

Greetings, for the last time this year, from the Central Office. I have said it many times before to friends, family, and those I work with: *Where in the world did this school year go!?*

I think you will all agree, this has been one for the record books. As we close in on day 180, I am choosing to look forward. The view is much more clear and bright.

If It's June, It's Grant Season

The second submission (of three) of the NCLB Consolidated Grant Application is being uploaded to the DOE via the internet today. This comprehensive grant package contains the Title I, II-A, II-D, IV, and V grants. Our Three-Year Strategic Plan is one component of this submission that has been revised for year two.

I am not at all happy to report that funding levels for all five of these grants are again down. From FY03 to FY04, we saw a drop of \$73,935. We are told to expect another drop of approximately \$65,000 from this year to next. This presents major obstacles for implementation of the myriad goals, objectives, and strategies of the Strategic Plan as it was written one year ago and revised this year. As a result, we will be forced to set aside some of the activities and scale back on others.

There is one and only one reason for this upcoming cutback - the 2000 Federal Census. For ten years, the 1990 census was used to determine our Federal entitlement amounts. We managed to realize some solid funding throughout those years. However, when the final figures were in from the 2000 census, Massachusetts turned out to be a major loser in the Federal entitlement pie. Collectively, our state and its many school systems stand to lose \$26 million in funding.

We plan to make the best of a bad situation. Stay tuned for updates - there may be a glimmer of hope on the horizon. A supplemental appropriations bill is currently in Congress, and it is, after all, an election year.....

1st CBRSD Video Conference

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Kelly Adair, Wahconah's Librarian, has received the equipment purchased under the RU-2 grant. She has spent a great deal of time with Matt

Speed, our professional "break-fix" network consultant from CompuWorks, to install, configure, and test this exciting and powerful equipment. Bottom line, **IT WORKS!**

On Monday, June 14, a group of excited 3rd & 4th graders from Becket Washington Elementary traveled to the Wahconah Library - our virtual window to the world - to participate in our first ever live video conferencing session with two other schools.

CBRSD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed., June 23 to Fri., Aug. 25: Lawn, garden, beach, cabin, etc.

Thurs., June 24 - School Committee at Craneville Elementary

Thurs. July 22 - School Committee at Nessacus

Thurs. Aug. 26 - School Committee at Wahconah

Mon. & Tues, Aug. 30 + 31 - In-service Days (Monday at Nessacus)

Wednesday, Sept. 1 - School Opens

Teachers Mary Kay McCloskey and Patti Robie have been engaged in an exciting Salmon Project for many months. The culmination of the project involved releasing the fry they raised from eggs into the stream across the street from the school. They hope to see these very same salmon return in five years.



Coincidentally, classes from the Williamsburg and Bernardston elementary schools participated in similar projects. Pictured above is Mary Kay and some of her students observing - live, in real time, students from the Williamsburg Elementary School. Our students were able to converse with them with crystal clear audio - and observe them in action as they shared the results of their project.

If you are interested in hosting a conference, contact Kelly. She has leads on partner schools everywhere!

Grade 3 MCAS Scores Up

Our grade three MCAS scores are back - and for the second year in a row, are up. This grade level has always been first to report, because the content of their test has been 100% multiple choice with no writing prompt to score.

Congratulations, proud students! Your reading skills make us proud. Thanks are extended to your teachers - and all of the lower primary teachers and support personnel that have contributed to our CBRSD's reputation of being a strong reading district.

Fall Professional Development Course To Be Offered On-line

Thanks to the efforts of Debbie Bevan, our district will be moving to an exciting new format for some of its professional development. This fall, she is planning on sponsoring and facilitating our first on-line course. Details.....

CBRSD and EdTech Leaders

Online presents:

Approaches and Tools for

Developing Web-Enhanced Lessons

Course Credit Options:

Workshop = 30 PDPs

Course Option #1 (additional requirements) 3 in-district credits

Course Option #2 (additional requirements) 3 graduate level credits from MCLA

Participants will need access to a computer with Internet access.

Registration Information

All participants must register by Sept. 7, 2004. Priority will be given to Central Berkshire Regional School District registration on a first come first serve basis until Sept. 7th. Out of district registrants will be accepted on a space available basis and notified beginning Sept. 14, 2004.

The initial Face to Face meeting date is Sept. 28, 2004. Final Face to Face meeting date is Dec. 14, 2004

For further information contact:

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**Have a safe,
pleasant,
and relaxing
summer!**

