

DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the BOARD

Garden City Community School

September 20, 2010

ENROLLMENT: 142 TOTAL as of 9/15/10

Elizabeth's Kinder - 20, Marti 1/2- 21, Gina 1/2- 24, Wren 3/4 - 16 Ben 3/4- 16, Ryan 5/6 - 23, Brenda 7/8- 21

We still have some openings in classes, so please pass the word!

COMMUNITY CIRCLES *These take place every Wednesday morning at 9AM and everyone is invited to attend any of them! It's incredible how quickly students are mastering public speaking skills!*

- **Aug 25** – Director Cindy was in charge to welcome everyone back to school, to model basic expectations for classes when they were in charge of Community Circle and to prove she really could teach students how to sing fun songs! Since there is a stronger focus on music this year due to our rotation through the arts, each class is asked to teach everyone a song during their turn – in addition to teaching something about the “5R’s”. (We learned a goofy camp song with actions – brought back fun memories!)
- **Sept.1** – Brenda’s 7-8 grade class led the morning and included skits they created which the younger students enjoyed while learning the 5R’s.
- **Sept. 8** - Ryan’s 5-6 class used the theme “resourcefulness” and shared some very creative ideas how to be resourceful inside the classroom by using some creative recycling.
- **Sept 15** – Ben’s 3-4 students taught the school a new addition to the birthday song in addition to a creative readers’ theater that included great information on the 5R’s with student created posters to accompany.

CURRICULUM

- All teaching staff is taking an NNU class for two credits titled “Differentiation for the Classroom” which Director Cindy will be teaching. The first sessions covered differentiation in general, Learning Contract and Preferential Learning. Staff is focusing on creating continuity from grades K-8.
- Teachers are preparing some exceptional lessons and activities for first tri-mester. We plan to share some of these with you next month.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Staff in-services prior to school starting included:

- Monday, August 16 – Team Building Day “Balancing”. This day included: 1) planning for the first week and year events, 2) Brain Rules conference summary and shared activities by Elizabeth, Wren, Angela, Ben, Cindy and Gina, 3) developed “elevator speeches” to describe the school for PR purposes, 4) developed PR posters looking towards media possibilities regarding news-worthy events, 5) Brenda and Ryan shared their video and information from the theater and filming class they took during the summer, 6) activity involving use of various classical music used to promote responses in the mind to promote differentiated learning, and 7) information from the parents’ spring survey was shared and discussed.
- Tuesday, August 17 – Capacity Builders, Joanie Peterson and Kathleen Staff focused on student data gathered from the required spring IRI and ISAT test scores. This data gathered the past three years was analyzed to identify any curriculum gaps in order to finish aligning our curriculum grades K-8 so each year builds from the previous year. We are also developing a variety of assessments to determine student progress and help teachers identify their needs. One of the exciting surprises resulting from this data analysis was to find that our overall school’s test results show incredible student growth! It was very rewarding for teachers to learn this after all their graphing of the tests results! Everyone left feeling very uplifted and hopeful for this year’s school improvement progress!
- Wednesday, August 18 – Wes Wingett worked with the entire staff on using Adlerian psychology in various aspects of their teaching. Staff reviewed the school behavior plan, fine-tuned their class meeting methods, and learned about each others personality/working styles through his various activities.
- Thursday, August 19 – staff worked in rooms and prepared the school for Open House. Thank you to board members, Laurel Odell, Tim Richey and Michael Tetrault for joining us that evening.
- Friday, August 20 – morning was spent preparing for over-all school year plans and individual work in the afternoon.

2. Friday, Sept 3 – No School, Professional Development Day

14 staff members are taking the “Differentiation for All Students” class Director Cindy is facilitating. The day’s agenda included: 1) Learning Contracts, 2) Learning Preferences, 3) Using Math

Differentiation Ideas in Class (Cindy introduced while Brenda & Marti taught since they each took the required math course this summer) and 4) AimsWeb (assessment computer program) training by Angela. This class will continue through January.

3. **Wed, Sept 15 – Differentiation Class.** Staff shared their Learning Contract and Learning Preferences units with each other as an assignment from the Differentiation class. Everyone enjoyed the great ideas shared!
4. **Thurs, Sept 16 –** Michele attended the regional **technology information** meeting.
5. **Friday, Sept 17 –** Wren, Brenda and Cindy attended the **Regional School Improvement Trainings** in Nampa.
6. **Wed, Sept 22 –** Cindy will be in Parma in a **School Improvement Capacity Builders** training.
7. **Oct. 7 & 8: State Teacher Professional Development days.** *The Idaho Art Education Association's State Conference will be held at GCCS!* The IAEA will cover all costs, but asked if they could use our facility. All GCCS teachers will be attending while parents and board are also able to register to attend. It should be great advocacy for the school, too!
8. **Oct 7-8 –** Angela will be attending the state conference for **Exception Children** in Sun Valley.
9. **Oct 12-13-** Cindy will be attending the **Idaho Superintendents' Network** which she was chosen to join as part of an application process last summer.
10. **Oct. 18 –** Cindy will be at School Improvement trainings in Parma titled **"Observation Protocol"** with the Capacity Builder project.
11. **Oct. 19 –** Cindy will be in Fruitland at the "Prep Academy" with the Capacity Builders Program working on teacher evaluations and "evidence vs. opinion" trainings.
12. **Oct. 20 -** As part of our Healthy Schools program, Elizabeth will represent GCCS at the newly forming Dept of Health & Welfare's **"Healthy Eating Active Living"** statewide plan and network which Laurel has been helping.

FINANCES

- Finance Committee will be giving update. The approval of Idaho's Job Stimulus funds just came through this week, so there will be more details on this at next month's meeting

MARKETING

- We have continued to have tours of the school.
- An on-going ad is now in Family Magazine each month as well as an elementary and middle school ad in their on-line version.
- Hosting the Idaho Art Ed Conference and the Eric Jensen workshop is currently helping get our name in public.
- **"Kids' Fit Expo"**, Oct 9-10 sponsored by Idaho Business League. We will have an information booth at this event and *need volunteers to help during the hours 11-5 Sat and 11-4 Sunday.* We will also have flyers stuffed included in their goodie bags.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday Sept 23. Community Council (6:00-6:20PM) & Family Goals Night.** The new parent rep will be elected this evening and the idea of changing the school's name will be mentioned. (NOTE: I hope the board/CC will have a date set to announce a longer time in the near future so interested stakeholders can discuss this at length.) Goals Night is a time for parents and their children to learn how to work together to help the students set academic and character goals for the start of the year. Teachers will also give a short explanation about their curriculum.
- **Mon, Oct. 4, 8-10PM. Debate between Tom Luna and Stan Olson for Idaho State Education Superintendent.** Charter schools are going to be a HUGE topic during this year's legislative session and whoever wins this election will affect our school immensely.....watch carefully to keep yourself informed and be sure to plan to vote. Ask me if you'd like more info. Brenda & I are planning to attend it "live" at the Capitol building. There may still be tickets available on-line.
- **"Kids' Fit Expo"**, Oct 9-10 sponsored by Idaho Business League at the GC fairgrounds Center Expo Hall. We will have a booth at this event and need volunteers to help during the hours 11-5 Sat and 11-4 Sunday. We will also have flyers stuffed into their goodie bags.
- **Sat, Oct 16, 8-10AM. The second annual AppleBee's Pancake Feed....served by the GCCS board and staff!** This was a huge success last year, - financially & socially -so Tiffany got us signed up again this year! Save the date!
- **Thursday, Oct. 21 (7:30AM – 3:00PM) GCCS is hosting the workshop "Teaching with Poverty in Mind" by Eric Jensen.** You voted to allow school to be closed that day as we want our entire staff to attend. Board members, friends, parents and public....as long as there's space, it's open to anyone. \$75 cost and college pro dev credit available! This is very exciting for us to be hosting and it's becoming great PR!

Respectfully submitted by *Cindy Hoovel*, GCCS Director