**January 30, 2015**

**I enjoyed the Instructional Practices Inventory walk throughs we conducted at LaSalle and Parkview. Collecting data through the IPI allows us to focus on a “big picture” view of student engagement. Research proves that there is a high correlation between student engagement and achievement. At Parkview, we collected 316 data points throughout the day for an average score of 3.9 on the IPI scale. This 3.9 score is on a scale of 1 to 6. Here are a few thoughts on this process:**

* **While a goal of this process is to engage students in more higher order learning activities, there’s nothing wrong with a score of a 3 or 4. I saw lots of cool assignments and examples of great teaching that were 3s and 4s with the students highly engaged.**
* **We record the snapshot of what is going on when we enter the room. This score will vary depending on when we enter the class. One class I observed yesterday began with teacher led instruction as they described the purpose (4). Students then worked independently on a creative writing assignment of what the world would be like in the year 3036 (6). Students broke into small groups discussing their results and reasoning (5). Students shared their results with the class (4). The class was done early and became disengaged (1).**
* **With ranking, we take the majority. In one class there were 4 groups. One was learning to read (6), another practicing writing skills (3), one was reading aloud (3) and another was working on a reading computer program (3). The majority was at a 3, so that is the score.**

**It’s a lot of fun to be able to get into your classrooms and see all the good things happening. It is particularly fun seeing all the happy kindergarteners who will one day be 8th graders.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**I enjoyed observing Mr. Kluesner’s class conduct experiments on the amount of iron in breakfast cereal. They mixed the cereal with warm water, shook it and used magnets to draw out the iron. Today they will hypothesize and draw conclusions. His 7th grade students made predictions and then conducted experiments to determine the amount of lipids and starch in various types of foods.**

**Good luck to Mr. Sea and the Math Counts team competing at Bradley University next Saturday.**

**Students in 6th grade with Mr. Liske and Ms. Foster broke into teams and used Smart Responders to play Integers Jeopardy on the Smart Board.**

**Mrs. Wettstein and Mr. Grys are coaching 5th & 6th grade girls’ basketball and Mario West is coaching the boy’s team. I want to thank all of the coaches for their dedication and efforts. Coaching is an often underappreciated task that benefits the students at Parkview.**

**Mr. Heubi’s 6th grade class, in conjunction with the novel *Hatchet,* wrote about what the character would have used if he didn’t have a hatchet. They then used clay to create their own alternatives.**

**Kathy Harvey is working with 5th grade students once a week as she presents a combination of “Steps to Respect” and “Second Step” to help students with social emotional learning.**

**“Today I shall behave, as if this is the day I will be remembered.” --Dr. Seuss**

**Except for the ones that took place in 1986 and 2007, I don’t have much interest in the Super Bowl. I’ll be home with the big game on in the background while likely playing Monopoly or reading Ally Condie’s new book *Atlantia.* Be safe as we’re expecting snow and have a great weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Monday, February 2: Warrior Way lesson titled, “Dreams and Goals: Planning Ahead”**

**Monday, February 2: Volleyball Home vs. Broadmoor @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, February 4: Teacher Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45: *What Great Teacher’s Do Differently* ch. 10 Tammy Conway: “Great teachers consistently filter out the negatives that don’t matter and share a positive attitude.”**

**Thursday, February 5: 5th & 6th BBB Home vs. Deer Creek @ 5:00**

**Friday, February 6: Spelling bee finals in the gym @ 8:30**

**Tuesday, February 10: 5th & 6th BBB Home vs. Dunlap @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, February 10: Candy bar fundraiser ends**

**Wednesday, February 11: Mid Term #3 Ends**

**Thursday, February 12: Extra-curricular activity pictures in the gym starting at 8:00**

**Saturday, February 14: Bridge building competition at Northwood’s Mall**

**Saturday, February 14: 7th Grade County Volleyball Tournament (all day)**

**Monday, February 16: President’s Day—no school**

**Tuesday, February 16: Volleyball home vs. Bartonville Grade @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, February 16: BOE meeting @ LaSalle at 6:00**

**Thursday, February 19: Teacher Induction Celebration at the District Office 3:00 to 4:30**

**Friday, February 20: PACE Chili Supper 5:00-8:00**

**Saturday, February 21: Tazewell County Chess Tournament @ Georgetown**

**Saturday, February 22: VB 8th Grade County Tournament @ Dee-Mack**

**Wednesday, February 25: 5th & 6th BBB Home vs. Oak Grove @ 5:00**

**Thursday, February 26: Volleyball Home vs. Peoria Heights**

**Thursday, February 26: Scholastic Bowl home vs. Robein @ 3:30**

**Monday March 2: PARCC Performance Based Assessment begins**

**Thursday, March 5: Science Fair in the gym**

**Friday, March 13: School Improvement Day—11:00 dismissal. End of the 3rd grading period**

**Friday, March 20: Report Cards go home**

**Friday, March 27: Last day before spring break**

**Tuesday, April 7: School resumes**

**Monday, April 27: PARCC End of Year Assessment begins**

**Thursday, May 21st: 8th grade promotion ceremony at East Peoria High School @ 6:30**

**Monday, May 25: Memorial Day—no school**

**Thursday, May 28th: Institute day—no school**

**Friday, May 29th: Last day of school!**