

## Teaching and Learning Update November/December 2015

### Curriculum / Materials Implementation –

The materials adoption process that is aligned with Washington State English/Language Arts Standards will be in full swing beginning in January through exploring the “shifts” in ELA standards. Committee members, including teachers, administrators, community members and parents, will participate in a step-wise process to identify materials that best meet the needs of our learners. The goal is for Literacy and Language Arts materials K-12 to be piloted in the spring of 2016 with full implementation in the 2016-2017 school year. By conferring with districts in the region that have either recently adopted ELA/Literacy instructional materials or that are currently exploring adoption, our process and choice of materials will be better informed.

### Professional Development –

It has been a busy few months for professional development in La Center. A volunteer, grade-level group made up of at least one participant per grade participated in literacy training with Gail Westbrook, Evergreen School District Elementary Literacy Specialist. Gail graciously volunteered to walk through K-5 writing materials authored by Lucy Calkins. We are eager to collect data related to the writing of K-5 students using these research-based materials.

November brought the final of four classroom technology coaching days with Kristina Wambold, Google-certified trainer from ESD 112. During this series of Google Integration events Kristina supported individual and small groups of teachers with technical assistance as well as instructional assistance within their classroom with students. Teachers were able to get follow-up support based on their own identified needs. This model has been very popular, so will continue monthly with the support of Stephanie Holmes, 0.1 La Center Technology coach. Stephanie will be released once per month in order to provide on-one technology coaching on either the K-8 campus or high school campus. Additionally, Ms. Holmes has continued to offer after school *Tech Cafes'* on Monday afternoons for interested staff. Teacher needs continue to drive the agenda and conversations related to instructional technology.

Congratulations are in order for Lynn Cooke and Greg Hall for respectively renewing and earning their National Board Certification. Lynn continues to support five teachers interested in pursuing or renewing their National Boards with after school help sessions. District-wide we now have thirteen NBCT educators.

During the October 9th Learning Day both the elementary and middle school certified and interested instructional classified staff participated in MindUP training. PreK-5th grade staff are busy implementing these supplemental materials following last year's pilot and subsequent board approval. The middle school staff will pilot at least a few of the lessons

during the 2015-2016 school year, then decide whether or not to pursue adoption of the 6-8 MindUP supplemental curriculum. MindUP training was made possible through our partnership with La Center United. During the October Learning Day high school certificated staff participated in morning rotations related to technology, problem-solving and mindfulness. During afternoon choice sessions high school certificated staff participated either in Conflict Resolution or Problem-Solving.

### Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

A district-wide update of the Highly Capable Program is underway, therefore our website will read “under construction” until updates are ready to become public. The goal is to provide an invigorated experience for current High Cap students as well as a revitalized process for identifying students. Scott Lincoln, Elementary Principal, has been meeting regularly with a committee interested in assisting with this process. The committee is made up of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators. Please stay tuned for updates in the months to come.

### Testing / Assessment –

Administration of high school retakes and off grade-level for Smarter Balanced Assessment and End of Course Assessments are now complete. Thanks to the coordination of Kurt Gray, Building Assessment Coordinator and Assistant Principal, the testing went quite smoothly. The high school Special Education team pulled together in advance to make sure that students received appropriate testing levels based on the IEPs and to ensure that the learning of non-testers continued as well.

### Title I / LAP –

Title I and LAP grant compliance and programmatic decisions are occurring primarily within the elementary school. Scott Lincoln, Colleen Wing (ACE teacher) and Amy Neiman continue to support each other by attending Title I Director's meeting at ESD 112 in pairs. At the close of two state required windows, three Title I qualified elementary students are now receiving Supplemental Education Services or SES tutor based on parent requests.

A new Federal Education Law, Every Student Succeeds Act, was recently signed into law to replace the long standing No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. ESSA loosens up many requirements related to Title I. For example districts with even one school in “steps of improvement” will no longer be required to send a letter to parents notifying them that one or more areas were “out of compliance” under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Additionally, the requirement to set aside 20% of our Title I monies for school choice transportation and supplemental educational services has been lifted. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year this will allow us to utilize 100% of our Title I funds without delay.

Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) –

Congratulations and welcome to Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram for her new position as Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) Coordinator. Aften brings a new set of eyes, enthusiasm and experience to this position. With her background at the *SUN Program* while in Portland, her knowledge of programs to extend the learning day for students will no doubt assist as we continue to develop these programs in La Center. Aften has been busy coordinating *Holiday Help* as well as building relationships with students and staff on the K-8 campus as well as our many community partners. Building an effective *Attendance Program* will be an immediate area of focus based on teacher survey as well as maintaining programs already underway such as the *Watch Dogs*.