

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT CLARK-WILKINS ELEMENTARY

October 30, 2018

Nicola Fraley, M.Ed., Principal

Elementary School Excellence

School Goals

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Develop and implement high quality curriculum, assessment and instructional practices to support personalized student learning.

Collaborative Team Time: The second round of Collaborative Team Time meetings have been held at Clark-Wilkins for grade level teachers to come together and discuss curriculum, instruction, and assessment. At the most recent meetings, teachers were able to dig deeper into the instructional software of Dreambox to learn more about how it could be used with their students. Based on individual grade level needs, teams spent time discussing best practices for guided reading, phonemic awareness instruction, and collaboratively scoring summative math assessments. These meetings also include our colleagues at MVVS which enables us to have rich discussions about curriculum and helps us with decision making and the sharing of ideas.

Empower PD Mini-Sessions: Professional development sessions have been offered to staff at Clark-Wilkins focused on using Empower and the Work Study Practices. Teachers who have attended these sessions have been able to practice setting up additional grade books for scoring Work Study Practices. We have also had the opportunity to dig into the rubrics that were created by the SAU Work Study Practice Team.

iNACOL: During the week of 10/22, Kathleen Murphy and Nicola Fraley attended the iNACOL Symposium in Nashville, TN. The symposium focused on personalized, mastery-based educational models, tools and practices. We had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics such as cultivating conditions for social and emotional learning, habits of mind, the power of relationships, and how to effectively track and monitor students' progress towards mastery. We worked and learned alongside some of the most innovative educational leaders from across the country and around the world. We are excited to share our learning with the school community and continue to grow and develop our practices.

Social and Emotional Learning: Establish a community, classroom, and school-wide, that fosters and ensures the social and emotional development and growth of all students.

MyTime Program Development: The MyTime program at Wilkins Elementary School continues to progress in its development. At the current time, the program's primary focus has been building capacity to support students that require significant intervention related to social-emotional and behavioral difficulties. The immediate needs at the school have dictated this focus. Future development will expand the program's focus to provide additional tiered level supports to any student requiring services related to social-emotional functioning. The

administration has been working collaboratively to utilize resources to ensure best practices are being implemented during program development. More specifically, a single classroom has recently been dedicated to this program, allowing for the development of intervention and small group instruction space. Additionally, the staff has been reassigned to provide further resources to the current student's accessing these interventions. The administration is working closely to evaluate additional needs related to creating stronger tier level supports in this domain. Providing adequate resources to these tiered services will allow the opportunity for the district to ensure all students and teachers are provided with the necessary supports to create effective and safe teaching environments.

Healthy & Safe Learning Environment: Ensure that students & staff are healthy, safe, & supported emotionally, physically, & socially.

Emergency Drills: The CW ICS team has met to review and revise our practices and protocols for fire drills. The changes have been presented to staff and tested in our most recent October drills. The feedback from the AFD and CW staff will be discussed and analyzed, and further adjustments will be made as we continue to develop highly effective and streamlined practices during emergencies and emergency drills. We will be looking to evaluate, review and practice more of our indoor emergency responses as the weather turns colder and fire drills become more challenging.

Water Fountains and Water Bottle Refill Stations: Additional water fountains have been installed at Clark and Wilkins. The stations, which include filtered water bottle refill stations, will be available for student and staff use.

Spirit and Support Committee: Subcommittees of the Spirit and Support Committee have been formed. The various groups have already begun to work in their targeted areas – aiming to positively impact the CW school culture and climate for students, staff and our wider community. Events and activities will include school-wide assemblies, spirit days – including a CW spirit wear day, and many others.

Team Share: Beginning this year, teams of CW educators will be presenting at each faculty meeting. The purpose of Team Share is to showcase and share the knowledge and expertise that lives within the walls of CW. We also hope that regular sharing in this format will build stronger connections and understanding of the great work going on throughout the building.

“Fund for Teachers Grants” was presented by the CW administrative team. It is a privately funded organization that helps teachers to participate in experiences that reinvigorate their practices and passion for teaching and learning. Experiences range from attending conferences around the world to studying science in the Arctic and everything in between.

Most recently, the fourth-grade team shared “We Hiked it and Liked It” focusing on the annual fourth-grade hike up Pack Monadnock. The team shared how they embed a variety of curriculum areas into the hike while also bringing students, staff, and parent volunteers to build strong relationships.

Inspirational & Effective Teaching

Frontline: All CW administrators have been meeting with teachers and professional staff to conduct formal and informal observations. Formal observations include a pre and post conference that enable the teacher and administrator to engage in coaching and reflective conversations about the lesson and their practice.

In the coming weeks, the CW administrative team will be engaging in activities during our weekly meetings that help us to become more consistent with our feedback, processes, and procedures during observations and the supervision cycle.

Observations	Completed	To Be Completed
Informal (10-15 minutes in class)	31	181
Formal (pre-observation conference, 45-60 minute observation, post-observation conference)	17	19

Facilities, Finance, and Operations

Facilities: The Joint Facilities committee has been meeting regularly to develop short and long-term plans and scenarios to address the overcrowding that we are experiencing at Clark-Wilkins and across the district. There are three members of the CW team on this committee that offer a variety of perspectives and many years of experience in the Amherst School District.

Our in-building facilities crew has been working to implement new cleaning practices that will help to reduce illness (we hope). The new cleaning materials are designed to be efficient and simple to use, while also eliminating germs. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it will be a mild cold and flu season this year.

Budget: CW and SAU administrators have begun scheduling meetings with members of the Ways and Means Committee. Meetings will include deep dives into all areas of our budget and tours of our programs and facilities.

Clark-Wilkins Enrollment Figures 2018-2019

** October enrollment as of 10/30*

Grade	Aug.	Sept.*	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Pre-K	33	33	34	34							
K	131	129	127	128							
1	125	125	125	126							
2	141	142	139	140							
3	123	126	123	124							
4	137	138	137	138							
Total	690	693	685	690							
17-18 Total	665	673	674	678	686	686	688	691	692	693	692

Upcoming Events

Date	Activity
11/1 & 11/2	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Monday 11/5	In-Service PD Day – Mastery Learning, Technology, Social and Emotional Learning’ Adam Saenz Keynote Speaker
Tuesday 11/6	No School – Voting Day
11/7, 11/8 & 11/9	Grade 4 Field Trip – State House
Friday 11/9	Veteran’s Day Assembly
Friday 11/9	Grade 4 Geography Bee Team Rounds
Monday 11/12	No School – Veteran’s Day
Tuesday 11/13	Late Start
Wednesday 11/14	PTA General Meeting
11/19 – 11/30	Traveling Map at Wilkins