

Teaching and Learning Update September 2015

Professional Development –

Kristina Wambold, Google-certified trainer, will complete her ten day contract on October 28th, 2015. Her Google Integration work began last April during the district learning day, continued with a week long summer institute in June and followed up with “on demand” coach support during September and October. Through both feedback from teachers and a significant increase in the use of instructional technology, it is clear that Kristina’s work with our teachers and students has been highly impactful. Among other supports she has visited classrooms to instruct fifth grade students in using ChromeBook applications and conferred with many teachers during their preps on a needs basis. We are hoping to find funding to invite her back to do in-classroom coaching on a monthly basis for the remainder of the school year.

During the October 9th Learning Day all elementary and middle school certified and many classified instructional staff participated in MindUP training. PreK-5th grade staff will implement these newly adopted supplemental materials. The middle school staff plan to pilot these materials during the 2015-2016 school year. We again express our gratitude to La Center United for providing the funding for this important MindUP training. Your work makes a world of a difference across the community of La Center.

The high school certificated staff participated in morning rotations related to instructional technology, *Homeroom* and mindfulness, then continued with their work on climate and culture. The morning was skillfully facilitated by La Center School District staff and the afternoon of “I can” statements and Conflict Resolution were guided by experts from *Synergo*. Thanks to everyone that assisted and participated in this important day of professional learning.

Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

Since the guidelines and documentation for both identification and funding expenditures have changed considerably over the last couple of years, a group made up of teachers, administrators and parents have begun to meet regarding our HiCap program. This group, led by Scott Lincoln, Elementary Principal, began meeting in October to consider possible recommendations for more inclusive identification as well as potential improvements to better meet needs of students once identified. Everyone involved is positive about the work and are looking forward to a revitalized Highly Capable program.

Curriculum / Materials Implementation –

The Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) has been hard at work already this year reviewing requests for supplemental materials. We are revisiting our process for routing materials to members in the hopes of both collecting more, specific feedback as well as increasing efficiency. For example, a shared document will be utilized to allow individuals to directly enter their feedback. Also, as the IMC Secretary, Lynn Cooke will assist in routing IMC books and videos through the library.

Testing / Assessment –

The 2015 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment was likely more a test of the test rather than a reflection of student learning, however we are more knowledgeable across the system thus more prepared for the 2016 testing season. All SBAs will be administered online during 2015-2016 for grades 3-8 and high school. The high school testing schedule has been finalized, the middle school schedule is still in draft and the elementary testing dates are yet to be determined.

High school test administrators (proctors) for the November SBA retakes will be trained during the last RLSA in October. Smarter Balanced Assessment high school 11th and 12th grade retakes will be held on November 9th and 10th (English Language Arts) and November 11th and 12th (Mathematics). No special schedule will be necessary.

Title I / LAP –

Title I, Part A is a federal program that serves the unique needs of children who struggle to learn. The first notification went out to parents concerning Supplemental Education Services (SES) tutoring through Title I. A second SES open enrollment period will occur in November per Title I requirements to inform parents of qualifying children that they may apply for free out-of-school tutoring.

All required Title I and LAP Form Packages have been approved by program directors at OSPI. Amy Neiman, Jeremy Kidd, and Colleen Wing (ACE teacher) plan attend the next Title I Director's meeting at ESD 112 in late October. We continue our commitment to send at least two people to these monthly meetings to ensure compliance, continuity and enhancements to our efforts toward meeting the needs of our students that qualify for Title I and LAP services.

Family & Community Resource Center (FCRC) –

The *Jumpstart Backpack Program* was a big success again this year. As of the end of September 165 backpacks loaded with school supplies were handout to students right in our own community. This is a 39% increase over the number provided last year. Thanks to many generous donations there are even plenty of supplies remaining to last throughout the school year.

Building Up, our job placement and resume writing program continues to show growth and success. As of the end of September there were 15 individuals being supported by FCRC on their resumes, 5 people focused on the job search process, and a total of 18 that have been placed in jobs since May. This program makes a significant, positive impact for the community and students.

A new to La Center program that began in September and will continue through June is *1-2-3 Grow and Learn*. Every Wednesday from 9:00am-10:30am families with children from birth to five years old are welcomed into FCRC were a *1-2-3 Grow and Learn* teacher facilitates the group. The focus is on getting children ready for school by equipping their child's "first and most important teacher" to help their child spend focused parent-child time, build socialization skills, increase school readiness through activities and healthy snacks and just have fun.

Other elementary school programs that have received recent FCRC support include: Benvenidos Night, Curriculum Night, MTSS. Thanks go out to Mindi Payne for all her hard work with the many FCRC partners and programs. Please look up the September 2nd, 2015 article in which she is quoted while sharing with a Columbian report.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Neiman, Director of Teaching and Learning.