



CURRICULUM CORNER

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Department of Instruction & Professional Development

Literacy Highlights by Dr. Evans

This month, I want to highlight the work in the district that has been done with literacy. While this is an area that has always been important to us, legislation and our internal efforts have shored up many things.

First, the RTI teams at the elementary level have had a very steep learning curve due to the dyslexia laws in Ohio. While we have always screened with Acadience (formerly DIBELS), and have used this three times during the year for benchmarking, this assessment is now also serving as our dyslexia screener. The assessment has many, many years of research behind it (when I was at the Ohio Department of Education in the early 2000s we were using it across the state in the literacy program I managed) and is used all across the nation for screening, benchmarking, and progress monitoring purposes.

In our work with assessment and literacy, we recognized a few things. The first was that in some cases, our interventions were not specific enough. After all our K-3 teachers completed Orton Gillingham last year, there was much conversation about this. The second revelation to us was that there was a deficit in the field for assessments that allowed us to monitor progress with very specific phonics skills based on the syllable types. After having Tim Rasinski here last fall for PD, the literacy coaches and I asked him if he would be interested in writing an assessment with us. He

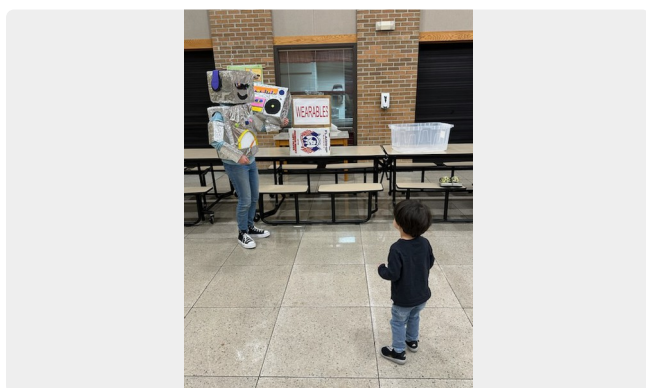
said, "Absolutely!" We involved two University of Akron professors from the Center for Literacy and we developed the Diagnostic Phonics Assessment and Progress Monitoring. This assessment has a full diagnostic for phonics skills that can be given as a Level 2 assessment for dyslexia, but also, there are ten progress monitoring probes for each of the syllable types and skills students must acquire to move through the full phonics continuum they must acquire to be successful readers. This affords us the opportunity to measure the very specific interventions the RTI teams are now identifying for students. It's gratifying to see the growth in students and to know that we have all our assessments aligned in a way that wasn't possible before this year. We are hoping that after we complete a study at the end of the year we can establish the validity of this assessment and make it available in a wider way to the field. It's been tremendously helpful to us and we think others would benefit from it too.

Finally, in an effort to increase our knowledge and skills, the coaches and I as well as Kristen Rodkey have been doing a book study with a book recommended by the chair of the Ohio Dyslexia committee. It is helping us think through the instructional issues we are wrestling with to best serve the needs of all of our students.

Needless to say, there are a lot of things happening in the area of literacy that afford great learning adventures for many of us. I'm thankful for our phenomenal literacy coaches and the tremendous work our RTI teams are doing in this important area. While it isn't the only great work happening in instruction, it seems we spend part of every day on it and I felt you might be interested in knowing more about the work happening.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and/or friends and I hope that you can pause and take a break over the upcoming holiday.

Cardboard Challenge Creations



Did an 80's Robot Come to Jam With Their Boombox?



A little Mario anyone?



Halloween has arrived - Say Hello to Jack



Principals Mr. Brady & Mr. Shalala interviewing the crafty creators

NOVEMBER PD DAY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - CHRISTOPHER MILO





Encourage Students to Thrive at What they Love and are Passionate About



Who's Your Christopher?

SPOTLIGHT ON A VARIETY OF PD SESSIONS



**Jacinda Yonker -
Supporting Social-
Emotional Learning in
Gifted Learners**



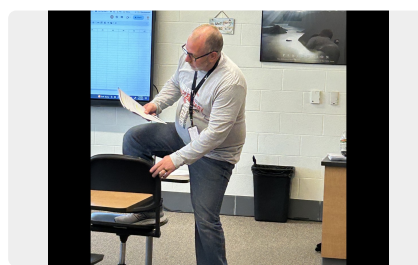
**Phil Luthman - Safe &
Secure in Tech-Rich
World**



**Dr. Michele Evans -
Creating Sensory
Gardens**



**Betsy Petit - Preparing
your Library for Units of
Study**



**Principal, Chris Roberts -
RIMPS**



**Georgia Terovalas &
Susan Jamison - Multi-
Language Learners**



Focused on Writing WEPS



Did somebody say lunch?

A Word from our Technology Specialists Elizabeth Davis & Jeff Marini

Technology Integration in the Classroom

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want to express how grateful we are for all of you welcoming us into your classrooms. Getting to know you better and working alongside you is not only creating a supportive and innovative community but is also paving the way for new learning opportunities and ideas for us all. Your curiosity and willingness to try new technology is, and will continue to be a positive impact on our students.

One of the best parts of being a technology integration specialist is visiting your amazing classrooms. We are lucky to see all of the different things you all do to make learning a wonderful experience for our students. We would like to highlight a few of our teachers who are making the most of the technology in their classrooms.

Abbey Martin (grade 7 math) is using the Lynx Whiteboard software to its fullest in her class. Her interactive whiteboard skills are on point and so are her students' math skills!

We are so excited for the entire 2nd grade team at Lincoln Elementary including Tricia Claypool, Autumn Reeves, and Ann Marie Cooper for bringing coding into their classrooms!

Check out this month's newsletters! [K-6](#), [7-12](#).

Finally, Hour of Code 2023 is December 4-10 this year. [Code.org](#) now has over 700 resources ready for classroom use! Check out the link by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact Elizabeth or Jeff. edavis@wadsworthschools.org or jmarini@wadsworthschools.org



Dana Berlin

Dana is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

