



18 Franklin Place
Pelham, New York 10803

914 738-3434 ☐ Fax 914 738-7223
pgiarrizzo@pelhamschools.org

September 19, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that the district has put in place a variety of support to continue our literacy initiatives. First, Julie Liebersohn will be a half time English Language Arts Staff Developer for the elementary schools. Julie will provide leadership in the district to strengthen the literacy program through working collaboratively with the staff and administrators.

In addition, you will have an opportunity to continue working with the literacy consultants, Gravity Goldberg and Renee Hauser. We are fortunate to have them in the district and although there are many initiatives and new mandates this year, the district is committed to continuing the professional development in the area of literacy. This year teachers will continue to develop their knowledge in the area of writing workshop and will also begin to participate in professional development on the reading workshop model. I have outlined below the goals established in the areas of reading and writing.

Writing Goals

1. Provide professional development days to develop skills in conferring with students using rubrics and other assessment data. The focus will include conferring with small, flexible group and working one on one to meet student's writing needs. (one workshop day and one coaching day in the building)

Reading Goals

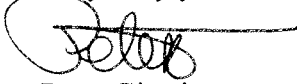
1. Provide all K-5 staff an overview of the components of the Reading Workshop Model.
2. Match students to books using various sources of data. (DRA 2, informal running records and teacher/student conferences)
3. Use the Fountas and Pinnell system to level classroom libraries. Begin to generate a list of books to fill in gaps of classroom libraries.

Teachers as well as **Reading Teachers and Resource Room teachers** will participate in three full day workshops related to the goals above. In addition, the consultants will provide support at the school level through a coaching model. The full day workshops will be divided K-2 and 3-5 and will include a mix of teachers from the grade group. For example, a teacher will be assigned by their building principal to be in Group A (K-2) and will remain with that group for the three full day workshops. Reading and Resource Room teachers can decide with their building principal and Rosemary Matthews which grade group would be most beneficial to attend.

I have also included the literacy professional development dates and topics. Please keep in mind **changes may occur** but I thought it would be helpful to have it for planning purposes.

I look forward to an exciting year. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Julie Liebersohn if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Giarrizzo", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Giarrizzo
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel

cc: Principals
Julie Liebersohn

Schedule for Literacy Professional Development Days

Date	Grade	Topic	Presenter
September 28 Friday Day 3	Group A K-2 Reading Resource Room	Overview of Components of Reading Workshop	Gravity Goldberg
October 5 Friday Day 2	Group B K-2 Reading Resource Room	Overview of Components of Reading Workshop	Gravity Goldberg
October 25 Thursday Day 3	Group A 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Overview of Components of Reading Workshop	Renee Hauser
October 26 Friday Day 4	Group B 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Overview of Components of Reading Workshop	Renee Hauser
November 1 Thursday Day 2	Group A Gr. 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Workshop on Conferring with students in writing	Renee Hauser
November 2 Friday Day 3	Group B Gr. 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Workshop on Conferring with students in writing	Renee Hauser
November 5 Monday Day 4	Teachers in grades 3-5 TBD Colonial Hutchinson	School visit on conferring with students in writing	Renee Hauser
November 6 Tuesday Day 5	Teachers in grades 3-5 TBD Siwanoy Prospect Hill	School visit on conferring with students in writing	Renee Hauser
November 20 Tuesday Day 2	Literacy Coaches, Reading Teachers, additional staff as needed	Visitation to school implementing Reading/Writing Workshop Model	Gravity Goldberg

December 14 Friday Day 6	Group A K-2 Reading Resource Room	Matching Students to Books	Gravity Goldberg
January 18 Friday Day 6	Group B K-2 Reading Resource Room	Matching Students to Books	Gravity Goldberg
January 25 Friday Day 4	Group A 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Matching Students to Books	Gravity Goldberg
February 5 Tuesday Day 5	Group B 3-5 Reading Resource Room	Matching Students to Books	Gravity Goldberg
March 15 Friday Day 4	Group A K-2 Reading Resource Room	Workshop on Conferring with students in writing	Gravity Goldberg
March 22 Friday Day 3	Group B K-2 Resource Room	Workshop on Conferring with students in writing	Gravity Goldberg
May 10 Friday Day 3	Teachers in grades K-2 TBD Siwanoy Prospect Hill	School visit on conferring with students in writing	Gravity Goldberg
May 23 Thursday Day 6	Teachers in grades K-2 TBD Colonial Hutchinson	School visit on conferring with students in writing	Gravity Goldberg

Updated September 14, 2012

Update on Professional Development November 1, 2, 5, 6 2012

In order to meet the individual grade level content and meet the needs of specific grade level groups in regard to writing workshop, the professional development days for November 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been modified.

The days will now be grade specific. The morning will be a workshop on writing and the afternoon will be devoted to coaching the teachers through writing conferences. Topics of the morning *MAY* include but are not limited to;

- How to approach a writing conference
- Mini lessons that grow out of conferences
- Looking at student work
- Solidifying existing units
- Need to develop new writing units
- Revision of writing

The afternoon will be working with students. The teachers will travel to a different school for the afternoon session.

The fourth day, November 6 will include representatives from grades K-5 from all the schools. The day will be devoted to pulling together the work on writing and will include developing rubrics, creating a pacing guide and can include developing mini lessons if time permits.

The schedule:

November 1 All Grade 4 teachers

AM at Hutchinson Professional Learning Center

PM at Prospect Hill School for conferring with students

November 2 All Grade 3 teachers

AM at Hutchinson Learning Center

PM at Siwanoy School for conferring with students

November 5 All Grade 5 teachers

AM at Hutchinson Learning Center

PM at Hutchinson for conferring with students

November 6-representatives all grades, all schools

ALL Day at Hutchinson Professional Development Center