



School District of New London

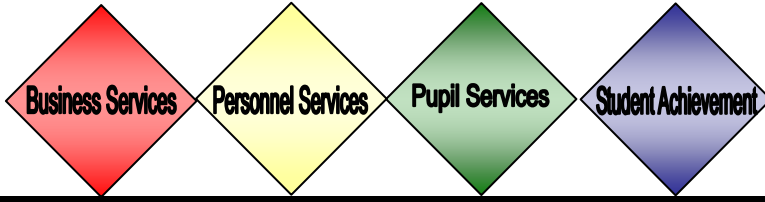
DIVISION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson

Division: Pupil Services

Date: April 2009



Autism Awareness Month

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, held in April every year, the Autism Society of Wisconsin sponsored its 4th Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest, entitled "How Students with Autism Benefit Our Classroom". The contest is held to recognize students with autism spectrum disorders, and students who support other students with an autism spectrum disorder.

Even though a popularly held belief is that models of inclusive education have negative effects on typically developing students, research has shown this not to be so. Research has shown that typically developing "A" students retain their "A" status while those who were "B" and "C" students show an increase in academic performance. It has been shown that inclusion of students with autism benefits all students in the classroom in a variety of ways.

Macy Madsen, a **Readfield Elementary** student, won first place in the 2009 contest sponsored by WEAC. She will be awarded \$200 and be given opportunity to read her essay in Wisconsin Dells at the state Autism Conference on May 8th. Macy is a student in Kim Jordan's classroom, where all students submitted an entry about learning with and from their peers with Autism.

Party at the P.A.C.

All New London High School Freshman students attended Party at the P.A.C. on April 1st, sponsored by the Theda Clark Medical Center Foundation, and the Trauma Center at Theda Clark, at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton. Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth, or P.A.R.T.Y., is a reality education program for students, allowing them to see and hear firsthand what can happen as a result of making poor choices.

The greatest incidence of trauma injury and death occurs in the 15 to 24-year age groups. P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. delivers a powerful message about the perils of risk-taking behavior,

the consequences, and the importance of personal responsibility – while empowering young people to make informed, safe choices.



GEDO #2 Application Submission

As the Alternative Educational Program for the School District of New London comes to fruition, the last step in the process is the application and approval from the Department of Public Instruction for the G.E.D. Option 2 program for New London High School.

Our proposal to D.P.I. includes 16 hours of face-to-face instruction in the late afternoon/evening with work experience and a portfolio presentation as a part of the process. With this last phase being submitted this week, all components for the Alternative Education proposal made to the School Board in January and February will be complete.

As a review, it includes the PATHS program for at-risk youth, Credit recovery during the school day and evening, via face-to-face and online instruction, options to target more significant youth to the Starr Academy Home Plus day program, and continuation of the PEGASUS program at New London Middle School.