

### **Staff Recognition**

Kristi Crawford was nominated for the Puri Outstanding Administrator Award, which is the administrative equivalent of the Golden Apple. We should know more about her progress in that pool of candidates in the next month to six weeks. Attached is the letter from the Golden Apple Foundation notifying us of Mrs. Crawford's nomination.

### **Wrestlers to State**

Ninth grader, Brandon Briggs, has become the first-ever state wrestling champ from North Boone High School. Brandon won the 106 pound weight class by pinning Kyle Simpkins of Kankakee McNamara HS at 4:56. With the win, Brandon finishes his freshman season with a record of 33-3, and one state title! Tenth grader, Gus Eisele was chosen as an alternate as well.

### **Grading Recommendations**

The Grading Committee has met most of this year to review the current grading scales in place for both K-4 and 5-12 along with eligibility requirements for students involved in extra-curricular programs. One recommendation will be to

move away from the current 7% scale to the 10% scale most other schools in the area use. An common sentiment from staff is that the current scale puts North Boone students at a disadvantage in the college application process. Those recommendations will go to the Curriculum Committee shortly.

### **Math Textbook Selection**

As mentioned in a weekly update, the Math Committee is working to pilot two new math series this spring, K-5. Lindsay Abbeduto is working with the 6-8 Grade teachers to determine what additional needs they have to complete the materials which were originally purchased a couple of years ago. One of the potential changes would be to move to more subject oriented schedules at 6<sup>th</sup> grade. However, that would also have some potential staffing issues due to different certification requirements if the 6<sup>th</sup> grade wasn't simply set up as self-contained classrooms. The key issue is that the Connected Math series, according to the staff, requires significant prep time and that works for the NBMS teachers who can focus only on math and have limited preps. For the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers doing that prep while also preparing for reading, science, etc. is potentially overwhelming.

### **Response to Intervention (RTI) Workshop**

At the January in-service day, Lindsay Abbeduto and Kim Moore presented on differentiated instruction and RTI. Attached is the feedback that they gathered from the sessions. I think we are making improvements with the implementation of RTI throughout the district. Dr. Bridget Belcastro and Jake Hubert presented on differentiation instruction as well.



**Briggs and Coach Baker**

### **March 2 Institute Day**

Dr. Sharon Olds organized the majority of the workshops for the March 2 institute day. The day will begin with an overview of the new dismissal process for certified staff, so everyone will be able to hear the same information. Any Board members who wish to join us for that session can join us in the NBHS cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Although I do not yet have final numbers, I do feel that conferences were not particularly well attended this spring. The daytime hours on Friday were particularly sparse. Currently, the administrative team set conference times for next year as the evenings of October 11 & 16, 2012 and February 28, 2013. Daytime conferences would be held on March 1, 2013. If we don't get better attendance, we may want to review our options after next year. The impact of Power School's Parent Access seems to be allowing many parents to keep up with how their children are doing without the need for a conference. Attached are copies of the finalized 2012-2013 calendar in two formats.

### **ECRA Group**

Sharon Olds and I went to a meeting with Lou Gatta and other members of ECRA Group to review their program evaluation and certified evaluation models for student achievement. We were extremely impressed with their programming, particularly as it impacts program evaluation and the new teacher and principal evaluations processes.

### **Theft**

Over the Presidents Day Weekend, someone stole some scrap metal from behind the district office. A report was filed with the Sheriff's Department.

### **Technology**

We have been working with Tech Care to review our technology needs going forward and will be recommending a reduced contract for their services. However, due to the real lack of redundancy among our staff, I will still be recommending that we retain their services to provide for some redundancy for our operations.

We are also ready to order the rest (100) of the 250 computers that we budgeted for replacements this year. We have decided it makes more sense to purchase them with a three year warranty instead of a one year warranty. Attached are three quotes for identical imaged computers from three vendors.

### **TRS Information**

Attached is a presentation from the TRS staff about the potential impact of the proposed new TRS changes that are being floated about. Interestingly, at least one of those may have the impact of increasing pension payments to current employees if they are forced to pay increased premiums.