

Dear Staff,

HES finished up NWEA testing this week. This means both buildings have completed their mid-year check to gauge the progress the students made



during the first semester and to help teachers plan effective instruction for Semester Two. Everyone who is tracking



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

their students' progress have fresh data to post on their data boards and to share with students. The Jr./Sr. high staff has a building-wide strategy to meet with students to set goals. Having the building's scores in hand allows the staff to meet with students to review goal progress. Teachers who are actively using the Learning Continuum will see the best results. RIT scores indicate what

children are ready to learn next. Pitching the ball where students can hit it builds student confidence and motivation. If you are ready to learn more about the continuum and how to assure your students' progress, please contact Ms. Swain, your principal, or, more than likely, the teacher right next door!

Did you know that if you have students who are struggling with reading, NWEA has key vocabulary word lists based on RIT scores that will help them learn? Increasing achievement for all students through direct, vocabulary instruction is a research-based best practice! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Shedd, one of two teachers at NCSC who received a 4 by the State based on the academic achievement of her students. This targeted vocabulary bulletin board that she uses consistently can be found in her classroom.



On Friday morning I joined Mr. Hillman and the bus drivers for their team meeting. During this meeting Mr. Hillman provided for



professional development that bus drivers requested. Ms. Bymaster talked with drivers about health procedures and will be speaking individually with bus drivers who transport students with particular health needs. Ms. Solis and the drivers talked about a new requirement for preschoolers to

wear seat restraints. While the buses have been retro-fitted for this, there are some procedural wrinkles that need to be worked out. Ms. Hokey met with the drivers as well and provided information about student Individual Education Plans connected to transportation-related matters. The team meeting concluded with a warm welcome to three, new bus drivers. We welcome Mr. King, Ms. Waggener and Mr. Shepherd as new bus drivers at NCSC. Much training and a high level of proficiency are required to obtain the license to drive a bus. The

Transportation Department has a secret weapon to help assure our new drivers were ready to meet and exceed test expectations. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Scholl who is a driver trainer and who spent time on the road and in the parking lot with each of our new drivers preparing them to pass their tests. Three, successful new drivers are a testament to his skill as a trainer! Thank you, Mr. Scholl.

We received good news this week! Annually, school corporations are reviewed to see to what extent they are compliant with Special Education requirements. The indicators that usually trip a group up is disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education that is the result of inappropriate identification. We meet expectations. Another area that they look at is a significant discrepancy in the rate of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for children with IEPs. Some people believes that this infers that students with IEPs are exempt from disciplinary consequences. This is not the case, though we certainly wouldn't expect a student with a broken leg to run laps. Again, NCSC was found compliant. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to everyone involved with serving students with special needs appropriately!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Payne and his wrestling staff for conducting a very successful Hagerstown Invitational. With nine teams participating, our wrestlers did a commendable job taking Third Place. Nice Job!



With a couple concerts down and a couple to go we send tips of the Tiger's tail to Ms.



Sanders and Mr. Sloniker for inviting families and the community in to school to share holiday cheer with our creative arts students and their holiday productions. When you hear students learning Christmas songs right after Halloween, we recognize these performances don't prepare themselves. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to classroom teachers, administrators and Environmental Services staff who spend a long day here on performance night!

Let's finish up this week's letter with a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Holliday who teaches English at the Jr./Sr. high! With only five minutes left in the class period before the bell rang, she did a quick poll of students to find out what they learned in class. This was a great example of a useful formative assessment that Jr./Sr. high teachers are learning during their Condensed Days. Nice job translating what you're learning into classroom practice, Ms. Holliday!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

