

**Ellis Middle School**  
**Principal's Report**  
**March 2, 2011**

**NECAP Testing**

Individual NECAP Testing results went home to students on February 18, 2011 by mail. We are still in the process of analyzing the results. The Annual Yearly Progress results will not be released until March. At this time we are seeing the highest growth in reading in 5 years. Here is the percentage of students scoring proficient/proficient with distinction for each grade level (regular education students):

<u>READING</u>		<u>MATH</u>	
<u>Grade 3</u>		<u>Grade 3</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
N/A	<b>81%</b>	N/A	<b>71.70%</b>
 <u>Grade 4</u>		 <u>Grade 4</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
<b>70.27%</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>70.27%</b>	<b>62.50%</b>
 <u>Grade 5</u>		 <u>Grade 5</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
<b>75%</b>	<b>84.09%</b>	<b>56.82%</b>	<b>61.36%</b>
 <u>Grade 6</u>		 <u>Grade 6</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
<b>63.83%</b>	<b>63.27%</b>	<b>65.95%</b>	<b>73.47%</b>
 <u>Grade 7</u>		 <u>Grade 7</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
<b>64%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>82%</b>
 <u>Grade 8</u>		 <u>Grade 8</u>	
2009	2010	2009	2010
<b>82.61%</b>	<b>85.11%</b>	<b>69.57%</b>	<b>74.47%</b>

**College Week/Career Exploration**

February 14th-18th is college week/career exploration. I will be in all computer classes discussing career paths and college programs. On February 18th all staff and students are encouraged to wear their college sweatshirts and t-shirts. Information on saving for college will be sent home with students along with workbooks from computer class.

**Number Worlds**

Peter Ripin, a representative from McGraw Hill, did a presentation on Number Worlds to the staff. Number Worlds is a math intervention program that we are looking to purchase

using SINI/DINI grant money. This will be used as part of the RtI program in the middle school and for ELO in the elementary.

### **Response to Intervention (RtI)**

We finally have our second round of RtI up and running. We originally planned to have a data meeting to determine new RtI groups during our early release day in January. However, that was cancelled due to the snow day. RtI provides much needed interventions for struggling students. In addition, it can also provide much needed enrichment for our Tier 1 students. Enrichment activities include:

#### Snow Science:

Students are examining types of snow, avalanches, Google Sketch Up to build virtual terrain and tubing parks etc etc. Come check out the man made ice rink out in our back field.

#### Blender – 3D animation

Students will learn the basics of creating 3 dimensional characters on the computer. This software has students working on modeling, materials and texturing, lighting, particle systems, several kinds of animation, and rendering.

#### Phone Apps:

Students in science will be working on creating phone apps for smart phones. They will also be working on the greenhouse.

#### Spanish:

Students will be having a basic introductory course in Spanish.

Many others including advanced art and music

### **Honk!**

Mrs. Burns is well under way preparing for this years musical, *Honk! Honk!* is a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson story *The Ugly Duckling*, incorporating a message of tolerance. This fits in nicely with our Diversity theme this year. The dates of the production are March 23 and March 25 (School productions are March 22 and March 24).

### **Special Thanks to Lowes and the PTA**

We would like to extend our thanks to the PTA and Lowes for the 5000.00 grant towards the greenhouse.

*John Safina*

Ellis Middle School Principal