



School District of New London

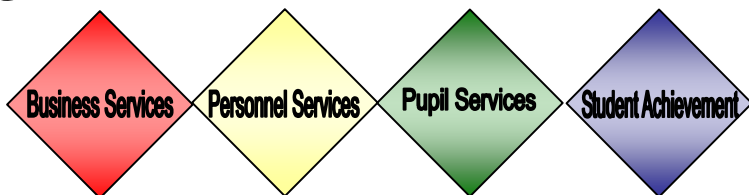
DIVISION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson

Division: Pupil Services

Date: November 2010



Child Development Days @ Crystal Falls

On November 17 - 18, 2010, Crystal Falls Banquet facility will be the location for district provided screening of children between the ages of 2 and 5 years of age. This screening serves as a piece of the state's mandated child find efforts. We will be working collaboratively with Waupaca and Outagamie county Early Intervention agencies and HeadStart. Our Early Childhood: Special Education teachers, bilingual teachers and tutors, school psychologists, nurses, speech and language pathologists, and Kindergarten teachers participate as screeners in checking New London's youth for age appropriate development in speech, gross and fine motor skills, and pre-academics. Children also receive a medical screen by the nurse, who checks vision and hearing. Screeners meet with the parents upon completion of the activities and share skill accomplishments and next steps. Those children who trigger concerns are referred on for formal screening processes.



Training

I will be attending trainings in Madison next week. Following the DPI Leadership in Special Education and Pupil Services conference, I will participate in "Trauma Informed Schools Training." The training focuses on the impact of trauma on children in a school setting. The training is a format which I'll be bringing back to the district to share with the Pupil Services team in a training format with each of them.

Often when children have been traumatized through violence, their behaviors may be misinterpreted to other causes. Research shows that the academic success of trauma-affected children is dependent upon educators being aware of how trauma affects children differently than adults and making schools more trauma-sensitive.

Through this national training opportunity we will continue to build staff capacity in meeting the needs of children who have a much greater need from our school staff.

A Success Story.....

Sometimes the Board has the uncomfortable position of working through the expulsion process with students in the School District of New London. I have a success story for you. Two years ago, in the spring of 2008, a sophomore at NLHS was expelled.

For awhile she sat at home, unmotivated. After encouragement and additional information regarding the National Guard's Challenge Academy, she participated in their winter class of 2010, earning her HSED June 12, 2010. An HSED doesn't hold the same clout as a diploma, and soon she came knocking at the door. Since a mid-August meeting with Mr. Fitzpatrick, the student, her mother, and I have been working with her to complete additional diploma requirements.

We met often to develop her portfolio and future goals. She completed training as a certified nursing assistant, while also working part-time at the Piggly Wiggly this fall. Her exit interview with Mr. Pomrening is scheduled for the morning of November 23, 2010. Later in the day, she'll receive her diploma at the Administrative Office from Mr. Fitzpatrick. Her family will be coming along to celebrate with her - on Mom's birthday.

This young lady has turned herself around and plans to go into nursing school in her near future. When we see students go through an expulsion process, it is nice also to hear a different end to the story...a success story.