

DIRECTOR OF TEACHING and LEARNING

Memo

To: Dr. Susan Flanagan, Interim Superintendent

From: Barbara Dahly

Cc: Board of Education

Date: June 1, 2012

RE: Department Update

➤ **Kindergarten Information Meeting**

Kindergarten Information Meetings were held on May 15th and May 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the District 89 Administrative Building. Parents whose children will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012 received information on registration requirements, including; medical requirements, free and reduced lunch, uniforms and other successful tips to start the 2012-2013 school year. 155 families were in attendance on May 15th and 20 families were in attendance on May 30th. A complimentary book bag provided by COSTCO filled with supplies will be given to each of the 175 Kindergarten student families in attendance upon registration. Registration information packets will be available at school buildings and the district office over the summer.

➤ **Multiage Support Group Meeting**

A multiage professional development support session was held on Thursday, May 31st to provide resources and support for those teachers preparing to teach in a multiage classroom. Teachers engaged in collaborative work utilizing the resources from the Association of Curriculum and Supervision (ASCD) and the Common Core Standards. The Teachscape Multiage Discussion board and posted resources are available to teachers over the summer.

Morning Session

Emerson	Beth Floral K/1		Letha Lazenby 2/3
Garfield		Madilyn Wiley 1/2 Sonya Mortell 1/2	Jennifer Jackson 2/3 (child care leave)
Irving			Michelle Mook 2/3
Lincoln		Norma Grajeda 1/2	
Melrose Park		Samuel Velez 1/2	
Roosevelt		Christy Bosse 1/2	
Washington		Jayda James 1/2	

Afternoon Session

Emerson		Cassandra Holliday 4/5	
Garfield		Allison Morgan 4/5	
Irving	Marjean Gonzalez 3/4		
Lexington			Emerald Schaffer 5/6
Lincoln		Maria Ocampo 4/5	
Roosevelt	Elizabeth Hoffman 3/4		Laura Urso 5/6
Washington		Pete Finger 4/5	

➤ **School/Family/Community: The Joyce Epstein Model for School Improvement**

The Emerson School Leadership team attended the course at West 40 on May 22nd on the Joyce Epstein Model for School Improvement. The team activity and work plan included writing a draft of the school's one year action plan for partnerships for the 2012-2013 school year. The keys to successful school-family-community partnerships include Epstein's six types of involvement; parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. The work was facilitated by Gerry Zeller and Dr. Leslie Wilson. Dr. Heidi Oliver, Teachscape Coach joined the work with the Emerson team.

➤ **The New Teacher Network**

The New Teacher Network met on May 22nd and worked with Teachscape online resource modules engaging in reflective practice. The resource *Reflective Practice to Improve Schools, An Action Guide for Educators* was utilized, posting the following questions online.

1. What are my biggest questions about my teaching or leadership practice?
2. What do I want to learn more about? How do I hope such learning would improve my practice?
3. Who would bring a different perspective that would IMPROVE my learning?
4. What type of environment is conducive to listening, exploring and thinking?

➤ **Preschool for All, Celebration of Learning**

The Preschool for All, Celebration of Learning was held on May 30th at the Melrose Park Civic Center for 155 PFA families. Students received certificates, performed songs and enjoyed a picnic style lunch with their families and teachers. 106 students will be transitioning to Kindergarten from Preschool. One PFA classroom from Garfield School will be moved to Lincoln School for the opening of school in August. Preschool for All screenings will be held on June 12, 13 and 14th.