

### **K-2 ELA Curriculum**

We have been transitioning this year at both Hedding and AES to a new ELA curriculum which provides a more comprehensive approach to English Language Arts and not only aligns with the Illinois Learning Standards, but also provides the higher levels of application required by many of the standards. Teachers started the beginning of the year with training on Foundations which is a research-based phonics program for K-2 from the Wilson Language Company. Foundations teaches all facets of phonetics in combination with reading and writing. We recently acquired the decodable readers, Geodes, from the same company that align with each lesson of Foundations, so students can then apply the phonics they have learned to a high quality text. K-2 teachers were given professional development time to familiarize themselves with Geodes and plan together for the 2nd and 3rd trimesters. We will also be adding the Wit & Wisdom Reading Curriculum upon our return from break. This curriculum was designed to align with Foundations and Geodes, but provide the whole class literary instruction with all components of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

### **STAR Assessment/Response to Intervention/Collaborative Planning**

The Winter STAR assessment for both math and reading was completed during the last two weeks. The data from 3rd, 4th and 5th for reading shows that approximately 25% of students are on target to meet or exceed on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness in reading and 39% of 3rd grade students on track to meet or exceed on the IAR in math and 23% of 4th grade and 18% of 5th grade students in math. These numbers are quite concerning. With our partnership with ULLC, we have been determining factors attributing to these low numbers, as well as interventions to hopefully increase the number of students who are on track to meet or exceed grade level standards in both reading and math.

Our Title 1 reading and math specialists are working daily with students to provide interventions and are also meeting with grade level teams in collaborative planning sessions to analyze STAR data and decide upon steps to take on specific standards to increase the number of students showing grade level or above skills.

### **Holiday Concerts and Events**

Mrs. Rakestraw has put on 2 fantastic holiday concerts so far for K-1 and 4-5, with the last on Thursday for grades 2-3. K-1 was standing room only and 4-5, there was hardly a seat left. Thank you to Mrs. Rakestraw for all the work she puts into these concerts.

This week students and staff are enjoying dress-up days, with today being Ugly Sweater Day. Tuesday, Kevin Ferry brought over the Monmouth-Roseville Madrigal Singers for an assembly. The students enjoy them each year, as they are wonderful. Friday, we will have an assembly for all grades to sing one of their holiday concert songs for the rest of the students and then Santa will be visiting. Staff will also enjoy holiday lunch which I will be providing of Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. You are all invited to attend between 11-1 p.m. Saturday from 5 p.m.-???? At the Monmouth Country Club is the district Christmas Party. Again you are all invited.