

Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary

Principal Lori Zaimi

November 15, 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

- Ms. L Carro, Ms. Choe, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Keiner and Ms. Zisook have begun attending the Restorative Practices Workshops, working towards becoming certified restorative practices leads.
- November is United We Stand Against Bullying Month - students are participating in the Anti-Bullying curriculum through Second Step, the PBS Committee has provided activities for teachers to use during their SEL Block of time which support the months theme, Matt Wilhelm will be at Peirce on November 26th providing an assembly on Anti-Bullying
- Some teachers have been participating in coaching sessions around SEL instruction, use of Restorative Practices based on their Goals for Growth

MTSS

- Ms. Brugman is supporting teachers with understanding how to progress monitor students using the AIMS web tool.
- Intervention groups in Reading K-8 continue, Mr. Lerner is supporting 2nd grade math interventions.

Instruction

- Teachers participated in their first round of Flex Day PLCs during - these are teacher led learning communities focused on goals that teachers set for themselves.
- Over the last month, grade level meetings have focused on AIMS Web & Progress Monitoring, teachers participated in their first round of goal reflection with their

staff mentor/coach, K-2 teachers planned for guided reading, 3-5 teachers analyzed math summative assessment data and 6-8 teachers completed a summative assessment analysis based on their content area.

- The November Professional Development Day had a heavy focus on ASPEN - the new student management system that will go live in January - this is the system that teachers will use to take attendance and enter grades. In addition, teachers have to complete 3 hours of mandated Sp.Ed. training provided by the Illinois State Board of Education as a result of the state's inquiry into Chicago Public School's Special Education practices.
- Additional leveled readers were ordered based on the October LSC budget approval.
- Attendance is currently at 96.76%, last year at this time we were at 96.99%. Lynn Carro and Shelton Jackson are making daily attendance calls, which is resulting in students coming to school who may have stayed home. In addition, home-visits are being made for chronically truant students.
- The turf is close to being finalized - there were dips in the turf that needed to be smoothed out and the concrete around the turf needs to be patched where the ground was broken.

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

- The 5th grade team met for an extended block of time to begin planning the 5th grade exhibition experience for students.
- Ms. Heinlein, Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Trad finalized their lesson study cycle, with Ms. Heinlein teaching a 4th grade research lesson on 2 digit by 2 digit multiplication.
- Ms. Berenson-White, Ms. Gerhardt, Mr. Girard, Mr. Rossiter and Ms. Zaimi attended a 6th grade math research lesson at the Japanese School in Arlington Heights on proportional reasoning.

- Kindergarten-2nd grade teachers participated in the quarterly planning session with the Chicago Literacy Group.
- REACH Teacher Observations are underway along with informal walkthroughs to classrooms with feedback.
- During the October LSC Meeting, 3 teaching positions were approved to be opened. Ms. Pedtke is in the process of being staffed in the halftime music position, Ms. Pedtke was on staff last year as a half time music teacher. There is a limited pool of applicants to the other 2 positions, and continue to be un-filled.
- MYP science teachers are exploring the Amplify Science curriculum which is aligned to the NGSS standards compared to the current SEPUP Materials. Amplify is currently available for free to all CPS Teachers.
- 3rd grade and 5th grade teachers participated in an extended planning session to revise IB units and plan for transdisciplinary teaching.
- Sp.Ed. teachers and SECAs/ESPs participate in a PD session around Language Matters and how we use students strengths to support instruction.
- Teacher leaders attended the Network 2 Summits workshop which focused on Cognitive Demand, Equitable Access to Content and Content.

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.

- Planning for the African American Heritage Showcase continues - this years theme is The Fight For Justice - A Call for Action.
- Northwestern University Students held sessions with MYP students around goal setting.
- Ms. Choe wrote and received a grant which provides Peirce with an additional small group intervention tool - SS Grin.
- Congratulations to Mr. Jackson and the 5th/6th grade Boys Basketball Team for becoming the 1st place division champions in the CPS Score program!
- 25 students received \$19,000 in scholarships to support their attendance in the New York City Trip this year!
- The 2018-2019 Student Council Installation Ceremony took place last month and Ms. Zaimi will meet with the council in December for a focus group.

- Ms. Lenihan and Ms. Sandoval organized a school-wide Dia de Los Muertos Celebration with activities integrated throughout specials classes and all MYP students participated in a day where all of their content area classes had Spanish-integrated activities.
- Ms. Lawrenz and Ms. Puente continue to lead the debate team and Peirce was the host site during the last Debate Tournament!
- 8th grade students visited Senn HS for a school tour and information session.
- The School Bookfair is going on now - supported by Dr. Terzian and Peirce Parent, Gina Eshu, there are several other parent volunteers who are supporting the bookfair this year!
- Vision Screenings took place for selected grade levels.
- Students had the opportunity to parade around the playground in their costumes on Halloween.
- 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.

- The PAC met and discussed the Race, Culture and Equity Parent sessions that are in the process of starting up - there would be a 7 week session for parents to participate in.
- The Race, Culture and Equity Parent Resource Group had a meeting on November 8th with several parents in attendance - this was an opportunity for parents to set norms and share what they hope will come out of the sessions.
- The Special Education Parent Resource Group has scheduled a Positive Parenting Workshop on December 6th which will be led by Tuesdays Child.
- Friends of Peirce hosted a very successful Harbor Night, raising \$27,000 for Peirce School! In addition, a portion of all ticket sales from the Chicago Wolves Game on November 10th will go back to FOP. The Parent Basketball League is up and running on Friday Evenings! In addition, MYP students hosted another round of Parent Babysitting - funds raised going towards the NY City trip.

- Peirce Parent, Chad Curry continues to support the new CPS Volunteer Process by coordinating on-site volunteer fingerprinting and background checks with Accu-Biometrics. Over 65 families were able to be screened in October and another opportunity will take place on Parent-Teacher Conference Day.
- Peirce Parents organized the Halloween Dance with the addition of a Middle School Dance room this year!
- Report Card Day is on Wednesday, November 14th with student-led conferences and the option for parents to request a private conference either on that day or a separate day.
- 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.

- Ms. Zaimi is supporting Peirce Parent Megan Brand in the work around Race, Equity and Culture at Peirce - Megan is currently preparing to run an after-school 7 week session for teachers in addition to a separate track for parents.
- Ms. Zaimi was selected to participate for a 2nd year in the Public Education Funds Educator Advisory Council.
- 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