

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL OF ROCHESTER

Weekly Bulletin #10 Week of December 8, 2014



Happy Belated Birthday:

Lieve Bain (November 21)
Mary Kay Osborne (November 23)



Monday, December 8 (C Day)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Staff Development Work Group meets in the Staff Lounge

Tuesday, December 9 (D Day)

8:10 am – 8:30 am Briefing: Fifth Grade Book Reports with Ms. Rosario

Wednesday, December 10 (A Day)

8:10 am – 8:30 am Briefing: RPO Violinist, Christiana Reader, plays for us
9:30 am – 11:30 am Make Up/Re Take Photos – Location TBA

Thursday, December 11 (B Day)

2:15 pm-3:15 pm Boy Scouts
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm Operations Meeting in the Library (4th Grade Hosts)

Friday, December 12 (C Day)

7:30 am – 12:00 pm Mr. Piper will be at a Principal's Meeting
RSVP for the CSR Holiday Party



Instructional Notes: Specials Family Notes

CREATIVE EXPRESSION WORKSHOP Kindergarten is working on "Call and Response", learning a song and dance called "Apple Tree" and learning how to keep a steady beat on "I Can Copy That!" They will begin learning "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom" and "Aiken Drum". 1st grade is doing a song called "Everybody Has a Body" to go along with common core work. 2nd grade is studying India in Common Core so we're learning how to cooperate and work together as a dance team as we work on Bollywood Dancing. The patterns are very fast so we must memorize them and think ahead! Come in and dance with us! Patterns - patterns - patterns - all in even numbers! 3rd grade is learning a Welcome song and dance from Liberia, wearing African clothing and playing on African instruments. 4th grade is beginning recorder instruction and learning to read quarter notes and half notes on B, A and G. They will also be learning how to tango! 5th grade will be learning a song/dance recorder piece called "Jamestown" to support their work in SS with new verses created that honor the Native Americans that helped them survive. 6th grade will be studying Ancient Greek music, playing a very challenging ancient Greek song on recorder, barred instruments and learning how to play on autoharp and lap harp. They will also have the joy of working with a doctoral student at Eastman, Ms. Reader. Ms. Reader is a violist in the RPO and will be sharing some classical music with all sixth graders, as per **their request**! Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, here we come!) Ms. Reader will be performing in Briefing for all of us on December 10th!

LIBRARY

Kindergarteners are practicing right and left click on the mouse by exploring KidPix. We are also practicing how to use headphones properly. We will be moving on to thanksgiving soon. ***First graders and second graders*** all enjoyed the author visits last week and liked learning how books are made. We also snuck in a quick lesson on using your observational skills when reading. First graders will be exploring more about this topic as we share the book *Duck & Goose* by Tad Hills. ***Second and third graders*** will be learning about Peter Catalanotto in anticipation of his upcoming visit on November 14th. ***Fourth- sixth graders*** are learning about databases and encyclopedias as a ramp up to internet safety. We will be focusing on biographies this year as the lack of

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

**Please continue to remind your band students to turn in their signed practice forms and method book forms. Approximately half of the band students have brought these in to date. Thank you for your support!

**Concert season is upon us ☺! Please be sure to post the master band schedule for your students to review. Due to performance conflicts between CSR and my other school, you will notice a day change on the upcoming schedule (I will not be here on Wed., Dec. 10th but will be here on Wed., Dec. 17th). Please take note of full band and select ensemble rehearsals and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Upcoming performances:

December 4th (briefing) - Intermediate band members will perform 'America'.

December 18th - Peace Concert: Intermediate and beginner band members will perform.

INSTRUCTIONAL FAMILIES

K:

First:

Second:

Third:

Fourth

Fifth: Esperanza has finally crossed the border with Mama and Miguel. How will she fare in her new life as a farm worker in America? She is already experiencing the pain of not being wealthy by having to sit with the destitute on the train, sharing food and her beloved birthday doll with strangers. Join us for the unfolding adventure found in Esperanza Rising.

Dividing decimals by whole numbers, long division, memorizing unknown multiplication facts and shoring up subtraction skills fill our days with new discoveries about mathematical thinking. We have just reached a Read to Feed milestone...by reading our first 100 hours. Hurray!

Sixth: Remember Prometheus? The Titan who sided with Zeus to battle Cronus? Or perhaps you recall him from his theft of fire? Well our 6th graders are studying him and identifying the components of this story that make it a myth. Choice boards are making our work more interesting.

In Math we're ordering rational numbers. We're learning tricks to make it easier, such as converting improper fractions to mixed numbers or converting fractions to decimals. This week we'll also be exploring one of the most challenging aspects of the 6th grade math curriculum – absolute value. ☺

2014-2015 FUTURE DATES



Peace Concert (at CSR)	Thursday, December 18 (8:00 am)
5 th Grade Field Trip to SOTA for the Nutcracker	Friday, December 19 (9:15 am)
Staff Holiday Party at MacGregors (East Avenue)	Friday, December 19 (4 pm)
Winter Recess (<i>no school</i>)	Monday, Dec. 22 – Friday, Jan. 2
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (<i>no school</i>)	Monday, January 19
February Recess (<i>no school</i>)	Monday, Feb. 16- Friday, Feb. 20
Parent-Guardian Conferences	Tuesday, March 3
Spring Recess (<i>no school</i>)	Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3
Spring Concert (at CSR)	Thursday, May 21 (8:00 am)
6 th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony (at Monroe HS)	Thursday, June 25 (10:00 am)

November 20, 2014

Present: Linda, Lauren (f) & Theresa (s)

Absent: Mary Kay & Laney

Agenda Items and Discussion:

- Review Previous Action Items
- Quick Chart for Teachers Regarding Interpreter Use for Conference
- Report Card Version – long or short?
- Data Analysis
- School Survey Publication

- Review Previous Action Items
 - AWG is still working on composing an email to be sent to department head regarding our questions on grading (6th grade)

- Quick Chart for Teachers Regarding Interpreter Use for Conference
 - AWG is interested in seeking feedback from teachers regarding use of interpreters for Parent Teacher Conference Night
 - Action Item: Lauren will create a short survey and distribute it via email

- Report Card Version – long or short?
 - The long version lists skills for each content area
 - Short version gives only 2 grades – achievement and effort level
 - Shorter version may be friendlier for ELL families
 - Longer version gives more information
 - Action Item: AWG agreed to continue using the short version

- Data Analysis – both as a Work Group and as a School Family
 - Some schools have data walls and examine:
 - NWEA scores
 - Previous years of NYS ELA and Math results
 - Skill areas - % correct/incorrect
 - CSR has used some of these practices in the past
 - Some schools have a half a day for data
 - Last year at our Superintendent's Conference Day we looked at NWEA data

may not be enough. The next Superintendent's Conference Day isn't until March and that may be too late in terms of preparing for the NYS assessments. Should we think about requesting a data coach for our building? Could administrators meet with families monthly to cue us up to look at student data?

- We're collecting data well, but are we utilizing it?
- The NWEA learning continuum is excellent at identifying groups of students who need practice with a particular skill – but how does that fit in with Common Core and Intervention?
- Compass is also a great tool to address those needs identified from the NWEA – but what is our expertise with it? Do we need a refresher course?
- We need to find a method to engage CSR in data analysis
 - Action Item: Continue conversation at our next meeting

Our next meeting is not scheduled until December 18th – do we want to meet before then?
Perhaps Thursday, December 4th?

Reflections:

- We really need to determine how to use data effectively. Which data pieces do we want to look at?
- I think we need guidance with data analysis as a building. How do we synch up so we're all working towards a common goal?
- Do we have a retention policy in our building? Or is this a District decision now?

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2014

Facilitator: Theresa

Scribe: Lauren

Future Agenda Items:

- Data Analysis
- CSR School Survey Publication

December 4, 2014

Present: Linda (s), Laney (f), Mary Kay & Theresa

Absent: Lauren

Agenda Items and Discussion:

- Review Previous Action Items
- Data Analysis
- Progress Monitoring
- Report Card
- School Survey Publication
- Quick Chart for Teachers Regarding Interpreter Use for Conference

- Review Previous Action Items
 - We have tabled 6th grade report card differentiation for a future meeting
 - We will follow up with Lauren regarding interpreter survey,

- Data Analysis – both as a Work Group and as a School Family
 - AWG was wondering how many grade level family families requested a data coach. We would like to make it a school wide initiative.
 - Action Item: Mary Kay will email Jay to see how many grade level families requested a data coach.

- Progress Monitoring
 - We would like to have a standard for data fluency in the building.
 - Action item: Laney will check with each grade level to determine if they are using M-COMP and R-CBM and the frequency of implementation.

Report Card

- First quarter report cards went out smoothly. The process seems to be well refined at this point. AWG will continue to examine other report card issues.

School Survey Publication

- Survey results have been shared with staff, but have not been shared with parents or students. In the past, survey results were made available to all groups. AWG recommends that the survey be conducted every other year with the next one slated for 2015-2016. AWG requests that this recommendation coincide with the SCEP plan.
 - Action Item: Theresa will return work group survey reflections to work groups. Laney will share the survey results at the PTO meeting on December 16th.

Reflections:

We are sorry that Lauren's family had a loss.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2014

Facilitator: Theresa

Scribe: Lauren

Future Agenda Items:

- Differentiation and Report Card Grading

Present: Jennifer B, Jayne A, Maeve A, Cheri F, Danielle V, Jay P

Agenda:

Action Items update
Thanksgiving
Custodian
Parent Compact
Reflect on Fire Marshall/Briefing schedule
SAS funding
Caterina Leone-Monnino meeting (exec dir of School Innovation)
Mission
Special Ed

Action Items update

ABCD chart – approved; Michelle to print and distribute
Custodian

Thanksgiving Event: A list of items and tasks required for this event to take place needs to be outlined and connected to a timeline.

ACTION: Cheri will invite Michelle to share in this brainstorm at mtg on 12/4.

Custodian: Jay met with Derrick Jones in HCI re: Bente workers to request upgrade of Custodian position to Assistant Custodial Engineer so it aligns better with the needs of our building, including placing orders. Mr. Miller will stay temporarily with us until the conversion approvals are complete and new job is posted. He has been working well but does not have the necessary grade. Michelle will be asked to participate in interviews.

ACTION: Cheri will invite Michelle when scheduling.

Parent Compact: Discussion about the presentation. The broad idea of having a Compact between parents/guardians and teachers was valued by workgroup. We would need to tailor the specifics and goals to our own school and our needs. We discussed how volunteers and the Parent Liaison (Mr Basnet) could be used, as well as clarifying how we want Parents to be involved. We discussed ways to incorporate a Compact into Orientation or Report Card Conferences.

ACTION: Jenn B will send a thank you note to Bruce Pollock for sharing his presentation.

ACTION: Jay will collect 3 samples of Parent Compacts from other schools.

Fire Marshall: Review of meeting Capt. Shruyver (documented in minutes from mtg #4) In the spring, we will have a Briefing fire drill on April 24 to practice leaving from risers. Jay spoke inviting Earnest Flagler who could be invited for Fire Safety education presentation.

ACTION: Jay will invite Mr Flagler to attend Briefing April 24.

SAS (Supplemental Academic Services) Funding: This money (approx. \$40k) is connected to Title One and used for Intervention work. In the past, it has been used for staff, such as Ms. Back, to work with small groups of students. The question was raised about whether the money can be used afterschool in some manner, and transportation is then always an issue. Cheryl Wheeler oversees Title One.

ACTION: Jay will invite Cheryl Wheeler to attend 12/4. NOTE: Cheryl Wheeler is now coming 1/15.

Caterina Leone-Mannino will be invited for 1/15. We can use the list of questions we had generated before her visit last year.

ACTION: Maeve will email and invite Caterina to share info about afterschool and community partnerships. NOTE: ODWG exchanged emails re: Expanded Day and other options and decided to work postpone a meeting until the CSR family is surveyed about our goals and needs.

Mission/Vision: We reviewed the preliminary work done 12/2013 on ODWG with the Mission. We will set aside time during 1/15 ODWG meeting.

ACTION: Jay will email link for Living Contract and Mission statement.

ACTION: Maeve will type 12/2013 notes on Mission and 5 precepts voted on by staff last spring.

Special Ed: Our last ICOT classroom graduates this year. The District model for Special Ed has been changing over the years, and is leaning toward a Consultant/Resource Room model. We should now be proactive about what SE looks like here. Laney will run an analysis of our current students who get serviced and make some projections about future needs. We currently have 1 ICOT teacher, and 1.5 resource teachers.

ACTION: Laney will share with us her analysis and projections before Feb. Chris Suriano, exec dir of Specialized Services, and Laney will be invited to our 2/5 meeting to discuss.

School Expo: Reps from school will go to Central Office for Sat Jan 17.

Reflections: "Good job keeping us on task!"

"We got a lot done"

"Thank you Laney for joining us."

FUTURE AGENDA:

CSR's own Parent Compact to increase Parent involvement and future potential with expanded day

Survey re: CSR's future (before mtg with School Innovation dept)

12/4 – Thanksgiving protocols, Cheryl Wheeler (poss. Guest)

NOTE: Plans changed after this meeting – Dec 4 will be spent with Facilities WorkGroup at School #28 discussing their experiences with Facilities Modernization.

Stake Building Meeting 5

November 7th, 2:30-3:30

Present: Regina, Juliana, Shannon, Sarah, Ann Marie

Absent: Eric

Agenda:

School Wide Communications

PTO

Cookie Exchange

Staff Updates

Discussion:

School Wide Communications via Larry Knox- (Carried over)

We reported to staff about the option of CausBuzz. So far there seems to be a “fear of the unknown” but 4th grade will participate in a rough trial of using CausBuzz with their parents and we will go from there.

PTO-

SBWG will be asking staff to each invite one parent to the next PTO meeting, January 20.

Action: Ann Marie will email staff and ask them to personally join us for the January PTO meeting.

Teachers should remind parents that we will have a FREE Art Club for kids, refreshments are offered, and they will be entered in a prize raffle.

Regina will email PTO to suggest the agenda for January and our idea for Art Club.

We are hoping to begin contacting parents after Thanksgiving recess to have them mark their calendars.

SBWG will hold their second January meeting at the PTO meeting with our first CSR Art Club. We will propose to the PTO that the January Agenda include Fundraising, Family Fun Night, and Field Day.

Cookie Exchange-

We will ask participants for 4 dozen cookies. The exchange will be on Wednesday, December 17th after school. More information will be forthcoming.

Action: Sarah will send out a last call email.

Julianna will create an info invitation for the participants.

Regina will get the serving trays.

Staff Christmas Party:

Stay tuned for more info!

Staff Updates/Sunshine Club-

We will be collecting gift cards for Clord through the end of the month.

Another email will be sent for meal support for a staff member.

Happy Hours/Staff Lunch/Special Events:

SBWG will plan and organize events for specific months and we ask that the TWO grade level families join to host a staff gathering for ONE of the designated months:

September- New Staff Tea SBWG

October- Crockpot Lunch, October 29th SBWG

November- Canceled

December- Cookie Exchange SBWG

January- Grade Level to Host

February- Secret Valentine SBWG

March- Family Fun Night and Spirit Week

April- Grade Level Host

May- Grade Level Host

June- Volunteer Garden Party, PTO Picnic

Meeting times 2014-2015:

September 9 & 24

November 7 & 21

December 5 & 19

January 9 & 20 (at the PTO meeting... Fundraising, Family Fun Night, Field Day)

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 15 & 29

June 12 (2 hour meeting)

Next Meeting:

School Wide Communications

PTO

RCSD School Choice Expo

Staff Updates

FWG Meeting: 10/6/14

Meeting #5

Present: Rob, Melissa, Marianne, Margie, Al

Absent: Laney

Agenda:

- Modernization of packing and relocating
- Ask Jay if we are still on the timeline to move out of the building this summer.
- Basement Clean out; a suggestion was made to tell staff of a have a deadline date to have the basement clean for different families. Using a keep pile and a throw away pile was also suggested.
- A space for trash and free items was also suggested to separate items
- We should reach out to those schools that have went through the procedures updates
- Personnel Issues and Complaints – confidential discussion
- Social Worker wants her own space, Jay or Laney needs to intervene Organization may need to handle this.
- Printer issue, can the printer be move so not to interfere with instruction Social Worker).
- Art room for Math and ELA a suggestion of a calendar to sign out the room in a 2 week period may work. Should the gym and library be one of the space to be signed out? (Margie) does not think those areas should be allowed to be signed out.

Flag – Rob will check with Laney about the light that should be on it or find out who the contact is to get the light looked at.

Update calendar for cleaning project kitchen

Action items

Find out what is the procedure for space sign out

Ask Jay about the lock for playground

Get a date for a visit to #5 school and # 28 school

Next Meeting is November 20th (Laney scribing and Melissa facilitating)

Teaching and Learning Minutes, December 3, 2014

Present: Jay, Ariana, Barb, Cristine, Theresa (guest), Sonia

Absent: MaryAnn, Chywane

- Reviewed Action Items from last meeting
- Internet Safety – very critical for intermediate level.
 - Action Item: Barb will speak with Melissa to clarify what information and/or presentation entails. Then, an email will be sent out to whole staff.
- Homebases – What is the practice of the building? 3 homebases per grade level family
 - Action Item: Jay will share out at Operations meeting what expectation is and philosophy behind it.
- Math Fluency (Theresa) – 6th grade level family was concerned with students not having mastered addition. They are using Xtra Math to help build fluency. The students who have mastered the fluency performed better on NWEA. Years ago, CSR set up goals for each grade level.
 - Action Item: Sonia will locate the paperwork that set the goals for each grade level
 - Action Item: Ask school what we can do as a building. At next Operations meeting, find out what each grade level family is consistently doing to build fluency, how often, and what kind of results.
 - Worked on a survey to give out.