

To: Dr. Tammy Davis  
From: Dr. Pamela Miller  
Re: Middle School Principal's Report  
Date: 10-10-09

### **Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development and Assessment**

- The laptop carts are being worked on and we will shortly have four carts of computers to be used in each of the grade level wings and one for the unified arts.
- We've had wireless access installed in the new eighth grade wing; we now have full wireless access in the building.
- We installed three new mobile whiteboards with projectors; one in each of the grade levels. We've also installed RM Frameworks math software and EasiTeach software for content areas so that all content area teachers can begin to incorporate whiteboard technology into their lessons.
- Teachers spent the October 9<sup>th</sup> professional development day working with the new technology (whiteboard, tablets, clickers). Training sessions were held as well as lesson planning sessions. Teachers who received UbD training in unit design this summer shared their work with their colleagues. Teacher leaders worked with Dr. Miller and Ms. Kruger to plan the PD day around the specific needs of WRMS teachers.
- WRMS completed their NECAP testing on October 7<sup>th</sup>. With a more condensed schedule this year we have fewer make ups to do. We built in recess breaks for each grade after they completed their testing sessions. Students did a great job!
- Dr. Miller attended the NHASCD conference on grading and Assessment featuring Dr. Thomas Guskey.
- Teacher leaders are facilitating collaborative work in their professional learning communities on a weekly basis in grade level groups and twice per month in their curriculum groups. This is a new structure created under our restructuring initiative. The leadership team meets with administration once each month. All groups are using a common meeting structure including a template for agendas and minutes.

### **Community and Parent Activities**

- The WRMS PTO will sponsor the first sixth grade social event on November 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4:30. A variety of activities are being planned. They will also sponsor a dance that evening for seventh and eighth graders.
- The PTO discussed working with the middle school students and staff to sponsor a community Green Fair in the spring. Information on ways to conserve our natural resources will be highlighted as well as activities and games focused on conservation. We hope to also highlight the WRSD Biomass project and involve content classes and the ecology club.
- The WRMS Open House was held on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Our survey data indicates that it was successful in meeting the needs of parents.

- The first State Scholars meeting was held on September 17th with our business partners. We are currently seeking an advisor for the middle school and high school to help us continue the program and meet our objectives.
- Dr. Miller attended the Youth Assistance Program board meeting on 9/22.
- Dr. Miller and Ernie Avery attended the CRI emergency drill planning meeting at Franklin Hospital on 9/29. The middle school is the immunization dispensation site for the practice drill on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Community volunteers are being recruited to play a role in the drill.
- WRMS received a 2009 Gold Circle Award from the New Hampshire Partners in Education group. Dr. Miller and Ms. Kruger attended the awards ceremony along with our business partners: Tom Cavanaugh from AutoServe, Deb Tessier from Franklin Savings Bank, James Mazzuchelli and one of our veterans, Bob Blanchard, from the Veterans Home.

### **Student Activities**

- We had our first Pep Rally of the year to recognize various student groups including fall sports teams and after school clubs and organizations. Our sixth grade class won for the most spirited group!
- Student Council speeches and elections will finally take place during the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. We had to work around the NECAP schedule to schedule the assembly for campaign speeches.
- Sue Bergman, our enrichment specialists, is organizing a new literary magazine written by our students. *Winnisquan's Got Talent* will include artwork, cartoons, short stories, poems and essays. It will be published in the spring.

### **Recognition**

- The September WRMS staff appreciation celebration was a Garden Harvest luncheon. Everyone brought a dish to share and we voted on our favorite. The first place prize went to Pam Henchy for her bean salad!
- We wish John DiBerto all the best in his retirement! John's last day was Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Other**

- Examination of our PBIS data indicates that, overall, discipline write-ups are down 57% from last year for the month of September (103 to 59); serious discipline matters are down 50% (16 to 7).