Fair held January 26th. 42 of these students' projects were judged as outstanding and will move forward to the regional competition. These students will soon start the process of refining their science fair projects for competition at the regional science fair that will be held Saturday, March 20th 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.

National Geographic Geography Bee – On January 7th we conducted our school-level finals for the *National Geographic Bee*. Each team sent its “top geographer” to the finals. After several rounds of difficult questions, seventh grade student CeCe K. came away with top honors. CeCe 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 grade student Kyndall D. earned runner-up honors and sixth grader Anthony C. came in third.

WMS Spelling Bee - The top spellers from each of our 25 teams faced off on January 20th in our school-level spelling bee. Seventh grade student Hershel R. took home top honors. Hershel will now move on to represent Woodland Middle School at the sectional bee to be held Wednesday, February 17th at Prairie Crossing Charter School.

External Community

7th Grade Open House & Family Math Night – Our 7th Grade Open House and Family Math Night was held on January 26th. 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 of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability

Dates for FY10 ISAT are: March 2 – March 12

MAP/Assessment

Remaining MAP testing dates for FY10 are:
4/13 – 4/28 (Grades 2-8 in math and reading)

FY10 Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) was completed the week of January 25th.
(Grades 1 and 2, verbal and non-verbal cognitive testing)

Curriculum

Elementary math specialists have been accepted to present at the NCLB conference in Chicago in February. The math specialists will be presenting on the role of math specialists in Tier 1 (core curriculum) and Tier 2 (supplemental instruction), i.e. their current roles, on February 10th.

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

- Environ International conducted “Asbestos Awareness Training” on January 4, 2010.
- The District’s liability insurance cooperative conducted their annual physical hazard survey, January 27, 2010, no major discrepancies noted.
- To date the District experienced two snow events requiring staff to assist with snow removal and continue to provide service to the students and staff.

- The O&F staff set up and monitored 155 after-school or non-school events for January.
- The O&F staff set up and provided assistance for weekend building access for 156 staff for January.
- The District's public service program realized 700 hours of work for January. The work accomplished consisted of: detailed snow removal, deep cleaning of various store rooms, various grounds/snow removal equipment repairs, District and vehicle cleaning/inspections as weather allowed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – submitted by Jennifer Tempest Bova

- **External Community Committee:** The committee continues its work to analyze and assess the district website to determine what will best meet the needs of our district in 2010.
- **Media Communications:**
 - Press Releases: 68
 - Articles: 106
- **Taste of College:** Our annual Taste of College program for 8th grade students is set. Classes will be held on February 18, February 25, March 4 and concluding on March 11 with a reception at Warren High School. The College of Lake County, DeVry University and Robert Morris College will host the following courses:
 - **College of Lake County**
 - *Plant Science Basics:* This session will provide students with an overview of up-and-coming plant related careers as we move toward sustainable, green solutions to many of our environmental challenges. Students also will get an introduction to the basics of horticulture and botany, including the chance to create a small terrarium of their own using propagation principles and cuttings.
 - **DeVry University**
 - *Directions in Business:* A workshop designed to provide hands-on experience to those interested in exploring business careers. Students will learn about organizational structure, creating a business plan, business finance, project management and marketing.
 - **Robert Morris College**
 - *Computer Science:* A combination of exploring enhanced computer research followed by an interactive Jeopardy game pitting teams against each other for points.
 - *Oil painting:* Presentation of some basics of drawing and painting followed by hands-on oil painting. Each student will come away with an oil painting they have created.
- **Transportation Communications:** Training took place at the end of this month in order for transportation staff to be versed in the management of the Honeywell system. A letter will go home to families February 1 notifying them of the new communications that will be coming from the Transportation Department.
- **Website Counter:** 327,875 people have visited our website homepage as of January 29, 2010.

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES – submitted by Penny Dagley, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services

- We received our first ARRA reimbursement from SEDOL in the amount of \$656,797.00. At this time we are projecting to request the remainder of our funds for this fiscal year in May.
- The guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education, Department of Special Education have been released for district's to implement for next year on how to determine students as having a learning disability under RtI. Our process for implementing the guidelines must be in place by the start of FY2011 school year.

TECHNOLOGY – submitted by Dann Giesey, Director of Technology

- **Wireless Project**
The Technology Group is working on developing the final plan for the implementation of our wireless network. Part of the project requires that each school and building have a survey completed to determine the placement of wireless access points and equipment. The cost to complete the surveys is based on square footage and would have cost \$34,957. Our Technology Manager worked with a parent in the district who works for CISCO and after borrowing a wireless access point and securing some software, we were able to create our own survey solution.
- **Technology Plan**
The Technology Group submitted a draft of the Technology Plan to the State to be used for e-rate. The Technology Committee will prepare and distribute technology surveys to staff and parents in February as part of the feedback returned for the review of the plan.
- **Website Replacement**
The Technology Group has been working with the external review committee to develop criteria for developing an RFP for the replacement of the district web infrastructure. We will continue our review in February with anticipation of distributing an RFP in March.
- **Audio Visual System Replacement**
The Technology Group begins the investigation work in February that will be necessary to develop the RFP for the replacement and purchase of Audio Visual equipment throughout the district. This project is funded through ARRA and we anticipate the development of the RFP in March.
- **Summer Wonders Registration**
The Technology Group is working with the Gurnee Park District to investigate the opportunity to use the same software program for registration for the upcoming Summer Wonders program. We will meet with Gurnee staff to review the software and functionality and complete a technical review of the hardware, software and security necessary to complete this project.

➤ Smartboards

The Technology Group completed the installation of Smartboard software on all computers at Primary. A portion of this year's Title I funds are being spent on the purchase of SMART boards at the Primary School. All the SMART boards must be labeled as Title I purchases, be listed on the technology inventory as Title I purchases and, at Primary, must be used most directly for students below grade-level. Implementation is scheduled for February.

➤ Moodle

The Technology Group completed the setup and installation of a new Moodle Server for use at Middle School. Moodle is a free open source collaborative interactive web based virtual classroom for teachers to work with students both inside and outside the district.

TRANSPORTATION – submitted by Roberta Magera, Director of Transportation

Currently we have 82 drivers. Of these drivers 4 of them are part time driving only in the morning or only in the afternoon. We are currently seeking four new drivers to fill positions.

Beginning the end of January and continuing through the month of March, all drivers will be participating in a CPR class. This class will be taught by Mr. Bill Burkhardt, a Gurnee Fire Department paramedic.

Bus lease bid opening was held on Tuesday January 19th with Midwest Transit providing the lowest bid at a zero cost increase.

Jennifer Beecher, Marianne Porreca and I received training on using the Honeywell Instant Alert system. We will start using the alert system to notify parents when a bus will be more than 10 minutes late in the morning and afternoon. We will also be updating our hot line with information on late buses as often as needed.