

Uxbridge Public Schools

Connect Best Practices in Curriculum – Instruction – Assessment To Improve Achievement for Every Student

**Monthly Report for December, 2007
Howard D. Boyaj**

The UPS Yellow Book

The Uxbridge Public Schools' "Yellow Book", coordinated by Taft teacher Stephanie Lundberg, was unveiled for staff on January 2 as part of the professional development day program. The "Yellow Book" is a directory that includes the names of Uxbridge School staff members, listed by topic/specialty, who teachers can call on for help with best practices relating to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Copies of the "Yellow Book" will be available for review at the upcoming school committee meeting on January 8.

Professional Development Day

All Uxbridge School staff participated in the final professional development day of the school year on January 2, 2008. The morning session featured a two-hour workshop for classroom teachers that focused on research-based instructional innovations. See the attached PowerPoint.

Afternoon workshops were geared to the specific needs at each school:

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|--------|-------------------------------|
| ELC | Kindergarten Screening Review |
| Taft | Empowering Writers Workshop |
| Whitin | Showcase of Best Practices |
| UHS | Educational Technology |

(A complete Professional Development Day schedule for January 2 is attached)

Gifted and Talented Grant

We are pleased to report that Uxbridge Public Schools has been awarded a Gifted and Talented Planning Grant by the Department of Education. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for districts committed to building basic knowledge and understanding of how to identify and serve a broad range of 1-8 advanced/gifted students throughout the district through professional development. The program gives teams of educators the opportunity to learn methods of identifying, understanding, and meeting the needs of advanced/gifted students by taking college level courses, developing school/district policies regarding services for advanced/gifted students, planning a program to deliver services to advanced/gifted students, and sharing project findings with others.

Special thanks and congratulations to Karin Knapik for her efforts in gaining approval for this grant project. More detailed information about teacher participation in this program will be forthcoming.