



The Latest Buzz in Curriculum & Educational Services

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Achieving Student Success & Excellence Together

March 19, 2010

Notes from Ryan Holman

Since the completion of the student success presentations, the questions that have been asked most often have focused on coordinated school health (CSH). What is CSH? The California Departments of Education and Public Health define it as a systems-based approach that “recognizes and builds on the inherent link between health and academic success.” A district that effectively implements a CSH effort facilitates the participation of educational stakeholders in providing health instruction and services, develops supportive school environments, and models wellness behaviors so that student health and academic achievement are improved. Student success, the top of the district’s pyramid, becomes more easily realized with an effective CSH approach in place.

Why does Snowline need CSH? The research is very clear that the “futures [of all children] are closely linked to their ability to learn and to develop skills that will enable them to function as healthy, productive citizens” (CDE & CDPH, 2009). Aligning the many effective health-based efforts currently in use throughout the district with a clearly defined, supportive CSH structure truly offers the Snowline learning community benefits that last lifetimes. Increased student performance, improved student attendance, fewer dropouts and suspensions, decreased student behavior problems, healthier eating habits, increased participation in physical activity, and improved cooperation and collaboration among educational stakeholders are the benefits that result from CSH-based school districts. We are well on our way to aligning our efforts so that CSH becomes an integral part of student success in Snowline. Visit www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/cs or contact me for more information.

Testing Information

- The *Fitnessgram* Physical Fitness Test (PFT) will be administered to all students in grades 5, 7, and 9 during the month of **April**. All students in these grades are required to participate whether or not they are enrolled in a physical education class.
- The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) 2010 testing dates are **April 26-30** for high schools and **May 3-7** for elementary and middle schools.



Staff Development News

Technology Workshop with Deborah Peace
Content-Area Web Games on **March 31** from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Reading & Writing Workshops
Response to Literature on **April 15** 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!



Marlana Denbleyker, Becky Jeffries, and Kris Graham are pictured sharing a literacy strategy.

Projects Update

Categorical Program Monitoring Update: We have finally received word that we will not be having an on-site visit for CPM, but will be doing a “desk” review where we submit documents and evidence online. The state has completed the new instruments (compliance issues) and we are busy getting the district ready for the review.

We have also just completed the report evaluating our Title I and Title III programs for effectiveness. This will go to the Board on **March 23**. It analyzes how various categorical funding was spent and how students are progressing towards AYP. It clearly demonstrates that Snowline is making great strides in meeting our AYP targets.

We are in the process of updating our LEA (Local Education Agency or district) plan. It is a five-year plan that is updated as needed each year.

Reminder: Young Artist entries are due **March 31!**



EL Connection



Our DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Committee) has developed a parent survey. The committee is interested in how English Learner parents feel when they come to our schools. Do

they feel welcomed and comfortable to ask for help, if needed? The survey is going out to parents, and is due back by **April 1**. The Committee will then tabulate the district-wide results and share them with the Board of Education and principals on **May 24**. Part of the DELAC’s job is to administer needs assessments for the sites and this fits right in with that goal.

Several site teams have signed up to spend a day in the EL Office to develop units that are scaffolded for English Learners. Pinon Hills teachers came on **March 17** and designed instruction for social science in the areas of “changes over time” and “immigration.” One strategy they are using is overlapping vocabulary taught at each grade to build a vertical alignment throughout the grade levels.

Linda McInerny has been out to Baldy Mesa, Vista Verde and Pinon Hills to provide staff development in EL strategies. She has also been doing classroom demonstrations and helping EL Coaches at their sites.

Technology Tidbits

Interim assessments for the elementary and middle schools began on Monday, **March 15** and will run through Tuesday, **March 23**. Completed assessments are being uploaded and reports generated.

High school has finished the bulk of their third interims and data are being uploaded and reports generated as well.

