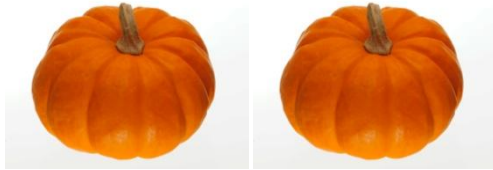


Monday Message

October 29, 2012



THANK YOU...

Julie & Elizabeth, your fall treat day was just wonderful. It was enjoyed by all, THANK YOU!

A huge thank you for keeping me informed of the “happenings” here while I was at camp. I appreciate everyone pitching in and helping.

CAMP...

Those of you who have experienced 5th grade camp know how meaningful this trip really is. I was thankful to be able to experience this first hand. Getting to know the kids and seeing them in a non-academic setting was enlightening. Lots of great organization went into this trip thank you Julie, Joe, Lisa, Janice, Grayson & Jodi.

Twitter...

If you haven't signed up to follow Costello on [Twitter check it out](#). You never know when you and your class may be featured!

https://twitter.com/Costello_tweets

Self-Assessment in STAGES...

Deadline extended to November 2. See attachment for details instructions on accessing the self-assessment.

Once you have completed this **please schedule a goal setting conference with me.** Jenny will schedule these.

Small Group Reading Discussion...

Most people like to know expectations ahead of time, it just makes sense right? So prior to the formal observation of small group reading I am offering an optional discussion meeting. This is a question and answer time, a time to learn from one another, and from recommended best practices.

Because the discussions will be different for primary and intermediate there will be two separate meetings. Third grade, you could attend either, but at this time in the year I am thinking the primary session would be best.

Please let me know if you plan to attend. Thank you.

Grades 4 & 5
Friday, November 2 - 9:00-9:30

Grades K-3
Friday, November 2 – 9:45-10:15

Teacher Workday...

Just a reminder of district assessments due on Friday, November 2. Please let me know if you have a situation and are unable to complete something.

District Achievement &
Ability Test-Fall Scores
in Inform

1st Grade Scores in
Inform

Grades 1 & 2 - Math
Assessment into Inform

Grade 5 - Science
Quarterly Assess-
Mastery Manager

End of 1st Marking
Period - NO SCHOOL

4th & 5th Grade Prevention Program Schedule...

See attached handout with details. Costello is typed in GREEN. These dates will be added to the calendar.



This year Diwali begins on Sunday, Nov. 11 and goes through Thursday, November 15, with the most holy day being Tuesday, November 13. As you know, conferences are Wednesday and Thursday, November 14 and 15. If you have families that are unable to participate in conferences on the 14th and 15th, you will need to offer them an alternative time for a face to face meeting. I just wanted you to be aware of this conflict.

Staff Communication, place it here...



Please turn in any items that you would like on the Costello Calendar to Jenny. This will make one less step for you. Thanks for doing this Jenny. Thank you staff for your ideas on this.

In addition to dates if you have something that you want put in the weekly communication place it here as well. Place your items in the box outside of my office. If you prefer to e-mail clearly mark the subject MESSAGE FOR STAFF LETTER.

Be sure to read attachments 😊

Halloween...

Can't wait to see everyone's superhero costumes! Wishing you a spooktacular day!

We will be collecting Halloween candy as you have done in the past. Students can bring in their "leftovers" and they will be donated. As a parent, I think this is a brilliant idea!

The Master Teacher...

This week's edition of *The Master Teacher Five Elements of Highly Effective Teams* explores three facets of adult group work and five dimensions of collaboration. How do we stack up as a school? How do our PLC's stack up against what is described?

The article describes that three overarching facets of group work can contribute to positive results. They are:

1. Team members use their influence to make sure instructional practices support student needs.
2. School structures are modified when they aren't serving the best interest of students.
3. Power and responsibility are shared, regardless of length of service, position, etc.

The article further describes five dimensions of collaboration that provide a trajectory for team growth and renewal. These are listed as:

1. **Problem Solving:** Finding solutions to issues, not placing blame.

2. **Reflection:** Looking at data, analyzing the impact our decisions have on student achievement.
3. **Common Language:** What does good teaching mean to each of us? If we are talking the same language, good teaching means the same thing.
4. **Trust:** Described as the "social oxygen" of a school, are we oxygen rich here at LSHS? Do you trust your colleagues? Do you trust us in the office? Or are we gasping for air? What do we need to do to build trust in one another?
5. **Challenging Assumptions:** The ability to question thinking and assumptions and break the "culture of nice" can lead to deep conversations and honest opinions regarding how we do things (without offending each other!)

See you at Visible Thinking at 4:30!

I appreciate all that you do for kids. Have a terrific week!

Tammy

