



## **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in our Elementary Schools**

Over the course of the 2011-2012 school year, a group of educators from Barrie, Luther, Purdy, and Rockwell Elementary Schools met to discuss how we can get the most out of our instructional day and how to make all learners feel welcome, safe, and connected to our learning community. All educators within this group noted that we are very fortunate to work with outstanding students and families. We also noted that even though we have supportive families and enjoyable students, we often face common challenges in each of our four elementary schools.

One of the challenges that we consistently face in each of our elementary learning communities is that we lack a consistent process on how we track our data for behavioral challenges. It was clear that each of our elementary schools experiences some level of behavioral and social challenges. It was also clear that there was no consistency in how these challenges are being documented. Due to this fact, there is no way for a core group of educators in each building to review behavioral data. In other words, each building could not determine in any given month which behavioral challenges occurred the most, where they occurred, when they occurred, and if certain students were struggling more than others.

Another challenge that our group of educators noted was the fact that despite our best intentions, staff sometimes had different expectations for the same group of students. We also noted that sometimes staff used different terminology when describing the same expectation. The bottom line is that we were not only lacking common expectations for all of our students, but we were also lacking common language to describe these expectations.

Based on these needs, our group was able to conduct site visits to other schools in the state who were implementing behavioral and social expectations programs. It was clear from our site visits and follow-up discussions that the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system was the best fit for our learning community.

Starting this fall, our four elementary schools will be rolling out PBIS for students in grades kindergarten through fifth. To assist in this roll-out process, our PBIS Committee has met extensively in the spring and summer, attended required trainings to become a state-approved PBIS school, and planned curriculum that corresponds with this system.

Here are some changes that you and your child can expect in their classroom and school starting in September:

- All students will be taught common social and behavioral expectations for all areas of the building and playground

- All staff will use common language in teaching and reinforcing these expectations throughout the school year
- All students will participate in a positive behavior reinforcement system known as the “clip system” where they will move up or down a behavior chart dependent on how they are following the classroom and school expectations
- All staff will use a common “Office Referral Form” which will assist in the behavioral data collection process
- A group of educators in each building will review and analyze behavioral data on a regular basis to make data-informed decisions
- Parents and guardians will be updated on a regular basis on how their child is doing in following the school expectations
- Students will be recognized for demonstrating respect, responsibility, and safety that is above and beyond what is expected of them
- Students who still struggle behaviorally will be provided with re-teaching opportunities
- Students who engage in significant and/or ongoing behavioral challenges will receive an Office Referral and have a consequence determined by the Building Principal
- Parents will be notified if their child receives an Office Referral

Ultimately, we are hopeful that the positive and consistent aspects of PBIS will promote a culture of respect, responsibility, and safety and make your child’s experience in our learning community an enjoyable one. If you have questions regarding PBIS, feel free to contact John Peterson, Director of Pupil Services, at 563-7804 or your Building Principal.

- Barrie – Brent Torrenga at 563-7817
- Luther – Dave Geiger at 563-7828
- Purdy – Rick Brietzke at 563-7822
- Rockwell – Vicki Wright at 563-7818