

SEPAC Happenings

September 2011

Inclusion Committee updates

James MacDonald Inclusion Grant

At the end of the last school year SEPAC voted to offer up to \$1500 through a grant (or grants) to the Northshore school(s) for a project, program or event at their school which promotes the inclusion of ALL students, engages and improves the school, the wider community and builds leadership in the student body.

Six Letters of Intent were received from groups at Timbercrest Junior High, Leota Junior High, Northshore Junior High, Westhill Elementary, Fernwood Elementary and Kokanee Elementary.

On September 10th SEPAC held an orientation workshop for groups as they begin their proposals. What amazing students and staff we have in the Northshore School District! These students and their advisers, teachers and principals, spent a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon learning about the importance of including ALL kids in school communities and asking how they can make a difference in a respectful and understanding way.

The winner (or possibly winners) of the grant will be announced on October 7th – watch this space for details on the winning proposal(s)!

District-wide plans

In addition to the grant, SEPAC's Inclusion Committee has been meeting monthly with Sue Dedrick (Asst. Superintendent of Special Services) to discuss inclusive opportunities for students in special education. We are in the process of creating a district-wide task force comprised of parents, teachers, principals and administrators to look at inclusive practices in Northshore and to develop a best practice model which can be implemented at all the schools. This is part of the district's 3 year plan – Performance Measure 1.14 – increase the percentage of students at 6th, 8th and 10th grade who feel connected to school. It also ties into other district-wide initiatives around bullying and tolerance etc.

Watch this space for updates!