

Board Report from Warsaw Middle School

Sandy Nevens, Principal

January 27, 2010

Students of the Month for January*:

These students have not been selected yet, as our next staff meeting is Monday, February 1, 2010!

Spelling Bee:

Thirty-two 5-8 students participated in our annual Spelling Bee this past Tuesday night, and two students were left standing at the end of the competition. Congratulations to Alexandra Ackroyd and William Wescott who were our winners and will represent Warsaw in the Somerset County Spelling Bee. They won't have to travel far, however, as we will be hosting the Somerset County Bee in the Warsaw Library. Thanks to Donna Chale and Marilyn Graham, Bee organizers and judges. Retired teacher Marge Louder agreed to serve as our Bee Master and Pronouncer. It was a nice evening with many accomplished spellers who were also good sports!

Math with Meghan January 14, 2010:

Meghan Southworth continues to explore the CMP Curriculum with grades 5-8 math teachers. The session on December 1, 2010 had teachers work in small groups to do a hands-on CMP Problem that focused on engineering. Using paper and books to construct a "bridge" and pennies to determine the effects of weight and stress in bridge construction, teachers became the students who had to hypothesize and then test their construction. It was great to see teachers doing a hands-on activity like this one prior to students so that teachers will be able to better predict some of the questions and "roadblocks" that may occur when students test their bridge designs.

Math Meet:

- The Warsaw Middle School Math Team in its second meeting this school year again performed extremely well.

7th Grade Team 1- 2nd Place Team Round

- Cassie Miller
- Josie Bradshaw
- Katie George
- Katie Hughes

7th Grade Individual

- Cassie Miller & Josie Bradshaw- tied 1st place
- Trinity Bachrach-6th place

NECAP Recap? I do not have the results yet, but the posting of the Fall NECAP tests should occur as early as tomorrow, Thursday, January 28. I am anxious to see if we continued to see gains that led to our moving into Safe Harbor after gains in MEA scores that we took in March of 2009!

CIPS Plan Update / *Bright Futures!*

Jill Spencer and Chris Toy Activity

The CIPS Team recommended that we create a Survey Monkey on the 12 Best Practices that Bright Futures highlights. I have arranged for Jill and Chris to work with the middle school on Bright Futures for the March 11 Professional Development day. Still to be determined is whether or not to create and send out the Survey Monkey before their workshop (as was suggested at the last CIPS Meeting) or after the March 11 work is complete. I will discuss the options with Anne Miller, as well as Chris and Jill so that we have a decision by early next week.

I will keep the Board informed as to the progress and timeline for this work. Please contact me with any questions regarding *Bright Futures* and / or the focus of our work with Chris Toy and Jill Spencer.

Awards: Sports, Academics, and Citizenship:

On Wednesday, January 27, students were called to the gym for Awards for the first two marking periods. Students of the Month (September through December), Honor Roll students for the two marking periods, spelling bee participants, and students in fall sports all were recognized. The Award Presentations were divided into two gatherings, 5th and 6th awards, followed by 7th and 8th.

Celebrating a School of Fish and Picking with Prickitt !

On February 5 we will have a FISH Assembly in the gymnasium to start our Friday off with a supportive and entertaining reminder of the importance of the FISH Philosophy. We will show the short film that presents the FISH Philosophy, including a staff song and skit that should be entertaining. We will have a follow up art activity in our FISH Groups as well as a response to the film. We have tried to reinforce our FISH focus throughout the year, but every four years we show the film so that all students will see it.

We are well focused on the business of learning, but occasionally, opportunity knocks and we are able to provide special activities that entertain, inspire, and /or instruct us all. On the afternoon of Tuesday, February 23, Chris Prickitt and the Abbott Hill Ramblers will present a mini-concert for our staff and students in the gym. Chris is a teacher at Dexter Middle School and the Ramblers are middle and high school students.

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