

January 2010
1035 Co. Rd. 600N.
Tolono, IL 61880

PBIS Newsletter

Unity West Elementary School

Upcoming Celebrations

Students who do not have any office referrals each month have the opportunity to take part in our Monthly Behavior Celebrations. Here is a sneak peak at the fun we have planned this quarter.

In February, the students will take part in the annual Unity West Pig Races. For this celebration, the students decorate their classroom battery operated pig with hopes of winning the best dressed pig award and the pig race in the gym. The classroom teachers help the pigs stay on course during the race while the students cheer from the stands! The winner from each grade level then gets to have a popcorn party

in their classroom. We hope no one will miss out on this crazy celebration!

The March behavior celebration is a classroom paper airplane contest. For this contest, each student designs a paper airplane to compete against classmates in both a flying and design competition. Winners are put on display in the main hallway for all the students to see and enjoy.

Our April celebration is an extra 30 minute recess! The students will get to enjoy the warmer weather and spring sunshine to celebrate their good behavior for the month.

We hope to see all of our students join us for these amazing celebrations. Be sure to encourage your child to have good behavior in the coming months!

Anti-Bullying Awareness

Each month we have been promoting education that can help stop or reduce bullying at Unity West. This has been done through the use of "cool tools," or behavior lesson plans, and through the use of our School Resource Officer, Deputy Franzen. The following is a list of cool tools that have been used or will be used throughout the school year:

- October: Identify Bullying
- November: How to Stop a Bully
- December: Advice from Kids on Bullying
- January: Lend a Hand in Bullying Prevention
- February: The Story of a Bully

Attention on Attendance

This year at Unity West, our usual emphasis upon attendance has been diminished due to concerns about the H1N1 flu. We want our students to be safe and healthy so we did not want to encourage students who were sick to come to school receive a perfect attendance award.

That being said, we have noticed some significant drops in attendance. One of the goals of the PBIS team is to decrease behavior issues in the classroom in order to increase instructional time. We have been successful in reaching these goals, but if the students do not attend school, they are missing that core

instructional time. It is vital that all students are present when possible in order to receive the outstanding education that our teachers can provide. Please be sure to encourage your child to come to school in order to help us provide them with the academic skills they need to be successful in life.

Of course, you should not send your child to school if he/she has had a fever within the last 24 hours, are truly sick, or potentially contagious. We want our students to be safe and healthy, but we also want them to "be here and be ready!"

We hope the work of Deputy Franzen, and teaching cool tools will improve survey results when the students take another school climate survey in April. The results of the school climate survey will be studied by faculty and staff to identify areas of excellence and concern and the results will then be shared with students in May. Overall, the survey gives us a good indication of what students are dealing with at Unity West when it comes to safety and bullying behaviors. These survey results have helped to show us our students' realities.

PBIS Committee Members

Joshua Didier, Administrator
Katy Yeazel, Kindergarten
Ann Taylor, 1st grade
Angela Kamradt, 1st Grade

Debbie Davidson, 2nd Grade
Carol Dixon-Hunt, 3rd Grade
Gina Vasey, 3rd Grade
Marta Collins, 4th Grade
Karrie Redeker, 5th Grade

Terry Grodsky, 5th Grade
Alison Henkel, Social Worker
Andrea Miller, Resource
Donna Eckerty, Playground Supervisor