

Wake and Oceana

# Intermediate School Districts

Helping schools help students

Winter 2009



# Playgroups

**EARLY ON and GREAT PARENTS GREAT START**



**E**arly On and Great Parents Great Start have teamed up to provide playgroups for children ages 0-5 in Mason County. This year, we are excited to offer three playgroups each week.

Playgroups are valuable to both the parent/caregiver and the child. The goal of playgroups is to promote school readiness and positive parent/caregiver-child interactions. The children are given the opportunity to become independent learners as well as interact with other children. They have the opportunity to learn to share, participate and listen at story time and overcome separation anxiety. They also can choose to participate in arts and crafts, and have lots of fun singing and danc-

ing. Playgroups are an ideal program to assist in preparing children for preschool/ kindergarten and to promote social development.

Parents and caregivers also benefit from playgroups. Both new and experienced parents/caregivers can get connected with one another, share ideas, fears, experiences, joys and everything else that goes along with being a parent. We offer parent time during playgroup where they can talk with other parents, often about a desired topic, like discipline, potty training, stress management, etc. When the conversations get started, there is never a lull! It sometimes just helps to hear that other parents struggle with the same exact issues, and that they are not alone.

# Formative Assessment



# Reimagined

In December of 08, Tom Johnson and Jen Orton piloted a formative assessment team through a new collaboration between MDE and Measured Progress. Their team was comprised of four middle school ELA teachers and two principals, all from Mason County. The team, Transformers, met twice monthly and studied formative assessment and practiced the process in the classroom and at staff meetings.

All team members have found the study and practice to be worthwhile and, a year later, the team remains intact--with one exchange: Tami Teshima, Journey High School teacher replaced Tom Johnson. Tom took on the position of Technology Director and his schedule and responsibilities changed.

The Transformer's success was shared throughout the last school year with other administrators. When the state offered opportunities for additional teams, five principals met the challenge. Donna Heiftje of Shelby is leading a high school team; Andrea Large of Ludington (Franklin K-2) is leading a K-2 team; Lisa Wagner of Pentwater is leading a K-12 team. In addition, original Transformers' members, Missy Bansch of Ludington (O.J. Middle School) and Jamie Bandstra of Journey High School, have started teams of their own. Jamie is leading a high school team and Missy is leading a middle school science team. Jamie and Missy both remain members of Transformers.

Because of this interest amongst our local districts, MDE and Measured Progress held a two-day workshop right here at MLISD. (This saved the teams the expense and time of traveling to Cadillac for two days). Throughout this school year, the six teams will deepen their knowledge of the formative assessment process. This melds nicely with the General Education team's service plan. Balanced assessment, along with curriculum mapping and differentiation are the three focus components for Curriculum Excellence. A lot can happen in a year.



**It's not formative unless . . .**

- Teachers have a plan before they walk into the classroom.
- The Learning Targets are clear and linked to every part of the Formative Assessment Process.
- Feedback for learning is actionable.
- Teachers analyze student assessment evidence as a way to revise their instruction.

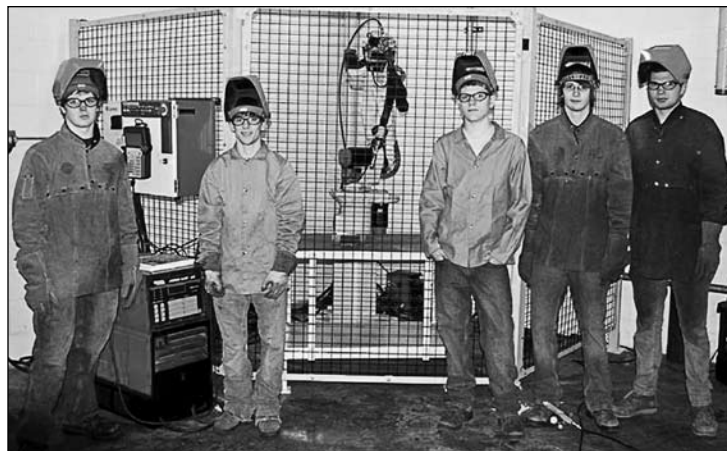




# Robotic Welder

**T**he Mason-Lake ISD Career and Technical Education Center continues to work to achieve our mission to prepare students for their future in post-secondary institutions and in the workforce. Most recently, the Tech-Prep Program has partnered with West Shore Community College to bring a new piece of advanced technology to the WSCC campus to meet the demand of local manufacturers in our region. After meetings with manufacturers in regards to the quality of our workforce, it was determined that there was a gap in the skilled labor our communities had to offer.

A new Robotic Welder has been purchased in partnership to give the students in our community training in learning to operate and program a robotic welder,



a leg up on others in the workforce without this type of background or experience. This technology can also be used to enhance training offerings available to local manufacturers in our region. Currently, businesses such as Metalworks, Mastech and Whitehall use this type of technology.

This project came to

fruition through community collaboration. Ed Palsrok, Director of Workforce Development with West Shore Community College, and Mike Robinson, Tech-Prep Principal, used combined funding to purchase this piece of equipment.

Adding to the available combined funding, generous donations from J.R. Auto-

mation Technologies and Epoch-Robotics of Holland Michigan, C & I Electrical and Metalworks of Ludington made the completion of this project possible.

West Shore Community College and the high school Career and Technical Programs, often referred to as "Tech-Prep," continue to position themselves as educational leaders in new and exciting fields of endeavor. It is critical that we continue to look for ways to collaborate with leaders in the manufacturing, installation, and repair of various types of products and equipment.

It is this type of partnership that benefits both the educational and business communities in our area and state to provide our students and workers the opportunity to be economically successful.

# MLISD/OISD General Education Professional Development Calendar Winter 2010

WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME	FACILITATOR/COURSE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Para Pro Academy 1	CPI Series			Critical trainings designed to improve the ability to work with students, parents and other educational professionals: C.P.R., First Aide, Legal Primer, Crisis Prevention Intervention, Behavioral Support, Work Keys Preparation, Literacy Strategies, Crisis Prevention Intervention for Students with Autism, Effective Educational Strategies, What's in an IEP, and Working with EI Students. Must attend all 3 dates in series to become certified. Stipends will be awarded.	MLISD
	12-2-09	4:00-7:00	CPI		
	1-6-10	4:00-7:00	CPI		
	2-11-10	4:00-7:00	CPI		
	CPI Series for student with autism				
	3-3-10	4:00-7:00	CPI - Autism		
	4-7-10	4:00-7:00	CPI - Autism		
	5-3-10	4:00-7:00	CPI - Autism		
Algebra for All	1-8-10 2-5-10 3-5-10	Registration 8:30-9:00  Training 9:00-4:00	Kathy Surd - Contact	Teachers will learn how to approach the teaching of algebra from the functions perspective outlined by the mathematics high school content standards and expectations (HSCE). They will expand their repertoire of instructional strategies. Contact Kathy Surd at <a href="mailto:ksurd@mloisd.org">ksurd@mloisd.org</a> for the registration information.	WMISD (Cadillac)
Curriculum Mapping	1-13-10 3-8-10 4-21-10	8:30 -11:30 12:30- 3:30 4:00- 7:00 Sessions held at these times all dates.	General Education Team	Teachers will be given time to work on their curriculum maps. This is a series. Teachers should attend one session in each month listed, but times can be interchanged over the course of the year. *Stipends provided upon completion.	MLISD
Spanish for Educators 101  2 Credit Hours through Madonna University (30 Contact hours)	1-20-10 1-27-10 2-3-10 2-10-10 2-24-10 3-3-10 3-10-10 3-17-10 4-7-10 4-14-10 5-5-10	4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00 4:00 -7:00	Tracy Wardle	Local educators will examine the diverse linguistic and cultural needs of the students and families within the reach of their own professional service area(s). Cultural competencies, specifically targeting the Mexican-American and migrant populations will be developed. Basic skills to effectively communicate with Spanish-Speaking Students and Parents will be acquired. Educationally-relevant vocabulary and short and simple essential phrases will be mastered. Profession (or role)-specific "resource chests" (portfolios) –will be developed and made accessible to share with other educators across the Mason-Lake and Oceana ISD service area. Note: An extra day has been scheduled in anticipation of an Act of God (i.e., snow day)	MLISD
Writing Workshop Breathing Life into Essays- Unit 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	1-21-10 1-28-10 2-4-10 2-18-10	4:00-7:00	Dency Lippert Jen Orton	Participants will leave this workshop with a teacher's writing notebook full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with a binder that will include copies of student samples, mentor texts and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Teachers will have a unit ready for the classroom!	MLISD
Writing Workshop Breathing Life into Essays- Unit 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades (Repeated session)	2-2-10 2-9-10 2-16-10 2-23-10	8:30-11:30	Jen Orton	Participants will leave this workshop with a teacher's writing notebook full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with a binder that will include copies of student samples, mentor texts and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Teachers will have a unit ready for the classroom!	MLISD
Writing Workshop Breathing Life into Essays- Unit 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades (Repeated session)	2-3-10 2-10-10 2-17-10 3-3-10	3:45-6:45	Jen Orton	Participants will leave this workshop with a teacher's writing notebook full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with a binder that will include copies of student samples, mentor texts and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Teachers will have a unit ready for the classroom!	Hart MS
Induction Teacher Facilitator: Lynne Cavazos	2-8-10  3-18-10	4:00-6:30  4:00-6:30	1st year and mentors  1st year and mentors	New teachers: Gather with fellow colleagues to discuss classroom and time management, families as partners, lesson planning and assessment strategies as you navigate through the beginning of your career.	2-8-10 MLISD 3-18-10 OISD
District Wide Special Educators' Meeting	2-9-10	4:00-6:00	MLISD Special Education Staff	Meet with fellow special educators, discuss current issues, learn practical classroom ideas, and have fun!	MLISD

HS Science HS-MASS	2-12-10 PD Day 3-16-10 4-20-10	8:30 – 3:30 8:30 – 3:30 12:00 – 3:00	Brandi Mendham Kathy Surd Tom Wessels	Take an in-depth look at your current curriculum using SEC data. Broaden approaches for Inquiry in the Classroom.	MCCHS (2-12) MLISD (3-16 ; 4-20)
MS ELA	2-12-10 PD Day Fiction  4-20-09 Literary Essays	8:30-3:30  8:30-3:30	Linda Denstaedt	We are happy to bring Linda back to our area for a series of writing units. She is well versed with the requirements of MEAP and the 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA GLCES. All her writing work is aligned to the state standards and will help build the quality of our students' authentic writing while meeting the necessities of the MEAP. The additional writing units to be studied and implemented in this workshop series are aligned with Lucy Calkins' Units of Study and are designed for use in a writing workshop.	MCC HS  MLISD
Teaching Grammar in the Context of Writing (4 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade writing teachers)	3-1-10 3-23-10 4-6-10 4-20-10 5-4-10	4:00-7:00	Amy Oak Jen Orton	In this series we will study books by Mary Ehrenworth and Constance Weaver to create a year- long grammar plan and write some specific mini lessons related to the context expectations. Participants will receive a copy of The Grammar Plan Book and The Power of Grammar	MLISD
Assessing in K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Math	3-1-10 or 4-16-10	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham	Is there a way to make classroom assessments even better? Let's talk about the possibilities. We'll also review the changes in the common math assessment. Bring your curriculum maps and current assessments.	MLISD
Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Initial Training	3-9-10 3-11-10 3-16-10	4:00-7:30	Keri Hansen Brenda Tarsa Bill White	Training to prevent violence, safely intervening when disruptive behaviors occur. Participants will be certified in this training.	MLISD
Assessing in 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	3-10-10 or 4-22-10	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham	Is there a way to make classroom assessments even better? Let's talk about the possibilities. We'll also review the changes in the common math assessment. Bring your curriculum maps and current assessments.	MLISD
Unwrapping the Standards	3-12-10	HS Teachers 8:00-11:00 Elem. Teachers 12:30-3:30	K-12 Special Education Teachers	A Simple Process to Make Standards Manageable. Unwrapping the standards is a quick, simple strategy for identifying what skills and content knowledge is needed to ensure student learning and success in any grade level or subject.	
Middle School Math PLC	3-15-10	4:00 – 6:00	Kathy Surd	Come and discuss topics in middle school mathematics.	MLISD
High School Math PLC	3-23-10	4:00 – 6:00	Kathy Surd	Come and share classroom lesson ideas.	MLISD
Assessing in Middle School Math	4-12-10	8:30 – 3:30	Kathy Surd	Assessment is linked to instruction. Is there a way to make classroom assessments even better? Let's talk about the possibilities. Bring your curriculum maps and current assessments.	MLISD
Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Refresher	4-13-10	4:00-7:30	Keri Hansen Brenda Tarsa Bill White	Designed to update those previously fully trained. Required to maintain CPI certification.	MLISD
E-MATHS Assessments	4-14-10 AND 4-15-10	4:00 – 7:00	Kathy Surd	This is a required part of the E-MATHS training which will be held over the summer for high school math teachers.	MLISD
High School Math and Science Assessment Bank	4-20-10 Or 5-10-10	8:30 – 11:30 on 4-20-10 4:00 – 7:00 on 5-10-10	Brandi Mendham Kathy Surd	At this session, teachers will gain access to a FREE on-line bank of questions aligned to the HSCEs.	MLISD

## REGISTRATION

### MLISD WORKSHOPS

Register on-line at: [www.mloisd.org](http://www.mloisd.org)

Register by phone, call Wanda: (231)757-4934  
ext. 146

### OISD WORKSHOPS

Register on-line at: [www.mloisd.org](http://www.mloisd.org)

Register by phone, call Jenny: (231)873-5651

*Due to budget constraints, breakfast snacks will no longer be provided.*



# Moodle Training

**A**s part of our current and our new online learning grants, teachers from across the region and from all grade levels have been participating in Moodle training. Moodle is a 'Learning Management System' used for online coursework. In our schools, its introduction will come in the form of blended classes with some content online and some in person. In time, some teachers may grow to embrace the online features. It is hoped they will share their skills with students, not just from their own school

but from schools across the region. Experimenting with flexible and non-traditional schedules is difficult if high quality alternatives to time in the classroom cannot be provided. By teaching our teachers to use modern technology and web-based tools to engage students and to ensure learning, we will open the door for students and teachers to explore new teaching and learning schedules. The first steps are in the learning. From there, we can only imagine what great ideas will emerge.



**T**he Mason-Lake and Oceana Intermediate School Districts, working together, have been selected to be a Michigan ReImagine Demonstration Site.

As a ReImagine site, the region is eligible for a share of 200-600 million dollars, based on successful Michigan application to the federal government. The money is a share of the "Race to the Top" 4.35 billion dollars set aside in President Obama's plan to reform our nation's educational system.

While the opportunity to access Race to the Top funds is an obvious immediate benefit, it is not the only advantage to being selected as a ReImagine site.

"We are excited that so many districts worked collaboratively with community partners to ReImagine education and propose system-wide reform," Flanagan said.

"These are incubators of reform that push the current limits and eventually can be replicated in schools across Michigan."

Flanagan encourages all of the districts that submitted proposals to be committed to going forward with their Project ReImagine plans regardless of the additional federal funding. "Getting Race to the Top will be icing on the cake," he added.

At the December 8th State Board of Education meeting, a unanimous bipartisan vote approved support for

## **MASON-LAKE AND OCEANA ISDs *Identified as* REIMAGINE DISTRICTS**

**6 This is an opportunity to enhance and expand programs and services for all students and their parents from birth to post secondary."**

**Lawrence D. Lloyd**  
Superintendent

Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs

state legislation required by the federal government for Race to the Top states.

Legislatively, Senate and House Representatives will be working to align, and in some cases, surpass, required education reform components that will set Michigan up to be competitive in the

Race to the Top competition. The application deadline is January 19, 2010.

A total of fourteen Michigan projects were chosen from 71 applications for their innovative ideas regarding school reform. The state of Michigan has one million dollars to assist those districts with developing their plan and refining existing initiatives.

Districts will be supported in accessing and applying for additional funding for their ReImagine projects as opportunities arise.

These additional dollars may come from a variety of sources, including federal initiatives, foundation dollars, and other state funds.

"This is an opportunity for the school districts and communities in this three county region to enhance and expand programs and services for ALL students and their parents from birth to post secondary," says Larry Lloyd, Superintendent of Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs.

Mason-Lake and Oceana ISD's proposal includes the creation of early childhood centers to offer "one-stop shopping" for birth to five services and supports, a laptop and online learning initiative that will expand learning opportunities for students and parents, and greater collaboration among member districts and public service agencies.

In addition, the proposal emphasizes the use of data to drive student achievement and professional development.

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# **Northwest Michigan Online Learning Collaborative**

**A**t the Dec. 8 State Board of Education meeting the Mason-Lake ISD, in collaboration with Oceana ISD, Manistee ISD and Traverse Bay Area ISD, was awarded a grant in the amount of \$463,000.00 to support online and project based learning throughout the region.

As part of the award Mason-Lake ISD will coordinate the state-wide professional learning community of grant winners over the next 18 months.

This funding is also designed to support the ReImagine efforts within Mason-Lake, Oceana and TBA area schools.

The primary focus of this project will be to provide ongoing professional development for teachers in the region as they learn to use online systems to teach blended (some in the classroom and some online) and online courses.

This opportunity to step out on the edge of what many are calling a learning revolution places our schools in a position

to better serve our students and to remain relevant in the 21st century.

In conjunction with the expansion of online teaching and learning options, pilot programs will be supported for students to learn in online project based learning environments.

Partnering with iSchool out of New York for a partnership in Traverse City and Ed Visions out of Minnesota for our more rural schools this project will expose our students and schools to unique models of teaching and learning where the student truly guides their own learning experience with the support of professional teachers who serve as both content experts and as mentors. Students will work on individual and group projects based on their personal interests and on their chosen career paths.

In the end, our local schools will be positioned to launch PBL programs of their own, offering once again, more learning options for our students.



School Improvement



Adaptive Schools



Hands on Science



Response to Intervention



School Improvement

# The ISDs at WORK

Professional development in action