

VISTA Bi-Monthly Report

Please submit as a Word attachment via e-mail to VISTA Leader by the due date.

Name: Ima Vista	School/Site: Madison Elementary School
Dates included in report: November 18, 2006	to December 1, 2006
# of personal days taken this period: 1	# of sick days taken this period: 0

Data Collection/Research

- I collected data for use in the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant application. The data was compiled using the school management system. Data collected includes the number of students currently receiving free or reduced price lunch AND receiving either a D or an F in the first quarter in grades four through eight. The second piece of information includes the specific number of students categorized as special education receiving free or reduced price lunch, as well as the specific diagnosis categories contained in grades four through seven with the number of students in each category.
- Tracked volunteer hours given in the last two weeks
- Researched *School-Family-Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action* in order to learn more about interactive homework programs.

Training and Meeting Attendance

- November 20. I co-facilitated a meeting of the Action Team for Partnerships along with another member of the team. See below and the attachment for a description.
- November 21. I attended a meeting of the Dane County Planning Committee facilitated by Marie Abbott. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the major housing issues/concerns within Dane County. These issues were addressed and an action plan was created to begin addressing these concerns.
- November 21. I attended a meeting of the elementary school Parent-Teacher Group. The purpose of the meeting was to address school safety concerns and programs currently present within the school that work to ensure student safety.
- November 22. I attended a meeting of key stakeholders in the development of the 21st Century after-school program, facilitated by Angela Soderbloom, the district grant developer. The purpose of the meeting was to assess current needs, establish key partnerships from within the community, and lay out the next steps to work towards developing the grant application.
- December 1. I met with the district grant developer, Angela Soderbloom. The purpose of the meeting was to develop letters to be sent to community partners, develop a parent survey of current after-school needs for families with children in grades K-5, and to develop options for an after-school program structure to be presented to principals at the next meeting.

Action Teams for Partnerships

We began the meeting by laying out a different avenue of establishing our plan. We are going to focus on developing a one-year action plan for each goal. As we near the end of the first year, we will look at the practices we have implemented and decide upon setting year two goals based on our accomplishments in year one.

We started brainstorming specific activities and ways to increase our level of partnerships. We focused on our two nonacademic goals:

- Continue to develop a respectful environment by increasing the interpersonal skills of students
- Creating a welcoming climate for partnerships

The output of the brainstorming is attached.

Volunteer Management

Number of <i>new</i> volunteers you recruited in the past two weeks	10
Number of these volunteers who are baby boomers	4
Total amount of hours given by <i>all</i> volunteers in the past two weeks	25

Resource Development

- During this period 54 books were donated by Scholastic Books to support an upcoming reading fair. The value of the books is \$145.
- Dinner was provided by a member of our action team for our action team meeting on November 20. These meals are valued at \$80.

Technical Assistance and Resource Sharing

Successes (specific accomplishments):

- The last action team meeting went well for everyone involved. It was a great opportunity to finally be able to develop some concrete plans to begin working towards our goals. Several of the ideas offered have already been set into motion. Action team members have also been adding new ideas as they think of them in the time since the meeting. Seeing things happen has made it easier for all of us to start generating new ideas. In announcing opportunities at the seventh-grade band/choir concert alone, we were able to invite approximately 75 people to be a part of upcoming opportunities. From that invitation we drew in three new members to the PTG at the last meeting, as well as two adults for the adult/student book club, and another family interested in participating in the Strengthening Families program. It definitely was successful in getting information directly to families, and making use of the time that they are in the building rather than relying entirely on memos which we found were often not getting home.

Barriers/Problems Encountered:

- We were having a hard time getting donations for door prizes for an upcoming Family Math Night. All the businesses that donated last year were not able or willing to do it again this year. Instead, we are going to tap the PTO or have students create prizes in order to make up for this deficit.

I would like assistance with:

- Grants that I could apply to for funds creating an outdoor classroom
- Strategies on reaching out to families of minority groups to get them involved with our volunteer program