

Reading ASSIST[®] Institute January 2011 Tutor Newsletter



STUDENT CENTERED MENTORING

The student centered mentoring initiative has been in place for the first part of the 2010/2011 school year and the response has been positive from volunteers and the mentors! Integral to the student centered mentoring process is the collection and reporting of student progress through the use of DIBELS Progress Monitoring probes. As of this newsletter, please **report** all progress monitoring data **to your team mentor** who will in turn, report the data to the RAI office. This will put the data directly into the hands of the mentor who will be watching student progress and advising the team. (Please note that Kindergarten Intervention students are not progress monitored by RAI at this time.)

Wikipedia defines mentor as: *a trusted friend, counselor or teacher, usually a more experienced person*. Your RAI mentor will be contacting tutors to observe a tutoring session this winter. However, remember that your experienced, trusted friend is there to advise and guide you regarding your students throughout the year.

STUDENT METRICS

For the first time RAI will be including the number of student interventions delivered in a school year as part of the metrics reported to funders, the state of Delaware, and other interested parties. The Early Elementary Intervention Volunteer Teams report the number of tutoring sessions for a student on the Student Report Card and these will be tallied at the end of the school year to compile this metric.

The suggestion was made at a team leader meeting last year to place a number on the student lesson plan as you add it to the team notebook after each tutoring session. The first lesson plan of the year is numbered with a 1 and the next lesson plan added has a 2. When tutoring small groups, the number of sessions will vary per student in the group due to absences. At the end of the year the last number for each student indicates the total number of tutoring sessions. Kindergarten Students do not receive a report card at the end of the year. However, each Kindergarten team will be asked to report the total number of tutoring sessions for each child. Please pay particular attention to the number of interventions per student for this school year!

JANUARY 19 – 20, 2011 RAI E MAIL ACCESS

The new computer server installation originally planned for December has been rescheduled for January 19 – 20. There should be a minimum disruption of service however the staff will have no e mail access beginning at 5:00 pm on January 19 and all day January 20. Any e mails sent to RAI staff during this time may be bounced back to the sender or possibly lost. There may also be a few e mail blips in the following few days. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BUILDING CLOSURES

The Community Service Building will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2011 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and on Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day. Consequently, the Reading ASSIST Office will be closed on these days as well.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS

FYI - The Wilmington RAI Office follows the Red Clay School District closing advisories and the Milford Office follows that of the Milford School District.

BRUSH UP CLASSES

Several **NEW** Brush-Up Classes will be offered in the following months in both the Wilmington and Milford offices. The fall Brush-Up classes closed quickly so be sure to register early. These topics are not to be missed!

Class Name	Description	Dates & Times
Games Workshop	Our students love to play games, but time is of the essence! Join us to discuss the effective use of games to enhance RAPS instruction while maximizing student responses.	Monday, Feb. 7 Wilmington 9:00 – 12:00 Wednesday, Feb. 9 Milford 9:00 – 12:00
Training the Orthographic Processor	How can we help our students better develop their memory for orthographic patterns? Why does this matter? The ability to move beyond sounding out words one grapheme at a time depends on students being able to automatically recognize common letter patterns. This is a necessary step in developing reading fluency. This class will focus on techniques and strategies that will help students become more automatic with the recognition of predictable letter patterns in English words.	Thursday, March 10 Wilmington 9:00 – 12:00 Wednesday, March 16 Milford 9:00 – 12:00
RAPA and Spelling	What does RAPA have to do with Spelling? Students' spelling errors often show us what phonological aspects of language they are having difficulty processing. Join us to analyze students' spelling errors, discuss the phonological connection and the implications for instruction.	Friday, March 25 Wilmington 9:00 – 12:00 Monday, March 28 Milford 9:00 – 12:00

Please call Jeanne DiChiara @ 302-425-4080 or email jeanned@readingassist.org to register.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are a few dates to add to your new 2011 calendars.

April 8, 2011 - RAI Appreciation Luncheon in Wilmington, DE

Another April date to be announced: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Sussex County

May 19, 2011 - RAI Student Party

Look for more information to follow in the February Tutor Newsletter.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A Google search for +volunteer +”New Year’s Resolution” yielded 4,100,000 results. This is one New Year resolution that each of you can be confident to keep!

Sue McGrath

Volunteer Program Manager

Reading ASSIST Institute

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