

Audubon School  
*A Commitment to Learning*  
 Local School Council Principal's Report  
 October 20th, 2008

<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 1: <b>School Leadership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Using the literacy assessments completed in September, each team of teachers has set goals for student improvement in critical areas of literacy skills.</li> <li>➤ This evening I will present to the LSC results of the 2008 ISAT test. I will also share goals for the 2009 ISAT test.</li> <li>➤ The Inclusion Committee is planning several upcoming events for Inclusion Week in December. The committee includes Mary Kurczak, Barbara Kantrow, Susan Gust, Linda McBride, and myself.</li> <li>➤ I have met with Ellen Ericson and Mark Ahlheim to begin researching possibilities for adding recess time into the school day. The group will discuss its progress this evening.</li> <li>➤ The PPLC has begun meeting and has set the goal of selecting a new social studies curriculum for grades K-8 by the end of the school year. Teachers on the committee have taken responsibility for beginning to research various programs.</li> <li>➤ During the October 24<sup>th</sup> professional development meetings, I will meet with teams of teachers to analyze 2008 ISAT results and make plans for improvement. We will set goals for improvement in specific areas of the assessment.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 2: <b>Instructional Leadership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teachers have completed beginning of the year literacy assessments. Results were shared with parents on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Each parent received a copy of the results of these assessments along with a description of the tests and grade level benchmarks.</li> <li>➤ Each team of teachers has reviewed assessment data. The data has been used for instructional planning and creation of groups within the classroom. Each team has met with the principal to analyze data, look for patterns, determine instructional changes to make in response to data, and measure the effectiveness of those changes. Each team has focused on two priorities for student growth for the next 4 months.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tonight I will discuss steps that Audubon has taken to begin implementing the school SIPAAA plan in each of the four focus areas: Science, Academic Support, Technology, Learning Climate.</li> <li>➤ Formal classroom observations have begun. So far nine teachers have been formally observed using the process that Audubon is piloting for the district.</li> <li>➤ The Kindergarten team has identified a new writing program, “Handwriting without Tears,” to use this school year to meet the needs of the students. The teachers presented their idea to me and requested funds to purchase the program as a pilot. Materials have arrived and are being used in the classroom.</li> <li>➤ The fourth grade team has identified a collection of high interest low reading level texts to use with groups of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. They have requested and been granted funds to purchase a set of these materials to begin using immediately.</li> <li>➤ Mr. Fay has visited and informally observed and assisted in each K-5 classroom supporting the new science curriculum initiative. His observations help the administrative team to understand ways of supporting teachers and improving science teaching.</li> </ul>
<p>Standard 3: <b>Student-Centered Learning Climate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Four students continue to take algebra and physics classes at Northeastern University one day each week.</li> <li>➤ Each staff member is wearing a lanyard with his/her identification badge and two aggression prevention scripts to use with students. The scripts serve as a reminder to all staff to intervene when any form of aggression is observed anywhere in the school.</li> <li>➤ One of the professional book clubs is reading <u>Schools Where Everyone Belongs</u>. This is a book about school-wide systems to improve student connections and reduce aggressive behavior.</li> <li>➤ Mr. Fay is leading the process of developing a rubric for dealing with all minor forms of aggressive acts. This rubric will determine consequences for actions ranging from rolling eyes, to name-calling, to gossiping. More serious behavior issues will still be addressed using the Student Code of Conduct.</li> </ul>
<p>Standard 4: <b>Professional</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sarah Hallerberg of the Eriskon Institute is providing K-3 teachers in-class coaching and support. She is focused on working with teachers on running record error analysis (using mistakes that</li> </ul>

**Development and  
Human Resources  
Management**

children make when reading aloud to understand the strategies they are using to word solve and what strategies they need to be taught).

- The September professional development day focused upon creating a school-wide definition of aggressive behavior that will be enforced by all staff within the school. The definition will be placed on posters throughout the school to remind students, staff and visitors of our community's expectations.
- All teachers and aides have begun meeting in professional book clubs. These meetings will take place at the outset of each professional development day. Groups are reading 5 different books. Topics covered are word attack strategies, school-wide violence prevention, differentiation strategies, reading comprehension for intermediate children and reading comprehension for primary students.
- I am participating in the Principal Technology Leadership Institute, sponsored by ISTE. In this year-long professional development series I will improve my own technology skills and learn about programs and tools to use in the classroom.
- I am also participating in a small group principal professional development opportunity sponsored by the AMPs office. A group of 5 principals will meet 6 times this year with Rachel Curtis, a well-known author in the field of educational leadership. The group prepares with readings, then workshops problems of professional practice, gaining the insight of the entire group. I hosted the first meeting at Audubon last week.
- Teachers have met with me each Wednesday of October to discuss literacy assessments. In the first week we focused on the logistics of the assessments and reviewed testing procedures. In the second week I modeled a process for analyzing the data and making instructional modifications. In the third week teachers presented their findings as they followed the same four step data analysis process that I modeled.
- Eric Fay led team meetings the fourth week of September with each grade level, K-5, focusing on science curriculum implementation.
- Capitalizing on Audubon's partnership with Erikson Institute, Sarah Hallerberg, our Erikson literacy coach, and I met with Prescott Elementary's principal and literacy coach to share ideas and strategies for improving literacy practice at the school. We will continue to meet to provide each

	<p>other with support on a monthly basis.</p>
<p><b>Standard 5: Parent Involvement and Community Partnerships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wendy Anderson has completed the application to renew out partnership with the Botanic Garden for the 2009 school year.</li> <li>➤ Weekly tours have been well-attended this school year. The tour on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> had more than a dozen interested parents, primarily interested in preschool.</li> <li>➤ Mr. Fay has coordinated the new ProClub program at Audubon – providing fee-based extracurricular opportunities for students. Program offerings include art, ceramics, soccer, basketball, and music.</li> <li>➤ During the month I have met with the Inclusion Committee, Ellen Ericson and Mark Ahlheim regarding recess and extended day, and Joe Taiber regarding endowment planning.</li> <li>➤ The Redmoon partnership is moving forward with plans for the winter show that will help to prepare participating classrooms for the Spring Spectacle in May.</li> <li>➤ Friends of Audubon held the third annual Hawk Walk. The event depended upon many parent volunteers for its success raising approximately \$7,000 for the school.</li> <li>➤ I met with the Executive Director and the Youth Director of the Lakeview YMCA to discuss ways of reducing the registration burden for Audubon families. The YMCA has committed to working towards a one time only registration for the tuition-based after school program.</li> <li>➤ Audubon Case Manager Kimberly Rebecca led a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and parents to the annual CPS high school fair on Saturday, October the 11<sup>th</sup>. About 30 people met at Audubon and rode a school bus to the fair, held at McCormick Place. This is the best opportunity for families to gather information about high school options.</li> <li>➤ School social worker Karen English planned and hosted a welcome breakfast for all students in grades 3-8 who are new to the school. Students had treats, met each other, and met with me, Mr. Fay, and other school staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Standard 6: School Management and Daily</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Board has finally approved a purchasing and leasing contract with Dell. Therefore, we can begin moving forward immediately with the leasing of lap top computers for teachers to use in the classroom. We have already purchased the carts, speakers, and projectors for each classroom media</li> </ul>

<b>Operations</b>	<p>cart. We have also already purchased a new server, 4 new school printers, and one new digital teaching board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ CPS conducted the annual “blitz” inspection of the building which evaluates the cleanliness of each CPS building. This year we received an “A” grade, an improvement upon last year’s “B.”</li><li>➤ The Board is paying for minor truss repairs above the gymnasium. I have requested that the work take place in the evenings and this has meant no disruption to the school day.</li><li>➤ On October 17<sup>th</sup> the school’s internal accounts were audited. The auditor assured me that Audubon will receive the highest possible grade, “Satisfactory.” The previous audit, which I requested immediately arrival my arrival, gave a rating of “Needs Improvement.”</li><li>➤ Mr. Fay will discuss attendance policies this evening. We are developing ways of communicating with every family the importance of school attendance.</li><li>➤ The Administrative Team meets every Friday afternoon to coordinate schedule and school events.</li></ul>
-------------------	--