

# BOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We would like to update you on our efforts to address the needs highlighted in our SINI (school in need of improvement) designation – a designation resulting from one subgroup of students’ scores in reading on the NH state test, the NECAP. At the May School Board meeting, Dr. Gibbens presented some information about the progress of our most at-risk learners and our plans to further address their needs. Our formal improvement plan with the NH Department of Education has not been developed as yet (training for this happened on May 21<sup>st</sup>), but we have already taken several steps in our journey of continuous improvement. Many of these steps were part of our planning *prior to* our designation as a SINI. These steps include:

- A. Our three tier model of instruction and intervention will be extended into grades 3 and 4 beginning next year. Third and fourth grade teachers will attend a two -day training at the end of June in preparation for full implementation in the fall.
- B. Our paraprofessionals will engage in two days of training at the end of the school year on a variety of topics related to meeting the needs of at-risk learners. This will include training in sensory processing disorders and strategies to meet behavioral needs.
- C. Professional development opportunities are being offered to all teachers in August in an effort to strengthen our tier one instruction (core instruction) in literacy.
- D. We are creating a block schedule for literacy at each grade level. Four days per week all classrooms will have a ninety minute ‘protected’ block of time dedicated solely to literacy instruction and intervention. Reading specialists and special educators will be assigned to work with students and to provide literacy coaching for classroom teachers focused on individualizing instruction.
- E. We have restructured positions in our reading department to enhance opportunities for working with students and with teachers to strengthen our literacy instruction.
- F. In the 2008-2009 school year we initiated a professional development block for grade level teams twice monthly. This spring this professional development work with teachers has focused on building comprehension strategies and making meaning from text. We are already planning for these bi-monthly professional development times next year.
- G. Our school wide data team has been working with assessment data to better understand our students’ needs and implications for our curriculum and instruction.

This list reflects our planning steps to date and there will certainly be more efforts to report over time. If you have questions about any of these efforts, please contact us.

## GRADE 4 CONCERT



## BOARD BOOKS FOR BABIES



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- June 4th- School Board Meeting 7pm
- June 9th- Field Day
- June 10th- Rain Date for Field Day
- June 11th- Kindergarten Screening
- June 11th- First Grade Field Trip- Squam Lake
- June 12th- Kindergarten Field Trip- Beech Hill Farm & Fourth Grade- Coach and Eagle Trail
- June 15th- Reading Program- Jenn Ericsson
- June 16th- Showcase 8:30am
- June 17th- Kindergarten Field Day & Grade 4 Field Trip- Strawberry Banke & First Grade Picnic
- June 18th- Meet & Greet Day & Preschool Field Trip- Beech Hill Farm
- June 19th- Last Day of School & Assembly

Thanks to the PTO and Bow Elementary School Parents!

We would like to thank the Bow PTO and parents for all of their help in making the 2008-09 school year a success! Many parents purchased magazines during the magazine fundraiser, participated in our membership drive, went to the PTO monthly meetings, and volunteered in the classroom! It was because of the many hours that parents logged volunteering that we were awarded the Blue Ribbon Volunteer Award from the State of NH! We have been recognized for our volunteer efforts for over 20 years! Let’s keep this tradition up for many more years to come.

Some of the fundraisers this year included the annual Ski/Skate Sale, Craft Fair and the first annual Mom’s Night Out where a great time was had by all! If you didn’t attend this year, be sure to check it out next year! You won’t be disappointed!

Because every dollar that the PTO raised goes back into the classrooms, we encourage you to continue to support the PTO thorough our fundraisers and volunteering. Together we truly are building a better school community!

