

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, June 11, 2012, 10:30 AM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity, Chiung-Yin Cheng Liu, Phyllis Pascucci
Administrators – Mary Beth Currie, Barbara Duncan, Randy Westrol

Items for Discussion/Reports

1. Coaches' Handbook
 - Mr. Randy Westrol (Supervisor for Physical and Health Education) reviewed a draft of the Coaches' Handbook including a description of Volunteer Assistant Coach with the committee.
 - The parents' guide from NJSIAA will be added to a separate Athletes' Handbook, which will require both the student athlete and his/her parent to sign off.
 - The committee provided some feedbacks on the Coaches' Handbook through the discussion, and will review the Handbook in more details offline and provide additional comments, if any, to Randy and Mary Beth by 6/19. A revised version will be distributed to all board members in time for a whole board discussion on 6/27, which hopefully, will lead to the board approval at the July meeting.
2. Approval of District Professional Development Plan
 - The Holmdel District Professional Development Plan has been approved by the Monmouth County Professional Development Board on behalf of the State DoE. It will be on the 6/27 agenda for Board acceptance.
3. Village School and Indian Hill School Literacy News
 - After competing in the National Language Arts League contest, our 2nd and 3rd grade students scored at the top of the charts! Here are the results:
Grade 2: 1st in the nation; 23 students designated as National Student Leaders with perfect scores
Grade 3: 1st in the nation; 4 students designated as National Student Leaders with perfect scores
 - See attached for more updates on VS & IHS Literacy Program.
 - A survey will be conducted during the summer to gather parents' feedback for further improvements.
4. Pre-School Summer Reading Program
 - See attached for the Pre-School Summer Read Aloud Suggestions for 2012.

Items for Approval: the committee reviewed the following items and recommended board approval on either 6/13 or 6/27

1. Donations
 - A monetary donation from the Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence to fund 12 mini-grants, for the 2012/2013 school year. --- \$11,165.00
 - The Gallo Family would like to make a donation to the Holmdel High School Wrestling Program for additional new wall signs for the wrestling room. --- \$500.00
 - HCAA would like to donate the following non-monetary gifts to the Holmdel School District --- \$7,592.7
 - HFEE will donate surround sound system for the Holmdel High School Auditorium --- \$52,000.00
2. Approval of Textbooks/Supplemental Materials
 - Title: Biology: Foundations
Author: Miller, Kenneth, R. PhD. and Levine, Joseph, Ph.D.
Publisher: Pearson Prentice Hall
Date: 2010
Cost: \$83.97 per copy (75 copies needed)
 - Title: Environmental Science for AP
Author: Friedland and Relyea
Publisher: W.H. Freeman and Company/BFW
Date: 2012
Cost: \$108 per copy (120 copies needed)
3. Course Proposal
Advanced Placement Latin for 2012 – 2013 School Year

Items for information:

Next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23, 10a-1130a, Board Office at VS.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai

Village School Literacy News

May/June 2012
Volume 1, Issue 3

Brian Schillaci, Principal
Dionne Ledford, Vice-Principal
Susan Alston, Supervisor of Humanities
Erin Fetter, Reading Specialist



We are Readers and Writers! Look at what we will be up to!

GRADE 1

READING: We are finishing up our Folktale, Fairytale, and Fiction Unit where we explored the characteristics of tales, identified story elements, and summarized.

We will be moving into a Non-fiction Book Club Unit where we will become experts in a topic through:

- Research
- Questioning
- Using text features
- Identifying the main idea/ details
- Understanding new vocabulary

WRITING: Folktale/Fairytale

Some classes are attempting to write adaptations or their own folktales and fairytales.

Non-fiction Writing

Students will be creating non-fiction posters that will inform their audience about their expert topics. They will include several non-fiction text features.

WORD STUDY: Words Their Way

- er, ir, ur
- oy, oi

GRAMMAR: subject/predicate, combining sentences, er/est, syllables, point of view, reviewing parts of speech

GRADE 2

READING: We are finishing up our Folktale, Fairytale, and Fiction Unit with:

- Making inferences
- Identifying cause and effect.
- Identifying point of view

We will be moving into Mystery Book Clubs to:

- Become familiar with the vocabulary and characteristics of mystery books.
- Identify characters and their role.
- Notice clues and identify the mystery.

WRITING: Folktale/Fairytale Unit

Students will choose a favorite folktale/fairytale and write an adaptation for it. Students may try several adaptations and then try writing an original tale of their own.

WORD STUDY: Spelling patterns

- ur, ar
- el, le
- lge, nge, rge, dge

Vocabulary – Lessons 19 and 20

GRAMMAR: Review Parts of Speech and Writing Mechanics

GRADE 3

READING: Research Unit

Students will be choosing a topic in Science/Social Studies that they are interested in researching further. They will be put into a group and work with their group to learn:

- Research skills such as skimming, scanning, highlighting, note taking, tagging important information.
- How to use and navigate their text book as a main source
- Gather information from outside sources such as library books, and internet sites.
- Answer essential questions.

WRITING: Research Unit

Students will be creating Science/ Social Studies magazines based on their expert topics. All students will be writing articles. They will also be able to include advertisements, recipes, editorials, interviews, puzzles, and/or comic strips. They will work together with their research group to compile a magazine and include text features.

WORD STUDY: Spelling patterns

- prefixes and suffixes

GRAMMAR: Adjectives, Adverbs, Pronouns, Writing Mechanics

Vocabulary - Lesson 4, 5, and 6

Village School Students Excel in National Language Arts League Contest

After competing in the National Language Arts League contest, our 2nd and 3rd grade students scored at the top of the charts! Here are the results:

Village School

Grade 2: 1st (tied) in the nation

23 students designated as National Student Leaders with perfect scores

Grade 3: 1st in the nation

4 students designated as National Student Leaders with perfect scores

The contest included passages and questions on vocabulary, word relationships, reading comprehension, spelling, and language structure.

Congratulations and Bravo to all!

Indian Hill Literacy News

June 2012
Volume 1, Issue 3

Tali Axelrod, Principal
Michael Ferrarese, Vice-Principal
Susan Alston, Supervisor of Humanities
Lori Hawksby, Reading Specialist

Our students have had the wonderful opportunity to engage with books the way adults typically do, through literary book clubs. Relying on multiple reading strategies and peer conversations, our student readers have explored character motivations, the influence of setting, and themes related to social issues. To do this work they have drawn upon everything they have learned through our literacy work this year.

Individual grade level details are below:

GRADE 4

READING: Social Issues Book Clubs

Students are wrapping up their social issues book clubs drawing parallels between the characters' journey and certain issues they recognize in today's society.

WRITING:

- Reading responses
- Poetry using literary devices & figurative language
- Letter writing
- Presentations & final projects

WORD STUDY:

- Vocabulary from book club books

GRAMMAR:

- Sentence Structure

GRADE 5

READING: Narrative Book Clubs

Students spent their time focusing on the challenges and dilemmas their characters faced throughout the plot, evaluating the choices and decisions that were made from a moral and ethical point of view.

WRITING:

- Reading responses
- Book reviews
- Presentations & final projects
- How-To
- Compare & Contrast

WORD STUDY:

- Wordly Wise: Lessons 9-15
- Vocabulary from book club books

GRAMMAR:

- Sentence structure

GRADE 6

READING: Historical Fiction Book Clubs

Students met the challenges associated with reading historical fiction by first researching the time period to better understand the setting, and then following two plot lines—the narrative and the history.

WRITING:

- Reading Responses
- Poetry using literary devices & figurative language
- Presentations & final projects

WORD STUDY:

- Wordly Wise: Lessons 21-25
- Vocabulary from book club books

GRAMMAR:

- Punctuation
- Sentence Structure

Why Summer Reading?

Creating a habit of life-long reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Establishing this habit early and nurturing it throughout their school years, is critical to their success in life. We want students to pursue reading for enjoyment and encourage it through a wide selection of quality books. For this reason, we have developed summer reading lists for our students that provide something for every interest and grade-level. The lists comprise award-winning titles, all genres, timeless classics and popular, brand-new titles. Please keep in mind that although specific titles are provided, we encourage students to read any book by the authors listed or a book suggested by a school media specialist, public librarian or teacher.

Summer Reading has been shown to do the following for the student:

- Encourage a love and enjoyment of books
- Provide exposure to a variety of genres
- Increase vocabulary knowledge
- Increase reading fluency
- Develop background concepts and general knowledge
- Provide models of good writing
- Provide maintenance of reading skills learned during the school year
- Provide a sense of participation in a community of readers

Summertime provides a break from the stress of homework and the daily school schedule. Reading, however, is a skill that is important to work on all year. Following are some tips for helping ensure that your child keeps reading all summer.

- Keep books in the car and make sure that a good book gets tucked into sports bags and campers' backpacks.
- Get your child his or her own library card.
Take or allow him to go to the library to browse for books and enjoy special activities
- Help your child select books on topics he or she is interested in and on his or her reading level.
Please see the links below for help in finding the Guided Reading level of a book.
- Have plenty of books, books on tape, magazines, and other reading material around for children to read.
- Connect reading with other summer activities.
For example, read books about places you will go over the summer or things you will be doing.
- Let your children see you read.
Read the newspaper over your morning coffee, take a magazine from the rack in a doctor's office while you wait, and stuff a paperback into your purse, pocket, or briefcase. Your kids will catch on to the fact that reading is something you like to do in your spare time.
- Make reading together fun and memorable.
Even if your child is a super reader, he or she probably still likes to be read to. Children love to read letters and notes you write them. Maybe have a day of no talking only writing and reading each other's notes.
- Read it, then do it.
Does your child want to learn magic tricks? Juggling? Computer games? There's sure to be a book that can help him. Have your child read the instructions and then give it a try

How to find the Guided Reading Level of a Book?

Here are two web sites that can help you find the guided reading level of a book.

Knowing this information can help eliminate the frustration of choosing a book that is too hard. Furthermore, most of our students know the 5-finger rule. If, as they read a page, they raise a finger every time there is a word they do not understand and use all five fingers, they know the book is too hard.

www.scholastic.com/bookwizard

<http://booksatozteacherstuff.com/leveled-books/index>

Happy Reading!

Susan Alston

Supervisor of Humanities K-12

Pre-School Summer Reading Suggestions 2012

Mooksha, A Quilt Story by Julie Paschkis. Karla loves her quilt Mooshka, sewn together with dozens of scraps of fabric, each tied to a family memory. And the best part is that when all is quiet, Karla can hear the quilt whispering each story. This book, full of vibrant illustrations with a folkish feel and simple, but evocative text, strikes the perfect balance of non-saccharine sweetness. A wonderful present for a child with a new sibling, but a memorable read for any preschooler on your list. (Peachtree Publishers)

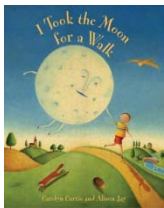
More by I.C. Springman, Illustrated by Brian Lies. Expressive illustrations and masterfully sparse text tell the story of one magpie with way too much stuff. Luckily, the magpie's mice friends help him find out what it means to have "just enough". This is at once a lighthearted book about a silly bird, and an important lesson about wants and needs. (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)

Scary Mary by Paula Bowles. Scary Mary rules the roost! She squawks and hoards, declaring herself boss of the barnyard, but Mary soon realizes that it's lonely at the top. It's only when the kindhearted animals give her a second chance that Mary begins to see and appreciate the importance of friendship. With playful text and action-packed illustrations, this book is perfect for reading aloud to young children, who will delight in Mary's antics and identify with the book's message. (Tiger Tales)

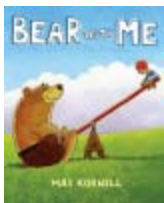
Mole's Babies by David Bedford. This gentle story finds expectant father Morris the mole searching high and low for the secret to keeping babies happy. He watches the farm animals and tries to do what they do, all to no avail. Morris is defeated, but vows to carry on until he finds the answer. The text has a sing-songy cadence that will appeal to young listeners and encourage them to pantomime along with the main character. Fun for all readers, but particularly good for the soon-to-be big brother or sister. (Tiger Tales)



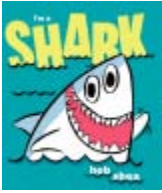
Gilbert Goldfish Wants a Pet by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Bob Shea. Even though he's got a swanky fish bowl and magic food flakes that fall from the sky, Gilbert Goldfish dreams of what he can not have. He dreams of a pet. Kids will giggle as a dog, a mouse, and a fly all team up for a temporary pet rotation... and bring trouble. This book has just the right mix of winks for the picture book crowd, and enough humor to keep parents engaged, too. And when the perfect pal arrives with a fish-tastic ending, preschoolers sitting at the edge of their seats can breathe a sigh of delighted relief. (Dial)



I Took the Moon for a Walk by Carolyn Curtis and Alison Jay. This perfect blend of evocative poetry and dreamy art strikes just the right notes for a bedtime wind-down. But don't be surprised if your preschooler pulls it out all day long. Fantastical images like a moon hooked on a church spire, or a crew of dogs assembled for "a train-whistle choir" balance whimsy with beauty. A welcome change to the saccharine chords of many preschool rhyming books. (Barefoot Books)



Bear with Me by Max Kornell. Owen is the king of his parents' world... until they unexpectedly bring home a surprise addition, without even asking. There's a new cub in town, and life at Owen's house is never going to be the same. Suddenly he has to share. Gary the bear makes it hard to sleep and forgets to cap the magic markers. But soon he starts to grow on Owen and both get a few lessons in sharing. A wonderful way to broach the topic of a new baby or younger sibling, without getting grumbles. A fun read for anyone - brotherless or not. (Putnam)



I'm a Shark by Bob Shea. Fans of Kate and Jim McMullan's sassy "I Stink" will gravitate towards the brass and bluster of this new offering from Bob Shea, with a title character who declares, "Aren't I awesome?" But even a shark who can watch scary movies without closing his eyes is secretly scared of something... A fun way to tackle a fear of the dark, or anything else that's keeping kids up at night. (Baltzer + Bray/Harper Collins)



My Granny Went to Market by Stella Blackstone and Christopher Corr. From the moment Granny first goes to market to the final roundup of all her international purchases, you'll get swept away in this colorful counting jaunt around the world. A bit reminiscent of the holiday favorite "On the First Day of Christmas", this book follows Granny as she plucks up a sea of gifts -- from one flying carpet (in Istanbul) to ten black llamas (in Peru). The vibrant illustrations of fluttering kites, buzzing boomerangs, and Russian nesting dolls precariously balanced on her beautiful Turkish carpet, bring foreign cultures front and center, and may bite kids with the travel bug, even before they learn to read solo. (Barefoot Books)



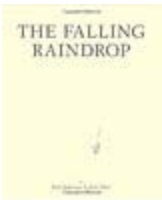
Pigs to the Rescue by John Himmelman. It seems every time someone on the Greenstalk family farm has a problem, a boisterous herd of pigs is there to lend a hoof. But sometimes their response is a bit, um, overzealous. One small leak in Mrs. Greenstalk's garden hose, and the pigs bring a veritable tsunami of water which leaves her drenched and her flowers waterlogged. This super silly book has Chaplin-esque physical comedy written all over it. It's all good fun, but it's also a great way to introduce your child to cause-and-effect, a foundation for storytelling. Many of the key details are told in colorful, cartoon-style images, which means preschoolers can use the pictures to help them read the story. A hilarious, and substantial, reading experience. (Henry Holt)



Sally's Great Balloon Adventure by Stephen Huneck. Sally is a black lab with an inquisitive nature, and when she smells chicken, she follows her nose ... even when it takes her into a hot air balloon! Colorful woodcut prints and a simple storyline make this a sweet adventure for young children, and the tongue-in-cheek sense of humor will entertain parents, too! Whether your child is a fan of Sally, or is new to the series, she's sure to love this lab's latest escapade. (Abrams)



Bedtime for Mommy by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. What would happen if the kids put the *parents* to bed? In this playful tale of bedtime role reversal, it's time for lights out, but mom isn't quite ready. She sulks in the bathtub, hems and haws when it's time to pick an outfit to wear tomorrow, begs for an extra bedtime story, and stalls for a few extra minutes. By the time she's all tucked in, her daughter is exhausted, and she still needs to put daddy to bed! A seriously cute read from one of the best picture book authors working today. (Bloomsbury)



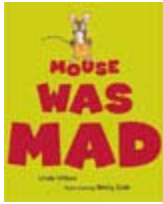
The Falling Raindrop by Neil Johnson. This simple story, about a raindrop hurtling down from the clouds, will have your child on the edge of his seat. At first happy, then increasingly concerned, the raindrop learns the importance of appreciating the moment, as he misses out on the beautiful sights around him because he's worried about what comes next. Luckily, he has a second chance, as he becomes steam and rises up again! A great introduction to states of matter (and states of mind), this book is a wonderful addition to any young child's library. (Tricycle)



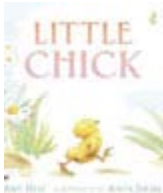
Let's Do Nothing by Tony Fucile. Frankie and Sal have played every sport ever invented, painted more pictures than van Gogh, and baked enough cookies to treat a small country. There's absolutely nothing left to do. Except... nothing. Can these energetic preschoolers sit down and remain as still as statues for ten whole seconds? This thoroughly entertaining book, from the animator of such favorites as *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles*, hits just the right notes for read-aloud bliss. Super silly, laugh out loud fun! (Candlewick)



Little Oink by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jen Corace. Little Oink is a true embarrassment. Instead of making his room a proper pigsty, he insists on cleaning up after himself. All his parents want is for him to remake his bed, throw his clothes on the floor, and cover his toys with mud at the end of the day, but he just can't seem to make a proper mess! This silly book throws a little reverse psychology into the "clean up your room" debate. A fun romp for summer. (Chronicle Books, 2009)



Mouse Was Mad by Linda Urban. Is there a best way to be mad? All of mouse's friends seem to think so. Rabbit hops. Bear stomps. Bobcat screams. Although they try to teach him, mouse can't seem to get it right. If only he could find his own way to be mad, he might feel a whole lot better. Preschoolers, are still learning the best way to express themselves appropriately, will get a kick out of coming along for this journey through anger etiquette. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009)



Little Chick by Amy Hest Whether. Little Chick is impatiently waiting for a carrot to grow, trying to fly a leaf kite, or reaching to catch a star, Old-Auntie is there to encourage her through life's challenges. Beautifully rendered in pencil and watercolor by Anita Jeram, who previously teamed up with author Amy Hest on the New York Times best-selling *Kiss Good Night*, this book reflects a talent for capturing the attention of young readers through simple, humorous stories, with a focus this time on intergenerational bonding and the spark of childhood wonder. (Candlewick)



Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems. In a world where no one would ever be caught with clothes on, one mole rat dares to don duds. Three-time Caldecott Honoree Willems doesn't disappoint with this wonderful tale of what it means to be different, and the power of being yourself. A great springboard for talking to preschoolers about courage, friendship, and the beauty of originality. And lots of fun to read, too! (Hyperion, 2009)

Some additional titles:

- Allard, Harry. **Miss Nelson Is Missing!**
- Ames, Lee J. **Draw Draw Draw.**
- Anonymous. Fairy tales, folk tales, and nursery rhymes including: "**Cinderella,**" "**The Gingerbread Man,**" "**Little Red Riding Hood,**" "**The Three Little Pigs,**" "**The Three Billy Goats Gruff,**" "**Goldilocks and the Three Bears,**" and **Mother Goose rhymes.**
- Bemelmans, Ludwig. **Madeleine.**
- Berenstain, Stan and Jan. **The Berenstain Bears.**
- Bridwell, Norman. **Clifford, the Big Red Dog.**
- Brown, Margaret W. **Goodnight, Moon.**
- Carle, Eric. **The Very Hungry Caterpillar.**
- Mayer, Mercer. **There's a Nightmare in My Closet.**
- McCloskey, Robert. **Make Way for Ducklings.**
- Piper, Watty. **The Little Engine That Could.**
- Potter, Beatrix. **The Tale of Peter Rabbit.**
- Rey, H.A. **Curious George.**
- Sendak, Maurice. **Where the Wild Things Are.**
- Seuss, Dr. **The Cat in the Hat.**
- Solbodkina, Esphyr. **Caps for Sale.**
- Waber, Bernard. **Ira Sleeps Over.**
- Zion, Gene. **Harry the Dirty Dog.**