

Greetings from the Central Office. Another fast paced month gone by.... and here we are on the doorstep of another year. Let's keep our fingers crossed for 2004 being our best year yet!

December 2nd Curriculum Mapping Inservice A Success

Earlier this month, Bayard Klimasmith (our mapping consultant) visited our district for a full in-service day. The morning was spent with the facilitators from across the district, and the afternoon was spent with administrators.

This was, in retrospect, a well timed and very productive meeting. Bayard has proven himself to be a very knowledgeable and task-oriented facilitator.

A number of important recommendations were discussed and formalized, some of which are mentioned on the back of this newsletter. Also recommended (and already implemented) was to upload information to our website at www.cbrsd.org to assist teachers with their mapping. Be sure and check out the resources.

December's Special Education PAC Gathering Update

This month's PAC (Parents Advisory Council) gathering was very informative and fulfilling...in more ways than one! A big thanks to Cranwell Resort for donating all of the delicious goodies.

Occupational Therapist Jenneane Testa's presentation on "Demystifying Sensory Integration" was eye-opening and heartfelt. Thank you Jenneane for volunteering your time and for such a wonderful presentation.

New ideas were discussed for IEP Notebooks for parents.

The possibility of building a "Lending Library" for therapeutic equipment...both for the schools and parents to share was also discussed. Any parents or professionals interested in donating any OT/PT equipment can contact Lisa Wiley at 655-8660.

Independent Education Evaluations were explained in laymen's terms by Pam Kenyon. Thank you Pam for sharing your very valuable time.

"Least Restrictive Environment/Inclusion Pros and Cons" and "Coping

With The Invisible Disability" were discussed as future presentations with guest speakers. You won't want to miss these exciting and informative topics so mark your calendars for *Tuesday, January 20th* when PAC meets again at Nessacus Middle School!

I'd like to thank all the parents that attended this past PAC Gathering. Your presence is so important to your child's education. Parents really do have a voice. Thank you for utilizing this gathering as one of the many ways to make your voices heard. You are your child's true advocate and your dedication is applauded.

I hope you all have wonderful holidays and I look forward to seeing you all again and to meeting new faces at the next PAC Gathering!

Kerrienne Bonniuer, PAC Member

CBRS D CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., Dec. 22 – Kindergarten Teachers Meeting, 3:30 at Kittredge
Thurs., Jan. 8 – School Committee, Craneville
Tues., Jan. 20 – SPED PAC meeting, 7:00 Nessacus
Thurs., Jan. 22 – School Committee, Craneville
Mon. to Fri., 1/26 - 1/30 – StandardsMaster "Assessment Event B" (2nd of 3+ assessments)

Note: The following is a "cut & paste" from a full article recently posted on the DOE website. I have deleted some portions. You can find the full version at: www.doe.mass.edu

DOE Urges Educators To Use Online System To Re-license Early

MALDEN - Seven months before the licenses for about 80,000 educators will expire, the Department of Education is encouraging the educators to utilize a new online system to renew their licenses months in advance.

License renewals granted prior to the deadline will take effect the day the old ones expire, and will remain in effect through June 17, 2009.

Over the past year the DOE has upgraded ELAR, the online Educator Licensure and Recruitment system. This system is streamlined and easy to follow, allowing those with all of their paperwork in order and who complete their application on-line to get their new license mailed out by the end of the next business day.

To get their license renewed, teachers

must have completed their professional development plan, and earned the requisite number of Professional Development Points (PDPs). PDPs should be organized into three categories: content, pedagogy, and other. Educators will need to indicate PDPs earned in each category so they can confirm they have met the minimum requirements to renew their licenses when they go on-line to apply.

The Department will accept their "electronic signature" on an affidavit included with the online application that constitutes the educator's assurance that they have the required documentation. For most educators the online process will take just 10 minutes. Some of the on-line and paper applications will be randomly selected for an audit to confirm that they do meet all the requirements.

Although the Department will accept the paper application, educators are strongly urged to renew their professional licenses online. Due to a 50 percent reduction in staff since the last major renewal period in 1999, applicants could experience a significant delay if they submit their applications on paper.

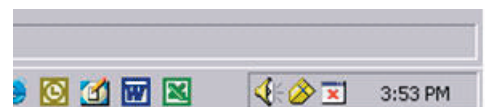
Note: Some of our teachers have recently recertified this way and they confirm that it is indeed FAST and EASY.

StandardsMaster Assessment Event "B" Scheduled for January 26 - 30

The second of three assessment events has been scheduled for the last week of January (same week as last year). This will be a full K-9 StandardsMaster Assessment. More information will follow after we return to school from the upcoming Holiday Break.

Curriculum Mapping "Bug"

It has been brought to my attention that some "cut and copy" functions of our mapping software don't seem to work. The culprit is our "Pop-Up Stopper" software. Disable it for a quick and easy solution. The picture below points to the culprit. If you see a red "x", click it once to turn it gray.



CURRICULUM MAPPING - THE STRAIGHT SCOOP FOR MARCH 17TH

The following maps/tasks are to be worked on and completed by the March 17th Half Day In-service.

- ELEMENTARY MATH maps projected for 03-04 entered into Atlas Software for the entire year and edited through February for those teachers teaching math. ELA/Reading information entered through February using the diary approach (no projection, just what you actually did) for those teachers teaching ELA/Reading.
- ALL OTHER ELEMENTARY should have projected for the year and edited through February one subject area and used the diary approach through February if they teach a second subject area.
 - MIDDLE SCHOOL first subject area maps projected for 03-04, entered into Atlas Software for the entire year, and edited through February.
 - MIDDLE SCHOOL 6th & 7th grade teachers enter reading through February using the diary approach (no projection, just what you actually did).
 - MIDDLE SCHOOL 8th grade math teachers enter 2nd level of math through February using the diary approach (no projection, just what you actually did).
- HIGH SCHOOL 1st subject area maps projected for 03-04, entered into Atlas Software for the entire year, and edited through February.
- HIGH SCHOOL teachers enter 2nd subject area taught through February using the diary approach (no projection, just what you actually did).
 - K-8 specialists, at all grade levels, maps projected for 03-04 entered into Atlas Software for the entire year and edited through February.

STYLE GUIDES - Please use the Style Guide to assist with questions concerning how much to enter. (If you have not received a style guide please check with your building principal or get it from our website at www.cbrsd.org.) Should you need assistance contact Debbie Bevan, Professional Development/Curriculum Teacher Facilitator, Nessacus, Room 161.

Looking Ahead:
Our Mapping Timeline



| Item====> | 2003-2004 | | 2004-2005 | | 2005-2006 | | Beyond 2006 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Consensus Map | GLO | Consensus Map | GLO | Consensus Map | GLO | Maps & GLO's |
| K-5 | Math | --- | ELA, Science | Math | SS | ELA, Science | SS GLO's |
| K-8 | 1 st subject | --- | 2 nd subject or Reading | 1 st sub | | 2 nd subject or Reading | Continue to revise & edit |
| K-8 Specialists | All grade levels | --- | | All grade levels | | | Continue to revise & edit |
| All 9-12 | 1 st subject | --- | 2 nd subject | 1 st subject | 3 rd subject | 2 nd subject | 4 th subject, etc. |

Annotated Sample Map Entry (Courtesy FreshPond Education)

Keep these concepts in mind when creating/editing your maps:

Content: "Students will know and understand...."

Skills: "Students will be able to...."

Assessment: "Students will display or communicate their understanding through...."

| | Content | Skills | Assessment | Standards | Essential Questions | Resources |
|----------|---|---|--|--|---|-----------|
| November | Novel: Fantastic Mr. Fox 1. Categorizing 2. Analyzing Sequence in Stories | 1a. categorize meaning of new words & classify an object into more than one group 1b. use a matrix to cross-classify items by attributes 1c. clarify information in a passage by categorizing items according to their attributes 2a. build on prior knowledge of sequence as used to record and communicate periods of time and chronology of events 2b. sequence a story by using logical reasoning 2c. use a timeline to record the sequence of story parts | 1a. Vocabulary Venn Diagrams and tables 1b. Written questions- independently and partner; 1c. Compare-contrast chart for character analysis between the three farmers 1/2d. Map of Mr. Fox's village using info. given in story 2a. Class book retelling story 2b. Chart predicting plot of story (whole class) | Mass Standards: 1. Organizing Ideas in writing: 23.2 1. No match in ELA standards for graphic organizers 2. Understanding Text: 8.4-8.7 | Possible EQ: Why should the good guys always win? Possible EQ: What makes the "good guys" so good? | |

Include major themes, concepts, books, articles, or other resources you may have used.

Include the products that students create and/or the tools that teachers use to assess student learning.

HINT: Develop a numbering system for aligning map entries.

Include the title for the General Standard.

If you don't use essential questions, try composing one or leave this field blank.