

The Amherst-Regional Public Schools
English Language Education Program Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 3 January-February 2009

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together." Verna M. Kelly

From the Editor:

Enough to glance here and there and we see so many needs all around us - educational, social, economic, physical, and emotional. Yet with the New Year and the new administration in Washington we seem to sense a great deal of hope in the air: hope in terms of new policies and hope in terms of more and new people getting involved at the grass roots levels to make a difference in our communities. Lasting peace without social justice is not possible. Let's keep in mind that we need to protect the most vulnerable groups - our newcomers being one of these groups - to work towards social justice and lasting peace. In this winter issue, you will learn more about an important and exciting time of life for these, our Amherst Regional Middle School students.

Renata S. Pienkawa

Snowflakes

by Linda A. Copp

Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand
Lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.
A veil of wonder laced in light
Falling Gently on a winter's night.
Graceful beauty raining down
Giving magic to the lifeless ground.
Each snowflake like a falling star
Smiling beauty that's spun afar.
Till earth is dressed in a robe of white
Unspoken poem the hush of night.

Our best wishes for a fulfilling and peaceful New Year 2009 to each and every reader of this newsletter.

This newsletter is dedicated to the whole wonderful community of our Amherst Regional Middle School.

ELL News at the Middle School

January-February, 2009

STUDENTS



We have had a busy four months at the Middle School, with ELL students settling into their new routines, making connections and establishing good study habits for the future. We have 24 ELL students hailing from a range of linguistic and ethnic backgrounds and coming from a variety of countries including Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Moldova, Pakistan, Tibet, Portugal, South Korea, Palestine, Germany and Japan. Our staff is committed to advocating for our students, teaching them the skills they will need for success in high school, and targeting the linguistic challenges that present themselves while learning and schooling in a nonnative language.

PROGRAM & TEACHERS

The *ELLE* program at the Middle School includes inclusion classes in both 7th and 8th grade for students who are at both the intermediate and transitional levels of *ELL* and 7/8 pull-out classes in English, Social Studies and Oral Communications for students who are at the beginning or early intermediate stages of their language learning. We are happy to announce that Ashleigh Sayer runs our *ELLE* Homework Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm. We also have bilingual tutors for students at the beginning and early intermediate level in math and science. In addition, we are monitoring 6 English Language Learners who have exited the program in order to ensure their successful transition to classes without direct *ELLE* services.

Our *ELLE* staff in room C-12A include Wilma Ortiz, on Team Emerald, and Carroll Kaneta and Ashleigh Sayer on Team Crimson. All of us have lived and worked in other countries, dedicated our higher education degrees to the pursuit of equity in multicultural learning and teaching. We have spent time learning one or more foreign languages so that we can personally connect to the experiences of being a second language learner. Wilma Ortiz teaches in the 8th grade immersion English and Social Studies classes, while Ashleigh Sayer teaches in the 7th grade immersion classes and Carroll Kaneta teaches combined 7th and 8th grade pull-out classes.

CALENDAR

2009		
January	February	March
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April	May	June
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
July	August	September
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October	November	December
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

- *January 29th , 2009 ELL Parent Night for grades 8-12 from 7:00-8:15pm at the Middle School Library. Drinks, snacks, translation and childcare provided! Everybody is welcome!*
- *January 28th, 2009 (tentative) 8th grade field trip to Smith Vocational High School*
- *February 5th, 2009 (tentative) 8th grade field trip to Franklin Technical High School*
- *February 5th, 2009 8th grade Orientation for Parents-Parent night in the high school auditorium from 7:00-8:30pm*
- *February 23-March 20th MELA-O for ELLs in grades 7-12*

WISH LIST

- *Our ELL homework club is in need of snacks to fuel our studying! (Drinks, food and paper products)*
- *Tissues*
- *Native-language books to enrich the multicultural library*



MORE DATES AND REMINDERS:

DATES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER:

October 2008 Featuring ARHS

Nov.-Dec. 2008 Featuring Wildwood and the new WEBSITE

Jan-Feb. 2009 Featuring Middle School -- Please submit your contributions by DECEMBER 23rd

March-April Featuring both Crocker Farm and Fort River -- Please submit your contributions by FEBRUARY 13th (before vacation)

May-June Featuring Mark's Meadow and SEI trainings -- Please submit your contributions by APRIL 17th (before vacation)

TUTOR MEETINGS--

Oct. 22

Nov. 19

Dec. 10

Jan. 14 Cancelled

Feb. 11

March 18

April 8

May 13

June 10 (make-up date)

We have the following schedule of SEI (Sheltered English Instruction) training for 2008-09:

Category II

a. Secondary (7-12) Dates: Oct. 10, Dec. 19 (will be rescheduled due to a snow day), Feb. 6, April 13.

b. Elementary (PreK-6) Dates: Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Dec.5

ALL DONE! CONGRATULATIONS!

Category IV (pending approval)

a. Secondary (7-12) Dates: Jan. 9, Feb. 27, May 15.

b. Elementary (PreK-6) Dates: March 27, April 17, May 1.

Most of the training sessions will take place in the Professional Development Center, which is located in the Amherst Regional Middle School. Only three trainings will take place at Wildwood (in the Conference Room): on February 27, March 27, and May 1.

January 23, 2008 – Hours to be determined. Wildwood School

March 13, 2008 – Will be rescheduled

ELEMENTARY ELE PROGRAM MEETING TIMES (Wednesdays,12:00-1:15pm)

February 11, 2009 -- Crocker Farm

March 11, 2009 -- Fort River

April 8, 2009 -- Wildwood

May 13, 2009 -- Mark's Meadow June 10th (make up date)

