

# READINESS-TO-LEARN SUCCESS

## PROGRAM BEGINS THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The SUCCESS Program is entering year three of a four year Readiness-to-Learn Grant awarded by the state of Washington through The Office of The Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Program has been designed to provide new services and methods of supporting students experiencing difficulty with attendance, behavior, or grades. The program involves the following components:

### SUCCESS Teams

Success Teams were developed to encourage multi-disciplinary team problem solving to find solutions for kids having trouble in school. The Success Team concept is evolving differently at each of the four schools in the district. Lake Spokane Elementary has created an "on-call" team that would meet only when a referral is made. Nine Mile Elementary is looking to utilize existing members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team and add a Success Team component that includes additional teachers. Lakeside Middle School and Lakeside High School have created Student Support Boards, who meet with and develop an individualized plan for student's most at risk for dropping out of school. The Board then follows a student until graduation.

## Behavior Intervention Educators and Graduate School Social Work Students

**Behavior Intervention Educator Jill Cutler** is at Nine Mile Elementary, and **Bea Rice** works at Lake Spokane Elementary with a goal of helping students learn new skills in conflict resolution, meeting and playing with peers. Both are involved in developing Peer Mediation in the 5th and 6th grades, handling individual conflict mediation situations and running structured recess. During the 95/96 school year both will help survey staff in developing school social skills' groups.

**Graduate School Social Work students from Eastern Washington University Gigi Langer and Jason Thompson** are doing 20 hours a week, year-long internships in the district. **Gigi** will be at Lake Spokane Elementary, **Jason** at Nine Mile Elementary. Both will be a resource for staff and will be helping develop a Peer Mediation Program at Lakeside Middle School this year.

### Family Advocate

In addition to coordinating all aspects of the Readiness-to-Learn Project and supervising the Behavior Intervention Educators and Social Work Interns, **Family Advocate Bob Cameron** is utilized in many different

ways by the district. He is a resource for families, making home visits where he helps identify family needs and possible resources to meet them. He can provide short term in-home counseling to resolve family distress caused by school problems. Bob can also act as a liaison and Case Manager for family and school, helping to coordinate the problem-solving process for some students identified as having difficulty in school. He is a resource for the MDT's and Success teams in all four district schools.

Bob also represents the school district on several groups in Spokane and Stevens County, including Breakthrough, Spokane Health District Adolescent Health Consortium, Spocan Council, Suicide Prevention Task Force, and Inappropriate Youth Activity Consortium in Colville. Bob's main reason for involvement in these groups are to network and identify potential resources for the district.

### Family Resource Center

You can now call Jan at Lakeside High School, 466-1131, if you have any questions or need information about local, Spokane, and Stevens County resources. A file full of information about service agencies, and articles about issues such as parenting, substance abuse, and many other concerns is now available for mailing to parents at their request. A phone directory of local resources is being published, and Jan or Family Advocate Bob Cameron is available to help you find the information you need.

## District SUCCESS Team

Families that present extensive or multiple challenges who have exhausted the resources of building teams can meet with the District Success Team. Meeting monthly for the past year and facilitated by Family Advocate Bob Cameron, this team of staff members from community service agencies in both Spokane and Stevens Counties pool their collective expertise and diverse resources to devise an action plan to assist individual students and family. Family members confidentially participate in these staffings, and referrals to agencies have resulted. Agencies have an opportunity to learn more about each other and needs of the district during these staffings.

## District SUCCESS Advisory Team

New during the 95/96 school year will be the formation of a District Success Advisory Team. Meeting four times during the school year and comprised of service agency and school district decision-makers, the team will work to identify areas where school and service agencies can develop joint projects and identify ways to better provide service to the Nine Mile Falls School District Community, it's kids and families.

If you have any questions about the SUCCESS Program, you can contact Readiness-to-Learn Coordinator **Bob Cameron** at 466-1131.

preview college life and ask questions about represented institutions. Contact Mrs. Mizoguchi at 466-1131 for more information.



*Lake Spokane News Forum  
Sept 22, 1995*

## Project brings 'Success' to Nine Mile Falls S.D.

By Bob Cameron

Ten-year-old Jeremy's struggles in school highlight the benefits of an exciting new "Success" program at rural Nine Mile Falls S.D. This Readiness to Learn project brings sorely needed services to the district and is responsible for the development of new relationships with community service providers that will benefit students. Located just 15 miles outside Spokane, mountains, a lake, and only one main access road isolate the community and present challenges to students and families needing assistance.

Jeremy couldn't get along with his classmates, and his grades were suffering. His teacher referred him to the newly formed building Success team. The multi-disciplinary team provided a comprehensive assessment and plan tailored to Jeremy's needs, and a family advocate initiated home visits and became a resource and case manager for mom, struggling as a single parent. The intervention specialist at school invited Jeremy to participate in her social skills group, which provides opportunities for Jeremy to develop better relationships with youngsters his age. She also coordinated a peer mediator program, which teaches Jeremy and other students how to resolve their own conflicts as they occur.

Due to the complicated nature of Jeremy's difficulties at school and home, referral was made to the district Success Team, a group of agency service providers that is a resource for building Success teams. Jeremy's mom received support and an offer of help from one of the agencies represented. Jeremy's potential to run away from home was identified and a social service agency agreed to provide an outreach counselor to work with Jeremy and other students at risk for running away.

The coordinated effort of program providers seems to be having a positive impact on Jeremy and his family. He's getting along better with the other kids at school. Mom doesn't feel so alone and overwhelmed. The school staff feels that just maybe they caught another troubled student before it was too late.

For additional information, contact me at 509/466-1131 or fax 509/466-3182.

*Bob Cameron is family advocate, Nine Mile Falls S.D.*

### Washington Blue Ribbon Schools

Nominated in March for the National Blue Ribbon Secondary School Recognition Program were:

ACES Alternative H.S. (Mukilteo S.D.), Capital H.S. (Olympia S.D.), Cedarcrest H.S. (Riverview S.D.), Inglewood Jr. H.S. (Lake Washington S.D.), John McLoughlin Mid. Sch. (Pasco S.D.), Lakeridge Jr. H.S. (Sumner S.D.), Shorewood H.S. (Shoreline S.D.), and Wenatchee H.S. (Wenatchee S.D.).

The schools honored have demonstrated critical leadership in parental involvement programs and integrating technology into instruction. A national review panel will study and visit the nominated schools; award winners will be announced spring 1996.

For details, call Chris McElroy, program administrator, School Improvement and Recognition Programs, 360/753-6760.

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