

WZOK Teachers of the Week

Lightning struck twice as Lindsay Keppel, PG 1st Grade, was the WZOK teacher of the week on November 1 and a week later Renee Roen, 5th grade, was given the same honor. Both teachers are extremely deserving. Pictures of each with their classes are available on the website and in the NB Blog.

Golden Apple

Twenty-two of our teachers were nominated for the Golden Apple this year. The complete list is available on the district's website under NEWS. It is also mentioned on the district blog. The principals and I have been working to get as many of these exceptional educators to apply for the next step of the award process as possible. I think we have at least three who are seriously considering moving forward.

IDEA Fund Reduction

On October 27, the Federal government announced that the FY12 IDEA funding levels were reduced. The overall impact for North Boone will be a reduction of around \$4000.

NBMS/UE Renaissance Program

Students in grades 5-8 will be eligible to participate in a NB Renaissance program for those students who meet the academic and attendance standards. Any student who made renaissance got a donut at lunch on 11/18. Students who made High Renaissance 3.75 or higher and/or perfect attendance get free admission to a MS basketball game and are eligible to win a gift basket.

This is one effort to positively increase academic performance and increase attendance. Mr. Hubert and I have been working on developing some similar process for incentivizing NBHS attendance.

School Report Card

Attached are samples of the new format for the school report card that ISBE is planning to begin to use in the future.

Driver Education

Senator Susan Garrett has been doing some sort of research about outsourcing Driver Education, but it isn't clear if she is going to come up pro or con on the topic. Attached is the letter I received from her last month.

Governor's Consolidation Efforts

We are still waiting to hear more about the consolidation process. However, we are anticipating some type of consolidation among the Regional Offices. The goal will probably be to decrease the number of ROEs from about 44 to less than 20. We will wait to see what kind of action the state takes.

ESL Computer Lab Open House

Mr. Klett and the ELL staff are holding Open Computer Labs at Capron from 4 – 7 pm some Wednesdays. This will be for ELL parents and their school children. Ten parents attended the first evening. NBHS students are serving as interpreters for the open times. This was a direct result of the ESL parent meeting mentioned below.

ESL Parent Meeting

Mr. Klett had 25 parents at the ELL Parent meeting on Nov. 1. The ELL staff in attendance were Eva Rutiaga, Cindy Maten, Emily Wykes, and Sonia DelReal. It was a good meeting. We showed them our new Spanish Tab on the website. They were very appreciative of that. This tab will get added to from time to time. Two items they did request for the Spanish website is the student handbook and a list of books in Spanish that are correlated to their children's reading abilities.

Engineering Running Start

There is a desire to develop a program similar to the RVC Running Start Program specifically for students focused on engineering. This program would have students dual enrolled at RVC for their junior and senior years and then graduate NBHS along with an associate's degree from RVC. They would then take their junior and senior year of college in NIU's Rockford Campus. Attached is a more complete summary. I see no downside for us to agree to be part of this program. There might be one or two students interested in the program per year and for those students, it would be an excellent opportunity.

NBHS Play

The NBHS Players presented A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens on last Friday and Saturday evenings. The reviews were positive. About 30 students were involved in the production. The NBHS music concert will be December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Technology Upgrades

The IT staff has upgraded the district's firewall and filtering appliances. We have not been able to complete the upgrades from 6MB to 20MB connections between the K-4 campuses and the main campus as the cost was originally to be approximately \$8700, but the need to increase the strength of the equipment primarily for Manchester, due to the distance, has increased the project to approximately \$10,250. So, the IT staff and Fox Valley were put on hold until after the Board could be notified of the project. Please let me know if you have a concern about completing this project. The current connection isn't meeting the needs of the buildings. Manchester experiences the most issues, where Poplar Grove and Capron have more intermittent problems. Attached is the project scope.

Power School is due to be upgraded during Thanksgiving Week. That work should be completed by the next Board meeting. There are no significant changes in the program, but mostly minor improvements or fixes. There was no cost to the upgrade beyond our yearly maintenance fees.

We have now installed the 150 computers purchased this summer. We are ready to order the next 100, so many of them can be installed over Winter break. We currently have 55 remaining old Shuttles to replace and then want to upgrade the computer labs at the K-5 buildings. Most likely,

starting with Capron and NBUE. This will allow us to replace the current laptops with desktop computers in those labs. The laptops will be repurposed to replace older computers. The NBUE lab is particularly slow and Mr. Rudolph has had to send some classes over the NBMS labs to allow for some of the more processing intense projects to work effectively. I would also like to look at getting proper furniture for the NBUE lab, as that furniture was removed a couple of years ago and not replaced. The NBUE teachers are heavy users of the lab and the laptop carts (COWS) available in the building.