

School Improvement Goals: Quarterly Update for Fall 2010

1. Bully Prevention Goal:

In August, the teachers and staff attended a two-hour bully prevention in-service facilitated by an Olweus trainer. We reviewed key points of our bully prevention program, discussed the “hot spots” at Seton that we continue to monitor closely, and went over the data from the Olweus questionnaire administered last spring. The data from the Olweus Bully Prevention Questionnaire showed that although there is some bullying still taking place at Seton, students feel confident that when bullying is reported, the staff will respond appropriately to stop it. This particular question showed a significant positive change from last year’s questionnaire, and it was seen across the board from 3rd through 8th grade.

To kick off our bully prevention discussions in the middle school, a guest speaker, Illinois State Trooper, Jason Wilson spoke to the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders on cyber-bullying. He addressed issues of general internet safety, how to keep from becoming a victim, and spoke to the students about not bullying others electronically. Trooper Wilson included texting in his remarks.

Please continue to talk to your children about how important it is to treat one another with respect and to stand up for anyone who is being bullied. Please monitor your children’s cell phone and internet use. If we all continue to work together, we can keep our children safe, physically and emotionally.

2. Writing:

The teachers at all grade levels are continuing to teach writing based on the 6+1 Writing Traits Program. All students receive at least 50 minutes of formal writing instruction/practice and 30 minutes of free writing time each week. The teachers at all grade levels continue to adjust the rubrics used both to assess writing and to provide valuable feedback for students.

What can parents do to enhance their child’s writing skills?

- **Build Vocabulary:** Play word games such as Scrabble, Hangman, or Catch Phrase, rather than video games at least once a week.
- **READ:** Children who read tend to be better writers. Read to and with your children and encourage daily independent reading time as well.
- **Provide writing materials:** Keep an ample supply of pens, pencils, markers, and a variety of paper, all easily accessible for kids to use at home

- **Encourage letter writing:** Due to texting, Facebook and e-mail, letter writing is becoming a lost art. Encouraging your children to write letters to grandparents and thank you notes for gifts is another small way to get them writing.

3. Math Computation:

Throughout last school year and continuing this year, students in grades one through 8 are practicing basic math facts four times each week using the Mastering Math Facts Program. As we examined our data from this program for the 2009/2010 school year, we were very pleased to find:

- 1st Grade:** 94% of students improved in mastery of basic addition facts
- 2nd Grade:** 91% of students improved in mastery of basic addition facts and
88% of students improved in mastery of basic subtraction facts
- 3rd Grade:** 96% of students improved in mastery of basic addition facts and
98% of students increased in mastery of basic subtraction facts and
93% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
- 4th Grade:** 100% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
100% of students who advanced to division increased in mastery of division facts
- 5th Grade:** 97% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
88% of students who advanced to division increased in mastery of division facts
- 6th Grade:** 100% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
100% of students who advanced to division increased in mastery of division facts
98% of students who advanced to adding and simplifying fractions increased in mastery
- 7th Grade:** 97% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
97% of students increased in mastery of basic division facts
94% of students who advanced to adding and simplifying fractions increased in mastery
- 8th Grade:** 100% of students increased in mastery of basic multiplication facts
91% of students increased in mastery of basic division facts
97% of students who advanced to adding and simplifying fractions increased in master