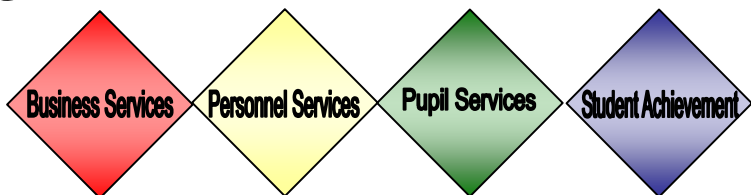




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

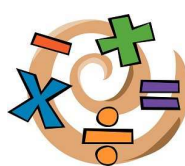
Date: February, 2011

Building Capacity:

A team of 15 staff members recently took part in the Wisconsin State Reading Association's (WSRA) annual conference. This year's theme was to **Engage and Energize for Literate Lives**. Noted scholars and researchers joined classroom practitioners in an effort to share best practice ideas and resources.

Our team brought back an abundance of research, resources, ideas, and energy that will be applied to our efforts to continually improve literacy opportunities for students, families, and the community.

Besides learning together we were also very proud to share our district's expertise with others. Donna Young and Michele Koshollek served as presenters in a session titled: *Bring Your Research Paper Into the 21st Century*. Their presentation targeted middle and high school teachers as well as coaches and administrators. They shared how they were able to re-energize research projects with interactive web tools in a way that engages students and stimulates critical thinking. Demonstrations included the integration of Web 2.0 tools throughout every phase of the research process. Student samples highlighted positive outcomes. Donna and Michele will join other teacher leaders who will share their presentations with New London staff during an upcoming Early Release opportunity.



Math Mornings:

Elementary principals are teaming with math coach, Mary Richards, to offer 'Math Mornings' for parents who wish to learn how *Math Expressions* provides a resource that helps students to develop a conceptual understanding of mathematics. Parents join the principal and math coach for a brief introduction to the program, and then they spend the next hour observing math lessons. The group gathers again after the observations to share what they have learned. All teachers present math at the same time on this special day which allows parents the opportunity to observe learning at a variety of levels.

Invitation:

You are invited to attend 4K Family Winter Outreach activities from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2 at the Washington Center.

Activities on this date are just one of several ways we provide outreach to families. As part of our 4K Collaborative agreement, our district needs to incorporate a parental outreach component within our four-year-old kindergarten program. Outreach activities must comprise at least 20% (87.5 hours) of the 437 required hours for our four-year-old kindergarten. Outreach activities are intended to support, nurture, and instruct parents in their role as primary educators of their children.

Math, literacy, social studies, science, gross motor, and music stations will be set up in a way that highlights how to effectively engage young learners.

