

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2010-2011

## PINE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Elementary music teacher Jen Hansmann believes that in order for music education to be effective, it should be part of a larger, interdisciplinary study of culture.



Parents and children learn and play together in an ECFFE class. This was also an area of curriculum review this year. The goal is to continue a strong program that is welcoming to fathers as well as mothers. School readiness is a strong component of the early childhood program.



Teacher Becki Brown (standing) will help to implement the new Reading Mastery Signatures Edition of Direct Instruction Reading in the fall of 2011. Pine City has two reading programs, Direct Instruction and Houghton Mifflin; students are placed according to their needs for reading and language arts.



Pine City Elementary students have the opportunity to participate in choir and band beyond their regular specialist music instruction.



As part of this year's music curriculum review, elementary music teachers Joanne Cahill (pictured by the piano) and Jennifer Hansmann attended summer workshops at the Perpich Center for the Arts to study effective implementation of interactive whiteboards in the music curriculum.



2011 is the "International Year of Chemistry." More students than ever are taking chemistry at PCHS. This is partly due to heightened Minnesota Science Standards and also due to the number of 21st Century job opportunities that require more science education.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the elementary implemented the new Houghton Mifflin reading series, and 7-12 English classes got new anthologies. In both cases, the biggest change from past years is the amount of technology that these series contain for both student and teacher use. Also this past year, the district was able to work on an unprecedented number of wellness projects, thanks to grants from Resource Training and Solutions in St. Cloud and the School Health Improvement Project.

Over the summer, many teachers are working on learning how to use interactive whiteboards and

clickers to enrich their curriculum and enhance student participation for all learners. By "back-to-school" time, the district will own about 75 iPads, so staff are also working on ways to use those effectively with students; many will be used to help differentiate instruction for students who need more practice or accelerated work.

During the 2011-2012 year, the district will be doing curriculum review for mathematics, health, and physical education. Parents and community members who would like to be part of this process are invited to call 629-4012 for more information.

\*\*\*Photography by Wes Wiedenroth\*\*\*

### School Improvement Plan 2011-2012

#### ECFFE

- To work with the elementary on a literacy program that would extend from the pre-school years to third-grade
- To increase the amount of parental involvement in ECFFE, particularly among fathers
- To discern and overcome barriers, e.g. transportation, so that even more children and parents can participate in the program
- To work effectively with the increasing number of children who enter the program with severe disabilities

#### Elementary

- To continue to implement the Houghton-Mifflin reading program, particularly the technology components that we have not had previously
- To implement the new Reading Mastery "Signatures" Edition, which is the updated version of Direct Instruction Reading Mastery (This consists of three strands, which more fully meet the MN Standards than the old program-reading, language arts and literature)
- Strengthen number sense and pre-algebra skills in math (one new program for this is a technology supplement called "FASST Math" for grades 2-6)
- Use more technology, e.g. virtual field trips in the elementary science program
- To continue to have the grade level teams use data for instructional decision-making
- To monitor learners through the Problem Solving Team and Unique Learners so no children "fall through the cracks"

#### High School

- To make sure that the new language arts standards are included not only in the reading and English classes but in the content areas as well
- To continue to learn how to effectively use the technology components of the Glencoe anthology series
- Implement the beginning stages of the STEM Program in industrial technology classes in grade 7-9, with more to be gradually added in future years
- Investigate the possibility of starting a science fair at the high school level, with classes and projects leading up to what students would have to be able to know and do
- Improve results for students included in the "Focus on 15%"
- Assist parents by giving them timely and useful information via PlanBook

#### District-Wide

- Have 75 iPads available to teachers to try for the improvement of instruction
- Implement the beginning stages of the Child Nutrition Act in all of our school programs
- Post "Tobacco-Free Zone" signs throughout the school district, including athletic facilities and other school venues
- Continue our efforts to make Adequate Yearly Progress under the NCLB legislation and update when the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is re-authorized
- Participate with other SCRED schools in curriculum review of the mathematics, health and physical education programs

### Senior Survey Class of 2011

Each year the Curriculum Committee surveys seniors with regard to their opinions about their experiences in the Pine City Public Schools. We take what you write seriously for future planning, so we hope that you will be thoughtful and reflective as you complete this survey. We also, as a committee, want to convey that it has been our pleasure to work with you over the years, and we extend sincere best wishes as you complete the final semester of your senior year.

C. Ames, K-12 Curriculum Director

#### 1. How long have you attended public school in Pine City?

- 65 - Since kindergarten
- 12 - Entered Pine City Schools in grade 1, 2 or 3
- 10 - Entered Pine City Schools in grades 4, 5 or 6
- 7 - Went to St. Mary's in elementary and started 7th grade at PCHS
- 12 - Entered PCHS in grade 7, 8 or 9
- 10 - Entered PCHS in grade 10, 11 or 12

#### 2. Did you participate in...

- 95 - The regular PCHS program
- 2 - The senior high area learning center
- 2 - Combination of regular program and senior high area learning center
- 12 - Combination of regular program and post-secondary enrollment

#### 3. Did you think that the high school building was conducive to learning?

- 96 - Yes
- 15 - No

#### 4. Have there been enough courses to meet your needs and interests?

- 93 - Yes
- 15 - No

#### 5. Did staff members generally show encouragement in your learning?

- 103 - Yes
- 6 - No

#### 6. Did you feel that rules and regulations were reasonable and fairly enforced?

- 89 - Yes
- 20 - No

#### 7. Have you received enough help from non-instructional staff when you needed it, e.g. nurse, counselor, school social worker, psychologist, etc.?

- 105 - Yes
- 13 - No

#### 8. Were there adequate extracurricular activities (athletic and non-athletic) available to you?

- 97 - Yes
- 11 - No

#### 9. Do you feel like you were encouraged and helped to stay in school?

- 96 - Yes
- 12 - No

#### 10. Were you given sufficient feedback about your progress and early notification when there were problems in a class?

- 89 - Yes
- 21 - No

#### 11. Were your parents/guardians treated with respect by staff and given the information they needed?

- 103 - Yes
- 10 - No

#### 12. Did you have enough opportunity to learn about local and world issues through your social studies classes, lyceum programs, Mixed Blood Theatre plays, etc.

- 100 - Yes
- 8 - No

#### 13. Do you think that PCHS staff members are sensitive to issues of race, gender, etc., so that our classrooms are fair to all?

- 93 - Yes
- 16 - No

#### 14. Have you received adequate information about educational and career opportunities

- 101 - Yes
- 9 - No

#### 15. Over the past couple years, the school district has added more Advanced Placement and post-secondary education courses. Do you think this is a good idea?

- 106 - Yes
- 4 - No

#### 16. Do you have a part-time job during the school year?

- 71 - Yes
- 38 - No

If "yes," how many hours per week do you work? Avg. 17.5 hrs per wk

#### 17. One of this year's curriculum review areas is music. Have you participated in music in high school?

- 55 - Yes
- 44 - No

If "Yes," were you in: 28 - Vocal, 19 - Instrumental, 16 - Both, 14 - Musical theatre productions

#### 18. Overall how would you rank the music program at PCHS? (Please just answer this question if you have participated)

- 57 - A, 9 - B, 8 - C, 3 - D, 2 - F

### Graduation Report June 2011

#### PCHS graduates 119:

##### Honors

- 15--Summa cum laude
- 6--Magna cum laude
- 6--Cum laude

##### Scholarships

- \$187,700 in local scholarship dollars
- \$1,000,400 outside scholarship dollars
- \$1,188,100 total scholarship dollars

##### Reported Destinations

- 48% 4 year college
- 9% community college

18% technical college

12% college

=87% college

6% work full time

6% military

3% undecided

##### ALC Graduation and Recognition Ceremony:

- 26 students
- 16 seniors from Pine City district
- 3 seniors from area schools
- 7 adult diploma/GED recipients



Unique Learners Coordinator Susan France Weber offers enrichment sessions throughout the year for students who have been identified for Pine City Elementary's Gifted and Talented Program. Generally these children are in the top 3-10 percent of their class.

### 2011-12 Student/Teacher Ratio

Grade	# of Students	# of Sections	# of Students/Class
K	130	6	21.6*
1	131	6	21.8
2	107	5	21.4
3	119	5	23.8
4	115	5	23
5	132	5	26.4
6	115	4	28.7**
<b>TOTAL=849</b>			* estimated ** extra hours for reading & math

### Mission Statement for Pine City Public Schools

The purpose of public education is to help individuals to acquire knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes toward self and others that will enable them to solve problems, think creatively, continue learning, and develop maximum potential for leading productive, fulfilling, career-aware lives in a complex and changing international society.

### Want to Know More About Your Child's Curriculum?

If you would like to look at a book, DVD, or some other curriculum material, you can do that by getting a simple one-page form from any of the principals or curriculum director. If there is something to which you object, you may request a substitute for your child. Should you like to be more involved as a citizen on a more long-term basis in educational

planning, consider joining the district's Curriculum Committee, which meets about nine times per year on Monday afternoons from 3:10 to 4:00 p.m. Call 629-4012 for more information. The meeting schedule is posted on the school website. Curriculum Committee members include:

Dennis Fischer  
Wendy Leibel  
Twylah Teich  
Paul Jackson  
Ilene Sommer  
Peg Skalicky  
Florence Kalenius  
Candy Ames  
Adam Martin

Becky Maki  
Dave Arola  
Stephanie Lorsung  
Mary Anderson  
George Johnson  
Cindy Stolp  
Kim Brubaken  
Joe Wolf  
Joanne Blake

### "I Love to Read Month" Speaker for 2012

Elementary media specialist Jeanne Lundholm has announced that the date set aside for the guest author is Feb. 7, 2012. She is Mary Casanova, and this will be her second visit to Pine City Elementary. Ms. Casanova was awarded the 2010 George Mor-

rison Artist Award "... recognition of her creative contributions to the genre of Young Adult Literature, often celebrating Northern Minnesota, while impacting readers world-wide."

--Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, a division of the Minnesota State Arts Board

