

## *Honoring the District's Innovating Spirit*

Honoring the unique collaborative spirit of the Jenks facilities management carpentry team...Terry McGrew and Don Osburn...and their responsiveness to staff requests and needs. So many areas to highlight...the professional development center art frames, the Employee appreciation banquet props and stage sets, the display cases for athletic successes...to name just a few.

One of the innovative connections we want to highlight today is the collaboration that resulted in the raised gardening beds installed here at Grace Living Center...giving the students and residents opportunities to plant and tend the gardens' crops cooperatively and to reap the rewards of harvest!

- They are good listeners .... Taking rough sketches (I think they were on a napkin from a luncheon meeting) and general ideas and developing plans that accommodated resident, student, teacher and weather needs .... wheelchair access, the reach of the students, too much and too little water.
- They are also creative ... building a design that is sturdy, workable, and attractive.

We celebrate the teachers and principal ...Amanda Moore, Katie Privett, Kimberly Harris and Suzanne Lair ... for expanding innovation connections between the students and the residents. We acknowledge the staff and residents of Grace Living Center ... for their openness to the addition of the gardens and support during the summer break.



To Terri Shiplett and Julie Goleman, we recognize your commitment to increasing external and internal customer satisfaction. We honor the specific action plan steps you have taken/are taking:

- The cheerful “hello” as parent customers come into the center,
- The play area and continuous loop DVDs to entertain and engage children,
- The extra support for non-/limited-English-speaking families,
- The collaboration with IT to refine the enrollment process and the student records process...making the processes smoother for parents and students
- The development of a handbook for administrative assistants and administrators at the school sites,
- The planning for training of temporary staff working during the peak enrollment times....mid-June to late September, and
- The more-timely completion of residency investigations.

Celebrating the teacher and administrative team ... Laura Achhireddy, David Beiler, Mike Carney, Josh Engle, Jennifer Henry, Megan Jackson, Philip Jullien, Rachel Langley, Sue Mullican, Rose Pixley, Cara Rathbone, Amy Schepers, and Shelli Temple.... who spent time and energy envisioning the repurposing/redesign of the collaboration spaces in the Math Science building. Their brainstorming and planning resulted in

- a welcoming, flexible workspace on the first floor for all teachers, that accommodates small working groups in a conference setting or more relaxed setting, formal and casual individual work areas, eating and gathering areas, and access to professional /literature resources.
- a new Robotics workspace on the second floor that is equipped with professional grade equipment/tools, a working computer lab area, ample storage and floor space for our Robotics students who previously worked out of a storage closet.



To Dan Zielinski, Director of the JPS Planetarium..... we recognize your creativity and expertise in going beyond traditional approaches to Planetarium programming.

- With the Sistine Chapel show.... Giving students opportunities to zoom in on the images of the ceiling painted by Michelangelo and experience it as if they were in live in Rome.
- With the lesson connections for the Earth and Space science course and 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science standards that not only provide rich learning for students, but also spark lots of questions that lead to many student-developed inquiry investigations.
- With the current project with the children's book that has required perseverance and multiple action steps....copyright permissions, creation of the story line adapting the book to the dome format, audition interviews and selection of actors and narrators, creation of the show, development of a marketing vision, and planning for pre- and post-viewing discussion and activity extensions.

Congratulations to Mary Gerlach, Site Administrative Assistant at the Middle School, for her Innovative work with Excel to accelerate secondary scheduling, making it more timely and more accurate. This Innovation literally saves hundreds of hours of volunteer and employee time, reduces errors often associated with large amounts of data entry, and makes course request information available to principals in a much shorter time frame. In innovating for this scheduling improvement, Mary worked closely with Billy Bejcek (IT) and Jim Cooper (JFA).





Recognizing Linda Reid, Emily Copsey, Whitney Bennett and the site PTA, Catrina Thomas, and Paige Anderson for their leadership in INNOVATING the recognition assembly and the character medals that acknowledge students involved in community service projects and honor students who demonstrate one or more of the district's core values. This Lightbulb Innovation Award honors their commitment in making the assemblies a meaningful school culture experience for students and staff. It also gives tribute to the partnership with the PTA, who funded the purchase of the character medals.

Congratulations to our awesome Child Nutrition staff for their "What Makes a Lunch?" signage/education innovation. The creative use of the posters and the food item tags identifies meal components in clear and simple ways, and makes meal pattern guidelines easy for students to understand. The Light bulb Innovation Award recognizes the collaborative effort and expertise of the department that built a unique way of meeting a USDA requirement and promoting health and wellness for students and staff members.



Peers with Purpose, led by 6th grade teachers Sarah Miller, Chelsea Brown, Sandy Lundak, Pam DuPont and Beau Keener matches special education students with regular education students, providing opportunities to develop friendships before moving into middle school. Peers join together in community service projects, read together, and often eat lunch together. They also participate in joint outings throughout the year...often enjoying a high school basketball or baseball game. Through this innovative support, teachers have noticed an increase in awareness and confidence among the peers.



Congratulations to Suzanne Cyrus for the "SPARK" that led to creation of the Action-Based Learning Physical Education, an innovation connecting physical activity and growth in student learning. Suzanne used her physical education expertise, specialized training in brain-based learning, and collaboration with Rebbie Wale, Heather Weilacher, and Jim Cooper to persevere in finding space, gathering resources, managing scheduling details, and communicating with families, all to make the ABLLE become a reality and a success for improved student learning. An innovation for the coming school year increases options for students to enroll in the class prior to the hours for their hardest subjects. The Lightbulb Innovation Award honors this unique way of meeting

student learning needs. As a result of this innovation, Action-based Learning Labs are currently in place at East Intermediate, Southeast Elementary, and West Elementary and in the works for two additional sites.

Congratulations to Jennifer Daves and Susan Petreikis for innovating a process for sorting through and evaluating the literally thousands of educational apps available for learning. Their commitment to developing a process for review helped ELD staff members identify engaging, high-quality instructional APPS that meet the learning needs of English language learners.



An innovation for culture and climate at EI is the Trojan Tough 5K and Fun Run, created as a community outreach event and aimed at promoting team building and healthy living. This Lightbulb Innovation Award honors the year-long planning work spearheaded by Linda Reid, Kay Lynn Osborn, Sarah Miller, Sarah Kromer, Peggy Morrow, and PTA president, Whitney Bennett to make the run a successful event. Classes competed for most participants and families joined in and participated...as a result over 750 registered for the run. Proceeds from the event support Jenks Wild participation and other student and staff needs.

Kathy McDonald is recognized with an Innovation Award. She was instrumental in bringing Milo, a trained and registered therapy dog, to the counseling services and supports provided at JEI. Milo, a 3-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, is on campus three days a week; his presence supports development of a quick rapport with students.



Recognizing Michelle Courtwright, Elle Fowler, Alicia Gillean, and Brenda Wilson for their Innovative Leadership in developing the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade After School Science Club where students take on the important work of monitoring the water in the creek that runs through the school's property.



Their data collection results are tracked and analyzed to monitor the health of the school's creek; data are also used to help the state conservation departments locate and stop pollution sources in communities across Oklahoma.

Teachers partnered with Blue Thumb to receive training and mentoring in environmental observations, consistent and accurate water sample collection and chemical testing, and safety procedures.



The Lightbulb Innovation Award recognizes the collaborative effort of the teachers in building this authentic, hands-on experience for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who have a deep interest in science and an unquenchable curiosity about the world around them. Recognition also goes to the Blue Thumb volunteers who partner in this endeavor.

Another innovation at JEI is the Backpack Program. Recognition was given to Cindy Leroy, Rhonda Wells, and Stephanie Kennedy for their Innovating vision in developing a Backpack Food program for student and families experiencing needs. Each week they organize and distribute the donated boxes of food items, so each student in the program loads a backpack for weekend meals. The program distributes bags of food to over 170 students each week. With the leadership and organizational skills of Cindy, Rhonda, and Stephanie, students leave class only 10 minutes early to get through the backpack line and onto to their buses.



“Tasty Tuesdays” also involves food and the Lightbulb Innovation Award was given to Kirstin Fishback, Barbara Ann Shelly, Lacey Wilson, Aaron White, Sheryl Dunbar, and Dustin Cherry for innovating this opportunity for students with disabilities to apply math and language arts standards in the development of a service business. With the guidance of their teachers, students develop menus, advertise items for sale, track and make weekly bar graphs of items sold, keep a checking register, count and make change, and greet and serve customers. “Tasty Tuesdays” has offered a rich opportunity for students to build academic skills as well as communication and social skills. It also creates tasty meals for the guests they serve!

