



# The Latest Buzz in Curriculum & Educational Services



## Notes from Ryan Holman

As the student success presentations have taken place throughout the district, PBIS has been point of discussion. PBIS, or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, is “a systems approach for establishing the social culture and behavioral supports needed for schools to achieve both academic and social success for all students while preventing problem behavior.” The initiative focuses on reinforcing the preferred behaviors of students instead of always telling them what not to do. In short, it is about teaching behavioral expectations in the same way that we teach our core curriculum.

Why PBIS works so well for our district is that it offers the framework necessary to align the many great processes already in place at all of our schools so that prosocial behavior, academic achievement, and student success are maximized. All of our schools have PBIS coaches and teams that have started a three-year training cycle that should prove to be invaluable in helping Snowline become the best district in California. Visit [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org) or contact me if you would like more information about this initiative.

## Testing Information

- Due to school closures, the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) 2010 testing dates have changed to the following: High Schools – **April 26-30**, Elementary and Middle Schools – **May 3-7**.
- The STAR 2010 writing standards test for 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the California Standards Test (CST) and California Modified Assessment (CMA) will be administered on **March 2** with make-ups on **March 3**.
- The STAR Early Assessment Program (EAP) 2010 essay for 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be administered on **March 11**. The EAP is a voluntary assessment that assesses students for college readiness.
- The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will be administered to all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, and to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have yet passed, on **March 16** for ELA and **March 17** for mathematics. Attendance for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on both days is very important.

## Staff Development News

**Math Fun! Workshop**  
Fractions, Decimals, and Percents with Maryellen McHenry on **February 24** from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Upcoming Reading/Writing Workshops**  
Main Idea, Supporting Details, and Summary Writing on **February 25** from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Vocabulary and Voice on **March 4** from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Story Elements and Narrative Writing on **March 11** from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

All staff development workshops will be held in the Staff Development Center. Those attending the workshops will be treated to tasty refreshments, riveting raffle prizes, and exhilarating fun. We hope to see you there!

## Projects Update

Young authors throughout the district are busy finishing up this year’s entries into the Young Authors Contest. For further information, please contact Melanie Premo at Desert View or e-mail her at the following address: [melanie\\_premo@snowlineschools.com](mailto:melanie_premo@snowlineschools.com).

Wednesday, **March 31**, is the deadline for this year’s Young Artist Contest. All grade levels are welcome to participate. Entry forms are available at all sites, and must be attached to the back of the artwork. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the Parents’ Page on the district website. For further information, please contact Kathy Abbott in the Curriculum & Educational Services Department.

Our office is busy working on a new first day handbook for all elementary schools. It will have all the necessary parent information, as well as tear out sheets for pages to be returned to the schools. We have been working closely with the sites and hope this will be a time-saving, efficient way in handling all the first day packet information.

## EL Connection

### CELDT

- The District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) is composed of parents and staff members. The committee has written a five question survey for our EL parents regarding their level of comfort when talking to or visiting the schools. All EL parents will receive a copy. Parents may return the survey to the school. Sites will be reaching out to parents who do not return the survey in hopes of getting their feedback over the phone.

- CELDT scores and information have been mailed to all parents. Candice Amaya, in the CELDT office, has been busy tracking down former students to get their scores to their new district.

- The CELDT office has also been doing research on our long-term EL students, those who have been in the program since Kindergarten. We currently have 138 long-term students in grades 9-12. Here is what we found:

- The majority were born in the US
- Most have been in US schools since kindergarten
- A high percentage are socio-economically disadvantaged
- By 11th grade, most of them are failing their classes

We will be studying the research looking for strategies and interventions to reach students **BEFORE** they become long-term English learners, and how we can close the gap for those who already are.

### Book Club

Upcoming meeting will be on **March 2** from 4:15—5:30 p.m. in the CELDT office. Bring your favorite children’s book, grades 4-12, to share. We will “advertise our books” and then trade with someone in the group. We will trade back at the next Book Club meeting and have a discussion about the books. Using this format, no one has to buy a book and it should be fun for all. Teacher books are also welcome.