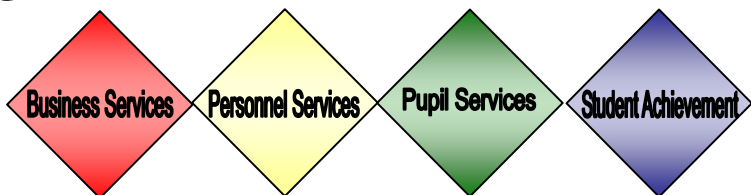




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: October, 2011



### After School Program

#### Volunteers:

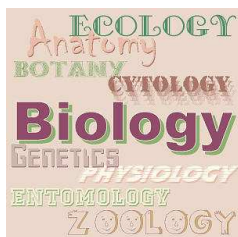
Approximately 20 high school juniors and seniors have been trained to serve as volunteers for the After School programs at the elementary level. High

School junior, Tylan Mastaw, had proposed this volunteer opportunity as a part of a School of Enterprise Marketing (SEM) project, and worked with me to ensure participants are fully trained. We reviewed topics from confidentiality to student engagement. Mary Richards joined me for a session that highlighted Math Expressions and content area reading. Tylan will now work with building principals to schedule volunteers into each After School Program.

### Words Their Way:

Sixth grade language arts teachers, Anne Ferge and Kelly Keach have been researching ways to improve the rigor and relevance of teaching spelling and vocabulary. They are piloting *Words Their Way*, which is an individualized approach to teaching these topics.

An assessment is given to determine where to begin instruction. Based on assessment results, students are given words to study in order to discover common attributes. In this manner students are actively constructing their own knowledge of spelling patterns. Students learn features by completing activities that allow them to apply their learning instead of merely memorizing isolated terms. This pilot will inform efforts to continually improve curricular opportunities in our English Language Arts program.



### Mission Leadership Team (MLT):

Mission Leadership Team (MLT) is a district level leadership team that:

- Provides effective leadership and district representation on Building Leadership Teams.
- Assists staff in the use of data to develop a culture that fosters learning for all students.
- Connects professional development opportunities to district and school goals.
- Serves as a communication liaison within the district.

We have reviewed our district's Strategic Plan and annual goals in support of the strategies. Focus has been placed on the following goal: *Purposefully develop teacher leaders in the district to drive the plan.*

To do this, Action Teams have been organized and members work to ensure initiatives are moving forward. Action Teams include:

- Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K)
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Assessment
- Building Capacity-(Classroom Instruction that Works) Strategies
- Building Capacity-Teacher Inservice Days
- Career Academy Structure

Thanks to Terry Wetzel's assistance, we have started to use the Moodle platform to communicate progress and celebrate successes.

### WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam):

The window for the 2011-12 WKCE is October 24- November 25. Joe Green and I will provide test security training to ensure all proctors clearly understand expectations of test administration. Building principals are sending out notification to parents about the test and their upcoming testing schedule. Tests will arrive in the district within the week.