

Principals Report November 16, 2010

Fall Sports: We had a successful soccer season with elementary, middle school and varsity teams. Our Soccer Sports Banquet was held on Wed. Nov. 10th. Mr. Mills and the varsity coaches presented certificates and awards to our student athletics. Basketball practice will start after Thanksgiving.

PBiS (Positive Behavior interventions and Support)- As you know our elementary school met the state criteria to become a PBiS school. Our students have met our monthly “all school” goals for September and October and are well on their way for making November’s goal. For reaching Sept.’s goal every student received a foam pop rocket, for Oct. we had an ice cream party at lunch time and for Nov. they will get to wear hats of their choice for a day. Each classroom has met their individual goals and received a wooden rocket they can paint as they wish. A volunteer parent designed and made (with donations from another parent) the amazing 8 ft tall rocket in our elementary school entrance way. The state department of education did a site visit last week and interviewed 20 students and a number of staff to determine if we met their criteria of 80/80 (80% of students knowing 80% of our Behavioral Expectation). We of course ROCKed! We received over the expected 80/80!! Our school’s behavioral expectations are outlined by the mnemonic ROCKET Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness, Education, and Team). We will be moving this behavioral program into our Middle school in the spring of this year. Amy Braun is our school’s PBiS coordinator.

Activity Period Offerings. We had a successful 1st quarter Activity Period and have introduced our 2nd marking period activities on Wed. of last week. They are Group games with Mr. Graziadei, Small Engines with Mr. Mitchell, Rockettimes and Yearbook with Mr. Moltz, Film Class with Ms. Turk, Drama with Mr. Pezzulo, and High School Glee club with Mrs. Cronic. *Note: I would like to discuss a Film Club question with you. One note: To allow our 8th graders to have PE in the gym (quite the concept) we have moved 8th grade PE to the activity period. Also in an effort to give our middle school student more art time we have added another two 45 minute periods of art a week to also be held during the activity period. I have a question concerning our Film Studies Class. **Question:** If parents are aware of the content and sign a permission slip – could movies that are R rated be used. The movie choices are current movies that cover needed lessons in our society:

Slumdog Millionaire, Crash (dealing with multiethnic characters struggling to overcome their fears) Milk (true story of the first openly gay man elected to a major public office) and The Fisher King (a modern quest for redemption and the Holy Grail). As a note: I have been informed that Bethel has had a successful Film Class that has operated on the parental permission technique for years. Also note: Students are not required to take this activity class.

Evaluations: I have completed the 1st evaluations for our 4 new teachers. I was very impressed with each of their preparation and lessons.

Budgets: I received budget information from our teachers and have totally immersed myself in our budget and feel confident that we will be able to present a passable budget to our community.

Fall Hike Day –was a rousing success with all of our students enjoying great hikes on the Long Trail and in our beautiful community.

Big Picture Academy students presented their first exhibitions – most were well done and we know that we have made a great decision to add this wonderful program to our school.

Community Dinner and Discussion – as you all know this was a great success!

Senior Project – Please look at the finished Senior Project notebook on the table. Our students are meeting the deadlines and seem genuinely excited (and nervous) about this Rochester “right of passage”. Ms. Turk is managing all deadlines and students have the benefit of her instruction and guidance. Mr. Pezzulo and Mrs. Bair’s also have roles in assisting our seniors with this valuable endeavor.

ExCel Program – the ExCel program director resigned from his post due to personal issues. We are currently in the process of hiring a replacement. Michele Ricci- principal of Stockbridge is the grant coordinator and has stepped in to help while the interviewing process is underway. We have two very talented site coordinators here in Rochester. Dana Anderson is our elementary coordinator and Justine Calnan is our middle/high coordinator. They have both produced exciting after school program offerings and also “man” our before school computer room. Question: One of the ExCel after school programs is a film class- the instructor would like to show clips from a variety of films, some which may be R rated. The question is – if parents are aware of the content and sign a permission slip – could these clips be used. This is much like the question posed earlier about our film class.

NECAP/NWEA- We have completed the first round of both the NECAP and NWEA testing cycles.

Leadership Council- The Rochester Leadership Council has taken on the daunting task of updating our Crisis System. We have rewritten our *Clear the Halls* and *Secure the Building* procedures and shared them with the entire staff at our last Full Staff Meeting. We will be working on the evacuation procedure next.

VSAC- Mr. O’Hearn coordinated a successful evening program for parents and students with a VSAC counselor on Oct. 12th. Mr. O’Hearn has also helped our seniors who wanted to submit “Early Applications”. I would like to discuss our guidance position during executive session.

Use of our **beautiful auditorium:** We have had two wonderful theatre productions in our auditorium this fall. The WRVP Teen Production of “A Midnight Summer’s Dream” and the original play by the Player’s “Ransom”. I think our auditorium looked good as did our lobbies, I thank all those who assisted in making our school the nicest community center it can be.

Student Council- Our SC is overseen by Kay Stringer and has had a number of successful programs already this year. We had a lively “Spirit Week” where our students showed their spirit by wearing something interesting each day for a week. The SC also cleaned up the Greenhouse grounds after our unfortunate vandalism. They are currently hosting a “food drive” with each class competing to be the class with the most contributions.

School Beautification- We held a “Painting Party” on Saturday, Nov. 6th where we painted 5 panels to cover the boarded up windows above the elementary school entrance. We will be hosting more as the fall/winter continues. We have used Mrs. Kirkpatrick funds to pay for the paint and boards. Mr. Norm Christianson is our artistic director and we were thrilled to paint using his giant paint by number technique. A number of girls are also painting the girls locker room to make it more inviting. Tim D. will be replacing some of the grubby showers with useful shelving and make two of our showers user friendly.

Vandalism – As you know we were vandalized on Sunday, Nov. 7. Both the police and my own investigation are complete and I will be presenting information to you during executive session.

Library question – We have had a request from Stockbridge to access our expanding academic video collection. We will have them sign an agreement much like the usual interlibrary book loan. Our Librarian will make this happen.

Basketball- We have had a request to allow students in grades 3-6 from Stockbridge join our basketball teams. Jeff Mills checked with the VPA and they are ok with it if we are ok. I had Jeff draft a letter – it is attached. I would like them to be allowed to play.

1ST Quarter grades for middle/high

We will be having our Honor Assembly this Friday from 1:30-3:00. We had only One 6th grader fail classes, no 7th graders, three 8th graders, two 9th graders, one 10th grader, and one 11th grader. I have met with all but two of these students so far, and each one has developed a plan to correct this.

Bus issue:

Our buses have been inspected and passed. Unfortunately –our wheelchair lift did not pass inspection. It will need nearly \$1000 in repairs to fix. We could disconnect the lift and not use it, and use one of Bethel’s wheelchair capable buses if we need one. What do you think? It can’t be fixed (their schedule) until Jan., so we can think on it.

Staff Issues: Will be discussed in executive session.

Student Issues: Will be discussed in executive session