

School Board Report
Donna Beeley
March 31, 2010

Recognition:

Andy Higgins was selected as our Employee of the Month for March. Mr. Higgins is our Day Treatment teacher. He was recognized for the outstanding job he has done creating a program that really works for the students he has.

We had six staff members participate in the Beacon teacher training this month. These teachers are Jane McKenny, Martha Gill, Lynn Bancroft, Jenn Leask, Cindy Wallace and Paula Spruill. It is encouraging to see the excitement these teachers exhibited during and after the training. They have already begun to put some of their new ideas in their classrooms.

Topics of Interest/Successes:

The Memorial teachers and support staff are reading "Delivering on the Promise." This month our work involved activities from chapter 3 of "Delivering on the Promise" book. The Kindergarten teachers created a game show format to facilitate the discussion and understandings put forth in Chapter 3.

Our students enjoyed the opportunity to hear a presentation by children's book author and illustrator, Marty Kelley. Mr. Kelley is a humorous, engaging person who clearly knows young children really well. Students enjoyed his books and also learned how an author develops a story. This event was particularly helpful as many of our students are in the process of developing their own written stories. I am so glad our children had this opportunity due to the support of the Patriot Parents once again.

Our students have been participating in lessons delivered by staff to help clarify the expectations we have of students around the building in our common areas. A ticket system has been developed as a part of PBIS to acknowledge students for doing the right thing. This simple idea of a ticket system involving all our students and staff has been remarkably effective. Twenty-five student names are drawn each Thursday morning and winners are invited to a half hour event on Thursday afternoon. This work is a tribute to the excellent PBIS team at Memorial School. Those members are Katie Banks, Paula Spruill, Donna Skilling, Martha Bartlett, Lynn Bancroft, Susan Paris, Jenn Leask and Andy Higgins. Two of our members will be presenting at a state wide conference in May demonstrating our work in PBIS. Stop by sometime and see how the ticket system works.

During our Early Release time this month, both Russell and Memorial staffs worked together at Memorial. We reviewed a new student information sheet that has been developed and we also spent a good amount of time hearing from the experiences of the Beacon teachers.

Challenges:

Not enough hours in the day.

Short-Term Goals:

We have completed the winter benchmark assessments and teachers are evaluating the results. Some of our teachers are grouping students across the grade level to address the needs of students.

Continue to utilize our Technology Ed Tech, Tara Hannan to work with students and staff to connect curriculum and technology. Students have been using the laptops and computers in the library with her help. Mrs. Hanan has been providing teachers and parents with many resources for using computers at home and school.

Emerging Long-Term Goals:

Continue our work with PBIS.

Continue our work with staff and community about the concepts of a standards based program and shared vision.

Meet the needs of all students and ensure that all students are on grade level in literacy, math and writing by the end of grade 2.