



February Dates

Thu-Fri, Feb. 25-26
The Breakthrough Coach
Eastwood Manor, Bronx

March

Wed., March 3, 12:30-4:30
AP CFG at AED

Thurs., March 4, 4:00-5:30
Teaching Higher Order
Thinking Skills in Literacy with
Laura Rigolosi
MS 390

Tuesday, March 9, 4:30-6:30
Instructional Rounds Study
Group and Book Talk (Part 1)
PS 125

Wed., March 10, 9:00-3:00
Social/Emotional Learning:
Planning for Implementation
and Support at AED

Tuesday, March 16, 4:00-7:00
Literacy Symposium and
Sharefair
F&G Pine Restaurant

Fri.-Sat. March 19-20
Improving Student
Achievement Through Teacher
Observation and Feedback
Tarrytown House

Tuesday, March 23, 4:00-5:30
Planning for Rigorous
Instruction

Wed., March 24, 12:00-4:00
Network Meeting

AED

100 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212-367-4594
E-mail: info@middlestart.org

www.middlestart.org

Dear Partners,

It was truly invigorating for the AED team to have the opportunity to work with you and your school teams this past weekend at our Winter Retreat. We know it is so important to be able to have time, space, and support to continue to plan creatively around how to best support our students in their individual and group success. We are thrilled so many of you came together for this retreat; we were truly inspired by the focus, enthusiasm, and spirit of collaboration and professional practice each of the teams brought to the work.

In an effort to continue to support your needs with quick follow-up, we would like to highlight three specific supports:

- In our feedback forms several participants suggested that we conduct additional professional development sessions that explores the subject of student conduct and grading through the ISIS data. We thought this was a great suggestion and we will be schedule a follow-up workshop this spring.
- Please reach out to Patrice if you have questions about the accuracy of data in your early indicator reports (ISIS) and or would like an individual technical assistance visit.
- I am glad that we had the opportunity to begin to discuss the development of our Children First Network (CFN). I will keep you updated as the staffing plan emerges. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions and ideas that you might have. AED is excited about the CFN work and believe that it will contribute to our ability to support you and your schools.

If I do not speak with you beforehand I hope that you have a wonderful winter break.

In Partnership,

Calvin and the AED PSO Team



Staff members from some AED PSO Network schools attending the retreat at the Chateau Resort in Tannersville, PA



AED PSO Support Services – February 2010

Malachie Pentacost The Breakthrough Coach

Thursday-Friday, February 25 and 26, 8:00-4:00

Eastwood Manor (3371 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10469, www.eastwoodmanor.com)

***** March 2010 *****

AP Critical Friends Group

Wednesday, March 3, 4:00-5:30

AED (100 5th Ave. at 15th St., 8th Floor, NYC)

Teaching Higher Order Thinking Skills in Literacy: A Workshop with Laura Rigolosi

Thursday, March 4

MS 390 (1930 Andrews Ave., Bronx, NY 10453)

Instructional Rounds Study Group and Book Talk (Part 1) (PSO and MSLP Principals)

Tuesday, March 9, 4:30-6:30

IS 125 (1111 Pugsley Ave., Bronx, NY 10472)

Social/Emotional Learning: Planning for Implementation and Support

Wednesday, March 10, 9:00-3:00

AED (100 5th Ave. at 15th St., 8th Floor, NYC)

Literacy Symposium and Sharefair

Tuesday, March 16, 4:00-7:00

Francisco & Giovanni Pine Restaurant (1913 Bronxdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10462)

Improving Student Achievement through Teacher Observation and Feedback

Tuesday, March 19 and 20, 9:00-3:00

Tarrytown House (49 E. Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown, NY 10591, www.tarrytownhouseestate.com)

Planning for Rigorous Instruction: Lesson and Unit Planning for New Teachers

Thursday, March 23, 4:00-5:30

Location: TBD

Network Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 12:00-4:00

Location: TBD

**** Coming this spring ***
Youth Conference in Washington, DC*



Please register the participants you will be sending to each workshop with Aurelia Enache at: aenache@aed.org
Questions? Call 212.367.4575

Reminders

Updates on Periodic Assessments

Feb. 4 – Feb. 12

Visit the [Periodic Assessment team's Web site](#) for the latest updates on Periodic Assessments and links to [free professional development opportunities](#). Here's what's important this week:

- The [grade 3–8 Acuity Predictive](#) administration (**January 21–February 5**) memo is available on the Periodic Assessment Web site. Schedule your material pickup by **February 4** by calling Assessment Distribution Services (ADS) at (800) 840-9965.
- The Performance Series SIP score was replaced by the Unit Score Range (USR) on February 1. Visit the [ARIS Periodic Assessment Community](#) for updated memos and FAQs on the USR or [register for a live Webinar](#) to learn more about this enhancement.
- High schools can [register for training](#) on using PSAT data. Trainings will provide a review of existing reports, examine the new item skills report (available starting February 1 in each school's private ARIS community), and help participants determine instructional next steps. All schools participating in the PSAT Data Pilot must attend a session.
- Both the [ECLAS-2 administration](#) (**January 4–February 12**) and the E-PAL administration materials are due to ISCs by **February 12**. An [ECLAS-2 and E-PAL FAQ](#) about the answer documents for these assessments is available on the Periodic Assessment Web site.

Give Feedback on Proposed Changes to Progress Reports

Over the next six weeks, you are invited to provide feedback on the proposed changes to Progress Reports for 2009-10. Based on your feedback, final changes to the Progress Reports for 2009-10 will be announced in March.

For more information about the proposed changes, please review:

- This [letter to principals](#) introducing proposed changes to accountability tools.
- Proposed changes to the [Elementary/Middle/K-8](#) Progress Reports.
- Proposed changes to the [High School](#) Progress Reports.

To learn more about and give feedback on the proposed changes, R.S.V.P. to attend a [feedback session](#) or e-mail PR_Support@schools.nyc.gov.

2010-11 Register Projections Timeline

Please work with your Network Leader as you begin to develop your instructional plans for next year, particularly related to your special education program and services that your current students will require. Beginning this year, the Office of Portfolio Planning is responsible for projecting each school's register for the upcoming school year. Portfolio will be working closely with your Network Leader throughout the projections process and will be relying on him/her for information regarding your intended programming. The register projections timeline is as follows:

- February 23-March 9: Initial projection principal review period.
- March 10-April 9: Review of principal comments and requests for review.

New Guidance for State Math Test Format and Covered Content

Because the State's ELA & Math Tests for grades 3-8 are later this year, additional performance indicators will be assessed as indicated with an asterisk in [Grades 3-8 Mathematics Testing Program Guidance](#). Schools are expected to cover the additional performance indicators prior to the State Math Test in May; please work with your teachers to ensure that curriculum sequencing is aligned with the May administration of the test. Please review on the [Principals' Portal](#) additional information regarding changes in this year's testing. If you have questions, contact testadministration@schools.nyc.gov.

New Tool to Evaluate Results of State ELA Exams

A new tool is available to evaluate the results of the 2009 NYS ELA exams in grades 3-8 and assist in data-driven instruction. This easy-to-use tool enables teachers, principals, and administrators to get detailed information on the performance of every class, school, network, and district on every item on the NYS ELA exams by making selections from a few drop-down boxes. Hotlinks are provided to see the actual exam questions with the associated performance indicator. Numerous graphical

views of the data allow comparison of scores with school/city averages for each item. The data file and more information is available [on this Web site](#). For further information, please e-mail ela@schools.nyc.gov.

Respect for All Week March 8-12

To continue to focus our collective attention on Respect For All, the Chancellor has designated **March 8-12, 2010** as Respect For All Week in all NYC public schools. The importance of promoting respect for diversity in our daily practice is vital to creating and sustaining inclusive school climates and cultures in each of our schools, so that all students feel valued, supported and safe. The goals of Respect for All Week are to continue to raise awareness of Respect For All, to provide schools with an opportunity to focus meaningful learning around the issues of respect for diversity and the prevention of bias-based behavior, and to connect Respect For All to our larger instructional efforts. During this week, you will have the opportunities to highlight and build upon ongoing diversity programs and curriculum-based instruction, and to embark

upon new initiatives and projects that promote respect for diversity and engage students in meaningful lessons and/or other activities that focus on preventing bias-based harassment, intimidation and/or bullying.

Resources, including sample lesson plans and Web sites that offer free curricular resources, have been posted on the [Principals' Portal](#). The Office of School and Youth Development (OSYD) will continue to add resources, including suggested activities, both on the [Principals' Portal](#) and the [OSYD intranet](#).

Please engage your school community (students, staff, parents, School Leadership Team, Respect For All Liaison(s) and community-based partners) in planning and implementing instructional and/or other activities during Respect For All week and communicate your plans with your Network Leaders so that best practices can be shared electronically among schools citywide. A celebration will be held later in the school year to showcase outstanding school programs.

If you have questions regarding Respect For All Week, please contact your network leader or Connie Cuttle at 212-374-6834 or Ccuttle@schools.nyc.gov.

More pictures from the Network Leadership Team Retreat on Feb. 5-6, 2010

