



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: _____ Kate Baehr and Nancy Herrington _____

Building/Program/Department: _____ Chautauqua Elementary _____

Board Meeting Date: _____ 9/27/07 _____

Focus: _____ Opening Days/Orientation of staff _____

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chautauqua Elementary students and families were invited to attend our ice cream social and open house on August 31st. We had a strong turn out. Teachers and staff welcomed new students into their classrooms. Ice cream was provided by PTSA.
- We have several new staff and some new assignments: Nancy Herrington (Dean of Students), Stephanie Detwiler (2nd grade), and Michelle Eastly (Special Education).
- Teachers gathered on Aug. 28th for a back to school retreat. We reconnected with each other, the goals at CES and the work that we do together. The goal that we discussed is, “We are committed to learning for every child, in every classroom, every day”.
- We had back to school assemblies for each grade level which allowed us to welcome them all back, share the excitement for the year and review playground and lunch room expectations.
- Curriculum night was held on September 18th. The parking lot was full! VYFS sponsored playground attendants, which may have allowed for more participation. There were three classroom sessions with concurrent VYFS parent education sessions. The VYFS presentations included topics on supporting homework at home, multiple intelligences, fall transitions and time for questions/answers. The feedback has been very positive.

WORK IN PROGRESS

We are focusing our discussions on conferences and the change in schedule. The focus of the conferences will be on building partnerships with families and setting goals for student learning. We have two staff meetings devoted to the topic. Also, the next Orca Newsletter will focus on conferencing.

We are planning a new ASB fundraiser, a Read-A-Thon, which will not include a product sale. The Read-A-Thon will begin mid-November and coincide with the Book Fair, Science Family Night (focused on book making and science literacy) and a Family-Read In. More information

will be posted. It would be fun to have a few Board Members participate and post their reading logs too.

Our partnership with VYFS is developing. We are excited about the parent education that was offered during curriculum night and look forward to future projects. They will be offering a full staff training on Second Steps in November.

The work has started on creating our professional learning community. Our areas of focus will include writing and mathematics.

The district administrative team has begun the work on PSIP's. This collaborative process between the building administrators is a thoughtful exercise that contributes to our understanding of the other buildings and generates a clear and shared focus/direction.

WASL scores were distributed to teachers and letters went home to parents. Learning Improvement Plans (AYP) for students who did not meet standards are being developed and shared between the buildings.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: _____ Kate Baehr and Nancy Herrington _____

Building/Program/Department: _____ Chautauqua Elementary _____

Board Meeting Date: _____ 10/17/07 _____

Focus: _____ Nine Characteristics of High-Performing Schools _____

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Conference week was Oct. 9th through the 11th. There will be a survey for both staff and families to solicit feedback. The survey is currently being developed.

Professional Book Club started this month. We are reading, "The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business" by Dennis Littky. We meet every Monday in CES's library at 3:30.

On Oct. 4th we had a great assembly on the 4 Rs (Rethink, reuse, reduce and recycle). This assembly has spurred many questions from the students about our practices and ways we can impact them. I expect several student initiated projects.

WORK IN PROGRESS

I introduced the Nine Characteristics to CES Site Council last year and hope to use the document to focus the purpose and efforts of Site Council this year. I hope to have Site Council meetings begin in November with this initiative.

The following are descriptions of our work and the connections to some of the Nine Characteristics of High-Performing Schools. These are definitely work in progress and will hopefully generate more areas of focus and work.

1. Clear and Shared Focus

Teachers gathered on Aug. 28th for a back to school retreat. We reconnected with each other, the goals at CES and the work that we do together. The goal that we discussed is, "We are committed to learning for every child, in every classroom, every day".

2. High standards and expectations for all students

See goal above.....also we are shifting our tier 2 intervention model and now have reading services through Title for 1st through 5th and math services through LAP for 1st through 5th. The Accelerated

Learner Committee is hoping to reconvene and continue its work. Several classroom teachers are working on differentiation as a part of the professional growth/evaluation process.

3. Effective school leadership

We are building more opportunities for shared and distributive leadership. Many of the initiatives mentioned in this report were initiated and are being lead by teachers. Meaningful and sustainable school improvement will occur when all the leaders in the learning community are active participants in that change. We will continue to seek teacher leaders, student leaders, community leaders and family leaders.

4. High levels of collaboration and communication

We have a Thursday meeting format this year. Every Thursday will have a meeting designated to facilitate opportunities for collaboration. For example, grade level meetings will have assignments to discuss topics such as the report card, pilot and adoption work, reviewing WASL scores and discussing implications. There is also a Thursday for the professional learning communities work. Communication occurs in various manors, including a daily bulletin, almost weekly "Week in advance" note from the principal, the weekly calendar is sent to both staff and families called "Next week at CES" and there are many others.

5. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Aligned with Standards

Here at CES we are working on utilizing the state GLEs to drive our curriculum. We are piloting a reading program in several classrooms with these standards in mind. We will all be working to align science with Roxanne Lyons. Also, the specialists continue to work on reviewing the CBAs (classroom based assessment) state expectations in the arts and physical education content areas.

6. Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching

The professional learning community process will be an addition in this area. Also, 3 grade levels are adapting the report cards and will be piloting a standards based electronic report card. This effort will also spur the conversations about grading practices and alignment and increase standardization.

7. Focused professional development

The work has started on creating our professional learning community. We have 6 teacher leaders who will go through the training and then bring it back to CES for a staff wide training. Our areas of focus will include writing and mathematics.

8. Supportive learning environment

There are several initiatives to build on the supportive learning environment work happening at CES. Everything from discussing bus duty and safe practices, having greeters at the front door every morning, a recess summit, student leadership opportunities (crossing guards, service projects, etc.) to training on Second Steps (a social emotional curriculum) sponsored by VYFS in early November. Also, the school wide culture committee will be working on this all year and will have a suggestion for the school by next spring as to a program or model for implementation.

9. High level of family and community involvement

At CES we are fortunate to have a strong level of volunteering at family support. Our volunteers are greatly appreciated. We are also working on developing more family friendly events and practices. For example, during our curriculum night parent education classes were offered by VYFS and playground supervision was provided. Also, the conferences being held in October are intended to facilitate building partnerships with families and setting goals for student learning. We are also altering the fundraiser and kick-off event to be more family oriented. The Read-A-Thon will coincide with the Scholastic Book Fair

and will be “kicked off” with a family evening event or “Family-Read In”. Further, the Read-A-Thon is intended to encourage reading at home.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Kate Baehr and Nancy Herrington

Building/Program/Department: Chautauqua Elementary

Board Meeting Date: November 29, 2007

Focus: Professional Learning Communities

Our Professional Learning Community teacher leaders include: Gail Labinski, Ken Larsen, Sharon Boyer, Charlene Bain, Jan Smith, Mary Heath, Nancy Herrington, Yvette Butler and Kate Baehr. This is a cross grade representation. We will be adding an additional teacher from the primary grades in order to increase their representation. Our two target learning areas are mathematics and writing. These two areas were discussed during our early release day in October when the staff focused on WASL results. They are areas in which we believe that significant gains can be made. We look forward to implementing the staff wide training in early December. Teachers have expressed an interest and need in collaborative discussions around student work and assessment. We believe that this professional development model and opportunity will provide the needed structure to successfully meet this request and positively impact student learning and success.

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- A creative movement workshop funded by Vashon Artist in School was held at Chautauqua on Oct. 12th. Teachers participated and received information on integrating movement into their practice. Research and best practices were shared.
- We had a staff training on Second Steps, which is the social emotional curriculum implemented by Vashon Youth and Family Services using the classroom meeting model. This training was sponsored by Vashon Youth and Family Services.

- On November 9th we had a wonderful Veteran's Day assembly. Several island vets and family members were in attendance.
- On November 16th we held a Winter Book Fest. We had a great turn out! This was the kick-off for our Read-A-Thon ASB fundraiser and included a free family science night (sponsored by PTSA), the Scholastic Book Fair (estimated to raise over \$4000 in this single night for 5th graders and Camp Waskowitz), a book exchange, teacher workshops, family winter pictures, VHS cheerleader bake sale and other fun stuff. It was a fun family event. We hope the Read-A-Thon will have similar success.
- We had our first Site Council meeting on November 13th. We are starting with a clarified focus, role and direction. Our agendas will have three main components: PTSA check in, Committee work, and work on the Nine Characteristics is High Performing Schools. Our next meeting is on December 11th.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- We are working on an report card with common grading scale and piloting an electronic report card. Three teacher leaders are facilitating this process which will include developing a standards based report card, grading system and electronic grade book. The pilot this year will be in grades 2, 3 and 5.
- We did a survey regarding the new conference schedule. We will be reviewing the results and considering avenues to share and discuss next steps.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Kate Baehr & Nancy Herrington

Building/Program/Department: Chautauqua Elementary

Board Meeting Date: Jan. 24th, 2008

Focus: Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was shared at a staff meeting in the fall. This document will guide the collective work of the staff at CES. The objectives and strategies will facilitate discussions around our School Improvement Plan which helps guide our initiatives. We are looking forward to the development of action plans.

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- We have held two Site Council Meetings. The Council is clarifying its mission, representative role and format.

Below is the newly adopted mission statement:

Current CES Site Council Mission Statement

The mission of the Chautauqua Elementary School Site Council is to provide a venue for representation of all segments of the school community to increase school-wide effectiveness, safety, and student achievement, ensuring that our students are self-motivated constant learners with enduring knowledge, skills and values for leading responsible, productive lives.

This can be accomplished through:

- Communication, Shared Decision Making, Leadership, Curriculum & School climate

Our agenda format is also new:

Check-in/Nuts and Bolts

PTSA Check-in

Committees:

Old business

New business
Nine Characteristics

We are currently working on a representative letter to send out to our families, sharing meeting minutes and information in the foyer and posting information on the website. The current committees are: dismissal and bus procedures, community communication, report card/grading system.

- We continue to work on the Professional Learning Communities. We did an introductory training with the staff in December and plan on doing another during the Jan. 29th early release.
- Several teachers and staff were PIE grant recipients. The grants are greatly appreciated and assist CES in offering such wonderful learning opportunities. Thank you PIE!
- Several teachers and staff were also Vashon Artist In School grant recipients. Again, the gratitude is great! Our community of learners (younger and older) benefit from the opportunity to learn and experience the wealth provided by the artists.
- We started a new book in the professional book club that meets every Monday at CES at 3:40. We are now reading, "Finding Flow" by Csikszentmihalyi.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Our collaborative efforts with Vashon Youth and Family Services Continue. We are working on support the social and emotional needs of our students through the 2nd Step Curriculum. VYFS has offered teacher training, support and collegial discussion. In December, they held high tea and facilitated a dialogue about our partnership. Weekly partnership meetings are held between the school counselor, family advocate and VYFS school liaison. These meetings are essential in our collaborative efforts.
- Teachers are continuing their work with a pilot of the new report card and grading system. A family letter will be sent out in January regarding the pilot process and the grading system.
- The literacy team continues to work on pilot/adoption activities.
- The plans for a family math night have started. All are invited to attend Feb. 5th. More information will follow.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Kate Baehr and Nancy Herrington

Building/Program/Department: Chautauqua Elementary

Board Meeting Date: March 2008

Focus: Science

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- We held kindergarten open house on February 26th. We had over 40 families sign in. All three classrooms were open, Anne Murray brought a school bus for walk on tours and provided bus information and the kindergarten playground was open for exploration. Several registration packets were handed out. This was a well attended event.
- Chautauqua families were invited to join our Family Math Night held on February 27th. We had a wonderful turn out with 19 staff members involved, over 11 stations and lots of fun. This was a great event, look for more information in the Beach Comber.
- The Science Family Nights sponsored by PTSA and offered at CES continue to be well attended. The next session is, "Fun with Forces" held on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30-8pm.
- Several teachers attended the day long science workshop facilitated by the Center for Science Inquiry on March 8th at McMurray.
- I have enjoyed learning about what our classrooms do here at CES in the different content areas. For each board report I have requested the teachers input and summarized their comments. For this report I thought you might enjoy reading their comments directly. These are just a few examples of the activities and classroom experiences focused on science:

In Mrs. Brenno's full day k we are learning about rocks and trying to make our own crystals.

5th graders continue to pursue science through the technology of Robotics. Three of our classes have completed the Robotics unit first funded by PIE and PTSA. 5th graders also work through matter, electricity, cellular study, health and body systems, and the upcoming environmental sciences at Waskowitz Outdoor School.

Thanks to a PTSA grant, the Early Childhood Program now has a Frog Habitat, a Root-View farm, a large screen Videoscope, and two interactive Solar System models! The children are enjoying these new science tools immensely!

Our outdoor classroom, the garden is a wonderful place for authentic science learning. We are fortunate to have a garden coordinator, Trish Howard to dream up some experiments. Right now we have a pea race in the classroom. We used different soil addendums and are observing which grows the fastest and biggest.

Hope that helps.

Glenda

Science blurb

The multi-age classes have been studying a wonderful, hands-on science unit about simple machines. Students learned all about the physics of pulleys, levers, incline planes, screws, wheels and axles, wedges and gears. They used their new physics knowledge to create amazing machines and contraptions in each of the multi-age classes.

Thanks,

Tina

Kate,

Every year I enter my class in the science fair held at McMurray. A few years ago I had a mom in my class and she helped me set up an experiment that the students could do asking the question, "Does hand washing take of the most of the germs?" We make a "hypothesis" (which is a word the class can read by then) and then my husband, a biochemist comes in to help the students put their fingerprints on a petri dish and we compare the "clean" fingerprint, washed correctly with bacterial soap, and the "dirty" fingerprint. We have done this experiment with our study buddies and may do it again this year. The older children can calculate germ colonies, compare the classrooms and get averages. The younger children take data by drawing pictures of the germ colonies they see magnified on the overhead projector and counting the new ones that appear each day. We take pictures of our process and display it at the science fair. It is a fun experiment and can visually display the need for hand washing! If you have any questions about it I could answer them. I will try to attach some pictures of past years project but I know you need permission to present them.

Cherry

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Last year our Science Committee worked to develop a Chautauqua science mission statement (see attached), identify the units being taught and aligned with the Grade Level Expectations. There is a lot of interest and enthusiasm for this content area.

- Chautauqua Elementary is working with our partner Vashon Youth and Family Services to offer family/parenting classes. The Incredible Years curriculum developed by Carolyn Webster-Stratton will be shared during two class sessions. One during school hours and another during an evening class. Both sessions will be held at CES. All pre-school families were invited and encouraged to participate. This is a new model and we are looking forward to the opportunity.
- Several grade levels are piloting the new report card and this grading period they are implementing the electronic grading system. This is a big venture for most, but the outcomes of time saved, alignment and more consistency are hopeful.
- Thank you to PIE who funded several grants focusing on science. We have some new materials to test out, fieldtrips and additional resources. There were several collaborative grants that focused on science and it is exciting to see the new opportunities.
- The next teacher in service day, March 14, Chautauqua teachers will participate in the Collaborative Assessment for Student Learning (CASL) model of professional development. We will be looking at a common assessment at each grade level that focused on the area of expository writing.
- Site Council is working on the following topics: Dismissal procedures, Recess/Lunch or Lunch/Recess, Report Cards, Conference schedule, Community Communications, Bus Discipline and the Nine Characteristics.

Chautauqua Elementary Philosophy of the Science Program

An elementary science program should provide students with stimulating experiences in the life, earth, and physical science as well as technology while simultaneously developing their critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities. It should be a program that is both rigorous and relevant. That is, students should be challenged to construct explanations and understand scientific principles through hands-on investigations that help them better understand the world around them.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Kate Baehr and Nancy Herrington

Building/Program/Department: Chautauqua Elementary

Board Meeting Date: May 22, 200

Focus: Art

Art defines its community. It is clear that Vashon not only celebrates creativity it embraces it. Art work can be found through out our school; everything from student art in the halls and classrooms, to hearing it in the voices, and the performances that occur throughout the year. We are most fortunate to have two wonderful art teachers, Carolyn Buehl and Gail Labinski and music teacher Carolyn Candy. Each student has an opportunity every week to experience art, with thoughtful instruction, care for creativity and a chance to demonstrate their approach. These instructional based art experiences provide our students with a depth of understanding about artists, art technique, and history as well as the opportunity to try it themselves.

We have had to great fortune of having 12 Artist in Residence opportunities sponsored by Vashon Allied Arts this year (listed below). We have also hosted 2 assemblies sponsored by VAA and a professional development opportunity on movement in the classroom held in the fall. We look forward to our continued work with VAA and hope to offer a follow-up training on movement in the classroom next year, as well as apply for more Artists in Residence grants. The VAA partnership is greatly appreciated.

NW Native American Oral Tradition	Leslie Creed	Dan/Gran/Detw/Cham
Second Grade Musical Performance	Christine Juarez	Dan/Gran/Detw/Cham
*Art and Wetlands	Sandra Noel	Heath/Smith
My Washington State History	Leslie Creed	Lawrence(Hartness)
Dot Draws	Kim Newall	Buehl
Dance/Movement for 4th Graders	Christine Juarez	Candy
Personalized Digital Images	Ann Gordon	Heffernan
**Vashon Views	Rose Belknap	Boyer
Copper Culture	Ivonne Kommer	Labinski

In the Garden
Funny Faces
Eco-instruments: The Rhythm of Life

Liz Lewis
Pam Ingalls
Lelavision

Brenno/Haulman/Morr
Labinski
Larsen

* Currently on display at the North End ferry terminal

**Currently on display at Books By the Way

HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chautauqua Elementary and Vashon Youth and Family Services are currently offering family/parenting classes at CES. The Incredible Years curriculum developed by Carolyn Webster-Stratton will be shared during two class sessions. One during school hours and another during an evening class. All pre-school families were invited and encouraged to participate.
- The fifth grade students attended Camp Waskowitz in May. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn in an outdoor classroom.
- On April 30th, the last early release day, the staff participated in training on English Language Learners and how to integrate some language acquisition strategies into their classrooms.
- Janet Baron has been leading an instructional technology training series. The model includes demonstration and in-class coaching. This training was funded by a grant.
- Jenny Granum wrote a grant to receive funding for the second grade reading assessment that is state mandated. With the grant funding a reading assessment was purchased and Jenny Granum trained colleagues on its administration. The assessment is called The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).
- Site Council is working on the following topics: Dismissal procedures, Recess/Lunch or Lunch/Recess, Conference schedule, Community Communications, Family Movie Night, the Placement Form and the Nine Characteristics.
- Work has started on planning a final family evening event for this year and will be focusing on Literacy. Various activities are planned that include "Cocoa Café" where student will be reading their work to an audience, classroom door book decorating contests, playing games such as Scrabble & Boggle, in demand poetry, and many other creative offerings. The Literacy Day will be held on June 13th, more information will available as the event draws near.
- Nancy Herrington, Dean of Students, is organizing a "Reading with Rover" program that invites students to read with a canine friend. Newberg is a certified therapy dog (who is always with his attendant) and he is a patient, supportive listener. This program is especially geared for our students with special needs.