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April, 2017

Superintendents and Principals,

April has arrived which means the closeout of FY17 has begun while also preparing for FY18. It is not a secret that budgets are tight and getting tighter. We encourage you to maximize your school improvement/515 funds by implementing evidence based interventions and resources designed to meet the needs of your lowest achieving students. Schools with a 2016 Priority or 3rd, 4th or 5th year Focus Designation received school improvement/515 funds early in March. Allocation notices should be arriving from OMES but in the meantime, please sign into the Grants Management System to confirm the allocation(s) have arrived and are loaded properly into the system. In addition, the ESSA regulations related to school improvement do not go into effect until the 2018-2019 school year. However, other ESSA regulations will begin with the upcoming school year. From the various federal programs to accountability and assessment, the evidence of ESSA will be seen starting in August, 2017.

Desarae Witmer, Executive Director

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Reminder! Closing out the Grant Year

1. FY17: Funds must be encumbered by 6-30-2017 and claimed by 8-01-2017 to close out this grant cycle. Late claims cannot be processed without State Board approval.
2. Funds awarded on 7-1-2016 (\$20,600) must be encumbered by 9-30-2017 and expire on 12-31-2017. Claims should be submitted no later than November 2017.
3. Funds awarded on 3-1-2017 (\$22,221.89) must be encumbered by 9-30-2018 and expire on 12-31-2018. Claims should be submitted no later than November 2018.
4. ** If you have not rolled forward your FY16 Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan to FY17, please make sure you do that. FY16 plans will NOT be able to skip FY17 and roll to FY18.

GMS Training Sessions

FY18 Project 515 Budget Training – April 12, 2017 @ 10am

<https://oksdeevents.webex.com/oksdeevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2863cf7c906b3fb5aa1df76eedc8db55>

FY18 Designated Sites: Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan Training – April 12, 2017 @ 1pm

<https://oksdeevents.webex.com/oksdeevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9f2c16a93c1b487918755dde931cb4b8>

On the Road



We are excited to announce this year's dates for EngageOK On the Road!

Please save the date for one of the locations below.

July 10: Yukon High School
July 11: Union High School (Tulsa)
July 12: Enid High School
July 13: Weatherford High School
July 18: Durant
July 19: Ada

July 20: Cache

Please be sure to register for the date and location you'd like to attend. [Registration is available here.](#)

If you have questions, contact Martha Eaves, Director of Events, at martha.eaves@sde.ok.gov.

Family-Community Engagement



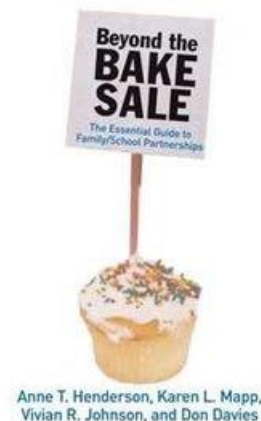
An important component of any school improvement effort is getting families and communities involved in the education of students. Many schools however find themselves asking how to accomplish this in today's society. A major focus of this endeavor is to build respect and trust between home and school while clearing obstacles on issues of race and culture in order to build lasting relationships. A suggested resource is the book, *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* by Anne Henderson, Karen Mapp, Vivian Johnson and Don Davies.

The book summarizes much of the latest research on the effects of strong school, family, and community connection. It also lays out the characteristics of four levels or types of school partnerships, as well as the four core beliefs that are essential if schools are to be successful in developing productive relationships with parents and communities.

The 4 Core Beliefs

1. Parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
2. All parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.
3. Parents and Staff should be equal partners.
4. The responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff...especially school leaders.

One of the requirements of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) recipients is to provide ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement. Listed below are some activities our current SIG schools have shared for family and community involvement. Each activity encompasses one or more of the Core Beliefs surrounding family and community engagement.



Maud

Maud Public Schools Strives To Continue Providing Needed Services To Our Students During Budget Shortfall



Maud Public Schools has relied on many outside sources and grants to assist us in these difficult financial times. As I had mentioned in the previous article, the School Improvement Grant, the Avedis Foundation of Shawnee, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation have been instrumental in assisting us with our needs.

This past summer we teamed up with Feed the Children that enabled us to serve many children in the community with lunch Monday - Friday from June 1-July 30. This allowed children to eat lunch, swim in our refurbished pool, and participate in the summer reading program provided by Pioneer Libraries. Being able to provide lunch to as many as 90 children in our community was an awesome experience and is a service we will continue. We have also enrolled in the Community Eligibility Program of Child Nutrition which allows all our students to eat breakfast and lunch free of charge.

Another project that we are excited about is a \$385,000 walking trail for our students and community. This was made possible thru an ODOT grant with the Avedis Foundation generously giving the 20 percent matching funds.

As it has been tough financially in public education, I think it is important for us to realize the mindset of Oklahomans has not changed during challenging times, as assistance is always just around the corner.

Jerry McCormick, Superintendent

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Anadarko



January School Board Recognition Month

During the month of January we recognize our board members with a Board Recognition Parent & Community Night. We divide our board members among our Pre-K, 4th, and 5th grade homerooms. The homeroom classes work together to honor the board members in their own way. Students create posters, cards, or special gifts to present to their board member. We have our regular students and Reach Out students perform songs or poems. We set up special decorated tables for the board members and

provide them with a cake and punch. As a part of the parent and community night we always provide refreshments for those in attendance. Pictures for Twitter and Facebook are a must!!

Wax Museum

During April or May we have our 5th grade students randomly choose a famous person to research. After they research their person they are required to create a research poster and/or dress up like their person. We hold a parent night to discuss the events going on for the end of the year while the students are setting up their projects. The parents are released from the parent meeting to go visit each “exhibit”. Our students act out the Wax Museum and tell the parents about who they are and what they did.



Jeff Barrett, Principal

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Wanette

Last Easter, we were very excited to be able to try a new activity with our students. Teachers wanted this to be an activity that was fun yet educational. With limited time until testing teachers, felt that they needed to stay focused on learning and were able to come up with a way to incorporate the standards they were working on in class into the “Amazing Race” activity at Wanette Elementary. The “Amazing Race” began in the students’ classroom, where they were split into groups. Each group had a parent volunteer that completed the race with their group. The parent volunteers were in charge of supervising activities and helping the students if needed. In their classroom, students were given instructions that sent them to their first “Pit Stop.” At each of these stops, students were given a learning or team-building activity and clues for where the next “Pit Stop” was located. Activities included multiplication facts in their classroom, a reference-resource activity and spelling activity in the library, and team building activities at the softball field and gym. The first group to complete the activity and make it back to their classroom



was the winner! Their prize was a “No Homework” pass for each member of the group. We were very pleased with the outcome and the participation from parents. As a result, we intend to continue the “Amazing Race” this year for 3rd through 6th Grade.

Bobbie Francis

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Temple



At Temple Public Schools we are implementing family and community engagement strategies, in alignment with our School Improvement Grant, in order to “grow” our community. Our students have created a weekly school/community newspaper under the guidance of our Reading Specialist, Ms. Manley, where we are integrating reading, writing, and communication skills in order to prepare our students for college and career readiness. The paper has been a huge hit with our community due to the fact that we do not have a city newspaper any longer. As you can see from the example, the students highlight new teachers, agriculture market reports, sports and extracurricular activities. We are focusing on community outreach and want all stakeholders to be informed of what we are doing in our district. Our goal is to build communication and collaboration with our families and community members. Newspapers are available for all

community members at the local gas station and diner, as well as other businesses in Temple. Go Tigers!

Justin Smith, Superintendent

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Strother

This year we are making a great effort to involve our community and make them feel welcome. For one of our family and community events this year, we held a Senior Citizens Dinner. During the planning stages, we tried to involve the whole school. We had students from our 21st Century After School Program make decorations. Our older students helped decorate a backdrop for photo opportunities. We had our coaches provide valet parking and escort guests to the door. Our FCCLA and FFA students served our guests at dinner.



When dinner was finished, we treated our guests to a sneak peak of our Elementary Christmas Program by having the Pre-K students sing for them. Our guests were invited to visit the elementary hall that was decorated with the Polar Express theme. We also gave our senior citizens preferred seating at the Christmas program following the dinner that night. The event was a great success with 75 senior citizens in attendance and we plan on making this an annual event.

Mechelle Johnson, Dean of Students

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Liberty



Family STEM Night “At The Movies”

Liberty STEM Academy in Sapulpa held their annual Family STEM Night with a theme of “At The Movies”. The event had 13 teacher created stations with STEM activities for students and their families to complete. All stations were hands-on and had creations that the students were able to take home for further exploration. One example was the “Moana” station where students designed a boat out of foil, tape and milk cartons. They tried out their boats in a large container of water using a straw and their own breath for energy. At the “Flubber” station the students mixed ingredients to make a green liquid that when added to cold water became a soft flubber-like solid. One of the student’s favorites was the “Brave” Station where they designed their own bow and arrow out of tongue depressors and colored string. They then used q-tips as arrows to hit a target and help Merida win the archery contest. These are just a few of the many engaging stations the students and their families completed during the evening. If students and their families got hungry, pizza, pop and cookies were available to eat at no charge. The Family STEM Night was a success with 302 people participating. We saw lots of smiles and received very positive feedback on our end of the night survey.

Cathy Rains

SIG Turnaround Officer

918-995-0883



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