

# District Administrator's Report

December 2013

## Unity School District

### Farm to School Seminar A Success!

Unity School District hosted a seminar for area farmers and producers to share information on how to work collaboratively with school food service departments. Unity has been a leader in the inclusion of locally produced fruits and vegetables into the school meal program. This seminar was on December 5th, at school. It was designed to provide valuable information to local producers from this region to ensure that students benefit from fresh and locally produced food. There were presenters from Polk County Nutrition, Polk County Environmental Health, and state leaders in Farm to School initiatives.

### New District Website is Live

Unity School District's new website is now live! The redesign is meant to provide a cleaner, easier to navigate experience for students, parents, and community members. There are portions of the website that are still being developed and added, with the entire transformation soon to be completed.

Check out the new website at [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us)

### Unity is a Leader in Technology Integration

Unity School District has been a local leader in the integration of technology into the teaching and learning process for years. The District's wireless network, various computer labs, interactive technology in the classrooms, and 1:1 iPad Initiative in grades 6-12 have all coupled with our expert staff to provide our students with valuable learning experiences. This approach has helped to provide our students with the skills to be successful in higher education, careers, and other creative pursuits.

Last week, the District's technology coaches attended the Wisconsin School Leaders Integrating Technology into Education (SLATE) conference. They provided a successful, worthwhile presentation to school district representatives, sharing the District's journey through technology integration. Over 120 people attended the session, sharing various Districts' approaches to meeting the 21st Century emerging needs of learners.



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

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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:

- January 20: Full Day, Strengthening Curriculum, PBIS
- February 17: Full Day, Strengthening Curriculum, PBIS

## Unity Wall of Honor Nominations Sought

The Unity Board of Education has established a "Wall of Honor" to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Unity alumni and employees. Criteria for selection to the "Wall of Honor" will be based on contributions in the areas of education, business, human services, government, athletic, military, fine arts, and community involvement. Alumni selection is based on post-high school accomplishments. The nominee will be screened by a selection committee, which will meet in early March. Deadline for applications each year is March 1st.

If you know of someone who is worthy of being considered for the "Wall of Honor," nomination forms are available at Unity's District and School offices. Additionally, application forms are available on the District website at [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us). If you have any questions, call or write to Unity Wall of Honor, Unity School District, 1908 150th St./Hwy 46N, Balsam Lake, WI 54810; (715) 825-3515.

## 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.

### SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

#### PARENTS:

Please make sure that your contact information is updated with your child's school office. This will ensure that you receive the Skylert parent notification phone calls.

School Closing Information can be found at these media outlets.

WCCO Channel 4, [www.wcco.com](http://www.wcco.com)  
 KSTP Channel 5, [www.kstp.com](http://www.kstp.com)  
 KMSP Channel 9, [www.myfox9.com](http://www.myfox9.com)  
 KARE Channel 11, [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com)

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### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Friday, November 8	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:30 AM
Monday, December 16	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 17	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Rice Lake	9:00 AM
Thursday, December 19	HS Holiday Concert	Auditorium	7:00 PM
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1	No School - Winter Break	District	
Thursday, January 2	School Resumes	District	
Thursday, January 2	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Friday, January 10	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 14	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, January 15	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Monday, January 20	No School: Staff In-Service	District	
January 22-24	Wisconsin Joint State Education Convention	Milwaukee	
Thursday, January 23	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Saturday, January 25	Unity Eagle Groove Jazz Festival		

There are many performing art events through December and January. Visit the District website, under the "Calendar" menu for information on these amazing concerts and performances.

"Expect Great Things"

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

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### Inclement Weather Information

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a complicated one. There are many factors that must be considered and each school district is different. Unity School District is unique in that most of the students are bussed or transported to school daily. Each decision at Unity School District regarding school closings or delays includes consultation with others, such as the Polk County Highway Department, National Weather Service, and other area school districts.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to inclement weather when there is a significant concern for student safety. Generally, school closings or delays due to cold weather may be considered when temperatures are below -20°F and/or wind chill temperatures are below -40°F.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to snow or freezing rain when road conditions are hazardous. Closings or delays due to snow are dependent upon road conditions and not total snow accumulations. Snow accumulations vary greatly by location and are a concern when adversely impacting road conditions.

If school remains in session, it is important to clothe your child appropriately for the conditions. Ensuring that there is no exposed skin in cold weather, in addition to warm insulated clothing, is very important. The playground remains open for outside recess to -10°F, so please send appropriate winter apparel to school with your child. If appropriate apparel is needed, please contact the elementary principal or counselor.

If conditions are a concern where you live, please communicate those conditions to your child's school office. It is important to note whether a road or driveway is hazardous or unplowed. Additionally, please communicate with your child's office if your child will be absent due to acute inclement weather issues where you live, when school is in session.

The Parent Notification System will continue to keep you informed of Unity's school closings and other important announcements. Please share with your child's office any changes to your contact information.



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