

May 2008 Superintendent's Report

School Forest: Nancy and Phil Kress have provided wonderful leadership for our school forest to literally start growing. A number of other staff and community members have worked closely with them to design the plan, order the trees, and get over 1,400 young trees and shrubs planted. The Lions Club is stepping forward to help with maintenance and Barry Badeau is working on a related Eagle Scout project. Joe has been closely involved and working on the impact of the project on our grounds keeping staff. It may look a little wild the first few years until the trees start asserting themselves. I am amazed in the five years that I have been here how the tree plantings going out of town on 213 have grown. The age of people involved ranges from school age to well past retirement age- a great project for all.

WEEB Grant

We have received a \$5000 Educational Plan development grant which is the next step in our school forest project. Once we have the curriculum designed and the plan accepted, we can apply for higher levels of funding to implement the curriculum in the 2009-10 grant cycle.

Evansville Energy Fair: This year's energy fair was another outstanding success. This event is an amazing collaboration between the school, businesses, non-profit organizations and entertainers. Evansville is really getting a state and regional reputation as a leader in alternative energy. This is directly as a result of the visionary approach the school board took to the construction of our facilities in 2000. I want to thank Butch Beedle, Joanie Dobbs, Nancy Kress, Bob Flaherty, Mayor Decker, the City of Evansville, ECP and all the other staff and community members who work throughout the year to plan and make this event such a success. Over 80 people visited our house project including alumni who worked on the last project many years ago. Over 30 braved the elements for the tour of Larson Acres.

Spring Superintendent's Conference

The spring conference followed the theme set last fall, helping us take a look at demographic shifts and their impact near and long range on education. This message was repeated in this morning's Wisconsin State Journal: If the United States is to hold its own as a world leader- education is the key. The sorting, sifting and tracking that was the education implementation of the factory model will not work in a world where machines and software have replaced most routine jobs. We have to help each student strive to develop their problem solving skills using a variety of approaches to learning that engages each student. Even Wisconsin Manufacturer's and Commerce is getting the message that education is the solution not the enemy. David Winters from the Department of Workforce Development who has spent most of his career in private industry. He summed up the history as 19th Century- bigger and better farms, 20th- bigger and better factories, 21st- Bigger and better ideas. In general local skills and talent decide local economic development. Since those with only a high school diploma are the most likely to remain in the community, the stakes are high to prepare them as developers and creators of local economic development. I hope to have full size copies of these presentations soon and will put them on the district website as a resource for our work on our 21st Century vision for the District.

Kindergarten Enrollment:

Our kindergarten enrollment is at least 8 students above our projection. Deb is working this information into the next revision of our proposed 2008-09 budget. It looks like this trend will continue with 2009-10 since we again have over 150 on the census. The long term impact on the district points to needing additional space. For a relatively low cost, \$1,000, Joe is going to put up walls to close in the resource room area of the elementary school. Two kindergarten teachers will share this space. Their two small rooms will be used by the reading and GT resource teachers. This will be more appropriate for teaming with special education as well and if needed we can house up to 45 rather than 30 students in this space.

Levi Leonard Elementary School
School Board Report
May 12, 2008

BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC: Professional Learning Teams

Most of our staff members are on grade level or department based learning teams. A few have members from more than one building. Listed below are the teams and their focus:

- Early Childhood – Play-based Childfind Screener
- Kindergarten Crusaders – integration of math and new science materials, pilot new social studies materials
- Music – Technology in music
- 2 First grade teachers and Becky Ludeman– investigate probes or quick assessments to assess student math skills in first grade
- 7 First grade teachers – Literacy stations
- 2nd Grade Team – compare Des Cartes strands to curriculum units to be sure MAP assesses curriculum taught. Worked on reading curriculum last year, This year is language arts, next year will be math
- Terri Belz and Deb Fritz look for resources to assist the flow between RtI tiers or levels integrating reading, and math interventions and special education support.
- Doug Schwenn – worked with high school staff on a participation pilot.
- Steve Feeney worked with others to further develop an RtI model with curricular probes
- Character education – this is a cross-grade level and discipline team that has worked on implementing a consistent program to address positive character traits and behavior.

It has been especially helpful to have three of the groups look ahead to when we will fully implement Response to Intervention (RtI) and develop both the quick assessments or “probes” needed and a delivery model for the interventions. The elementary staff have spent considerable time learning about RtI, what it looks like, how we can implement it, how it impacts learning and what role each of us have in it. While we have not found all the answers at this point, we are moving ahead and will be able to meet the challenge.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Our annual Share Fair will be held in the resource room on Wednesday afternoon, May 14 at 2:00. At this time each of the Professional Learning Teams will share their work this year and answer any questions from other staff members.

On May 15, Krista and Lou will attend the Annual Parent Leadership Conference in Oconomowoc. We hope to learn more about building positive relationships with families, enhancing learning at home and in the community, and building awareness of resources to help children succeed.

CELEBRATE!

We are pleased to announce that two students from Levi Leonard Elementary were chosen as state winners in the 14th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. Second grader Amanda Halzel wrote the story *George and Snowball and the Missing Bone*, which was selected as a Judges Choice winner. Kindergartener Nolan Hammond wrote *The Family Camping Trip*, which won in the category of Best Illustrations. Winning stories from across the state will be online at the Wisconsin Public Television Kids page (www.wpt.org/kids) if you would like to view them.

Congratulations to all students who participated in this year’s Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. Our young authors should be very proud of their fantastic work!

Benjamin Ploessl in Ms Runkle's kindergarten and Alejandra Ortiz in Ms Sendelbach's second grade class won the Energy Fair Scholarships at the elementary level. We were delighted to see Benjamin, Alejandra and many of our students participate with some great projects at the Energy Fair!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 9 Kindergarten field trip to Larson Acres
May 14 Early Release – Professional Learning Teams and Share Fair
May 15 Ross and Bjugstad's 2nd Grade class Family Night in the TRIS gym
May 16 Illinois Raptor Rehabilitation presentation for 1st Grade
May 20 Eager Free Public Library presentations of summer programs
May 29 2nd Grade field trip to I-Max and 10 Pin Alley
May 30 1st Grade field trip to I-Max and Vilas Zoo
Kindergarten field trip to Gymfinity

Please join us for any of the above events or drop in to visit and talk with students and staff. You are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted;
Lou Havlik,
Principal

**Theodore Robinson Intermediate School
School Board Report
Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal
May 12, 2008**

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Here is a brief description of the various groups that have been meeting during the year:

Gradebook

This group, with much technological support from Linda Gard, has developed a standards-based report card that will be used next year for every student. Students will receive a grade in each subject area, as well as a progress rating that is tied to the state standards in each subject area.

Character Ed

The character ed PLC coordinated the program that is in place at the intermediate school. Themes, materials, and activities were prepared for each month to be used in all classrooms with all students. A year-end survey for students has been developed.

21st Century Skills for PE

This group researched, analyzed, and incorporated new technology into the intermediate school phy ed curriculum. They also worked with the Gradebook PLC to convert all lessons to include PE state standards.

Math Differentiation

Activities were developed to provide for the various abilities within each classroom. Also, Rocket Math was examined, a "basic facts" exercise to improve recognition of math facts.

Technology

This group focused on becoming more familiar with technology tools, such as the SmartBoard, podcasting, and i movies.

5th Grade Reading Curriculum Organization

Elements of instructional units were updated and organized. The Sitton spelling program is a fairly new approach for fifth grade; that was one of their focus areas.

Supplemental Tools/Strategies to Use With Struggling Students

The intermediate school special ed staff has been exploring and developing a list of strategies and tools to increase basic skills via technology and other resources.

Guided Reading

Members of this group have attended workshops and participated in book discussions to learn more about, and apply this method, to the teaching of reading in fourth grade.

Celebration

The following fourth graders will be participating in the regional Math 24 contest in Stoughton on May 7: Chris Boge, Noah Schiller, Ben Haegele, Alex Diebold, Jacob Kennedy, and Amanda Larson. Resource teacher Teresa Doyle will be accompanying them.

These fifth graders will be competing on the UW campus on May 19 in the Mega Math Meet: Riley Miller, Thomas Allen, Josh Michel, and Kevin Brandt. Fifth grade teacher Kim Wollinger will be accompanying them.

Announcements

The Theodore Robinson Singers will be performing on May 5 in the intermediate school lobby at 7:00 p.m. Joining them will be the drumming and xylophone group.

The Theodore Robinson Talent Show will take place on June 5 from 1-3 in the high school Performing Arts Center.

Grade 5 graduation is set for June 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the intermediate gym.

**JC McKenna Middle School
Board Report
Bob Flaherty
May 5, 2008**

PLC

The middle school developed a number of significant PLC groups this year. The most exciting was a reading PLC that our reading specialist, Ms. Ferrell and the special education teachers created. In the past special education students did not participate in programming with the reading specialist because most of the students worked with special education staff members during language arts. The teachers decided they wanted more training from Ms. Ferrell so they could improve their own teaching skills. We also have a 7th Grade language arts/Spanish PLC looking at how to use DeCartes to improve MAP scores. The math teachers are continuing their work to look at the pacing in mathematics to make sure students are learning the skill necessary to be successful the next year. In addition we have a large PLC groups working on assessments and transition of students from 8th Grade to the high school. Another PLC is working on technology and used time to improve their skills at creating web sites for the school.

Professional Development

We spent the afternoon of April 30th working on assessing students writing skills using the Six-Traits model. Teachers were paired up and assessed approximately 25 student essays using three of the six traits. Teachers from every discipline take part in this activity. We also spent time preparing for our lock down drill the second week in May.

Celebration

Beth Oswald spent several exciting days in Washington DC as part of her "Teacher of the Year" duties.

Mr. Pat Dietrich received an award for outstanding work in special education. Pat was nominated for the award by Rose Helms.

J.C. McKenna students made up one of the largest groups to participate in the March of Dimes walk in Janesville on May 3, 2008. Many of our faculty members joined the students on the 10K walk to raise money for the prevention of birth defects.

Donations

PTSO raised over \$1500 dollars for the middle school this year! Thanks to all who helped in the fund raising effort!

*Evansville High School
Report to the Board of Education-May 2008
Submitted by Jamie Gillespie, Principal*

Professional Learning Communities and Staff Development

On the early release day last week, high school teachers presented information on the projects they had completed as members of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) this year.

Presentations were given on:

- Coordinating the curricula of Free Market America and Personal Finance
- Kurzweill, software that reads texts aloud
- The process used by math teachers this year to verify that students are placed in appropriate math courses in the future
- Interdisciplinary activities involving the Technical Education and Science Departments
- Teachers' web pages
- Heart monitors used in physical education classes
- Nicenet, an on-line forum for conversations facilitated by teachers
- Moodle, a service by which teachers create on-line courses
- Books on education

As you can see, many of the projects involved integrating technology into teaching. The PLC on the academic advisory period gave its presentation in March.

Advisory Program Update

The Advisory Program will be coordinated next year by two teachers: Mark Stano and Matthew Pederson. Mark and Matthew will be assisted by the members of the PLC, who will continue to meet next year to troubleshoot any problems that may arise.

The daily schedule for next year was discussed at the faculty meeting in April. Since the faculty members have overwhelmingly expressed their preference for shortening the class periods,

rather than adding minutes to the students' school day, the periods will be approximately 90 minutes long. (Currently they are 93 minutes long.) The schedule will look something like this:

Period 1	8:00 - 9:30
Advisory	9:35 - 9:55
Period 2	10:00 - 11:30
First Lunch	11:30 - 12:00
Period 3A	12:05 - 1:35
Period 3B	11:35 - 12:20
Second Lunch	12:20 - 12:50
Period 3C	12:50 - 1:35
Period 4	1:40 - 3:05

Celebrate!

The High-Mileage Vehicle Club competed at UW-Stout's competition in April and won! The group's vehicle had the best performance of all vehicles entered in the competition. The winning trophy will be on display at the high school for one year.

Diego Ojeda's presentations to foreign language teachers continue to be very popular. Diego has been contacted by a teacher at Clinton High School, who attended his presentations at the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers conference and at the Wisconsin Educators' Association convention, because she would like to observe his teaching in order to improve her own teaching. Melinda Borchardt will visit Diego's classroom on May 7th.

Evansville Community School District Student Services School Board Report May 12, 2008

Krista R. Jones, Director of Student Services

Topic: Professional Learning Communities

- ***Play-Based Child Find Screener***

Members: Lisa Standish, Sandra McClellan, Jeanette Gulledge, Cheri Janssen, Sonya Keyser, Dana Lindsay, Mindy Johnson

This is one of our district professional learning teams that chose to continue the work they began in 2006-07. The purpose for researching and implementing this change is based on the evidence that we learn valuable information about a child's development from their interaction and involvement in "natural" environments. Last school year, the team reviewed a play-based model developed in CESA 10, researched the screener formats implemented in other districts, made site visits to observe screening processes, and researched options for using a pre-screener (child development) questionnaire. Given last year's work, the team successfully transformed our former process and implemented the play-based approach at both the October and February screener events. Vision and hearing screening services were added and through school-community partnerships we received donations that provided each child with a "goodie bag" of items to take home. In addition, we are sending a child development questionnaire to the parents of children already entered in our school census as those children approach age 3. The questionnaire is sent back to the early childhood team for review and allows us to enhance our early intervention efforts.

- ***Kurzweil 3000***

Members: Melissa Whitmore, Kiara Krohn, Sue Marsden, Teri Schmit, Matt Smith, Kim Katzenmeyer

With 2007-08 IDEA Flow-Through Funds, we purchased Kurzweil 3000, a scan-read assistive technology program specifically designed for students with reading and writing disabilities. Kurzweil 3000 is the software available to students with disabilities on most post-secondary campuses. This team has organized and developed a system for shared resources that are scanned for Kurzweil 3000, explored the learning and technology options offered by this software, and organized and implemented staff trainings so that this technology can be used effectively by students and staff across the district (K-12).

District Assessment

We have received the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment – Students with Disabilities assessment results and are preparing to have the individual student reports sent home to parents and/or shared at IEP meetings occurring yet this spring.

We should receive the ACCESS for ELLs assessment results within the next 2 weeks. We received the electronic data file for “clean up”, which is the precursor to the district receiving hard copy results.

Staff/Program Development

The 2008-09 preliminary Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) NCLB allocations have been released. The following chart provides a brief description of each Title and the comparison of our 2007 - 2008 and 2008-2009 allocations. The Administrative Team will be developing the grant goals and budgets.

	Description/Purpose	07-08	08-09	Difference
Title I	Improve the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged	\$37,840.00	\$44,464.00	+ \$6,624.00
Title II	Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals; Enhancing Teacher Professional Development; Technology	\$34,747.00 \$394.00 (Technology)	\$36,562.00 \$404.00	+ \$1,815.00 + \$10.00 (Technology)
Title III *Districts receiving less than \$10,000 must forfeit the funds or join a consortium.	Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students	\$4,402.00	\$5,866.00 During 07-08, we joined the CESA 5 Consortium	+ \$1,464.00
Title IV	Safe and Drug Free Schools	\$3,811.00	\$3,052.00	- \$759.00
Title V	Promoting Innovative Programs	\$1,194.00	No funds allocated for 08-09	-\$1,194.00

Donations/Gifts

The *Mt. Olympus Resort & Water Park* in Wisconsin Dells has generously provided one of our middle school classes with a handicapped-accessible, complimentary room to use during their end-of-the-year trip. The value of this gift is \$299.00.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

May 2 - 4 (7 a.m. – 9 p.m.)	Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive @ Piggly Wiggly
May 14 & 15	Early Childhood Classes Field Trip – Vilas Park Zoo
May 14	½ Day Early Release – PLC Sharing
May 20 @ 6:30 p.m.	Parent Educator Network Year-End Social
May 28	K-12 Special Education Meeting

MAY BOARD REPORT MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Professional Learning Communities

There were two learning communities related to technology use, one at the high school and one consisting of media specialists. The high school group focused on technology integration in the classroom, and the Media Specialists explored online learning tools.

Both of these groups did some amazing work, and changes can be seen throughout the high school in technology use. Another important factor has been the ISSAC grant, in which a small learning community of four high school and middle school teachers learned about technology, assessment in the 21st century, and Web 2.0 tools and Online learning environments. This is the group I am highlighting this month as a professional learning community, as they have developed online learning environments and are now “power-users” of technology and Web 2.0 tools. The participants were Bruce Curtis, John Hanson, Kyle McDonald, and Rick Cole.

The main focus in this group is to use technology as an effective tool as part of the learning process, and incorporating higher level thinking skills. Tools used included a Moodle Classroom environment, Wikis, Blogs, Podcasting, and more.

Moodle: Moodle is an online learning environment in which a complete course can be developed online. Rick Cole has developed a complete supplement to one of his science courses in the Moodle Environment.

Wikis: wikis are websites in which users can log in and edit pages. It is a great resource for sharing as well as for working on group projects.

Blogs: Many teachers are using NiceNet, a blog environment set up specifically for classrooms. The environment is non-public, and the most common use is students responding to a question/issue online and also reacting to and responding to each other. The consensus has been that more students are providing thoughtful responses and replying to others in this online environment than they are in a regular classroom setting.

Podcasting: A podcast is created when any type of digital media file is created and shared on the Internet. The most common is audio, but video can also be included. Teachers can record lectures, and students can also present work in this format.

The most effective tool for teachers in this group is the **Critical Friends Group**. This process designed to improve instruction through reflection on student work from participating teachers' classrooms. At each workshop each teacher brought a case of student work. A case consists of a lesson and three student work samples. At each study group session teachers shared their work, reflected on the feedback received, engaged in discussion on formative assessment of student learning, and shared effective research based strategies.

News and Updates

The technology Committee will meet on May 20 to finalize technology improvements for next year. This will be shared at the June Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gath

Evansville High School
Associate Principal/Athletic Director
School Board Report
May 5, 2008

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:

- April Attendance Rates
 - 92.67 (2007 = 91.62)
 - 92.67 + Excused Absences = 99.00 (2007 = 98.53)
 - 01.00 Unexcused Absent (2007 = 01.47%)
 - 0 Habitual Truant Referral (2007 = 1)
 - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2007-08 school year = 4 (2006-07 = 7)**

- April Discipline Summary
 - 93 (16.7%) (58 Students) Discipline Referrals (2007 = 81, 14.3%)
 - 6 (2007 = 3) Students Suspended Out-of-School = 10.75 Days (2007=3.50)
 - 9 (2007 = 4) Students Suspended In-School = 3.50 Days (2007 = 8.50)
 - 90 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in April (26 attendance related detentions/2 no shows).
 - 2 (2007 = 2) Student received a truancy citation referral in April.
 - **Total of 7 (2007 = 8) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2007-08 school year.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Evansville Sports Boosters annual golf outing at Evansville Country Club will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2008. If you wish to participate and support the Evansville Sports Boosters contact the Evansville Country Club to reserve a tee time.
- High School Honors and Awards night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm.
- High School Scholarship night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

- High School Fine Arts Awards night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:00 pm.