

# Friday Focus

October 12, 2012

**Happy TGIF!**

## **MEAP...**

Well everyone survived the first week of MEAP testing. Just a couple more days to go next week, thank you for making your students feel comfortable and confident during this time. Emily said she's never seen kids so excited to take a test! Must be those mints, right 4<sup>th</sup> grade?!? 😊

## **TREATS...**

Lisa, you outdid yourself. Everything was tasty! Thank you.

## **Pitching In...**

A huge thank you to our ELL staff, Title I tutors, Karen, Monica, Jenny, Mr. Klaver (coverage for Joe's class), and specials teachers. And everyone else who I didn't mention that pitched in to cover a class, shop for snacks, rearrange lesson plans,

## **STAGES...**

Is up and running. Please be sure to **complete your self-assessment by the end of October.**

## **Evaluation Training...**

All administrators will be going through 30 hours of TeachSCAPE observation training. We received our access code yesterday so we can start. As an administrative team we decided that it would be best to complete the TeachSCAPE training before doing the *formal* (and the *second informal*) observations; and instead focus on **the goal setting conference and the first *informal* observation between now and January.** Though this plan throws off my plan slightly I do believe that this training will provide consistency and

will make this process more beneficial.

So, what does that mean? It means if you signed up for your formal observation you can cancel that, OR you can keep it scheduled, and I will visit your room, but it will be an informal observation.

So, does it have to be on small group reading? No.

We will be discussing goals in the NCA/PLC meeting on Thursday.

### **Math Committee...**

Today we met with Kris Karbon to discuss our goals. What an insightful meeting. We reviewed the Smarter Balanced Assessment release items. These were just released this week.

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>

When you open this link scroll down half-way and you will see the following:

Explore sample items and performance tasks:

- [English language arts/literacy](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Frequently asked questions \(PDF\)](#)

Please take some time to review these items with your team so that you can see what is coming.

In addition to reviewing these problems we spend time discussing the importance of setting a goal that is process/instructional oriented vs. standard oriented. A new way of thinking!

We all walked away thinking...glad we know this information before setting our goals.

More to come on this topic!

### **Title I Time...**

Grades 3, 4, and 5...Christine was borrowed to cover a class during TEAM last week at the sacrifice of serving your Title I students. This is not a good practice and will be avoided in the future...that was my call and not a good one! Sorry.

### **District Improvement Facilitator**

As part of the new MDE improvement plans our district has been assigned a District Improvement Facilitator. Kay Cornell, former Assistant Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction in the Royal Oak School District, will be our assigned (DIF). Kaye has also been a counselor and an elementary principal. We will

know more soon regarding her role with each of the schools.

### **Pictures...**

If you take digital pictures of your students and have them on a thumb drive, please share them with me so that I can update the video photo on the website. Thank you!

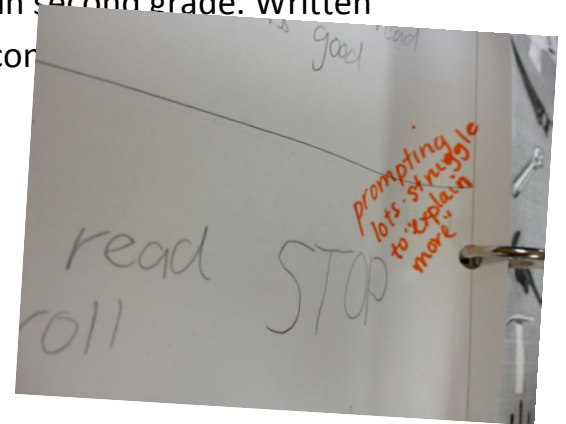
### **Fundraiser help...**

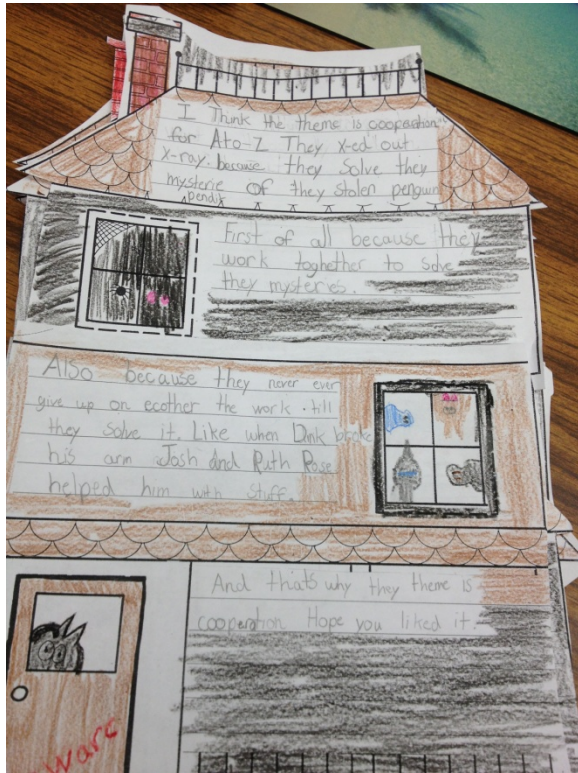
Julie Dagenais had a great idea. She showed her students the link for Square 1 Art on the Costello website. This is the big fall fundraiser and we are really hoping to have a high volume of participants. Yes, they are due on Monday, October 15, but there is some wiggle room with this deadline. Please consider showing this to your class.

NCA/PLC meeting Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30

### **Specific Feedback....**

Excerpt from a reading response journal in second grade. Written during con





**Third graders are reflecting on the theme of their independent reading book as they completed a CLAIM, EVIDENCE, REASONING.**

**Utilizing this across the content areas allows students to become familiar with the practice and expand their thinking.**

**Relax and have a terrific weekend!**

Tammy