

Students Benefit from Summer School in District #200

By Bob Balgemann

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North Boone Community Unit School District #200 has completed a successful summer school program, with 49 students receiving one point each toward promotion to high school and many improving on standardized tests they took last spring. Principal Jacob Hubert and Program Director Karen Kosloske Schoeben updated the school board on the program Monday night. Additionally, 12 student helpers from North Boone Middle School received certificates of commendation for the assistance they provided. Hubert commended Schoeben, an educational therapist, for designing the three-week, voluntary program that initially attracted 63 students. The curriculum addressed reading comprehension, spelling, grammar and writing. There also was a math fluency program, Hubert said, to help the 35 students who had "mathematics issues." Classes lasted 28 minutes each, with two minutes allowed to get from one room to the next. Students had a 20-minute break between the third and fourth periods, with 10 minutes set aside each day for awards. Progress was measured by using MAPS to test reading comprehension. The Key mathematics test included simple addition and subtraction through algebra. Finally the Kaufman Test of Education Achievement, or KTEA, was employed to check decoding and comprehension.

"Some students improved by 19 points on the MAPS test," Hubert said. Of the 14 incoming eighth graders who completed summer school, eight showed improvement on the MAPS test, 11 on the Key Math test and two in the KTEA. All of those students improved their scores in at least one area.

Similar improvement was shown by incoming seventh, sixth and fifth graders. A survey was conducted of those who attended the classes, with most of them saying they would participate again if given the chance. Most thought it was well organized, challenged them mentally and that everything was clearly explained to them. Students felt safe, they thought they were treated fairly by teachers and their peers.

Ironically, Hubert pointed out, those who felt they needed to be challenged more showed the most improvement on tests and received the most prizes. Student helpers receiving commendations were Mitchel Griffs; Elizabeth Weiss; Hannah Kinser; who also had perfect attendance; Michael and Nicole Abraham; Raven Comstock; Brandon Oates; Caitlin and Corina Bottcher; Mel Edison; Breanna Schaedel; and Shannon Velek. Additionally, many businesses and individuals made donations to summer school, which made it possible to award student prizes for achievement and for them to spend part of a day at Magic Waters theme park. Donors included Animal Clinic of Poplar Grove; Boone County Family Restaurant; Panda Garden; Custard Cone; RMS Service Group; Rosa's Pizza; Conserve (173 and 76); Friendly Franseen Acres; Edwards Apple Orchard; Northern Illinois Computer Exchange; North Boone Community Foundation; Countryside Oil and Lube Express; and Bravo's Pizza. Other donors included Capron Lutheran Church; Hope Chiropractic; Mailbox Store and More; Pacemaker Countryside Market; Sticky Fingers; Poplar Grove Hardware; Blackhawk State Bank; Sheila Anderson; Jody Rodgers/Machine Shed; Carrie Weifenback; Allisonj Louis; Connie Koslowski; and Karen Schoeben. In other school district business Monday night the board of education heard North Boone High School Principal Christine Troller introduce the new History Hall of Fame.....