

# Memo

**To:** Susan Flanagan, Interim Superintendent

**From:** Barbara Dahly

**Cc:** Board of Education

**Date:** April 1, 2012

**RE:** Department Update

### Community Alliance Education

The Community Alliance Education meeting took place on March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Community Alliance members are planning a series of parent workshops throughout the area that will support student success in schools. The workshop topics will include, student support services, school policy and procedural information (including registration, attendance requirements, immunization requirements, progress reports and report cards), and after school student services. Local library services and available community center resources will also be a focus of the program. The goal of the workshop is to assist parents with helping their child succeed in school.

Money Island – Diana Cross, Branch Manager/AVP of First American Bank in Melrose Park spoke to the committee about a new initiative the bank has been working on titled, Money Island. Money Island is a free, financial literacy program for children. The FREE program which is fully online, teaches children through a fun and interactive environment, the importance of financial responsibility. The program includes resources and lesson plans for both parents and teachers.

### Des Plaines Valley Region Elementary Career Development Meeting

The DVR Elementary Career grant meeting took place on March 22, 2012.

The guest speaker was Steve Parrott, Illinois State Board of Education, coordinator for the Illinois STEM and Technology Programs. Steve Parrott presented information on the *Engineering by Design* Program. The *Engineering by Design* Program is a model used by many schools developing themes in the STEM clusters that are seeking to increase all students' achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through authentic learning. This model is a national standards based model, aligned to the Common Core Standards and benchmarks.

### Chicago RUSH to Reading, and Motivational Speakers

District 89 schools have partnered with the Chicago Rush football team! Team players have visited all ten schools and promoted the importance of putting forth your best effort in and out of school. This partnership will continue with upcoming visits to schools and classrooms. The Chicago RUSH football team will be providing free tickets to their games when a District 89 student has read four books and completed a book report project.

Chicago RUSH visitation schedule for March :

March 20	Lexington	Importance of Coming to School on Time!
March 27	Emerson	Giving and doing one's best on and off the field!
March 27	Garfield	Positive Peer Interaction and Goal Setting
March 28	Irving	Healthy Living
March 28	Jane Addams	Importance of Homework
March 28	Roosevelt	Goal setting
March 28	Stevenson	Importance of School
March 29	Lincoln	Healthy Living

March 29	Melrose Park	Goal Setting and Punctuality
March 29	Washington	Goal setting

April/May dates TBD.

### The New Teacher Network

The New Teacher Network met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and began work on the module *Instructional Decision Making, The Reflective Process*. The reflective process step was explored by teachers participating in The New Teacher Network .

Teachers discussed the importance to continually revisit assessment practices, reevaluate class profiles, and monitor whether their instructional decisions are meeting student needs. If teaching is to be effective, goals will need to be revised and class profiles will change. Decisions need to be made on how often class profile and action plans are revised. Early on, teachers may need to adjust weekly or daily. As they gather more information on what each student needs, the path to success on grade-level goals will become increasingly apparent. It is important to remember that evidence-based instruction is a continuous process, not a snap-shot assessment.

Keep it going, self-monitor, and collaborate by:

- Keeping a reflection journal of your own teaching practice, your thoughts, frustrations, and goals.
- Taking time to reevaluate your hypotheses, based on daily evidence of student understanding.
- Self-assessing whether your instructional methods are the most effective.

All discussion related topics on The New Teacher Network are posted online on the Discussion Board under *The Foundations of Effective Teaching*.

### **WCMI Proviso Articulation Meeting**

The WCMI Proviso Articulation meeting was held on March 16, 2012. At this meeting elementary school district participants met with Proviso High School participants to address common challenges on the road to continuous improvement in providing quality mathematics instruction from Jr. High to High School. WCMI participants identified common issues, shared relevant ideas and design structures for school improvement efforts in mathematics instruction. Collaborative efforts will continue in year 3 of the WCMI grant.

### Teachscape Coaching

External coaches are scheduled to provide on-site campus support on the following days in April/May:\*

Emerson	Garfield	Irving	Jane Addams	Lexington	Lincoln	Melrose Park	Roosevelt	Stevenson	Washington
4/18	4/19	4/20	5/9 a.m.	5/22	5/8 a.m.	5/8 p.m.	5/9	5/23	5/8
5/2 p.m.	5/3 a.m.	5/2 a.m.	5/10 p.m.		5/9 p.m.	5/10 a.m.		5/24 a.m.	
5/18	5/16	5/3 p.m.	5/15 p.m.		5/11 a.m.	5/16 a.m.			
		5/17	5/17 a.m.		5/15 a.m.	5/17 p.m.			
			5/18 a.m.		5/16 p.m.				

\*Dates may be subject to change.