

Keeping You...

In the Loop



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This issue of Keeping You...In The Loop is provided to keep you in touch with what is happening across our School District.

Wausau East educator named one of the best

Lauren Ebbecke was among five mathematics and science teachers honored in Madison on January 25, 2012, as a finalist to be considered for the Presidential Teaching Awards, the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers. Ebbecke was the only teacher recognized from central Wisconsin. All five educators were evaluated on how they meet certain teaching standards. Criteria for the Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching include:

- Mastery of content knowledge appropriate for the grade level taught;
- Use of instructional methods and strategies that are appropriate for the students in the classroom and that support student learning;
- Effective use of assessment strategies to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning;
- Reflective practices and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning; and
- Leadership in education outside the classroom.

"These teachers have been singled out by their peers, parents, former students, or school administrators as exceptional educators," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Evers. "They represent the dedication of the many individuals who work with our students in Wisconsin classrooms throughout the school year. I congratulate them on being named state finalists and advancing in the Presidential Teaching Award competition."

Ebbecke, Dr. Williams and East High Principal Dr. Brad Peck attended the recognition ceremony that was held at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery.

Follow Facilities Utilization Task Force on our website

Meeting notes, background information, and study materials for the WSD Facilities Utilization Task Force can all be found on the District website. Click on the Facilities Utilization Task Force button on the homepage to access up-to-date information about the Task Force and its important work.

The District says goodbye to two colleagues

Jim DeJong, custodian at Wausau East High School, passed away on February 10, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer. Nancy Keener, former secretary at Horace Mann Middle School and Wausau Area Montessori Charter School, passed away on February 11, 2012, also following her own courageous battle with cancer.

We will miss them both and are better for having known and worked with them. Our thoughts go out to Jim's and Nancy's families during this difficult time.

Employee Handbook listening sessions scheduled

Jeff Gress, Director of Human Resources & Employee Relations, has scheduled the following meeting times for employees to provide input and offer ideas on topics pertaining to the development of the employee handbook for WESP, Food Service, and Municipal staff:

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 6:45 AM - 7:45 AM, Wausau West High School, Rm. 220

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM, Literacy Center, Longfellow

Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Large Group Room at Horace Mann MS

Topics for discussion include: All types of leave (sick leave, personal leave, funeral leave, serious illness leave, leave of absence, etc.)

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 6:45 AM - 7:45 AM, Wausau East High School, Room D110

Monday, March 5, 2012, 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM, Literacy Center, Longfellow

Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Large Group Room 145, John Muir MS

Topics for discussion include: job postings, transfers, promotions, lay off and recall, and job security.

These meetings are the first of a series of meetings that will be offered to provide staff from WESP, Food Service, and the Municipal Groups the opportunity to participate in the development of the support staff employee handbook. Additional meetings will be scheduled as we progress through the Handbook development process.

State Superintendent visited WSD during Career and Technical Education Month

February is Career and Technical Education Month in Wisconsin. As part of this celebration, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Evers visited Wausau East High School and Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy on Friday, February 17, 2012. Dr. Evers toured East's Technology Education Department and discussed the District's involvement in the WAMPEN grant program.

The Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Technical College System are using February's observance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month to highlight the wide range of exciting opportunities available to Wisconsin youth who wish to explore their career options and the benefit of those programs to our state's industries and communities.



Dr. Tony Evers talks with students at Wausau East during his visit for CTE Month on February 17th.

Medication law update

Recent changes to Wis. Stat. sec. 118.29, have raised questions among District staff. The following information is intended to clarify WSD policies regarding these changes in State law.

1. Who may administer nonprescription and prescription medications to pupils?

Staff who are willing and identified by the school nurse and administrator of the school may administer medications to students. To avoid Civil Liability appropriate medication training needs to be completed prior to administration. In the past year an online knowledge course was taken by staff that had the potential to give medication. This was accompanied by a skills portion provided by the school nurse with regard to other routes of medication administration. The knowledge training is valid for two years and the skills portion will be updated yearly depending on student need.

2. What medications may be administered at school?

Prescription and nonprescription medications may be administered at school. The medication needs to be in the original packaging and be FDA approved. Prior to administration, the Practitioner/Parent Medication Administration Consent Form needs to be completed. This is policy 2-3 and can be found in the WSD Health Policy and Procedure Manual. Each dose of medication must be documented on a timely basis as well as any errors.

Prescription medication-Required written instructions from a medication practitioner, as well as a parent or guardian written consent.

Non Prescription medication requires the same form to be completed, but with a parent signature only. If the non prescription medication dosage requested is more than the recommended therapeutic dose on the container, the practitioner signature is also required.

A complete copy of the state statutes are available at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/29>.

Congrats to West DECA and West-Side Connection

National DECA has just announced that Wausau West's School-Based Enterprise (the West-Side Connection School Store) has received Gold Level Certification for 2012. West-Side Connection's student managers, Nikki Volm and Nick Snoeyenbos, have qualified to attend DECA Internationals in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the end of April to present about the store at the School-Based Enterprise Academy. Way to go West DECA!

Introducing our newest WSD staff members

Staff members new to the District since mid-January include:

Professional Staff

Cheryl Borta, Grade 3 teacher at Lincoln, .50 FTE; and Daniel Sikowski, Technical Education Teacher at East.

Support Staff

Julia Contreras, Special Education Paraprofessional at Jefferson; **Jackie Schoeder**, Food Services at Grant; **Rachel Leick**, Food Services at Stettin; **Marco Piñeda**, ELL/Bilingual Paraeducator at Thomas Jefferson; and **William Mead**, Building Level Technical Assistant at Horace Mann.

ELL/Bilingual Interpreter Training

Shawna Stevenoski, a Wisconsin Certified Court Interpreter and Certified Medical Interpreter from Bilingual Training Consultants in Jefferson, Wisconsin, provided an interpreter training for 33 of WSD ELL/Bilingual Paraprofessionals during PG&D on Monday, February 20, 2012, at Wausau East High School. In addition, Dennis Wendt provided Google Docs training for the ELL/Bilingual Paraprofessionals following the interpreter training.

Topics covered in the interpreter training included:

1. Interpreter Qualifications & Expectations Review
 - Knowledge, skills and abilities
 - 3 modes of interpretation
2. Code of Ethics for Interpreters
 - Steps: preparation, pre-conference, intro, session, mediation, end, post session
3. Mediation
 - New buzz word for interpreters
 - Challenges to cultural mediation
 - 3 roles of the interpreter
4. Education Challenges for the Community Interpreter
5. Developing appropriate vocabulary and materials
6. Generation a,b,c
7. Standards of practice
 - Identifying scenarios (red-green-yellow light & safety and well being)

Kudos to a great community partner

WSD Career and Technical Education staff members know how important community partnerships and advisory committee members are to what they do. They also understand that one person with a passion can accomplish great things for our schools and our community. That's why they and the entire WSD community congratulate community partner Kent Olson of Olson Tire and Auto Service. His service to our schools, the Wisconsin Automotive & Truck Education Association (WATEA), and its Wheels to Work program have earned Olson the first ever ***Put More Good on the Road*** award from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Olson received the award in late January at the Goodyear Dealer Conference in Orlando, Florida. The honor included a crystal plaque and a \$10,000 donation on behalf of WATEA and Wheels to Work. Under the Wheels to Work program, those in need can obtain vehicles that have been acquired and repaired with discounted parts and labor. WSD automotive students participate in this important community endeavor.