

Bede Buzz Special Edition April 28, 2016 In-Service

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, while the students enjoyed a day of rest, the teachers attended a variety of Professional Development workshops offered by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This special edition of the Bede Buzz provides a snapshot of what the faculty learned about that day to help strengthen their teaching practice and continually improve the educational experience at St. Bede School.

Mrs. Hurley (Preschool): Meaningful Conversations in the Early Childhood Classroom

Dialogic Reading is an interactive technique used to encourage adults to ask questions and engage the child in discussion so they become the teller of the story. I am excited to start using this technique in my classroom where we love to read books everyday.

Mrs. Wallnau (Kindergarten) & Mrs. Truxell (Reading K-2): DIBELS Deep Workshop

DIBELS Deep is a brief diagnostic to identify students falling behind in literacy skills. In the workshop we learned how to administer and score the test, target instruction and monitor progress, and practiced suggested classroom activities, some of which Mrs. Truxell already uses with reading classes and Mrs. Wallnau uses with kindergarten handwriting.

Mrs. Petrarca-Ballog (Grade 1), Mrs. Graves (Grade 3), Mrs. Snatchko (Religion 7-8): How to Deal with the Scourge of Pornography/Christianity in the Middle East

This was a day of prayer and reflection at St. John's Ukrainian Church on the South Side where we enjoyed learning about and experiencing a Ukrainian mass, and hearing from a speaker about Christians in the Middle East.

Mrs. Marks (Grade 2): ALICE Workshop

This was a workshop on keeping all children safe in case of a violent intruder, either outside our school building or inside the building. A - Alert L - Lockdown I- Inform C-Counter E - Evaluate. In this workshop, we were not only given verbal information, but we also acted out many different instances that could occur during the school day.

Mr. Riedel (Grade 4) & Mrs. Kelly (Grade 5): Levels 1 & 2 SMART Notebook Workshop

This workshop was basic training in the use of a SMART board in the classroom. We learned about using the SMART board as aid for instruction, review, and evaluation. The class reviewed the basics of the hardware hook-ups and software requirements. The most informative part of the class focused on using the SMART Exchange (a resource of many, many lessons that other teachers have created and uploaded in just about any subject area you can imagine!) and the use of the gallery and tools section (where you can make lessons using images and text from almost any website). It makes almost any material available to share with students!

Ms. Kozak (Grade 6): The Framework for Teaching: High Quality Questioning and Formative Assessment Strategies

This session focused on using Dr. Norman Webb's Depth of Knowledge levels to formulate questions and to assess student learning formatively.

Mr. Jones (Math 6-8): Rebuilding Computation Skills through Deep Understanding

We discussed the importance of learning the concepts taught in upper-level mathematics not through memorization, but through application to prior knowledge and tying-in new concepts to the ideas students learned in prior grades, all the way back to elementary school. It challenged me to see in my teaching where I rely too heavily on formulas and theorems and give those to students to solve problems, instead of deeply explaining why we use those formulas and why they work. I'm excited to apply what I learned in the workshop to my teaching in the math classroom.

Mrs. Killmeyer (Science 5-8) & Mrs. Miller (Math 3-5): Level 3 SMART Notebook Workshop

This workshop helped teachers who use and are very familiar with the SMART Board SMART Notebook program. We worked with more advanced applications that we were less familiar with. We also learned about the SMART EXCHANGE where teachers can create and share lessons with other teachers. This workshop will help us keep our SMART lessons new and exciting for our students. We will also be able to see, use and share lessons with other teachers.

Ms. Musisko (Art K-8): Lessons in Imagination

All of the art teachers in the diocese met with the Director of the Arts Education Collaborative to go over a new framework they developed for all

schools in the Pittsburgh area. The framework helps organize and scaffold the art curriculum so that skills and concepts build and develop from year to year. It centers around asking "essential questions" and developing "big ideas" which allows students to make connections to other subject areas and to the world around them.

Mrs. Werner (Music K-8): Composition and Improvisation

As an extension to the current music program, I am excited to incorporate some of the improvisation techniques I learned with my students who are learning the recorder.

Mrs. Annichine (Physical Education K-8, Health 5-8): Life Skills Workshop

This workshop provided a complete K-12 curriculum designed to teach children basic life skills - everything from learning how to build a positive-self image to how to effectively communicate with others. The class was very informative, and I am excited to implement this new curriculum into our health classes next year. Each unit comes with a parent letter so you will not only know what the children are learning but also can continue the conversation at home.

Mr. Costello, Mrs. Sene, Mrs. Watkins (World Languages K-8): Unifying Cultures through the study of world languages.

The workshop demonstrated how to address in language classes the relative lack of cultural awareness among students of Elementary, Middle and High School. We reviewed and discussed several strategies and activities that can be used in class and with any foreign languages.