

# PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS staff news weekly

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## Schools Go Green, Ideas for the Classrooms Available Too!

Going green. You've likely heard commercials, read articles, observed in person or looked at improvements for your own home in regards to being a better environmental steward. In President Barack Obama's recent State of the Union Address, he called for more "green jobs" and more incentives for going green. But what about a green classroom?

The concept of going green is nothing new to Peoria Public Schools. Recent construction projects involve numerous green initiatives, specifically at the new Glen Oak and Harrison schools. However, many more attempts at going green are taking place and being planned.

"For every capital project, we look at green considerations and ways to incorporate new technologies," says Dave Ryon, Director of Capital Projects for District 150.

Beyond construction projects and upgrades, several web resources display many less-expensive and easy ways to introduce a greener environment at school and make it a learning process for students.

There are several designated events and days to take notice of becoming a better friend to the environment. Later next month, Earth Hour will be held. TIME Magazine features a weekly column on going green, similar to several other media outlets. And this week, the Green Education Foundation has designated National Green Week 2010.

### Technology: Look to Postini!

We have received emails and calls from users who are concerned about a specific email that is clearly not intended to be viewed. You can control this easily from the Postini icon on the network launcher. Simply click on your Postini account and submit that email address to be blocked. You should monitor this Postini account regularly. Some legitimate email may get caught in this filter. For example an email with an attachment, a file that is too large to be delivered, or a legitimate email with an address may get placed in this area. You can deliver that email to your account by clicking on the deliver button.

### Going Green at PPS

#### Richwoods, Kellar Central, Northmoor and Lindbergh

- White Roofs
- Occupancy Sensors
- Natural Daylight
- New Insulated Window Replacements

#### Harrison

- White Roofs
- Geothermal Technology
- Daylight Harvesting
- Insulated Windows
- Day Lighting
- Occupancy Sensors

#### Glen Oak

- White Roofs
- Geothermal Technology
- Insulated Windows
- Day Lighting
- Occupancy Sensors

#### Thomas Jefferson

- LED Lighting 100%
- White Roofs
- Occupancy Sensors
- Geothermal Technology
- Day Lighting
- Insulated Windows

#### Hines

- Geothermal Technology
- Insulated Windows
- Occupancy Sensors
- Day Lighting

#### Whittier

- Insulated Windows
- Day Lighting

#### White Roofs for the following schools:

- Richwoods High School
- Manual High School
- Calvin Coolidge
- Peoria Central H.S.
- Franklin Edison School
- Robert A. Jamieson

As part of GEF's effort to mobilize two million students nation-wide in green initiatives this week, the foundation lists several ways to get involved.

- **ADOPT A PLANT!** - NASA recommends one indoor plant for every 100 square feet of living space to improve indoor air quality. Participate in the Adopt-a-Plant for Your Classroom campaign, receive a 50%

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### Redefining Teaching & Learning

#### IPI Just One Piece of the Data Pie at Sterling Middle School

The different needs of, and interventions for, students at Sterling Middle School are evident through a colorful, data-filled binder kept by the school's Intervention Specialist, Linda Kelley, and each teacher in the school. For the last few years, the binder has been growing in topics and the data reports have been getting longer, providing more information for focused instruction.

This is the third year that Instructional Practices Inventory (IPI) has had a presence at the school. It is the second year a team of five teachers has performed monthly IPI walk-throughs. While IPI is nothing new to the school, Linda Kelley, teacher Kelly Cummings and Principal Tim Delinski all agree they are seeing results.

"You tie it all together, we've gotten to the point where differentiation is the last piece we are putting in, we are having our tier two interventions coming into play now, and before this, our test scores were already going up," Delinski says. "So we are hoping this puts us over the top and really pushes us up. It's exciting"

A technology grant was received near the same time that IPI was even introduced to the school. With the expansion of technology tools, staff members say it was much easier to then put their focus on using those tools to increase student engagement. While IPI may be a small piece of their data pie, they believe it is a big part of the success they are seeing overall. A major result they noticed from the beginning was as student engagement increased, discipline began to decrease.

"We do not do PBIS at this school, because we believe if we can keep our kids engaged academically, we will have less problems," says Kelley.

"We don't do a lot of charting with discipline, we may track it, but we don't kill it," Delinski adds. "We spend more time trying to keep our kids concentrating on their goals and targets in the classroom. What our numbers

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*-Green, continued from front page*

off coupon from Lowe's, and bring some nature indoors this winter!

- **GREEN THUMB CHALLENGE** - a challenge to schools and students across the country to plant 10,000 gardens.
- **WASTE-FREE SNACKS & LUNCHES** - Students nationwide will participate in the largest school based waste-reduction program in history by pledging to carry their drinks, snacks and home packed lunches in reusable containers for the week. The combined totals will be tallied and posted on the GEF website on Earth Day 2010 (April 22).

More examples of what classrooms across America are doing to go green are available on the Green Education Foundation website at:

[www.greeneducationfoundation.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org)

Other resources can also be found on the web. Some examples include:

[www.gogreeninitiative.org/](http://www.gogreeninitiative.org/)

[www.myearthhour.org/](http://www.myearthhour.org/)

[planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/school-teachers/](http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/school-teachers/)

### Whittier Partner Plans Involvement

The Adopt-a-School partnership between Whittier Primary and the Bradley University School of Music is "warming up!" A group of BU string students will present a program to the Whittier students on Friday, Feb. 5 at 2:15 p.m. The concert will be held at Whittier. The students form a string quartet and will play for the children and talk about their instruments.

Another event is being planned for students on April 30th. The Whittier kids will walk to Dingeldine Music Center for a concert played by the BU Symphonic Band.

*-IPI, continued from front page*

have found is that when our engagement numbers are up, our discipline numbers are down. So they go hand in hand."

Cummings is one of the teachers trained in the walk-throughs. On months that she is part of the two-member team that performs the walk-throughs, she says she visits each classroom that is having class multiple times each hour for the entire day. Cummings says students and teachers have become comfortable with the process and little to no interruption to the learning environment takes place.

"I can be in a room anywhere from one to two minutes and sometimes it is less than that," Cummings describes of her classroom visits. "If a teacher is working at the board, and the kids are engaged watching her, that is really easy. I mark it as a four. Sometimes it is a little more difficult."

At the end of the day, the walk-through teachers put their data together and print reports for both Kelley and each teacher-team.

"We have progressed in how we are using the data," says Cummings. "I think the teachers, now that we've had it long enough, understand the data. We can pretty much give them the reports and before we even talk about it in the team meetings, they can read it, absorb it and when they come to team, they already have their ideas of what to share."

"If a particular teacher was at a six, that person may share the activities that they were doing in their class at the time of the walk-through," adds Kelley

While other schools in the district rely on quarterly walk-throughs, Sterling staff members say by changing to a monthly schedule, they are able to keep a better handle on trends and keep a more consistent focus on student engagement.

"We have seen a significant drop in ones and twos (or complete disengagement)," says Cummings.

Kelley adds that while the rest of the numbers will and should continue to exist, now staff are

focusing on keeping them in balance.

"We prefer to see the upper numbers and tiers, but the mid-tier is an acceptable area because the teacher is still engaging the students with work," she says.

*For more information on the basics of IPI, check out the December 12, 2008 issue of Staff News. You can find archived issues on the district website ([www.psd150.org](http://www.psd150.org)), by clicking on "employees."*

### Co-Teaching: "A Great Fit"

A "fashionable" word in the educational field these days is "co-teaching". However, unlike those fashionable shoes that look fine with just the "right dress", co-teaching is a great fit for all students in an inclusion classroom.

Two points of view, two teaching styles at the same time have to be a positive idea. The problem is, like those of the fashionable shoes, the right fit doesn't just happen, you have to really work at finding them. Finding a successful co-teaching environment is a search too.

A key element in a co-teaching environment is the ability to be flexible. Both teachers have to be willing to give at some point because there will always be some sort of disagreement. We just keep the students' success at the heart of the disagreement and flexibility is the wrench that straightens out the problem. Occasionally, we go to an outside source for input, because we may be too close to the situation.

Another crucial element is communication between the two teachers. The positive environment we create for our students' success can only occur if we both constantly talk about where we are headed as a whole class. We both have had bad co-teaching experiences and currently enjoy our present situation. The difference between the two is night and day.

Remember those "fashionable" shoes? Well, if you took the time to break them in correctly, they were your favorite pair, long after they went out of style. Co-teaching can be the same way. If you really take the time to "break in" the necessary elements for a positive co-teaching environment, the students will benefit long after they have left your "fashionable" room!

*-Christina Kerley and Sharon Mann  
Teachers at Roosevelt Magnet School*

### Try This! Assistive Technology Ideas

Need a visual stopwatch?  
Go to <http://www.Online-Stopwatch.com>. It has standard timers and visual stopwatches. They can even be downloaded for offline use. This is awesome for timed tests and visual cues.

*If you like these tips or can't remember a previous tip, please visit [www.psd150ssd.org/at](http://www.psd150ssd.org/at) for an archive. This page also has more Assistive Technology information and links to other AT websites.*

