

# Intermediate Insights



Woodland Intermediate School Woodland School District #50

847-596-5900

[www.dist50.net](http://www.dist50.net)



## WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE WEST

Dr. Kent Ashton, Principal

Mr. Kevin Simmons, Assistant Principal

## SPECIAL ED. SUPERVISOR

Ms. Rose Betz

## WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE EAST

Mrs. Melissa K. Passehl, Principal

Dr. Tim Tyrell, Assistant Principal

## *A Note from the Principals...* **JANUARY, 2007**

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the 2006-2007 school year! We are constantly amazed at how much our students are growing – physically, academically, and socially. Just like regular check-ups with the pediatrician to chart physical growth, regular assessments at school help us to monitor student learning. Based on that assessment information, just like a doctor may prescribe a medication or suggest changes to a child's diet, teachers may adjust their instruction or special services may be provided in order to better meet student needs.

While activities in the classroom such as quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, and daily homework serve to evaluate student learning, fall, winter, and spring MAP testing serves as one of our most important assessment tools. You may remember reviewing your child's MAP scores during conferences in November, as well as the goals he/she set in order to achieve his/her growth targets. Students will take the reading MAP test later this month, and because the results are provided within 48 hours, teachers are able to immediately examine their growth in literacy, and make adjustments to flexible groups and goals as needed.

Just as we so often make resolutions to improve our physical health, the month of January provides a great opportunity for students to recommit to their academic growth. Continue to reinforce good study habits and time management with your child, and review their MAP growth goals with them. Don't hesitate to contact us here at school if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress. A strong partnership between home and school is certain to foster great success among our students!

*Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2007,  
Dr. Kent Ashton & Mrs. Melissa K. Passehl*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Please make a note of these important testing dates and help to ensure your child's good attendance.

- ✓ Jan. 29 – Feb. 2: Mid-year MAP Testing (Reading)
- ✓ March 12 – 16: ISAT Testing
- ✓ April 9 – 13: Spring MAP Testing (Math)
- ✓ April 16 – 20: Spring MAP Testing (Reading)



**YOU'RE INVITED...** to register for **SPECIAL DELIVERY!**

- ✓ Parents and community members are encouraged to register for Woodland's Special Delivery on our website ([www.dist50.net](http://www.dist50.net)). By doing so, you'll receive important email bulletins about school closings, district/school events, and other Woodland news.



*Brrr... Recess is an important part of our students' day, providing them with time to move and play. Unless the WIND CHILL dips below ZERO, or it is extremely wet, we will generally go outside. Please make sure your child comes to school dressed for the weather, and be sure to label hats, gloves, and scarves.*



## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

A positive climate and culture for staff and students continues to be an area of focus for our ongoing school improvement efforts. The Student Discipline Committee has met monthly to review data on student behavior, as well as establish a variety of programs that enhance the social and academic development of all students. For instance, students may earn the Golden Paw Merit Award recognizing positive, cooperative, and respectful behaviors, and then participate in quarterly Golden Paw Celebrations that serve as further recognition for the great things our students do every day at the Intermediate School. Ongoing efforts to further reinforce our Golden Paw expectations include school-wide interactive assemblies with our assistant principals, as well as bi-weekly classroom FOCUS lessons that promote student communication and problem solving skills, tolerance, and cooperation. In addition, the PTA just this week sponsored the "Color of Love" assembly – a multimedia presentation – focusing on an anti-bullying message for our fourth graders. Student climate and culture also benefits from our ongoing staff development activities; for instance, during our SIP Day in December, staff participated in workshop sessions devoted to effective classroom management skills, and strategies for addressing challenging chronic student behaviors. Improving our student climate and culture doesn't end there; alternative recess activities, after-school programming, and classroom community service projects and field trips all serve to further enhance our learning community for the benefit of our students' social and academic growth.