

The ABC's of October/November from OCI

aka "MOST" of what happened in October & November from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction



Advisory Council – Attendance at the October meeting remained solid, and it is my hope that AC members are communicating either via faculty meeting time or email what is being discussed. The highlights from that meeting will be addressed through items below. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 21st at SMS from 3-4:15.

CALLING ALL TECHNOLOGY GURUS!!! DO YOU LOVE DABBLING WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY? ARE YOU ALWAYS THE FIRST TO TRY NEW APPS AND THEN TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES ABOUT THEM? DO YOU WANT TO BE THE FIRST TO EXPLORE NEW TECHNOLOGIES? ARE YOU A TECHNOLOGY RISK TAKER? IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS...THEN HAVE WE GOT A PLACE FOR YOU! READ ON!

Apple Talks – Superintendent Phillips and I had a conference call with Apple last week. We were initially interested in having their staff deliver professional development, but that is only a part of what we are planning over the next few months. Representatives from Apple will be available to work with interested staff (those fitting the description above) from each building over a three-day span. The purpose of this work will be to drive future professional development and to support all buildings through the ever-changing technologies we encounter. YOU will be our Technology Leadership Cadre (Okay, maybe your first order of business will be to rename that!). Building principals are currently looking for interested staff members (perhaps those who previously participated on the Technology Learning Team????) to join. I personally would like to see this team become a part of the monthly Advisory Council sessions, but that idea has not been solidified. If you are interested, please notify your building administrator ASAP. Share your knowledge and expertise of technology with others – there are great rewards and incentives to be had!

CCSS – Barbara Fletcher has created a one-stop “shop” on our OCI website of helpful common core websites. If you are privy to other sites that are not on our list, please let us know.

CIPs - Barbara Stasio mailed the final request for CIPS reimbursement to the state, which represented a year's worth of dedicated plans on differentiated instruction, curriculum, parent involvement, and data work, to name a few components. Congratulations to Jameson, Burns, and OOBHS on the completion of your plans from school year 2012-2013. Barbara and I would like to extend our kudos for a job well done to Carrie Lamothe at Burns, who was fundamental in leading Burns' projects,

and to extend our sincere appreciation to Shauna Regan and Beth Walker at OOBHS and Jameson for their record keeping and assistance. We know each team consisted of numerous dedicated, hardworking staff, too.

Common Core Coaches – AC members of CSI (Curriculum, Standards, and Instruction Subcommittee) are seeking coaches from each building. The official “job” description of the coaches is currently in the works, but the initial plan is to foster the current learning that is already occurring from those of you have immersed yourselves in common core implementation. We foresee this group of Common Core Coaches being a resource to schools, parents, and community members as we work toward full implementation. We are also hoping to provide further opportunities to learn more about the common core and then to share with buildings, PLCs, CDTs, etc. Check in with your CSI rep or with me if you have questions. CSI reps from each building are as follows:

Building	CSI Representative
Fairfield	Beth Carland
Jameson	Billy Corcoran
Dayton	Mark Murray
SMS	Gwyneth Nicholson, Chairperson
OOBHS	Rosa Slack
LMS	Linda Harding Walcher
CK Burns	vacancy
Young	Peter Harrison, Principal

Dine and Discuss – I was so pleased with our first session on Beliefs and Expectations! We experienced 90 minutes of reflecting on ideas Kathy Spencer presented on opening day, learning concrete strategies for raising expectations, and learning how Team Condor explicitly teaches effective effort to their 7th graders at Saco Middle School. Wishing you could have attended? Then click the Skillful Teacher tab on the OCI website and read some of the content covered! Thank you to Superintendent Phillips and Director of Special Education Jen Normand for joining us that afternoon. I am very appreciative for having Eileen Harriman not only share her Skillful Teaching expertise with us, but for also promoting Skillful Teaching practices at Advisory Council. Eileen is a 7th grade history teacher at Saco Middle and co-chair of the AC subcommittee Professional Development/Teacher Evaluation. It was a pleasure having you at the Dine and Discuss – Cynthia, Mary-Elise, Barbara, Larry, Leah, Linda, and Cathy! Our next Dine & Discuss is Thursday, November 21st and will again be held at Saco Middle School. Our topic is “Clarity, Criteria, and Cognitive Empathy.” If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so by **Friday, November 15th**.

easyCBM – The testing window is open until **Thursday, November 21st**.

ELA CDT – ELA CDT members are gearing up for their K-5 Literacy PD on December 11th. ELA is also leading the February and April ERDs. At our October and November meetings, we discussed the following:

- WOW implementation at each grade-level
- K-5 spent time discussing report card benchmarks. Teachers are advised to follow the units of study map to gauge what to include for first trimester. There is a guide for determining grade level, and this can be found on the ELA website under Assessment – www.rsu23.com/ela. AND HOT OFF THE PRESS... Terrilyn Lebel just forwarded guidelines for K-2 (what a team effort – thank you, all!!!!). Check your email if you haven't already seen this resource.
- Text-based discussions on Text Complexity and Notice and Notes.
- Researching Words Their Way and Vocabulary Their Way Resources in response to Word Study gaps
- Reviewing curriculum maps, I Can statements, and CCSS implementation

EL Staff/Cultural Proficiency - The final afternoon for the Cultural Proficiency training with Kathy Spencer is Thursday, November 14th at CK Burns. Congratulations to the participants for dedicating six hours of training to this worthwhile endeavor. Please consider how best to share your learning with your colleagues!

Inquiry Afternoons – I can't seem to get these discussions going....whenever I set a date, another priority (conferences, faculty meetings, etc.) trumps it. The overall intent of the discussion is to share what only approximately 30 of us experienced last spring and summer with the data course. ADARR members will discuss this at Advisory next week, and I'll send out an invite – realistically for a January gathering. The topics of the first discussion will be Data-Driven Dialogue; Norms of Collaboration; and Ladder of Inference as it relates to data analysis.

Kathy Spencer – It is quite possible that Thursday will be Kathy's last day with us as RSU #23. I have written a proposal to Research for Better Teaching requesting a *Skillful Teaching* course for the spring/summer of 2014; however, Kathy would not be available to lead us at that time. Kathy will be meeting with some of the administrators on the 14th to further discuss our evaluation process, and I will be presenting her with an RSU thank you gift from Stone Soup Artisans in Saco. For those of you who worked closely with Kathy through either the Skillful Teaching course or the Cultural Proficiency training and/or who came away with great ideas from her opening day words, please consider sending her an email of thanks. Her email is spencerkl@mac.com. I know she would be thrilled to hear from you!

Leadership Team Afternoon Meetings – As I reported out last month, the leadership team has opted for afternoon meetings for their second meeting of the month rather than two morning meetings each month. Our second meeting was held October 22nd at Loranger Middle School. The information titled “Apple Talks” earlier in the memo stemmed from that second meeting. Our next Teaching and Learning session will be at STP on November 26th, and we will have a report out from the five pilot sites for Restorative Practices, as well as take a practice Smarter Balanced assessment.

Math CDT – Since my last memo, the K-5 and the 6-12 teams have had full day work sessions. What a pleasure both of those days were for me! The K-5 team met in Dayton to plan the professional development for the October PD sessions. In addition to prepping for the common core adjustments to the report card, we studied the eight mathematical practices that are embedded in the common core. At our November meeting at central office, we agreed to become an expert at one of those mathematical practices. CDT members are working with grade-level colleagues and/or PLCs to “adopt” a practice for the remainder of the school year. The idea is to have experts at each grade span for each of the 8 practices. At the K-2 span, the report card work clearly helped us identify gaps in either instruction or common assessments as we move toward full implementation, and the CDT members are using that information to guide our next steps. At the 3-5 span, PLCs are looking at what is referred to as “progressions” and how one grade's standards are impacted by what comes before and what follows. Much more work on this to come! Not sure who your Math CDT reps are? Let me introduce them:

K – Lisa Arnold (Fairfield), Sophie Douzepis (Young), and Barbara Fletcher (Jameson/CO)

1st – Darci Holland (Fairfield) and Janelle Harrison (Young)

2nd – Crystal Blais (Dayton), Shaun Jordan (Young), and Julie Montalbano (FF)

3rd -5th – Paula Dickinson (Dayton) and Cheryl Frechette (Dayton principal)

The 6-12 CDT work session was held at the Saco Train Station Conference Room. We also “adopted” a mathematical practice, spent time reviewing common core resources, discussed essential questions, and planned for upcoming PD opportunities. Those CDT members are as follows:

6th – Amy Carestia, SMS

7th – Leslie Constantine, SMS

8th – Carrie Skeffington, LMS

6-8 – Dianne Fearon, SMS

9-12 – Amanda Ruel and Melissa Mowery, OOBHS

New Staff Meetings – Our collaboration between curriculum (Barbara Fletcher and me) and special education (Jen, Tim, and Tara) is continuing with our New Staff Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. We are reading the text Teach Like a Champion and sharing strategies with each other. Please reach out to our “newbies” and ask them about this resource. :)

No Common Core Maine Event – This discussion was held Oct. 2nd at Saco City Hall. There were a handful of us from the RSU to hear the views of NCC Maine. The NCC Maine panelists expressed their frustrations with how quickly the common core was adopted by states and with how less rigorous they felt the standards were (among other ideas). In processing the evening with our superintendent, my takeaway from this discussion was that our job as educators is to implement the standards to the best of our abilities, regardless of personal opinions or political leanings. Our students will be assessed on the common core beginning the spring of 2015, and it is our ethical responsibility to prepare them. Gwyneth Nicholson, who is chairperson of both the AC committee and the Common Core Coaches, has found various articles of interest on this topic. One you may find interesting is titled “Pants on Fire: Tearing Down the Top 10 Common Core Myths.” A link to this is on our website.

NWEAs - The winter testing window will soon be upon us, which means I need to pull together teams from OOBHS, LMS, and SMS, to facilitate our testing session. If you would like to partake in the planning for NWEAs, please email me. Now that SMS's bandwidth situation has been resolved, we will test there ASAP - planning for the first week in December realistically. OOBHS will test in December, and LMS in January.

One by Kathryn Otoshi - I just can't get enough of this book! Thank you to those of you who have allowed me in to your classrooms to share this with students. If you haven't done so, please extend an invite to me - I love reading to our students!!! Our Reading Teacher Leaders have all received copies of *One* and are leading students in a reader's notebook response in conjunction with their work with Kathy Collins. Based upon the advice I received from a student in Celeste Libby's Adult Ed Substitute Teaching class, I am going to write to Ms. Otoshi in hopes we can either Skype her in to a discussion with interested teachers/students and/or invite her to be our guest.

Press Releases - Visit the Photos section of the OCI website and see pictures from SMS, CK Burns, and Dayton....Doing something cool at your school? Please let me know so I can advertise it for you.

Reading Teacher Leaders - As mentioned above, the RTLs are working with Kathy Collins and have received copies of *One* by Kathryn Otoshi to guide a common activity in the reader's notebooks. The RTL Study Question guiding their work is as follows: "How might the use of Reading Notebooks support instruction of Close Reading strategies to deepen reading comprehension?" RTLs meet monthly and work closely with ELA CDT members to prepare for learning experiences with Kathy Collins. Kathy will next be with us on Dec. 11th. She will model a notebook lesson in Janet Giguere's 5th grade class at Loranger and then spend time with 3-5 (12:45-1:30 at Jameson) and then K-2 (1:45-2:30 at Jameson). RTL members will surely keep us informed as their journey continues. Thank you, RTLs, for your commitment to this work!

Report Cards!!!! - EVERYTHING you need for successful trimester reporting can be found here: <http://abcsoftheoci.weebly.com/report-cards.html>

Superintendent Phillips graciously gave me the opening page on the RSU website to introduce this shift in reporting: <http://bruce.oobschools.org/WordPress/> and you can then click on Curriculum and Instruction to access the aforementioned link (after you read my letter, of course!). The Report Card Committee had originally asked principals to plan for a December 6th "send home" - not knowing when data input would be available. I am happy to report that Karen Murphy has gone WAY ABOVE AND BEYOND to make this happen for us! Grades and comments can NOW be input into PowerSchool or Gradebook. IF your school has always had the same timeline for trimester reporting, it's possible your principal will want to return to that. Either way, please do not hesitate to contact me or an RCC member along the way.

Not quite sure how to get started? Patrick Conley, 5th grade teacher extraordinaire at CK Burns, created **several** tutorials to lead you through every step of the process - how to print; how to enter grades using "backpack"; how to launch PowerTeacher

Gradebook; how to enter grades; how to enter SS and Science Concepts taught; how to enter Unified Arts/Allied Arts/Essential Arts information; and how to enter comments. Those tutorials are available at the links above. AMAZING JOB, Patrick!!!!

As you get started, please make note of further questions. Karen Murphy and I are in the process of scheduling “tour dates” at each school. Be on the lookout for that date (either Monday, Nov. 18th or Monday, Nov. 25th). I need to connect with principals to see how best to make that work for all of you.

Finally, I cannot praise the committee enough for their hard work and dedication. I know many of you have expressed your thanks to them, as well. In addition, I am so extremely grateful to Barbara Fletcher for the time she put into editing and creating our videos and website. What a superstar! Thank you, RCC! You guys rock!!!

Restorative School Practices – The October 11th full day sessions at SMS, LMS, and OOBHS were very successful. Thank you to all who made those happen!!!

SBAC Dine & Discuss - Gwyneth Nicholson (8th Grade ELA teacher/AC Co-chair), Cynthia Nye (Literacy Specialist at Dayton/LMS), and I attended an informational session on the Smarter Balanced Assessment at Kennebunk High School on Oct. 24th. This was sponsored by the Maine Council of English Language Arts teachers. We will be sharing our takeaways throughout upcoming PD opportunities. I will also try to post the powerpoint on the OCI website.....

Science Update – The spring conference for Maine Curriculum Leaders centered around the Next Generation Science Standards. Although we all thought the standards would have been adopted by now, it looks like they are “stuck” in the political world for now and no adoption date is in sight.

The keynote speaker from the sessions I attended was Brett Moulding. Barbara is planning on adding NGSS resources to our website. Furthermore, if you have been accessing a great NGSS resource, drop Barbara a note, and we'll include it! Also from that conference, I've connected with Wells, York, and Kennebunk curriculum directors, and we have a plan to bring science teachers together this spring to talk about STEM, NGSS, etc. Stay tuned...

Social Studies CDT – Lori Gaudreau (LMS 6th grade SS), Tom Partridge (SMS 6th grade SS), and Amy Wright (OOBHS History teacher) attended the Maine Social Studies Conference in Augusta last Friday, November 8th. Tom and Lori shared their takeaways with 6-8 history teachers during the November 13th ERD, and I'm hopeful we will have a follow-up on December 11th for the OOBHS staff. Thank you, Lori, Tom, and Amy!!!

Title I Meeting – We finally met last week, and there are great things happening in each school! What became clear to me, however, is that more guidance is needed regarding federal regulations and the parent involvement requirements. Once I hit the send button for this memo, I will be reviewing our current paperwork. Barbara

Stasio will update any existing notebooks for each school and will have available a common parent compact for any schools who would like to use it. Fairfield is hosting their Title I Breakfast Friday morning. Thank you to all our Title I staff for all you do!

WOW! Initiative – Thank you to all of our building and ELA CDT “reps” who are promoting this push to enhance student use of academic vocabulary! If you have created a bulletin board or have posted “prezi” handouts for all to see, please forward Barbara or me a picture. We have a few samples posted on the OCI website but would love more. Have a WOW vignette to share? Drop us a note and let us in on the buzz that's been created! I'd be remiss if I did not extend a SINCERE thank you to Barbara and Gwyneth for the great work that is going into the prezis! AWESOME work!!!

www.curriculum21.com – If you happen to read my letter on our website, you'll notice that I reference Heidi Hayes Jacobs. Well....you HAVE to visit this website and check out the amazing resources that are available. Once at this site, go to Clearinghouse and select All Resources. Choose your area of interest and explore!

November & December OCI Dates:

(Still to be scheduled: NWEA Winter Planning Session)

Wednesday, Nov. 13 th	K-5 Building-based ERD; 6-8 Collaboration; 9-12 school day
Thursday, Nov. 14 th	3:00 – New Staff Meeting at C.O. Kathy Spencer visits with Admin. Re: Supervision/Evaluation AC Leadership Team Meeting at C.O.
Friday, Nov. 15 th	Final Cultural Proficiency Class at CK Burns Apple Leadership Cadre Day 2 at BHS First Trimester Ends at CK Burns RSVPs due for Dine & Discuss
Monday, Nov. 18 th	Report Card Tours at K-5 Schools (Schedule listed above)
Tuesday, Nov. 19 th	Math LT Meeting 7:30-9:00 at C.O. 2 nd 504 Webinar at Young School – 12:30
Wednesday, Nov. 20 th	ELA LT Meeting 7:30-9:00 at C.O. RTL Meeting at CK Burns
Thursday, Nov. 21 st	Advisory Council at SMS Testing Window closes for EasyCBM 2 nd Dine & Discuss
Friday, Nov. 22 nd	Curriculum Meeting with Directors from Wells, Biddeford, Kennebunk End of First Trimester – K-5 Schools other than CK Burns
Monday, Nov. 25 th	SS Leadership Meeting at C.O. - 2:00
Tuesday, Nov. 26 th	ERD – HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING BREAK! LT Teaching and Learning Session at STP
Monday, Dec. 2 nd	NWEA Testing begins at SMS
Tuesday, Dec. 3 rd	Math CDT Meetings
Thursday, Dec. 5 th	ELA CDT Meetings Saco Bay Educational Consortium Proficiency-Based Dine & Discuss at People's Credit Union in Saco – 6 PM (need to RSVP)
Tuesday, Dec. 10 th	Leadership Team Meeting 8:30-10:30 CCC (Common Core Coaches) Leadership Mtg. - 2:00 7:00 – Board Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 11 th	ELA LT w/ Kathy Collins at Loranger Middle School ERD – K-5 Literacy; 6-12 Technology Learning/CCSS/NGSS at LMS
Thursday, Dec. 12 th	AC Leadership 12:00 – 3:00
Tuesday, Dec. 17 th	Math LT Meeting 7:30-9:00 at C.O.
Thursday, Dec. 19 th	Advisory Council at SMS 3:00-4:15