

# **Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary**

Principal Lori Zaimi

December 17, 2015

## **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.

- LSC CIWP focus group will meet on December 21st at 3pm. Network 2 will hold a CIWP training for principals on January 5th.
- Rebecca Hendrickson, Peirce parent, led a math workshop for 5 staff members after school, there is interest by others to continue thinking about the teaching and learning of math, we will continue to schedule more sessions.
- EL Audit was on December 1st, waiting on final audit reports, once we receive that we will share and develop a plan for improvement.
- Mr. Soto along with Dream Big and the 2nd grade team wrote and received the Creative Schools Grant - final grant award letter will be given to us early January.
- The PYP Implementation team is looking at common policies PK-5 - assessment, diverse learners, english language learners are currently in development.
- The MYP Implementation team met for the first time, this team will review the matters to be addressed from the previous visit and support a PD plan with Peirce and Senn teachers.
- Our school-wide instructional focus is on opening and closings of lessons, tying in learning objectives and looking for ways to support a unit's big picture within the scope of one lesson. Admin team will do informal visits to gather data around how teachers are opening and closing their lessons and move towards a system where more staff are visiting each other's classrooms to focus on the opening and closing of lessons.
- Students in 2nd-8th grade will take the middle of the year MAP assessment - a data point for us to monitor progress from spring to winter. 5th and 6th grade students took the test before winter break, all other grades will take the test in early January. An assessment letter went out indicating the dates that students will test and shared that there will be an Assessment Informational Session on January 5th at 8am and 6pm in the Fieldhouse.

- English Language Learners will take the ACCESS test between end of January to mid February.
- Ms. Thompson was awarded a Chicago Foundation for Education Grant
- Peirce received \$1,000 from the Arts Essentials Funds to support arts programming.
- FOP granted the school \$12,500 towards purchasing additional chromebooks.
- A Go Fund Me campaign was started by the school to purchase additional chromebooks - we are currently at \$800 raised.
- Gymnasium sound system is up and running!

### **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

- Mr. Nanavati and Ms. Zaimi will attended a Sp.Ed. hiring fair on Wednesday, December 17th. A request was put in for 3 additional Sp.Ed. teachers and 1 Sp.Ed. classroom assistant, we were told that we will hear back by Friday, December 18th on the status of the request.
- The Peirce-Senn leadership team completed a learning walk at Peirce, visiting classrooms in 6th-8th grades. Areas of strength were around the use of the IB learner profile during instruction, a variety of learning experiences available for students including the use of technology, explicit language instruction and support of academic vocabulary, student discourse and co-teaching. Areas for us to continue developing in are around explicit teaching of the approaches to learning (“soft skills”) and being able to understand the big picture of a unit within one lesson - how do lessons build off of each other.
- Mr. Greenwell is working with the Senn language department to move students into higher level spanish classes when entering Senn.
- All students in Kindergarten through 8th grades will receive a Sexual Education Health course - notifications will be sent home to families which discusses the

content studied and parental consent for students to participate. A parent informational session will be held on January 26th at 8am and 5pm in the gym.

- Principal along with Anne Choe (Case Manager) submitted a request for 3 additional Sp.Ed. teaching positions, we had a review conference call on December 15th and were told that we would have a decision on December 18th.
- Principal and Assistant Principal continue to conduct REACH observations and provide feedback to teachers on instruction.
- 6th and 8th grade students participate in the Writer's Theatre Project where theatre games are incorporated to support literacy instruction.
- 5th grade students began their Dancing with Class project.
- 5 teachers from Peirce are attending either a Network Math or Science Professional Learning Community.
- Our new case manager/EL liaison will officially begin on February 5th.
- Principal interviewed candidates for the head cook and lunchroom manager positions.

**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. Choe is leading a Behavioral Health team, members of the team include the school social worker, restorative practices coach, assistant principal and psychologist - the goal of the team is to streamline a process for supporting students with social emotional needs.
- 6th-8th Grade students participated in a "Circus Without Borders" talk hosted by the Pulitzer center.
- Ms. Zaimi met with the Student Council to receive feedback on ways to improve the school - school lunches and uniform were among the hot topics. A follow up meeting with Aramark will be scheduled to continue working towards improving our students experience with lunch. A focus group of parents will also be invited to meet with Aramark.
- All students participated in the end of quarter Learning Celebrations - awards ceremonies were held in the classroom where teachers focused on how students modeled the IB Learner Profile.

- 6th-8th grade students participated in the school Science Fair on Thursday, December 10th. Ruth Lopez, Aiyana Newcombe, Natasha Gonzalez and Rachel Nguyen-6th were our school winners.
- \$955.18 was raised from the UNICEF fundraiser.
- \$443.22 was raised by the Student Council Spirit Day, funds raised went to Care for Real.
- Ms. Graney and Ms. Brugman sponsored a 7th/8th basketball tournament the week of December 7th, a 5th/6th tournament will be held the week of January 4th.
- Middle School students attended a Northwestern Basketball game as their PAW Party.
- Ms. Estanich, Ms. Lebovitz, Mr. Nanavati, Ms. Choe and Ms. Zaimi have identified 50 students who would benefit from ongoing check-ins. Each staff member is a mentor to 10 students and will work to support these students academically with reviewing grades, setting goals and monitoring progress.
- *UPDATE We had 13 SCC violations from Nov 18th to Dec 15th*
  - *(4) Level 1 Violation - Restorative Conversation*
  - *(5) Level 2 - Restorative Conversation, Detention or Referral to Counselor*
  - *(4) Level 3 - 2 required a call to DCFS and 1 required an out of school suspension*
- Students in K-5, Bollywood Dancers and Peirce Performers participated in the Winter Concert on Wed, December 16th.
- 4th and 5th grade students will perform at Senn HS on Friday, December 18th at 4:30pm. The performance will highlight their work with dance and the Gus Giordano Dance School. Students from Senn HS will also perform.
- Bollywood Dancers and the Peirce Performers will participate in the Alderman's winter show on Thursday, December 17th at 4:30pm.
- All 8th grade student high school applications are turned in, students all had a high school application coach - let's see where our 8th graders choose to attend high school next year!
- 6th-8th grade students attended a Debate tournament at Morgan Park High School on Saturday, February 12th.

**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.

- A small group tour was held for prospective Peirce parents on Friday, December 4th.
- Parents have been very active in supporting several activities at the school including but not limited to: science fair judging, support during the school day in classrooms and the library, maintaining school communications - website, newsletter, facebook, t-shirt sales, etc.
- BAC was formed on Friday, December 11th!
- Principal met with committee chairs on December 7th, next meeting will be on February 3rd.
- Principal attends monthly parent-group meetings. PAC, BAC, PSO, LSC
- CIWP Focus group will meet on December 21st at 3pm to develop a plan in engaging families in the school improvement process.
- 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.
- Parapet wall repair is now completed.
- Principal is working with Engineer to get the flooding problem on the turf taken care of - a PO has been issued to have the turf inspected and a plan for repair will be in place.
- Principal is working with alderman, engineer and safety and security to upgrade all security cameras and add on 4 additional - not final, waiting on approval. In addition, we are working to improve the lighting on the Gregory side of the building.

**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.

- PAC met and requested to move \$200 from Admissions to Refreshments and \$1000 from Furniture to Consultants.
- Principal met with the PPLC teacher reps, areas of discussion were around a “no zero” policy for grading, science and history fair, sexual health curriculum, Lesson Study, Google Drive and organization of files, Learning Communities, middle school schedules and the number of minutes for each content area, online calendar, announcing of recess and the Go Math curriculum.
- Principal will meet with the PPC before school on Thursday, December 17th.
- Principal sent out an anonymous mid-year survey to staff, feedback is helpful in continuing our work moving forward.
- Principal attended an IAA Course on developing teacher leaders.
- Principal and Assistant Principal attend monthly network meetings.
- Principal maintains an anonymous suggestion box on the school website.
- Principal works with Assistant Principal, 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 Transfer**

From	To	Amount	Date	Purpose
124 57940 254905 000400	124 54125 119067 000400	\$2200	11.19.15	Gus Giordano Dance
115 51300 290001 00575	115 54105 254612 000575	\$674	11.19.15	Add money for keypad lock - prior amount was not enough
115-51300-290001- 000575	115-53405-241006- 000575	\$3,000	11.23.15	Increase supply line
332-54505-390030-	332-53205-390030	\$200	12.16.15	PAC Increase

430178				Refreshment Line from admissions line
332-55005-390030-430178	332-54125-390030-430178	\$1000	12.16.15	Move from Furniture to Consultants