

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

eNews



March 2008

<http://www.masfps.org>

Facilitating Communication
Among Our Members

Academic Games

▶ BY WILLYE PIGOTT, JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Over 100 students play Academic Games..... Jackson Public Schools have participated in two local and one regional Academic Games tournaments since September 2007. More than 100 district students competed. Eighty-six students played On-Words at the November 9 tournament at Dibble Elementary School. It was the largest attended local elementary and middle school tournament held at Jackson Public Schools.

Students play the games Equations, On-Sets, On-Words and Linguishtik at Academic Games tournaments. The games teach math using strategies that can be played at a basic or an adventurous level. At the adventurous level, students set mathematical variations in the game. Students that play these math games have been found to excel in Algebra.

Process Mentor Teams

▶ BY KAREN RUPLE, KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

One piece of MDE's system of statewide support for Title I high priority schools is a Process Mentor Team. This particular intervention has the focus of moving a building in any AYP phase back to the AYP phase of o.

ISDs and RESAs are the key partners in this initiative. Consultants from these service agencies have the responsibility of coordinating with their local district personnel in the formation of Process Mentor Teams. For any Title I building in AYP Phase 1 or 2, Mentor Teams consist of a representative from the service agency and a representative from the district with the AYP phase school. In AYP phases 3 through 6, an MDE representative is added to the Mentor Team.

[SEE PROCESS MENTOR TEMS ON PAGE 2](#)

Welcome to our new members and thank you to our current members for your continued support and participation in the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists. Our association is the professional organization serving Michigan educators who administer state and federal programs.

MAS/FPS consists of a board of directors and a representative for each of the congressional regions in Michigan. The board meets monthly to develop and implement professional learning opportunities that keep program administrators current on new state and federal regulations, best practice for student achievement and research based information.

Our Web site, <http://www.masfps.org>, contains valuable links to assist members. This year our book study will be *Building Engaged Schools* by Gary Gordon. Professional staff development activities will be available to use at the local level. MAS/FPS publishes this membership newsletter, *E-News*, and information on Institutes and regional trainings throughout the state of Michigan.

Please let us know how best we can serve your district. Our Executive Secretary, Sara Shriver, is available to receive calls [(616) 984-9943] or emails [at shrivers@lakeviewschools.net]. Thank you again for your participation as a member of MAS/FPS and I look forward to meeting with you this year.

Sincerely,

Debbie Kitson, President
MAS/FPS

This Mentor Team meets with the building school improvement team at least quarterly in order to review the school improvement process, look at student achievement data and assist the school improvement team in setting short-term student learning goals to strengthen the weak AYP areas. Kent ISD has played this role with many buildings in Grand Rapids Public Schools even before the state mandated it and has seen positive increases in student achievement as a result in many buildings.

The focus is kept on student achievement by relentlessly keeping these guiding questions in front of teachers:

- What do you expect students to learn?
- How will you know when students have learned it?
- How will you respond when students do not learn it?
- How will you respond if students have already learned it?

The Process Mentor Team documents and training were developed through a collaborative effort with Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan School Improvement Facilitators Network, the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists and the Michigan Association of Intermediate Superintendents Association. Trainings were held across the state in the fall and for people who were unable to attend one of the sessions, a training video was posted on MDE's High Priority Schools website: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/O,1607,7-140-6530_30334-103288--,00.html

The training materials can be obtained by emailing Carolyn Zank from Kent ISD at carolynzank@kentisd.org.

NAFEPA Scholarship Nominees Named

BY MICHELE BURLEY, CENTRAL MONTCALM PUBLIC SCHOOL

The MAS/FPS scholarship committee recently reviewed applications for consideration for the 2008 National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators (NAFEPA) scholarship program. We are proud to announce the selection of two fine candidates to represent Michigan at the national level: Melissa Partlo, from Stanton (Congressional District 4) and Laura Moyle, from Lake Linden (Congressional District 1).

Each young lady will receive a \$100 check from MAS/FPS to put toward their college education. Their applications will be submitted for further consideration for the three \$1500 scholarships that will be awarded at the 2008 NAFEPA Conference in Washington, D.C., in April.

Melissa Partlo, a senior at Central Montcalm High School has been described by her teachers as someone who has "soared in academics" while still participating in multiple extra-curricular activities. She frequently volunteers her time in the community doing such things as teaching Sunday school, assisting the needy, and taking part in Deaf Pride Day. She is planning on attending Kettering University to earn her degree in mechanical engineering.

Laura Moyle, a freshman at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood has been described as dedicated, responsible, and hardworking. Despite being diagnosed with cerebral palsy and a learning disability, Laura has shown persistence in following her dream in aggressively pursuing a career in health care. Along with other awards for leadership, she won gold medals in the speaking skills category at the 2006 and 2007 National Leadership Conference for Health Occupation Students of America. She is continuing her education in health careers at Gogebic Community College.


MAS/FPS wishes both of our nominees for the NAFEPA Scholarship the best of luck in the competition as well as in their future studies.

E News

Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists



The E News is a publication of MAS/FPS. The information contained within aims at informing the school and community members about events both past and future within the organization's community.

2008-2009 MAS/FPS Boot Camps	
 Principals' Boot Camp April 26, 2009 Clara-Gladwin RESD \$249	Principals' Boot Camp September 23, 2008 Kent ISD - Grand Rapids Area \$249
Directors' Boot Camp May 10, 2008 Sheraton Lansing Hotel \$279	Principals' Boot Camp September 24, 2008 Ingham ISD - Lansing Area \$249
Directors' Boot Camp I August 23, 2008 Sheraton Lansing Hotel \$279	Directors' Boot Camp II May 2, 2009 Sheraton Lansing Hotel \$279
Principals' Boot Camp September 18, 2008 South Redford School District Wayne County \$249	*Participants attending both Directors' Sessions I & II will get a promotional rate of \$449.

Registration for Boot Camps will be available at www.masfps.org soon!

Port Huron Area School District Title I elementary schools embrace “RtI” model

► **BY ROBYN MOSHER, PORT HURON AREA SCHOOLS**

Cleveland, Garfield, Harrison, Sparlingville and Woodrow Wilson Elementary Schools are actively involved in the Response to Intervention process. Last spring, building teams participated in two-day district designed RtI training. The district’s curriculum and special education department staff jointly developed and presented the workshop. The Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education publication, Response to Intervention: Enhancing the Learning of All Children was used as the basis for the training. Team members studied the RtI process through a series of classroom vignettes, role-playing Tier I, Tier II and Tier III level interventions. Team members took the lessons learned back to their buildings. In the fall, the entire staff of each school spent a half-day working with education consultant Ilene MacDonald further developing their understanding of RtI.

All of these schools are Reading First schools and four are also recipients of MiBLSi (Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative) funding. The professional development provided by these programs further deepened the RtI efforts of the schools. Staff members participate in weekly grade level meetings to discuss both academic and behavioral support for struggling students. Additionally, each building holds weekly Student Support Team meetings to determine appropriate Tier I, II and/or III level interventions for the school’s most at-risk students.

This fall, the school district began providing district-wide

universal screening in reading. A 50+ member district assessment team was trained in the administration of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment. All students in grades K–5 participated in this screening. At the same time, the district is also launching a new elementary level universal math screening – AIMSweb Pro Math. Results of both assessments provide additional data for the schools’ Response to Intervention process.

Professional development has been a high priority for our teachers. All of our Title I building instructional staff have participated in 33 hours of literacy instruction in the Foundations / Language Essential for Teachers of Reading Spelling (LETRS) professional development series.

Professional development has been a high priority for our teachers. All of our Title I building instructional staff have participated in 33 hours of literacy

instruction in the Foundations / Language Essential for Teachers of Reading Spelling (LETRS) professional development series. Many are also attending Special Education Reading Program (SERP) and Teacher Reading Academies (TRA) sessions this year.

Another instructional initiative in place is a mandatory 90-minute uninterrupted reading block. Our Title I buildings are leading the way for other district schools, frequently hosting grade level team visits from our non-Title I schools to see this initiative in action.

We are very proud of our Title I schools where research-based instruction, best practices, and high quality professional learning are providing big dividends for our students.

UPPER PENINSULA CONFERENCE

APRIL 29–30, 2008

FEATURING ADRIENNE BATTISTONE AND “THINKING MAPS”

39TH ANNUAL FALL DIRECTOR’S INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2008

SHERATON HOTEL IN LANSING, MI