**November 7, 2014**

**I enjoyed the educator evaluation training at East Peoria Central on Tuesday that focused on excellent teaching. Being a Dad with a daughter in 2nd grade, I fully appreciate the difference a great teacher can make in a child’s life. With the Charlotte Danielson education evaluation framework, I have had approximately 140 hours of training on the 22 components and I am far from an expert. Tuesday’s training simplified that to be an excellent teacher, instead of focusing on all 22 components, focus on Danielson’s component 3C, which is student engagement. The key to excellent teaching is focusing on student engagement with activities and assignments, grouping of students, instructional materials and resources, along with structure and pacing.**

**In terms of teaching, Charlotte Danielson says, “Students learn because of what they do, not because of what you do.” Therefore the excellent standard is ALL STUDENTS INTELLECTUALLY ENGAGED. Not only did Tuesday’s session help simplify teaching excellence, but it also reinforces the work we do with the Instructional Practices Inventory walk throughs that are based on Danielson’s 3C component. The IPI emphasizes student engagement, particularly with higher order learning activities. Excellent teaching is not so much about teaching answers but about getting students to ask questions and then discovering solutions. De-emphasizing the importance of knowing facts is a change in the mindset from the way we learned growing up; however, none of us grew up with the capability and access of tablet or Smartphones. Thanks for working to be excellent and keeping all students intellectually engaged every day.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**With next Tuesday being Veteran’s day, it is important to take a moment to appreciate all those who made sacrifices for our country. Be sure to thank Jeff Kluesner, Charles Nungester, Ted Wanack, and Mr. Aldridge for having served in our military.**

**In conjunction with studying Earth Science, Ms. Starman’s class conducted experiments to determine the effects of weathering on various objects while drawing conclusions.**

**Mrs. Clark’s Encore group is working on a United Nations Project. They will choose a country and research such things as its politics, history, geography, along with its strengths and challenges. Students will make a class presentation as though they were presenting to the United Nations.**

**Next Monday’s *Warrior Way* lesson focuses on rumors and gossip. At the December 19th *Warrior Way* celebration, PACE and Student Council will give away two Apple iPad Minis. Next Friday, PACE is having a fall festival at LaSalle from 5:00 to 8:00 and needs volunteers.**

**For the AR contest, Ms. Conway’s, Ms. Melissant’s, and Mrs. Sea’s class lead with 717 points. I’m looking forward to our 3rd annual “All Day Reading Day” on November 25.**

**“Learning to live in the present moment is part of the path to joy.” --Sarah Ban Breathnach**

**Since Mr. McCormick is a Packer fan, we made a wager that whoever wins between the Bears and Packers Sunday night, the losing fan would wear the opposite jersey. I concede this was a bad bet by me and I expect to be wearing a stupid Packer’s jersey Monday. Happy weekend! -Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Monday, November 10: BBB Home vs. Peoria Christian @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, November 11: Veteran’s Day—no school**

**Wednesday, November 12: Grade level team meetings—(All day reading day, student success & concerns, report card review, etc.)**

**Friday, November 14: PACE Fall Festival @ LaSalle 5:00-8:00**

**Monday, November 17: BBB Home vs. Midwest Central @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, November 18: BOE Meeting @ LaSalle—6:00**

**Tuesday, November 18: GBB home vs. Dunlap @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, November 19: Full teacher’s meeting—Nicole Clark Ch. 7 of WGTDD “Great teachers know that they are the variable in the classroom. Good teachers consistently strive to improve, and they focus on something they can control; their own performance.”**

**Wednesday, November 19: Mid Term Ends**

**Thursday, November 20: PACE Meeting @ Parkview 6:00**

**Monday, November 24: BBB home vs. Mossville @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, November 25: All Day Reading Day/PACE Popcorn Day—mid-terms go home**

**Wednesday, November 26: Thanksgiving Break!**

**Monday, December 1: BBB Home vs. Chillicothe @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, December 2: Volleyball Tryouts 2:45-4:15**

**Wednesday, December 3: Teacher Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 8 Becky Barton, “Great teachers focus on students first, with a broad vision that keeps everything in perspective.”**

**Wednesday, December 3: BBB Home vs. Bartonville Grade @ 5:00**

**Saturday, December 6: PACE Lunch with Santa @ LaSalle 11:00 to 1:00**

**Monday, December 8: Santa’s Secret Shop all week at Parkview**

**Monday, December 15: BBB Home vs. Tremont @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, December 17: Full teacher’s meeting: WGTDD Chapter 9 Emily turner, “Great teachers create a positive atmosphere in their classrooms and schools. They treat every person with respect. In particular, they understand the power of praise.”**

**Thursday, December 18: PACE Meeting @ LaSalle 6:00**

**Friday, December 19; 1:35 Dismissal—Warrior Way Celebration—Last day before break!**

**Monday, January 5: Back in session!**

**Monday March 9: PARCC Performance Based Assessment this week**

**Monday, March 16: PARCC Performance Based Assessment continues**

**Monday, April 27: PARCC End of Year Assessment this week**

**Monday, May 4: PARCC End of Year Assessment this week**