

TO: Dr. Lisa Dana, Superintendent
FROM: Sharon Burrill, Great Oak Elementary
DATE: June 6, 2016
RE: Final Accomplishments 2015-2016

Great Oak's professional learning was focused on the implementation of and reflection upon the school-wide Writing Workshop model. All grades provided a predictable structure for writing instruction, including mini lessons, conferencing, and dedicated time for students to write. Teachers utilized mentor texts to model strong writing, then created grade level lists of quality mentor texts. Both common planning time at grade level and professional learning time as a full faculty incorporated reviewing student work to assess progress and refine instruction. Finally, celebration of writing took place in many forms within individual classes, across grades and school-wide through displays in hallways, grade-level presentations, and sharing with "Writing Buddies" at all levels.

Great Oak's School Student Learning Goal: *80% of students will achieve a growth of 3 points between each pre and post on-demand writing assignments, focusing on the structure component across three purposes of writing (narrative, opinion and informational).* Students met the goal for Narrative writing at 80%; exceeded the goal for Opinion writing at 86%; and made significant progress toward the goal of Information writing with 75% progress. The largest percentage of students made progress in Opinion writing. The highlight of Writing Workshop was the enthusiasm of students to truly consider themselves 'writers'. The faculty looks forward to building upon this year's foundation for students as they move forward with Writing Workshop.

After all staff examined elements of Effective Feedback this winter, they focused on applying consistent feedback with students, especially during Writing Workshop. In April, over the course of two full days, faculty members participated in school-based Instructional Rounds and observed at least two colleagues during Writing Workshop. The following themes emerged: *Students owned routines of Writing Workshop; Teachers utilized examples that apply to students' lives.; Across grade levels, students referred back to earlier pieces of writing for new writing; and there was an increased focus on process rather than product – by doing so, quality of product increased.*

In second through fifth grade classrooms, Chromebooks have been used daily to support Writing Workshop and many other projects. In the Cafeteria, Great Oak extended its recycling efforts to include liquids, plastics and other paper products with the assistance of an enthusiastic group of Kindergarten parents. Outside the classroom, After School Enrichment clubs continued this spring with twelve offerings. In May, all faculty received certification after participating in CPR training. The Evening of the Arts in May showcased musical presentations at each grade level and student work in the annual Art Show. Finally, June's Walk-a-thon launched the Great Oak Playground Renovation Fundraiser Campaign with donations of \$4,300 toward the goal of \$25,000. The school looks forward to working with the Town to rebuild its playground in August, 2017.