

Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary

Principal Lori Zaimi

December 13, 2018

Competency A: Champions Teacher and Staff Excellence Through a Focus on Continuous Improvement to Develop and Achieve the Vision of High Expectations for All Students

- CIWP Updates
- Data Based Decision Making, Supports and develops high functioning teams
- School personnel and financial resources are used to support CIWP priorities.
- Creates a safe and orderly environment.

CIWP Updates:

The PPLC reviewed the CIWP action steps during the last meeting

Restorative Practices

- New cohort of RP leads continue attending the RP workshops, the team met with Ms. Zaimi along with RP coaches from last year to continue mapping out an RP PD Plan for the remainder of the year.
- Students participated in an assembly by Matt Wilhelm on Nov 29th, the United We Stand Against Bullying transitioned into Inclusive Schools Week the first week of December, students participated in activities throughout the week focused on inclusion and all teachers read "The Red Crayon" as a school wide read/talking circles created to align to the book.

MTSS

- The RTI Committee is preparing for the MOY Benchmarking of AIMS web - to take place from mid-December through mid-January.
- MOY MAP Testing began the week of December 10th.
- MOY TRC Testing for K-2 literacy begins the week of December 10th.

Instruction

- Teachers participated in their second round of Flex Day PLCs on December 12th - these are teacher led learning communities focused on goals that teachers set for themselves.
- Over the last month, grade level meetings have focused on the mandatory Sp.Ed. Webinars by the state, SEL Check in around Second Step Implementation & Talking Circles, MYP Teachers reviewed IB Units and provided feedback, Vertical Grade levels met around the use of inclusive practices/teachers provided PD

based on information learned through the Gust Foundation PD. The 2nd round of Peer observations are underway.

- Students participated in the annual shelter in place drill.
- Attendance is currently at 96.35%, last year at this time we were at 96.85%. Lynn Carro and Shelton Jackson are making daily attendance calls.
- The turf is now complete! Alderman Osterman, Michael Nataurus (Project manager), Junior Coaches, a group of students and parents were on hand for our ribbon cutting ceremony.

Competency B: Creates Powerful Professional Learning Systems to Guarantee Learning for All Students.

- Lesson Plan and Unit Development aligned to IB standards and CCSS.
- Curriculum Planning with a focus on our Diverse Learner and English Language Learner population.
- Ongoing Professional Development and instructional coaching
- REACH Teacher Observations with constructive feedback provided to teachers.
- Staff hiring

- Peirce & Senn teachers will meet on December 13th to examine approaches to learning across the partnership. Teachers will engage in learning walks at each of the schools and continue meeting in content area teams.
- Beginning January 7th CPS is transitioning to a new student information system - ASPEN, teachers have participated in professional development and a notification went home to parents on report card day. Additional information will be sent to parents at the beginning of January - parent portal will be transitioned to Aspen.
- The 7th/8th grade math team is in the process of finalizing their math research lesson to be taught mid-January.
- Ms. Heider and Ms. Hooper (8th grade LA/SS teachers) attended the Facing History teacher professional development program which provides a curriculum focused on the civil rights movement.
- Ms. Heinlein and Mr. Lerner were invited by Lesson Study Alliance to attend the Bay Area Lesson Study Conference last week.
- 18% of REACH Teacher Observations are currently completed.
- 1 teacher has been hired to support 3rd and 5th grades, the teacher will begin on January 7th. Interviews continue for the 2nd vacancy.

Competency C: Builds a Culture Focused on College and Career Readiness

- Academic and Social Emotional Learning Goals, Student Portfolios
- College Visits, HS Visits, Career Day
- Access to an enriching curriculum which includes the arts and science.
- Use of restorative practices for student supports.

- Ms. Zaimi met with the student council for a focus group, students had several areas that they would like to work on including building cleanliness, lunch options, food waste, increasing student supports such as counseling, new chairs for classrooms, MYP lockers and more!
- 6th grade students began their work with Writer's Theater.
- Peirce's 5th/6th grade Chess Team, led by Mr. Meallet took 6th out of 20 teams and 6th grader Amani Brown placed 7th out of 88 players.
- Ms. Zaimi and Dr. Riemer held the principal honor roll luncheon for students who earned straight As during the first quarter.
- MYP students participated in the end of quarter learning celebration which focused on team building.
- Peirce received a grant to offer academic after school programs to students enrolled in the Bilingual program at Peirce.
- International Dance Night was held with dance variations taught from countries around the world.
- A group working with Amer-I-Can will be working to refinish the auditorium seats and floors over the next 4-6 weeks, a group of high school age students will deep clean, sand, repair seats and apply polyurethane to the chairs, floors and stage. The group will also re-varnish the gym floor and paint the walls. Amer-I-Can received a grant to complete all CPS auditoriums and 80% have already been completed.
- Northwestern University Students held sessions with MYP students around goal setting.
- The School Bookfair raised \$2,328 dollars
- Student of the Month continues!

Competency D: Empowers and Motivates Families and the Community to Become Engaged.

- Families engage in PTA, PTO, BAC, PAC, parent-teacher conferences and other school related events.
- Newsletters, open-house, report card pick up, family events, robo calls
- Addresses family concerns
- Engages LSC in school governance.

- Peirce parents organized the fall open house and school tour for prospective parents and approximately 45 people attended.
- The Bilingual Advisory Council met and discussed Peirce's Bilingual/EL Program including how students are screened, entered and exit the program.
- The Sp.Ed. parent resource group held a positive parenting workshop by Tuesday Child during Inclusive Schools Week.
- The Race & Culture committee will meet on December 13th to discuss next steps with examining equitable practices at Peirce. In addition, through Megan Holmberg's fellowship with CUE (Chicago United for Equity) principal Zaimi will be the first CPS principal to undergo a racial equity principal evaluation - one of the stages will be to hold focus groups for parents of color. Feedback received through the evaluation will be used to support school-wide decision making.
- Ms. Lebovitz & Dr. Terzian hosted a baby and toddler story time with activity hour in the library.
- Ms. Lebovitz held a 5th grade exhibition parent meeting to share information with parents on the exhibition process.
- Mr. Lerner held a math parent workshop for parents - targeting the primary grades with addition and subtraction strategies.
- The parent basketball league continues!
- Ms. Zaimi met with the Chicago directors of Steve & Kate's camp summer programming - the group is going to host a summer program at Peirce and if all goes as planned, this will generate approximately \$40,000 in revenue for the school
- Principal sends a monthly e-newsletter home to families, works with parent leaders in maintenance of the school website and supports the dissemination of information to the school and PSO Facebook sites.
- Principal works to have a 24 hour turn around window when responding to parent and family inquiries although in some cases 48-72 hours is needed.

Competency E: Relentlessly Pursues Self-Disciplined Thinking and Action.

- Values and accepts diversity
- Builds collaboration between groups

- Responds and resolves concerns related to students, staff, parents and community members.
- Uses ongoing written and oral communication to effectively communicate with different stakeholders about school curriculum, activities, student achievement, and safety.
- Motivates and inspires staff to contribute to success of school.
- Maintains honesty, integrity, and professionalism in carrying out leadership responsibilities.

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- Ms. Zaimi meets monthly with the Public Education Funds Educator Advisory Council.
- Ms. Zaimi visited Goudy School to learn more about some of their work with tech integration and inclusive practices.
- Principal attends grade level meetings, works with PPLC and PPC
- Principal attends monthly network meetings.
- Principal meets with teams of teachers as needed/requested to respond to concerns/celebrations.
- Principal maintains an anonymous suggestion box on the school website.
- Principal works with teachers and parent group leaders to disseminate information - robo calls, emails, website, backpack mail and social media are current tools of communication around activities.
- Principal encourages staff to give each other "shout outs" in our weekly staff bulletin.
- Principal takes staff, parent and student confidentiality seriously - works to maintain a positive relationship with all stakeholders.

Budget Transfers

None