Summer Library

The week of June 6 marked the start of the weekly Summer Library Program at Poplar Grove, Capron, and North Boone Upper Elementary. Attendance during the first week was strong with 130 attending at PG, 20 at NBUE, and 60 at Capron. Summer Library will continue weekly through the first week of August (no Library the week of July 4th).

Technology Update

The District email migration to Google occurred over the weekend of June 2-3. All staff will now access email through Google. District staff received information from our District IT staff on this process well before the end of the school year. After the migration, staff was again sent a School Messenger reminding them of procedures to access their district Google mail account. The Administrative team was given an inservice regarding the new features of Google last week. It is anticipated that there will be additional training for staff at the start of the new school year. This process appeared to go quite smoothly, and district staff on-site for the summer did not experience any down time with email communication at the start of work on Monday, June 4.

New Math Programming

Teachers are already preparing for our new Math Curriculum at the K-8 level. A workshop for enVision training was held on May 30 for K-5 teachers with another date scheduled for the first week in August. K-2 and 3-5 each had or will have the opportunity for a ½ day inservice that gives and overview of the program and tips for successful implementation. All of the teacher materials have arrived and were available for the training. All class and student materials also arrived and have been divided between the 4 schools.

Grades 6-8 participated in Connected Math training on June 6. There will be follow-up training for both Connected Math and enVision throughout the school year.

2012-2013

In conjunction with the Administrative team, Dr. Olds developed a professional development calendar agenda for district staff for the upcoming school year that covers both inservice and early release days. All District Staff had the opportunity to submit ideas for possible inservice topics. The year kicks off with an all staff back to school workshop on August 17th featuring keynote speaker Mary Kay Morrison with a presentation titled "Using Humor to Maximize Learning."

Summer School

The school year isn't finished for many students and district staff. The ELL Summer School and the Elementary Life Skills Extended Year program are both taking place at Poplar Grove School. The ELL Summer School is averaging 32 students in attendance, and the Life Skills program has 8 participants. These two programs run for three weeks in the summer—two weeks after school and one week closer to the start of school. The High School Credit Recovery summer program starts on June 11 and currently has 13 confirmed participants with more expected before the first session.

Also, starting on June 11 is the Camp Invention Program for grades K-5 which will be housed at Poplar Grove. There are over 80 students expected for Camp, and while many participants are from North Boone, there will also be students from the Belvidere School District, Rockford School District, and Kinnikinnick School District. The NCLB grant is covering the cost of several participants from District Title 1 Schools. The goal of this program is to allow students the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills while working on highly motivating group projects related to Science and Math. Becky Giesecke, 3rd grade teacher at Poplar Grove, has done an exemplary job of organizing this camp. The teachers at camp are all District Staff. In addition, there are also several Middle and High School Students acting as Camp Helpers for pay or volunteer service credit and experience. This is the only location for this nationwide Camp in the Northern Illinois area.

Testing

Preliminary results for the ISAT and ACT have been made available for Administrators through the Student Information System on the ISBE website. We are now in the phase called "Data Correction Window." This is the time in which we double-check demographic data before official scores are announced and distributed and AYP status is determined. It is important to note that the ISAT test is just a one point measure that we use in addition to our comprehensive district testing program where student progress is monitored on a frequent basis.

PSAT data and AP test data will not be available until the end of July. It is important to note that this was a record year for AP testing at North Boone High School as 79 students sat for these exams.