



Project Bridge Newsletter

September, 2003

Family Math and Family Science

Volume 1, Issue 2

Family Math training will take place on Thursday, October 23 in Stokely Mansion. Part of the Family Math and Science program developed by the Equals Program in California and Oregon, these classes are intended to "...promote equity in mathematics and science education for learners in kindergarten through eighth grade" (Partnerships Center).

Family Math and Science classes are hosted by our partner schools and are supported by the Indiana Center for Family, School & Community Partnerships, which provides materials and training. According to the Partnerships Center, "Both Family Math and Family Science highlight the contributions to math and science from many cultures."

Involving parents in their children's education and encouraging students to pursue math and science are two of several goals. "Family Math and Family Science show parents that there is more they can do to help their children with math and science than say, 'Have you done your homework?' or 'How did you do on the test today?'" (Partnerships Center)

Teacher Tips:

Meredith Browand, a second grade teacher at Stout Field Elementary, shares these tips:

- ✓ Send a welcome letter to parents before school begins.
- ✓ Keep parents updated with a weekly newsletter.
- ✓ Ask for parents' advice; let them be the expert on their child.
- ✓ Treat other parents' children the way you would want your children to be treated

Indiana Center for Family, School & Community Partnerships

The Indiana Center for Family, School & Community Partnerships was created in 1997 in response to the "No Child Left Behind" legislation and is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education. The Center's directive is getting families connected with the educational life of their students with an eye toward achievement. The Center has 6 staff members, 2 of whom are bilingual.

The Partnerships Center's multi-pronged approach includes preparing families to understand assessment, the connection between learning at home and in the classroom, and the No

Child Left Behind accountability laws. This is achieved through workshops, consultation, conferences and initiatives. The Center supports Family Math and Science Nights in our partner schools (see article above).

Families in the Latino community can benefit from the Partnerships Center's work, which includes helping parents learn to communicate with teachers and school administration. The Center is sensitive to acculturation differences, and tries to make connections with all populations, particularly in ENL communities.

Specific workshops include literacy, activities for the home that support Family Math and Family Science, and "The Right Question Parent Workshop", which teaches the ability to ask the right questions of school administration to get the best education for children. Jacqueline R. Garvey, Executive Director, states that "Communication is one of the biggest factors in how well parents and teachers are supporting each other."

Ms. Garvey will talk about working with parents from different backgrounds on Sept. 4 (see calendar). Lunch will be provided.

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September 2003

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 School with Mentor Teacher	2 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	3 School with Mentor Teacher	4 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	5 MC Classes 8AM-Noon	6
7	8 School with Mentor Teacher	9 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	10 School with Mentor Teacher	11 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	12 MC Classes 8AM-Noon	13
14	15 School with Mentor Teacher	16 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	17 School with Mentor Teacher	18 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	19 MC Classes 8AM-Noon	20 Fiesta Indianapolis
21	22 School with Mentor Teacher	23 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	24 School with Mentor Teacher	25 MC Classes 8AM-4PM	26 MC Classes 8AM-Noon	27
28	29 School with Mentor Teacher	30 MC Classes 8AM-4PM				

- ✓ September 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 — At school with your mentor teacher
- ✓ September 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24, 30 — Classes at Marian from 8AM-4PM
- ✓ September 5, 12, 19, 26 — Classes at Marian from 8AM-Noon
- ✓ September 4 — Jackie Garvey presents from 8AM- Noon in Marian Room 004 (see article page 1)
- ✓ September 14 — “Gritode Independencia”: Mexico’s Independence Day Celebration at the Indiana State Fairgrounds
- ✓ September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage month
- ✓ September 20 — Fiesta Indianapolis (see Culture Corner on Page 3)

Final Marian Mosaic Workshops in the Summer 2003 Series

The final 2 Marian Mosaic Workshops for Summer 2003 took place on August 5 and 6. August 5’s topic was “Make It Comprehensible for English Language Learners,” and the featured presenters were Julie Majercak, an ESOL Teacher from Craig Middle School, and Andrea Ozegovich, an ESOL teacher from Crestview Elementary.



Cheryl with Mary Spink

working in Haiti. Finally, Suzanne Kamel-Mohamed, of Clarian Health Systems, presented “What Teachers Need to Know about Muslim Students. Also appearing at this workshop was Michael Joseph, a graduate of the first Project Bridge cohort, on steel drums — a wonderful accompaniment during lunch!



Julie Majercak and Andrea Ozegovich

The August 6 topic was “Building Bridges in a Multicultural World.” The first presenter, Mary Spink, is from the International Center of Indianapolis. Valerie Hall, Director of Literacy and a faculty member in the Marian College Department of Education, presented a “Comparison of Schools in Haiti and in the United States,” which was based on her experience



Michael Joseph Performs

Career Planning Means Planning Ahead

According to David Roberts, Director of Marian's Career Services, planning a job search well advance in essential. His top 5 recommendations for beginning this process are:

- 1) Start researching school corporations. Decide where you think you might like to work and collect potential contact information.
- 2) Network. Build relationships with professionals who may be able to open doors later.
- 3) Develop a solid resume. Incorporate things you are doing now, such as student teaching.
- 4) Line up good references. Have

as many professional references as possible, particularly those who can comment on your teaching ability.

- 5) And, perhaps the most important: be patient. As budgets get tighter and teacher hiring gets later, don't get frustrated.

Career Services offers a great deal of assistance in the planning phase of your job search. Help with resume writing and interview skills, tips on job search strategies and even providing job leads are among the services offered. Their employment bulletin on the Marian College website is updated every two weeks. They have 2 computers students can use that have links to

websites containing teacher openings. The Job Fair for Teachers, which will be held on April 21, 2004 at the University of Indianapolis, will have 80-90 school corporations, most from Indiana, interviewing teacher candidates. Career Services can also connect you with Career Fairs across the country.

Stop by Career Services, located in Clare Hall across from the Cafeteria, to inquire about setting up a credential file to be used when you are ready to get your first job. This collection of letters of recommendation, student teaching evaluations, and your college transcripts can be sent anyplace you want it to be during your job search.

Orientation for Mentors and Interns

Orientation for Mentors and Interns was held on August 7 in Stokely Mansion from 10am—4pm. Project Bridge Director Cheryl Hertzner and Marian College President Dan Elsener opened the program. Faculty member Carrie Brouse presented certificates to our newest mentors, and returning mentors were presented with Project Bridge briefcases.

Some of the topics included Traditional Student Teaching



The newest mentors to join Project Bridge

and Mentoring, Building Professional Relationships, Conflict Resolution, the Philosophy of Project Bridge, Habits of Successful Teachers, and What (Mentors) Need to Know.

In addition to the discussion of valuable information, it was an opportunity for mentors and their interns to get acquainted and begin the exciting process of teaching and learning the needs of successful teaching.

Culture Corner

September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage month. You can celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture at Fiesta Indianapolis on Saturday, September 20 at the American Legion Mall and the Veteran's Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis from noon until midnight. Come and enjoy ethnic food, dancing, arts and crafts, booths, and live music. For more information about

the festival, go to <http://www.fiestaindianapolis.org/>.

For ideas about classroom activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, go to the Education World web site at http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson023.shtml, or the Scholastic web site at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hispanic/index.htm>.

Should you say "Hispanic" or "Latino"? For an article that discusses the meanings of these terms, see <http://www.nahj.org/resourceguide/intro2.html>.

"You can celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture at Fiesta Indianapolis."

Project Bridge to Achievement

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Readers, this is your newsletter. We welcome any contributions you wish to make. If you have a news item, a suggestion or a correction, please contact Jenny M. Witcher by phone or email. If you are a mentor or student and would like to volunteer to be profiled in subsequent issues, or if you would like to contribute a "Teacher Tip," please contact Jenny, Carmen Polk or Cheryl Hertzner. Thank you for your interest and participation!

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Info sessions for prospective students

Do you know anyone who would be a good MAT candidate? Then recommend a Project Bridge Information Session! At each session, application packets will be distributed*, the program will be described, and the application and selection process will be explained. Refreshments will be served. Please call Cheryl Hertzner (955-6087) to make a reservation for one of the following dates**, all sessions 6-8 PM in Allison Mansion unless otherwise announced:

- October 22
- November 4
- December 8
- January 14

*All application materials are due on February 1, 2004 to be considered for the 2004-2005 Cohort.

**Additional dates will be added

Intern Profile: Nancy Wamsley

Nancy Wamsley has come full circle in her desire to become an educator. When she started college at Ball State, Nancy was an Education major; she had several friends who were Business majors, and Nancy decided to go into that program instead. She eventually completed 12 years as the manager of a Wal-Mart Department Store.

Gradually, Nancy came to realize that what she enjoyed about her job wasn't the business — it was the people, and she wanted to work more closely with them. She went to work as the Assistant Director of a program at her YMCA that helped local children who were about to be expelled from school. She was frustrated at seeing how much help these children needed, and yet how little useful

help was available. These children were not hopeless — they were smart and needed the right direction to succeed. It was Nancy's experience coaching her son's basketball team that taught her how to provide this direction, and inspired her to return to her original goal of becoming a teacher.

When researching which teacher education program would be right for her, Nancy found Project Bridge. She states that Marian's reputation, the degree being graduate as opposed to undergraduate or certification, and the cohort design led her to choose the MAT program over others. One of the biggest challenges she has faced in the program has been learning Education "language." Sometimes Nancy has herself felt

like, "...the ESL student," but is gradually learning to navigate her courses and assignments.

Nancy's philosophy of education is the same as her philosophy of life: "Everyone wants to do well; sometimes they need the right direction toward good goals and away from bad ones. Eventually things will click, but make sure to have fun along the way!" For Nancy, the most important thing she has learned is that, "It's not about me as a teacher, it's about my teaching affecting the lives of others."

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