

## District Administrator's Report

### September 2013

#### Congratulations Unity Elementary School!

State Superintendent Tony Evers announced 167 Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition awards for the 2013-14 academic year, an honor that recognizes success in educating students from low-income families.

"What a great way to start the school year," Evers said. "By recognizing schools for their success at educating our students, we put the focus where it belongs: on our children." All award-winning schools receive federal Title I funding to provide services to high numbers or high percentages of economically disadvantaged children. Schools received awards in three categories: High-Achieving, High-Progress, and Beating the Odds based on specific criteria.

"The staff and administration of these schools are committed to breaking the link between poverty and low academic achievement through rigorous programming and attention to student needs," Evers said. "The partnerships these schools create among teachers, parents, administrators, other school staff members, and the community provide an educational environment that supports children's learning so our students graduate college and career ready."

Unity Elementary School has earned a 2013-14 Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition Award in the Beating the Odds category. Unity Elementary School is committed to providing the best quality education for its students and challenging them to reach their fullest potential. Unity's leadership and staff should be commended for making a difference for each of its students.

#### District Communication Sees Updates

Unity School District's website is in the midst of an update. The last revision was completed three years ago. The new website design is part of an effort to provide information to students, parents, and community members in a clean, easy to navigate interface.

Additionally, the District Newsletter is now being published by the Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association in Frederic. The change will save the District money, strengthen a local connection, and provide an improved product that will help inform the community. Unity is proud to be partnering with a local business.

#### Educator Effectiveness Program Lays Foundation in District

Unity School District has been a local leader in piloting the Department of Public Instruction's approach to the Educator Effectiveness model. Unity participated in the Teacher Practice component pilot during the 2012-2013 school year. This school year, Unity has a pilot group participating in the full model. Unity is committed to being an active participant in developing a strong educator effectiveness model for DPI.

Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.

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#### School Report Cards To Be Released by DPI

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will be issuing this year's School Report Card for our school and for every public school in Wisconsin on Tuesday, September 17th. The School Report Card, using multiple measures of student learning, provides valuable guidance on how our school is doing and where it can improve. The report cards help all Wisconsin public schools get a better picture of how well they help children learn, advance to the next grade, and graduate ready for college and career.

The school report card notes performance in four priority areas:

- Student achievement in reading and mathematics on state assessments
- Student growth, measured by year-to-year improvements in achievement
- Closing gaps in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of racial or ethnic groups with their peers)
- On-track to graduation/postsecondary readiness, using reliable predictors of high school graduation and postsecondary success

This will be the second year of DPI using this new accountability measure. School districts will benefit from the ability to analyze the student achievement data to identify areas in which to improve. Additionally, schools who have achieved great progress can be models for others.

#### School Closing Information

**Parents** - Please be sure that your contact information is updated in the offices so that you can be notified of a school cancellation or delay.

#### District PBIS Efforts Gain Momentum

All three schools in the District are implementing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. PBIS is a program that promotes and maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence. It is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. We know that when good behavior and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning.

A great deal of planning and effort were necessary to implement the program District-wide this fall. But, the benefit will be realized when students can focus more on their academic achievement when they are informed of our common behavior expectations.

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

**UNITY COMMUNITY PICNIC AND HOMECOMING**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2013**



Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.

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#### Professional Development Efforts

Unity School District is committed to providing quality professional development and training opportunities for its staff. Initiatives such as the Response to Intervention (RTI) Model planning, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Common Core Standards, Educator Effectiveness Program, successful transitions planning, and technology integration are at the center of the District's goals and efforts for the school year.

##### Upcoming Efforts:

- September 27: Early Release, PBIS and Character Education
- October 25: Early Release, PBIS Planning, WKCE Preparation

#### District Halloween Event Planned

We will once again partner with the Polk County Museum to have trick-or-treating at the museum for approximately two hours after school on Halloween. This event will be staffed by museum volunteers, as well as Unity high school students. Following that, families can enjoy a free supper at school from 5:30-6:45pm. We will have large inflatables in the middle school gym for use from 5:30-8:00pm, which will be kid-friendly for toddlers up through middle school aged kids. We are renting the "Construction Toddler Zone" and the "22' Screamer Slide" from Kid Again, and hope to use the Salvation Army's Bouncy House. The main entertainment that evening will be a "Minute to Win It" game show from 7-8:00pm in the auditorium. This show will be geared to elementary through middle school-aged kids and families. It is a highly interactive show, fueled by audience participation. At 8:30pm that evening, we will be having the Witch's Call.

#### 2013-2014 School District Goals

(Adopted 8-13)

- Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.
- Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.
- Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.
- Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.



Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.

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### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, September 10	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, September 12	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Friday, September 13	CESA II Superintendents' Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Tuesday, September 17	WASB Regional Meeting	Rice Lake	6:00 PM
Wednesday, September 18	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Tuesday, September 24	CESA II Legislator Meeting	Turtle Lake	8:30 AM
Thursday, September 26	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:30 AM
Thursday, September 26	State Education Address	Madison	12:00 PM
Friday, September 27	Homecoming Community Parade - Centuria	Centuria	11:00 AM
Friday, September 27	Early Release: PBIS	District	1:00 PM
Saturday, September 28	Unity Community Homecoming and Picnic	District	
Wednesday, October 2	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Thursday, October 5	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:30 AM
Thursday, October 5	Community Education Advisory Council Meeting	Board Room	5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 8	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, October 10	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Monday, October 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences	District	4:15 PM
Wednesday, October 16	Administrative Team Meeting	District	9:30 AM
Tuesday, October 22	Parent-Teacher Conferences	District	4:15 PM
Thursday, October 24	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:30 AM
Friday, October 25	Early Release	District	1:00 PM
Monday, October 28	School District Annual Meeting	Elem. Cafeteria	7:00 PM

"Expect Great Things"

Unity Homecoming Parade  
Friday, September 27, 11:00AM  
Centuria

Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.