

WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2018

If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.

Confucius



January brought us a few days of blistery cold weather. During that time we focused on winter and fun filled indoor activities during recess. Our parent-teacher conferences went very well. Parents filled our classrooms during both of the day and evening conferences to meet with their child's classroom teacher.

The month of January ended quickly. It is always a great time to reflect on our teaching practices and school procedures. We utilized our time during faculty meetings exploring new ways to enhance reading and writing across all grade levels and content areas. As a school community we continue to strive toward excellence. Included in our school-wide goals this year is to continue to enhance social-emotional skills, and to build stronger partnerships with home and school, teacher and student, and parent and teacher.

At Wilson Elementary School, our teachers are rounding up to develop new and exciting after-school programs for our students this spring.

What a gift it is to love books. Everybody must love something, and I know of no objects of love that give such substantial and unfailing returns as books and a garden.

- Elizabeth von Arnim

PEER MEDIATION AND PARENTS – TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

Each year, we celebrate our Peer Mediation Organization. It consists of a group of students that completed a rigorous 2-day training in conflict resolution, peer mediation, and problem solving skills. The training was led by Mrs. Concurso, Gr. K/1, Mrs. Visone, Gr. 3, and Ms. Mahoney, Guidance Counselor. We also wish to thank our PTO for their support of this organization. They provided shirts to all of the students involved every year. Each of our students were recognized during this month's PTO meeting. During this meeting, Dr. Richard Labbe, Superintendent of Schools arrived as a special guest. Students received certificates of recognition. They asked questions of their superintendent and took several photos with him. This was such a nice evening for our students.

THE PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION INVITES OUR SUPERINTENDENT TO WILSON SCHOOL.

Wilson School was honored to have Dr. Richard Labbe, Superintendent of Schools visit our parents, staff and our students. He presented our Peer Mediation Organization with certificates. As well, Dr. Labbe discussed our district initiatives, goals and expectations for success. He invited questions from the floor and shared photos with the children. I believe the highlight of the evening was Dr. Labbe's ability to connect with the people of our community. One of our students asked, "Dr. Labbe, how much education did you have?" Our students are learning to connect to the leaders of our district and show respect. This was an example of that.

THE GOVERNOR'S ESP OF THE YEAR FOR 2018

This past week, Mrs. Pamela Schleck, ASI Teacher at Wilson School was awarded ESP of the Year. Congratulations also goes to Mr. Daniel Toyne. He is a recipient of the Teacher of the Year. As well, Marlene Lewandowski was awarded the ESP of the Year for Middlesex County. All three of these recipients should be commended for their dedication and commitment to education and to Wilson School.



Left to Right. Mrs. Lewandowski, Middlesex County ESP, Mr. Toye, Governor’s Teacher of the Year Recipient, Mrs. Pamela Schleck, Governor’s ESP of the Year, and Principal Davis.

WILLABEES BY NICOLE PURCELL

Wilson’s Willabees had their monthly meeting on January 11th, led by Ms. Purcell and Mrs. Young. The meeting began with a discussion about goal setting in this present New Year. The students worked together to brainstorm resolutions they could make for themselves as we start a new year. They each picked three goals and wrote them down with the intent to hang them in a place they would be able to view it each day. The Willabees moved to the gymnasium to engage in a team building exercise. With the support of Mr. Wonaszek, our Phys-Ed teacher, the students competed in an obstacle course. The idea was for them to get their team across the “lava” using

hula hoops, scooters and jump ropes. The teachers were very impressed with their students' teamwork! Everyone made it across successfully. We cannot wait to see what is in store for them next month.



WILLABEES!

PLAYWORKS TRAINING FOR TEACHERS. LEARNING TO CRAFT PLAYTIME!

This month, teachers from each of our elementary schools were selected to receive a 2-day intensive training with Playworks. Teachers learned how to enhance the social - emotional learning of our students through playtime during recess. Teachers learned how to infuse fair and exciting play with the development of leadership skills, greetings, rules, and safety. This was an informative approach to our recess time. Our goal is to reduce conflict and enhance leadership, encourage teamwork and model collaboration for our students. This is a program that aligns with our Responsive Classroom Approach to teaching and learning within the classrooms. Ultimately student learning is the most important component of all. We expect to see great strides in our students as they enter middle and high school. As we begin the journey, we stay encouraged and strong in supporting each of our students toward academic and social success.



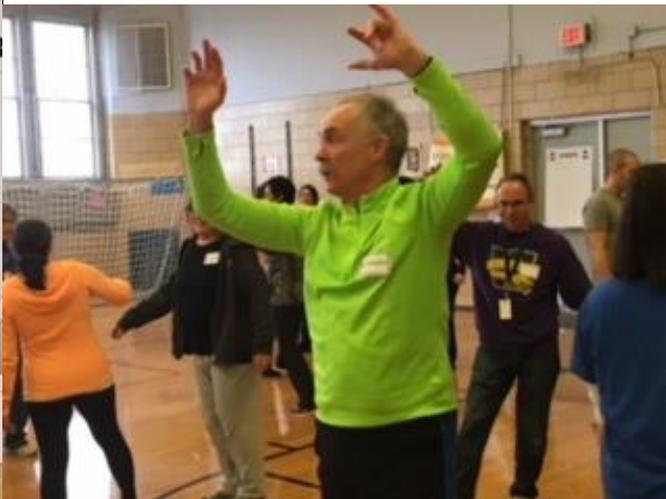
RECESS IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

1. Identify games and strategies for implementing play at recess
2. Identify three lenses for assessing the quality of recess using the Great Recess Framework (GRF)
3. Develop a recess design for their site that aligns with the GRF/Recess Indicators
4. Develop an action plan to implement the recess design

AGENDA

- Recess Value
- Great Recess Framework
- Recess Indicators
- Recess Design
- Recess Action Plan



WHAT ON EARTH ARE WORD NERDS?

Maureen Hall, Rutgers University Literacy Coach visited Wilson School once again this year to relay the message about the importance and value in utilizing robust vocabulary when teaching children. We completed a full day workshop and an afternoon conference. Teachers are building vocabulary into their lesson planning and into our Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting. Below: Mrs. DiStefano, Grade 2 teacher.

