

Spring 1994

PLS Update, Spring 1994

University of Northern Iowa. Malcolm Price Laboratory School

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PLS UPDATE

Malcolm Price Laboratory School - University of Northern Iowa

Spring 1994

Elementary Citizenship Program

*Respect everybody, it's the thing to do.
Respect everybody, and they'll respect you.
Everyone has value, that's including you.
Respect everybody and
They'll respect, they'll respect, they'll respect you.*

The words of this song set the stage for the Elementary Citizenship Program implemented at PLS during the 1993-94 school year. The goals of this program focus on the development of a cohesive community of learners who respect and value each other. A variety of classroom activities are planned throughout the year to highlight the following monthly themes:

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| September: | Rules and Safety |
| October: | Respecting and Valuing Each Other |
| November: | Active Learning |
| December: | Kindness and Courtesy |
| January: | Cooperation |
| February: | Friends |
| March: | Strengths and Limitations |
| April: | Good Sportsmanship |

An assembly is scheduled at the beginning of each month to review past and introduce up-coming themes. Involving the full participation by all elementary students, the assemblies are a vehicle for community building and provide an opportunity for music, art and drama performances by students at every grade level.

Each assembly is introduced by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by the PLS Pledge

which was developed by the PLS Elementary Student Council:

I promise to respect everyone at Price Laboratory School, to follow school rules, to value all property, to listen to others, to do my best at learning and to cooperate. I will not hurt others with my words or actions. I want Price Laboratory School to be a safe and happy place for all.

During this spring semester, the Elementary Student Council will be selecting themes and making plans for the 1994-95 Elementary Citizenship Program.

For more information on the Elementary Citizenship Program, contact Kim Miller, (319)-273-2233, Clare Struck (319)-273-2220, or Lynn Nielsen (319)-273-2514, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Student-Led Conferences in PLS Middle School

"As a student at Northern University Middle School, I am a literate communicator, a self-directed learner, a complex thinker, and involved citizen, and a collaborative contributor."

This statement represents the heart and soul of the new format for PLS Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences. This spring the traditional teacher-led conferences were replaced by student-led conferences at the sixth and seventh-grade levels. Because students know their work best and can speak most accurately about their strengths and areas for improvement, the tone

of student-led conferences is typically positive. These conferences also provide an opportunity for celebration of past accomplishments and a look toward future progress.

To prepare for the conferences, students gathered evidence of quality work for all of their subject areas. Toward the end of the third quarter, students then selected pieces of work which corresponded to the outcomes of the middle school. Students were given time to develop and practice a conference presentation and invited their parents to schedule a conference. On the day of the conference, the advisor was present but did not actively participate in leading it. During the conference, students presented to their parents the evidence of progress they made during the third quarter. Parents also received the end-of-quarter conference reports from each teacher. Parents or teachers wishing to have further conversations regarding a student's achievement were invited to schedule a parent-teacher conference as well.



For more information on student-led conferences contact Merrie Schroeder, (319)-273-5903, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Price Laboratory School Secondary Russian Program

At Malcolm Price Laboratory School, Russian is offered beginning at the eighth grade level, where students take a six-week course in exploratory Russian. During the 1993-94 school year, eighth-grade students performed exceptionally well with the Russian language and demonstrated their achievement on oral and written exams which were administered at the end of each session. At the high school level an expanded Russian program is offered including options for four years of Russian instruction. All secondary students of Russian will continue to work not only with the PLS instructor, but also with the guest instructor from the Russian Federation.

The Second Annual State of Iowa Olympiada of Spoken Russian was held at PLS during April. A total of nine schools and seventy-three students of Russian from across the state of Iowa participated in this event. PLS students placed first in this event which promises to be a showcase for Iowa high school Russian students.

The high school Russian program is also proud to announce that with the assistance of the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR), PLS will be involved in an academic and school partnership exchange with a Russian high school. As a member school, PLS has a list of several Russian schools from which to choose a partner. This will be an outstanding opportunity, as PLS hosts students from a Russian school for approximately one month beginning the fall of 1994. Then in the spring of 1995, PLS students will travel to Russia for the same amount of time. The trip is funded by ACTR and provides PLS Russian students with a rich cultural experience.

For more information on the PLS Russian Program, contact Jim Sweigert, (319)-273-2572, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Malcolm Price Laboratory School
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613