

William O. Schaefer – K – 1

Nora Polansky, Principal; Jeannine Carr, Assistant Principal  
Examples of major initiatives for the 2009-2010 school year include the following:

- In an effort to support parents' understanding of instructional practices and interventions that sustain student achievements we will continue with our coffee chat program. Our goal is to attract more parents to these meetings by identifying their questions and concerns and framing our meeting to meet their needs.
- We will continue to enhance articulation and collaborations across schools by sustaining our "Writers Workshops Partnership with Tappan Zee Elementary and expanding it to include a Kindergarten – 1st grade partnership including inter-visitations to improve our practice. This professional development model allows us to share expertise, build community and support students as they transition to a new grade or new building.
- Using 21st century technology in the form of blogging, web pages, e-blast and movie maker we hope to open up classroom walls, inform parents and provide alternate means of instruction and communication.
- With additional Smartboards and desktop computers, we will be able to further enhance the integration of technology throughout the entire curriculum by developing multi-sensory lesson plans that support all students; as well as providing them with the technology skills they will need to learn.
- With the support of our PTA, WOS will launch a "Germ Smart" curriculum teaching students, in a developmentally appropriate way, important personal health habits necessary in Keeping Healthy.

With continuation of reading and writing workshop students will expand and enhance their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving. The workshop model gives students the ability to make choices, use strategies and work independently as

well as reflect on their learning. It also allows teachers the ability to meet the diverse needs of each student.

While we have many significant areas of application and attention, our overall goal for 2009-10 is to challenge all students to aspire to their highest levels of academic and social development through learning, understanding, and personal satisfaction.