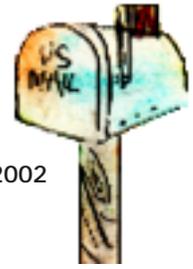


Staying in Touch

News from the Center for School Change in Rural Minnesota

Oct. 2002



What's new?

A newsletter, a handbook, staff changes

Folks who attended Center for School Change workshops often reported that they valued opportunities to share experiences and learn from one another.

Staying in Touch is all about sharing experiences and learning from one another.

CSC staff members hope this short monthly newsletter will be a place to pass around ideas and promote good practices, as well as an opportunity to feature and celebrate rural Minnesota schools.

To suggest ideas for stories, please contact one of the CSC outreach coordinators in rural Minnesota – Terri Anderson (218-473-2686/tanders@tvutel.com) or Vicki Nelson (218-326-9044/vickinel@lcp2.net).

Schools and Communities Working Together

A school reform handbook based on the work of rural schools and communities that received Center for School Change grants between 1991 and 2001 was published in July.

Topics include guidelines for planning and publiciz-

ing school change projects, descriptions of grant sites and a wealth of rubrics and lesson ideas contributed by teachers and consultants.

Copies were mailed to principals in public schools throughout Minnesota and to contacts at the 20 schools that worked with CSC beginning in 1996. The book may be purchased through the CSC office (612-626-1834) or downloaded for free at the Web site www.centerforschoolchange.org.

Terri Anderson and Vicki Nelson are available to visit with school or community organizations that would like to learn more about the ways schools and communities can work as allies.

The Rural Staff

Vicki Nelson rejoined the CSC staff July 1 to work with Terri Anderson in rural Minnesota.

Their work plan for months ahead includes additional promotion of the *Working Together* handbook, providing technical support to former CSC sites and reaching out to new communities interested in developing school change projects.

Helpful Resources

The Minnesota Council on Foundations offers information for grant seekers, including a free weekly e-mail newsletter, *Minnesota Giving E-News*, through its Web site, www.mcf.org.

In addition to providing links to a number of nonprofit organizations throughout the state, MCF shares tips for individuals and organizations preparing grant requests.

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What Kids Can Do is an upbeat Web site that includes stories about students involved in project-based learning. The site also offers free e-mail updates for interested readers. Check out www.whatkidscando.org.

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The Center for School Change maintains a Web site through the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs. Information about current programs – as well as downloadable copies of CSC reports – may be accessed at www.centerforschoolchange.org.

Honoring Volunteers

Last school year, Falls Elementary School, International Falls, Minn, honored many of its volunteers by placing a large heart with the words "We love our volunteers!" near the school's entry.

Inside and around the heart staff members posted sheets of paper filled out by the volunteers or by children from the school. The forms included photos contributed by the volunteers.

Principal Jerry Hilfer says the display not only recognized the many people who contributed

time to the school, but also created a nice way for students and teachers to identify new faces they were seeing in the halls.

Thank You for Volunteering!

Put a photo of the volunteer here.

A list of favorites:

- Food
- Animal
- Hobby
- Music Group
- TV Show
- Movie
- Place to Visit

Great news!

North Shore Community School, rural Duluth, Minn., received the Duluth-Superior Foundation's annual Touchstone Award Oct. 2

The award, which included a \$5,000 check, honored NSCS for its exemplary commitment to including elders, children, parents, teachers and community members in the life of the school. Parts of the school's *Roots in the Past, Seeds for the Future* program included classroom activities, celebrations, community tours and a book about local history.

A part of the Lake Superior School District until the end of the 2001-02 school year, NSCS now operates as a public charter school.

Published by the Center for School Change in Rural Minnesota, Staying in Touch provides a monthly connection between CSC and rural school sites. Material is prepared for publication by rural outreach coordinators Terri Anderson and Vicki Nelson. Copies are available by mail or at the CSC Web site, www.centerforschoolchange.org. Please send comments or questions to Vicki Nelson at 37848 Deer Lake Way, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 or vickinel@lcp2.net.

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