1. **CURRICULUM CONNECTION**

The Curriculum Connection contains upcoming information regarding assessments, curriculum updates, video clips, instructional websites, and more. Please see **Enclosure #1** for specific information.

Marilyn Hissong, ext. 3124

2. **LITERACY: WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

On November 9, 2011 from 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. at University of Saint Francis there will be round table discussions for teachers. The discussions include:

- **Making the Most of the 90 minute Block**
- **Planning for Meaningful Guided Reading Groups – Primary/Intermediate**
- **Children’s Literature – Primary/Intermediate**
- **Making the Most of Writing Workshop**

Advanced Ticket Sales: $8  Tickets at the door: $16  Students $5.00
Deadline for Advanced Ticket Sales November 2nd.  Contact Mrs. Nancy Hankee, Department of Education, nhankee@sf.edu, for more details.

Send advance registration to:

Nancy Hankee
University of Saint Francis
Department of Education
2701 Spring Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Please make checks payable to University of Saint Francis.

Marilyn Hissong, ext. 3124

3. **WEBSITE OF THE WEEK**

[www.scienceinvestigator.org](http://www.scienceinvestigator.org)

A free science journal for upper elementary students. Each article has the following components:

The Investi-gator is a free science journal for upper elementary level students. This journal is created in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association. The journal focuses on contemporary, Forest Service research and is written in the format of a scientific article. Each edition also has a lesson plan, word games, answers to the Reflection Sections, and correlations to National Science Education Standards at the back of the journal.

Each article has the following components:
Meet the Scientist- An introduction to the scientist or scientists who conducted the research.

Glossary- Possible new terms you will find in the article. Glossary words are printed in bold in the article.

Thinking About Science- A short introduction to something about the scientific process that is related to the research being presented.

Thinking About the Environment- A short introduction to something about the natural environment that is related to the research being presented.

Introduction- The part of the written scientific paper that introduces the scientific problem or question the scientists want to solve or answer.

Method- The part of the written scientific paper that describes how the scientists collected and analyzed their data or information.

Findings- The part of the written scientific paper that describes what the scientists discovered.

Discussion- The part of the written scientific paper that summarizes the research and offers any new insights.

Reflection Sections- These are questions placed behind the Introduction, Methods, Findings, and Discussion sections. The purpose of the questions is to help students think about what they have read.

FACTivity- This is an activity that supports the article and can be done with your class.

Bill Diehl, ext. 3125

4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

All staff are urged to read the enclosed update regarding information about SIP plans, work orders, training, and other valuable information. See Enclosure #2.

Bill Diehl, ext. 3125

Positive Praise:
Have you taken the time to say something positive to someone today?

*Instruction does much, but encouragement does everything!*

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
Important Dates

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Literacy Instruction

This week’s focus:

- **Guided Reading – Lesson Planning**

Now that you have student data, you can group students by need into flexible groups. Always keep in mind, what does the student need to get to the next Guided Reading level?

**Sample Lesson Plan Template Forms (A-Z) available on District Share**

- The sample lesson plans are available to be used but **not required**, you should have a format that meets the guidelines for a Guided Reading lesson and the expectations of your principal.
- Materials to support these lesson plans can be found in *The Next Step in Guided Reading* by Jan Richardson

**District Expectations for meeting with GR groups:**

- **Intensive** – 3-4 times per week
- **Strategic** – 2-3 times per week
- **Benchmark and above** – once a week
- **Research says**, meetings should be over sequential days rather than alternating: M, T, W, NOT M, W, F

**SRI Lexile levels** for grouping students can be found under SRI:

- Reports>classes (double click, should turn blue)
  - Reading Performance Report will give the last test data
- Reports>students>double click on student name>
  - Student Action Report> Run Report
    - This will give you the range for meeting students instruction level
    - You may want to print
  - Recommended Reading Report>Run Report
    - Choices for independent reading
    - You will want to print
- A suggested read for SRI teachers, pages 182 – 195 in the SRI Educator’s Guide. Sign in to SRI:
  - Resources Tab>Program drop down Scholastic Reading Inventory
  - Browse Tab>Scholastic Research Reports>Download Classroom Management/Teacher Resources

K-G2 Collaboration Topics

- Rtl students - DIBELS Data
- Guided Reading Groups - progress monitoring

G3-G8 Collaboration Topics

- Rtl students - Daily Math Review (3-6)
- Guided Reading Groups –progress monitoring

Wireless Data

**Now What? Tools**

- **Item Level Advisor** - Suggested skill support for **DIBELS only**, not for TRC
- Open Class Summary Report>Click BOY>Click colored skill per student>Now What?Tools>Drop down selection – Item Level Advisor
  - Offers suggested response to probe and possible activities
  - Suggested Activities for: NWF, DORF – fluency and accuracy

**Support for other DIBELS activities (LNF, FSF, PSF) AND TRC and SRI skills (accuracy, fluency and comprehension) can be found at:**

- www.fcrr.org/
- http://reading.uoregon.edu/

- You will need to copy and paste these links

Gray Folders

Teachers each of your classroom students should have a folder with copies of the following assessment results:

**End of Year Contents GK - 2**

- Cumulative District Writing Prompts w/ grade level rubric stapled on top- Fall/Spring (K), Spring (G1-2)
- HFW List from the current school year
- Wireless Generation Student Summary- Reading 3D
- Wireless Generation Student Summary- mClass Math
- Profile Cards (if used in your building)

**End of Year Contents G3-6**

- Cumulative District Writing Prompts w/ grade level rubric stapled on top- Spring
- HFW List from the current school year
- Wireless Generation Student Summary- Reading 3D G3-5)
- ACUITY Student Progress Report (MA and LA)
- SRI Student Progress Report G6
- Profile Cards (if used in your building)

Compass Odyssey

Post-test possible paper/pencil after Bundle complete:

1. Teacher sign-in to Compass Odyssey>
2. Assignment>Assignment Archive>
3. My District>Grade>Author’s Name – Kurt>Search
4. Click on Assignment Name – G5 LA Bundle 1>test>view on SMARTboard

Wireless Data

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1. **SIP Plan Submission & Monitoring** (all schools)
   - The second tier of schools should have their SIPs submitted to me by Wednesday morning. They will be uploaded to the share drive that evening for Board members to view prior to the October 18th meeting. Once they are approved by the Board, I will give you instructions for submission to the state.
   - The monitoring tools in your Action Plan should be in full swing. Walk-throughs, emerging assessment data and teacher data meetings should paint a clear picture of student progress in your building. **There should be no surprises.**
   - You should have a binder that you collect key information concerning your SIP and specifically your Action Plan. We may ask you to share this in November.
   - It is essential to schedule at least a quarterly review of progress toward School Improvement Plan goals with your staff. Remember to keep all stakeholders informed through staff meetings/bulletins and parent newsletters.
   - Modifications should be through the SIP committee and include input from all stakeholders.
   - Parent-Teacher Conferences are a prime time to collect survey information.

2. **Work Orders** (All)
   - We are back to our normal work order load.
   - At this time our technicians will be doing work orders on Mondays, Wednesday mornings, and Fridays. They will be placing phones on the other days.

3. **New Phones** (All)
   - We will begin placing new phones in all of our buildings over the next three weeks.
   - The new phones have a much smaller window, but the window is backlit and brighter.
   - Training for the phones will be through videos that can be watched on demand.
   - Phones will run off the same data jack as your computer. They will no longer use the old phone jacks.
   - The phone system will be switched to the new system on Friday, November 4th.

4. **iPad Training** (K-5 buildings)
   - We are currently in the second round of iPad training showing teachers how to use email, retrieve apps, and use SplashTop to run their SmartBoards remotely.
   - AV Carts that used to hold overheads are the perfect platform to put an iPad on and control the SmartBoard from the back of the class. In fact, all K-5 classrooms should have one. They can also be used to roll materials to collaboration and staff meetings. **HINT: There are many of them at NHEL.**
   - **QuickOffice ProHD** is our choice for manipulating MS Office documents on your IPAD (administrators only). If you are interested in this app send me an email.

5. **“EACS Registrars” group on the Learning Connection** (All)
   - We have enrolled all of the registrars in our community on the Learning Connection where they will get instructions for input and reporting, exchange Q&A, have a calendar of events, store and access files, etc. They will receive automatic notification of additions to the site.
   - All registrars will attend MANDATORY monthly half-day training sessions at Park Hill. These sessions will be for instruction and training to create greater continuity among our buildings.
6. **Report Cards** (All)
   - Instructions from Cindy Fritz for report card printing will be updated and made available.
   - After printing of report cards, please remember that teachers will have 7 days to POST their grades. Please remind them of the necessity to do so.

7. **Compass Odyssey** (Grades K-8)
   - On Friday, October 21st CRT’s will attend Compass Odyssey training with the Instructional Coaches at Park Hill to become familiar with the new Compass Dashboard and report options.
   - Please strongly encourage home use by students of this 24/7 software in your newsletters.

8. **CRT’s & Library Meeting** (All)
   - CRT’s and librarians will meet on Tuesday, October 18th from 1 to 3 p.m. at Park Hill room 208. Both groups will receive information on basic technology troubleshooting.

9. **The Learning Connection** (All)
   - Please check your Learning Connection rosters and make sure you have your entire staff registered and able to access the site.
   - If a teacher forgets their password, they will need to go to the login screen and enter their username and then ask for their password to be sent to their email from the Learning Connection. We do not have access to any LC passwords. If they forget their username, then the principal should be able to see it under your school on the LC. If you have an issue, email me.

10. **Login template** (All)
    - Kristina Connolly, Instructional Coach at Highland Terrace Elementary was nice enough to share the attached username and password template she created for teachers to keep in their testing folder/binder.

11. **You Tube for Teachers** (All)
    - YouTube launched a new channel designed specifically for teachers that provides tips for educators on how to use the tool in the classroom. The channel also offers a new mailing list, the YouTube Teachers Community, to allow educators to share their own tips and ideas.

12. **Re-registration** (All)
    - We need all parents to properly fill out Medical Histories, Field Trip info, and be able to view their child’s grades. Therefore, we are in the process of deactivating all old, unused, previously mailed, access codes from the summer and generating new letters and codes for those parents that failed to online register. We will send the letters to your building to be stuffed and mailed shortly.
Assessment

1. **ACUITY Diagnostic #1** (3-8)
   - The Acuity Diagnostic window will begin Wednesday, October 12th.
   - Please send me a copy of your testing schedule.
   - There is an ACUITY icon assigned to all workstations. The CRT's can also use:
     
     USERNAME: acuity
     PASSWORD: t3sting
   - It is important the LA and Math sessions are toward the end of the window to allow the maximum time for teachers to cover content in the grading period. It is better to have the SS and Sci toward the front of the window. The last thing we want is for students and teachers to think the exam was not worthwhile because many concepts were not covered. This just invites excuses. Remember No Excuses U.

2. **ACUITY Algebra Testing** (Jr/Sr & MS)
   - **Very Important** - All Algebra 1 students need to take all three Acuity Algebra Predictive Assessments. Our grant states- "90% of all Algebra 1 students must complete each assessment." It is important to make sure each school has double checked to catch all students.
   - Alternative School students must be rostered to their sending school even though they will take the exam at the Alternative school.

3. **ECA** (high school/ middle school algebra)
   - ECA assessments are only slated for Early Winter, Spring, and Summer. All online.
   - Although the Summer window was open in July, no students took advantage of the window.
   - Retesters will use either the Early Winter or the Spring windows only. Remember, every child that sits for ECA testing must have an “opportunity to learn” (some course of Algebra study).
   - Alternative School students must be rostered to their sending school even though they will take the exam at the Alternative school.
   - Please make sure NO student is missed through move-in, etc. It will count against your Grad Rate!

4. **ISTEP+ Testing** (3-8)
   - Absent any new findings, all schools 3-8 will online ISTEP test for the multiple choice portion of the exam in the spring of 2012.
   - **Remember IMAST results were very encouraging for our district. If you have a child that would benefit from this alternative multiple choice ISTEP test (and most did), it is important to begin that recognition process through special education.**

5. **Wireless Generation** (Grades K-5)
   - Additional training will occur in the SDR on Friday morning from 8:30 to 10:30. Instructional Coaches, RtI, and Reading Specialists will attend the training and serve as trainers of teachers.
   - We are in the process of ordering Dibels Next additional kits, which will allow teachers in some buildings to test below their normal school grade levels.

6. **Growth Data** (Grades 4-8)
   - I will be around to most buildings to share some very detailed data concerning student growth.
   - The data should help you decide where you need to deploy the most help in your building.
1. EACS SCHOOLS WITH EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

The following schools had excellent teacher attendance the week of October 3 - 7, 2011:

- EACS Alternative - 100%
- Cedarville Elementary - 96%
- Meadowbrook Elementary - 95%
- Prince Chapman Academy - 95%

GOOD JOB TEACHERS!