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ZUMBRO EDUCATION DISTRICT

“LINKED TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS”

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Helping English Language Learners

Language and cultural diversity is increasing throughout the United States and is reflected in our school settings. More and more students are entering our classrooms with limited English skills and are described as English Language Learners (ELLs). One thing that is evident in rural school districts is that the level of special instructional services available for ELLs varies greatly; however, an educator’s responsibility to educate all children does not vary. In her article, English Language Learners: An Introductory Guide for Educators Dr. Diane Wilen from Broward County (FL) public schools discusses some important cultural and communication factors of ELLs.

Dr. Wilen notes how some ELLs may have endured life experiences different than those of other students. Factors like war, political strife, frequent moves, separation from parents, inconsistent schooling and poverty are just some factors which may affect an ELLs school performance and behavior. Wilen argues that it is important to interpret an ELLs performance in light of their individual backgrounds.

A basic understanding of the second language acquisition process is also critical when teaching ELLs. According to Wilen, ELLs generally acquire basic interpersonal language skills well before they attain the high level academic language that is required for school success in classes taught in English. As such, as teachers we should not over-estimate an ELLs academic language proficiency based on their social-conversational skills.

What can you do as a teacher when working with an ELL? While it is important to access special instructional programs for ELLs that may be available in your school district (such as ESL, ESOL), Wilen offers a number of additional suggestions including:

- Ask by what name they would like to be addressed and how to pronounce it correctly.
- Pair a new ELL student with a bilingual student who preferably can speak the same language.
- Teach survival English first (e.g. bathroom, lunchroom, book, pencil)
- Label common objects in the classroom in English
- Use, and teach how to use, a dictionary that contains translations from English to the child’s native language and vice versa.
- Pair visual cues and non-verbal gestures with verbal communication in the classroom.
- Observe to understand if the student understands what they are to do and use extra repetition.
- Learn as much as possible about the cultural and language background of ELLs by studying, attending courses and speaking with similar cultural groups.
- Seek help from teaching colleagues as well as professionals such as school counselors, social workers, administrators and, of course, school psychologists.
- Set high expectations such as meeting state and national academic standards and promote graduation. Try to reduce the language demands of tasks but not the conceptual demands.

For more information on helping English Language Learners, go to: www.nasponline.org/resources/listings.aspx. Dr. Wilen’s article also appears in “Helping Children at Home and School II: Handouts for Families and Educators.”

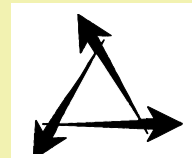
Duane Ellingworth
School Psychologist

STUDENT ENRICHMENT & GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAMS

As the end of another school year approaches, we are excited to see that almost 2,000 students again participated in the enrichment and gifted programs offered through ZED! The year was very busy beginning with Creative Writing and the Choral Festival in the fall, Academic Triathlon in the winter, the Traveling Art Show and the Science Fair in the spring, and ZED Summer Academy in June. Students have had a wonderful opportunity to participate in a variety of great programs. Without the excellent support of our Administrators, Gifted and Talented Planning Committee members and the staff in our schools, we would not be able to continue to offer these exciting programs to our students! Thanks for all of the extra effort that is given.

ACADEMIC TRIATHLON

The State Academic Triathlon meet was held in the Twin Cities area on Saturday, April 12. There was a lot of excitement as the team from the Triton Middle School (grade 8) won the First Place Championship in the Blue Meet! The Cross-Trainer team from Pine Island received the Second Place Award! Congratulations to both of these teams on a tremendous effort! The Challenger teams of 5th and 6th graders were also from Triton and Pine Island but did not place in the top three. This has been an exciting and enthusiastic year for all of the students who participated in 1 – 5 meets throughout the year. Teams continue to show off their teamwork, creativity, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm! Thanks to all of the coaches, volunteers and students who have made this a great A/T season. We'll look forward to more exciting meets next year!!



*Laura Sandness & Becky Remmele
Special Projects Coordinators*

ZED Science Fair



The Science Fair has just completed its 16th year! This time we met at the Byron Middle School on April 11. Students from Byron, Hayfield, Kasson-Mantorville, Stewartville, and Triton had a little over 200 projects on display for judging. Forty-three judges, including the Honor Society students from Byron, evaluated the projects. Projects ranged from plant growth, to seed germination, the best popcorn, the best bleach, methods of storing bread, memory boosters, wormy soil, bread freshness, and an electromagnetic crane to name a few. The projects were very interesting and informative!



The Science Museum of Minnesota presented a couple of programs on “Explain your Brain” and “Antarctica” to the students. The following ribbons were distributed: 131 blue, 65 red and 12 white. ZED would like to express a special thank you to the Byron Middle School for hosting the Science Fair and to all of the judges and volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to assist with the Fair. It was another fun, interesting and educational experience for all of our students!

*Becky Remmele & Laura Sandness
Special Project Coordinators*

ZED SUMMER ACADEMY

Around 180 students have registered for ZED Summer Academy this year!! Triton High School will be the host with sessions being held June 16 – 20 from 8:30 to Noon each day. We have a wide variety of classes being offered which include: CSI, cooking, trips, rocketry, languages, Harry Potter, science, nature, dance, meteorology, study of various countries, computer, and outdoor activities!!

Because we have so many classes being offered, if you have students who would qualify, we still have some openings. Contact the ZED office and see what is available. We're looking forward to an exciting and informative summer academy!

*Becky Remmele & Laura Sandness
Special Projects Coordinators*

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Early Childhood Family Fun/Resource Night

The Dodge/Olmsted Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC) and ZED hosted the annual Family Fun Night for early childhood children with special needs and their families. The event was held at Triton Elementary School on Friday, April 11, 2008 with over 170 people in attendance! Several agencies including Head Start, ARC, Stanley Jones, A Puzzled World, Child Care Resource & Referral, Dodge County Public Health, and Jenny Kruse Music Therapy were at the event to share information with families. The evening provided families with a time to interact with each other while their children were involved in fun activities. Entertainment was provided by Miss Pockets and there were several donated door prizes. Each family received a goody-bag at the end of the evening. Thanks to Triton for allowing the event to be held in your school and to the IEIC family support planning committee and volunteers for their great efforts.

Colleen, Barb and Jolene
ZED Birth-3 Team

Extended School Year 2008

Plans are underway for the 2008 Extended School Year (ESY) Program! Bonner Elementary and Triton Elementary Schools will host the program for early childhood through elementary-aged students with special needs. Triton High School will host the transition program for students in grades 7 - 12 whose team has determined a need for ESY. The dates the programs will be held are June 16 - 27 and July 21 - August 1. This is one of the options for students who might severely regress without any programming during the summer.

Colleen Johnson
Extended School Year Coordinator

Area Learning Center and RESULTS Program Summer School Dates:

- **ALC Seat Based**
Monday -Friday, 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m. (seat time)
June 16-July 18 (no class on July 4)
- **ALC Independent Study**
Mondays & Tuesdays, 12:00p.m.-3:00p.m.
June 16-July 1 (make up days on July 7 & 8)
- **Targeted Services (for students currently in gr 6-8)**
Monday-Thursday, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
June 16-July 24 (no class July 4)

Futures/CHOICE Program

Extended School Year Program Dates:

Monday-Thursday, 8-11a.m., June 16-June 26, 2008 & July 7-July 31, 2008

ZED Celebrates Parents!

The Zumbro Education District offered an opportunity for parents of children with special needs to join together for an evening on May 6, 2008. The evening began with dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by a presentation. Katy Smith, from Winona, spoke to the group and shared parenting stories and strategies. Katy discussed ways for parents to keep themselves healthy and hopeful. It was an insightful evening for parents and teachers to come together to learn.

Colleen Johnson
ECSE Coordinator

Silent Art Auction

A Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at ZED's Futures/CHOICE/Connections program. Proceeds from the auction will benefit The Starry Night Collective. The nonprofit group has provided \$5,000 this year so that art infused educational strategies can be implemented with students with E/BD and ASD.

Last year nearly \$1,100 was raised. 'The Starry Night Collective has given us money for years and each year we get a chance to give something back.' This was the response of an eleventh grader, who has attended Futures/CHOICE/Connections for two years, when asked why she participates in the auction.

This is the third annual Silent Auction sponsored by the students of the program. Auction items include over 100 original art works and sculptures produced by the students over the course of the year. Many craft items made by the students will be available as well. Bidding on items begins at 6:00P.M. The auction will be located at the Byron Community Education Center's cafeteria.

Dan Przybylski
Futures/CHOICE/Connections Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ZED has a wide variety of classes being offered this summer! Check out our website (www.zumbroed.org) to see the entire brochure as well as the registration form needed to sign up for classes. Some of the classes being offered include: *Reading in the Content areas of Math, Science and Social Studies, SMART Resources, and SMART Lessons, CPI, Visual Phonics, Brain Gym, MN Math Standards for Elementary and Secondary, Using Data to Make Decisions, K-5 Phonics/Word Study, Reading Comprehension & Note Taking and Six Traits of Writing*. Fifteen classes are being offered this year. If you would like to register, complete the registration form and send it along with a check or purchase order from your school. **Our registration deadline is May 16.** This is the guideline we use to see if we will need to cancel any of our sessions. Registrations for classes after the deadline are subject to "space available status." Workshops will be cancelled if we do not meet the minimum number of participants. Confirmation notices will be coming by the end of school. *Don't delay and get your registrations in by the middle of May.* We'll look forward to seeing many of you this summer!

This winter we offered *Reading in the Content Areas of Math, Science, and Social Studies* with Mary Barrett as the presenter. These classes were very well received by all of the content people in attendance. They were an excellent follow-up for the presentation we had this fall with Dr. Daggett. *Visual Phonics* with Katie Ulwelling was also offered. We had 35 people attend those sessions which really stretched the capacity of our conference room!! Katie did an excellent job showing how Visual Phonics can be incorporated into an existing curriculum and how it can really help struggling learners. Several schools had asked if we could offer the *CPI Training* and so we had a very full day of learning as well as practicing the physical restraints. Bob Dimler, a certified trainer, did the workshop for us.

Comments from the classes included: "Good Hands-on Application," "Information I can Apply in my Classroom," "All of the Activities and Ideas," "Excellent Presentation," "Differentiated Ways to Teach Reading in my Content Area," "Very Practical" and "Amazing!"

These classes will be offered again this summer for those of you who could not take them this past winter. *If you have students that are hard to control or are struggling with reading or note taking, etc., these sessions will be worth the half or whole day that you spend attending them!* Contact us if you have questions.

"**Save Your License Saturday**" was held on Saturday, April 19. We had around 20 participate in the full day session. Lisa Roelofs, Jessica Parker and Melissa Murno were our presenters for the day. We would like to extend a big thank you to all of them for providing us with some excellent information! Plans are to offer this again next year if there is enough interest.

Becky Remmele
Special Projects Coordinator

2008 SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Details & Registration Information for all workshops will be on the ZED website (www.zumbroed.org) under "Workshops"

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Audience</i>
June 12 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Reading Comprehension & Note Taking	Mary Barrett Reading Specialist	Grades 4-12 General & Special Education
June 16	K-5 Phonics/ Word Study Workshop	Jane McAndrews Reading Specialist	Grades K-5 General & Special Education
June 17 & 18	Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Training (11 Hr. CPI Certification)	Bob Dimler Certified Trainer	Grades K-12 & all School Personnel <i>(ZED schools only)</i>
June 18 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Reading in the Content Area of Math	Mary Barrett Reading Specialist	Grades 4-12 General & Special Education
June 19 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (4.5 Hr. CPI Refresher)	Bob Dimler Certified Trainer	Grades K-12 & all School Personnel <i>(ZED schools only)</i>
June 24 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Reading in the Content Area of Science	Mary Barrett Reading Specialist	Grades 4-12 General & Special Education
June 24 <i>(At K-M)</i>	SMART Resources	Melody Melin K-M Technology Integration Specialist	Grades K-12 Educators for SMART Board users
June 25 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Reading in the Content Area of Social Studies	Mary Barrett Reading Specialist	Grades 4-12 General & Special Education
June 26 <i>(At K-M)</i>	Creating SMART Lessons	Melody Melin K-M Technology Integration Specialist	Grades K-12 Educators for SMART Board users
July 15 & 16	Celebrating Young Writers Using the Six Traits of Writing	Carrie Pompeii Byron Teacher & Six Traits Facilitator	Grades 1-8 General & Special Education
July 17 <i>(1/2 day session)</i>	Brain Gym	Janet Piermantiier LD Teacher, St. Paul	Grades K-6 General & Special Education
July 22	Using Data to Make Educational Decisions	Ben Silbergliitt, Ph.D Manager, Data Services TIES	Administrators & Elementary Educators
July 29 & 31 <i>(Both 1/2 day sessions)</i>	Visual Phonics	Katie Ulwelling Deaf & Hard of Hearing Teacher, Austin	Preschool & Elementary General & Special Education
August 5	MN Mathematics Standards Workshop for Elementary Teachers	Michelle Bacon Math Teacher, Rochester	Grades K-6 Teachers & Administrators
August 6	MN Mathematics Standards Workshop for Secondary Teachers	Michelle Bacon Math Teacher, Rochester	Grades 7-12 Teachers & Administrators

**All sessions open to Administrators*