



Project Schools Teacher Share Meeting

Fifty-three teachers and six administrators participated in the first Project Outreach Teacher Share meeting at the Catholic Center on February 24, 2011. This was the first time all schools have had the opportunity to come together to meet in grade-levels or content areas to share ideas and update each other on how DI is working in their classrooms and schools. Teachers discussed topics such as helpful websites to support student learning and DI, ways teachers have differentiated specific lessons or projects in their classrooms, examples of choices provided in lessons, sample anchor activities, ways to differentiate spelling, using menus to allow choices, ways students can take ownership for their learning by tracking AR progress and diversity of genres on a chart, DOE sample questions, standard report cards, multi-aging, tic-tac-toe boards to allow student choice, using DI to form flexible groups, and using DI to challenge high level learners. This opportunity to network was particularly beneficial to teachers

who lack collaboration with other teachers at the same grade level or content area in their own buildings. In an effort to creatively provide professional development and continue the DI journey as a school, some schools have established partnerships and held joint professional development faculty meetings. This has also promoted collaboration with same grade level or content area teachers among project schools. Some schools have also encouraged teachers to observe or collaborate with teachers from other buildings using the MEO professional development money to cover subs during this collaboration. If your school has not spent your \$130 from MEO yet this year, consider visiting a teacher in another project school. Many great things are going on in our Project Schools and this was an excellent way for teachers to share ideas and network. We plan to offer one share meeting per semester next year, so watch for the dates in future newsletters.

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UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 10 – Teacher Leader Meeting
@ Sts. Peter and Paul
3:30-5:00 P.M.

Apr. 14 – Teacher Leader Meeting
@ Corpus Christi
3:30-5:00 P.M.

Apr. 15 – MEO Tri-State IDOL
@ Clarion Hotel
(Old Holiday Inn on Hwy. 41 N.)
6:00 P.M.

Apr. 19 – Coordinators
@ St. Wendel Faculty Meeting
3:15-4:15 P.M.

SPOTLIGHT ON WEBSITE
FROM PROJECT OUTREACH
COORDINATORS

www.daretodifferentiate.com



MEO Tri-State IDOL Finalists Compete

April 15th @ Clarion Inn – 6:00 P.M.



On Friday, April 15, 2011 Marian Educational Outreach will be hosting the first annual "Tri-State IDOL" benefiting Project Outreach. The Gala will be held at the Clarion Inn (formally Holiday Inn) on Hwy. 41 at 6:00 P.M.

Each Project School is being asked to provide an item or basket for the "luck of the draw" auction. This donation should have a value of \$50 or more.

Thanks!!!!

Remember your school will be identified and recognized at the Gala. Tickets for all teachers from Project Outreach Schools are being offered at a special price of \$40.00.

You can make reservations and vote for your favorite contestant at meoforkids.com or call 402-6700 Ex. 312. Pre-Event votes are \$1 each!

Please email questions to Bev Williamson at bwilliamson@evdio.org

Final contestants are:
(Pictured Left to Right)
Jessica Dughais, Joelle Knight, Lucas Pickleheimer, Sarah Schneider, Kat Shrode and Sarah Tuley.



American Revolution, 5th Grade DI Unit – St. Joe, Princeton

Students from St. Joseph Princeton are working on part of their DI American Revolution project. Students could pick a topic from the Revolution and represent their understanding of the event in their own creative way. Here students are working on a poster that discusses some of the events that led up to the revolution like the Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, and the reasons the colonists were so angered by the Stamp Act. Other students in the class choose different events and we represented these events chronologically on a time line.

This lesson not only teaches the standards in a new creative way but it really gives the students a clear understanding of the Revolution and its purpose. They have all commented on how this is their favorite Social Studies topic so far! Just wait until we do our Civil War Unit (thanks to Mrs. Katrina Martin!).

Submitted by: Mrs. Jessica Michel – St Joe, Princeton



Pictured Above:

Fifth graders at St. Joe, Princeton are working on their American Revolution DI Projects.

If you have any information about what is happening in your school or pictures of some of the work your students have done, please send to the Project Coordinators so that we can include it in the newsletter. It is always educational to see what other teachers are doing!

French Forts, 4th Grade DI Unit – St. Wendel

We study about the French's impact on settling the new frontier. One of their ideas of attaining more land was to improve their relations with the Native American tribes in the Indiana area. The French constructed forts, near waterways to attain trading routes with them. Their 3 main forts - Fort Miami, Fort Ouiatenon, and Fort Sackville- were established and helped ensure trading with the Natives.

Students in Mrs. Cathy Dyson's class studied each of the three forts, researched a particular one, and constructed the forts in groups as part of a class project. The students use many forms of learning in this project -- verbal, tactile, and visual. Students look forward to this project each year, due to the hands-on learning that takes place.

Students learn about biographies during the month of January. They are asked to interview someone they admire, conduct an interview, write a biography, and create a collage of photos from the person's life. Mrs. Dyson models an interview in front of the class before the project begins and shows completed works for the students to refer to as they progress through the assignment. At the end of the month, the students present their final project (biography and collage) to their class and visitors on Parent/Grandparent/Special Person Day of Catholic Schools' Week. The projects hang on display for all to enjoy the rest of the month.

Submitted by: Mrs. Cathy Dyson – St. Wendel



Pictured Above:
Mrs. Dyson's class participates in multiple DI units.

Mystery Festival at Holy Redeemer Research Facility

It appears a crime has been committed at the Holy Redeemer Research Facility. The CSI teams have been called in to collect and process evidence. So the mystery begins.

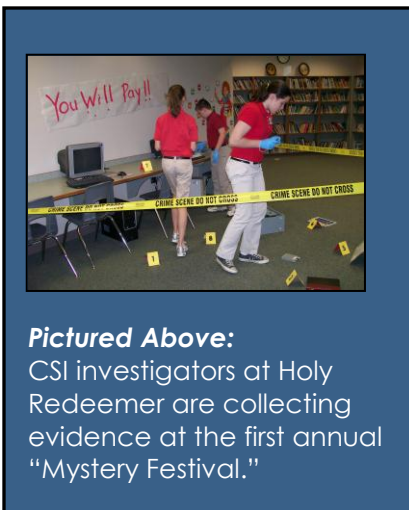
Students and staff at Holy Redeemer became part of an exciting and creative cross-curricular activity during the first annual Mystery Festival during the 2009-2010 school year. The story line was created, along with a cast of suspects and witnesses. The teachers and staff played the characters. The crime scene was set up in the school library and the 6th grade science students became the CSI. Students processed the crime scene, collecting hair, fiber, and blood samples and dusting for fingerprints. Once evidence was collected, students returned to the science lab to test the evidence, interview witnesses and suspects and pinpoint a suspect. The 7th graders became TV news reporters, bringing the school community breaking news reports as the case progressed. The 8th grade students were newspaper reporters.

After all evidence was tested, two "arrests" were made and the case was taken to trial. The 8th graders took on the roles of judge, jury, lawyers and bailiffs. The alleged suspects were found "not guilty".

With the popularity of TV shows such as CSI and NCIS, the project provided a "hook" to involve students in a DI problem solving activity. This project involved not only science skills, but skills such as observation, communication, cooperative group work, writing, inferring, collecting and analyzing data.

The next story line is written, a new cast of characters has been created and the Holy Redeemer staff and students are ready for another mystery!

Submitted by: Karen Dick - Holy Redeemer



Pictured Above:
CSI investigators at Holy Redeemer are collecting evidence at the first annual "Mystery Festival."