
FUEL YOUR MIND

Naperville Community Unit School District 203

Naperville, Illinois

This year the District Parent Involvement End-of-Year Celebration focused on the theme *Fuel Your Mind*. The evening's informal dinner event spotlighted the good work of the school communities through poster board displays of building activities and the district's annual Best Practices booklet.

Each school received a large piece of foam board to create a display of partnership activity artifacts (programs, pictures, and other items). The final montage represented the school's work during the year to improve student success by involving families and the community. Displays were due two weeks before the celebration.

Schools also received a Best Practice form to complete. As in previous years, each school selected one partnership practice to highlight. The Action Team for Partnerships provided information about how the practice connected to a school improvement goal; how it was organized; the practice's results; and the types of involvement included. The linking of partnership activities and school improvement goals was clearly evident in this year's practices. The completed Best Practice forms were due three weeks before the celebration so that they could be compiled into a booklet for distribution.

The District Parent Involvement End-of-Year Celebration took place at Scott Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. After a walk through the Gallery of School/Family/Community Partnership Accomplishments and a concert by the school's World Music Ensemble, dinner and networking between schools started. A recap of the year and a discussion of plans for the future followed.

The evening was a powerful representation of schools and community in partnership. Scott Elementary School staff, students, and parents helped make the celebration a success. Assistance from a local hotel and photographer also made the end-of-year event memorable.

This is an important district leadership activity that provides the opportunity for schools to celebrate their successes and share their challenges and solutions to family and community involvement. The annual best practices collection provides useful activities that can be

implemented throughout the district. The district also shares the best practices with the National Network of Partnership School so that they can be considered for the National Network's annual collection. Partnership activities from the district are then shared nationally. This is an excellent way to spotlight our schools' and district's successes.

Mary Ann Bobosky, Director of Planning and Community Relations
(630) 420-1066