

CLUE News 2005



Clustering Learners Unlocks Equity

Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development
Ball State University
&
Indianapolis Public Schools
Volume 3

Project CLUE Year Three Fifth Grade Joins the Action

IPS fifth grade classes become the final grade level to join the CLUE study this year.

Welcome to all the participating teachers. It was a pleasure to meet each of you who were able to attend the Summer Institute and actively discover what Project CLUE is all about. We look forward to working with you this year.

Curriculum Update

Third Grade:

All 36 participating schools are implementing the 3rd grade language arts and math curriculum units in the cluster groups this year. These units are as follows:
2nd 9 weeks, a whole class Algebra unit & *Charlotte's Web*;

3rd 9 weeks, Geometry unit & *In The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*;
4th 9 weeks, Probability unit & *The Sign of the Beaver*.



3rd graders preparing "The Toothpick Game" from the Geometry unit.

Fourth Grade:

Fourth grade curriculum teachers will be adding their final units this year during the 4th 9 weeks. Summer training will occur for the non-curriculum cluster teachers to receive their materials for next year. Fourth grade math and language arts units are as follows:
2nd 9 weeks, Multiplication unit & *From the Mixed-Up Files*

of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler;

3rd 9 weeks, Fraction unit & *Island of the Blue Dolphins*;

4th 9 weeks, Algebra unit & *A Single Shard*.



4th grade students arranging patterns during a fraction lesson.

Fifth Grade:

The fifth grade curriculum groups received materials and training for two grading periods this year. The following units are being incorporated this year:
2nd 9 weeks, Algebra unit & *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*;
4th 9 weeks, Fraction unit & *Bridge to Terabithia*.

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Project CLUE Mentor Program Continues This Year

One aspect of the CLUE data gathering includes mentoring teachers. This began last year with a variety of mentors ranging from IPS teachers to university faculty and personnel. Schools were randomly chosen as participants for this phase of the study. Meaningful observations, shared lessons, and input between colleagues resulted. The purpose of the mentoring is to provide opportunities for teachers to share ideas and concerns about differentiation. The mentor program is continuing in 13 schools with a total of 34 teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5. Many positive comments about this experience were provided to the evaluation team by mentors and their teachers. The goal of mentoring is to assist and

support teachers as they practice new strategies.

Curriculum Comments

I am very impressed with the math I am teaching using the Project CLUE curriculum. The geometry unit has excited my gifted students so much that they bug me wanting to know when we are going to do geometry that day. Their excitement is evident and their attention span is amazing. The students work for an hour without getting tired. The same things have happened in teaching the probability unit. Last year, some of my students taught students in another class how to play "Pig." It was a huge success seeing my students teach others. They were kind and patient. Needless to say, I was proud of them.

Beth Lankford
3rd Grade Cluster Teacher
IPS School #60

Students at IPS #88 have been eagerly anticipating the start of our next novel, *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*. The story is about the cultural adaptation of a young, immigrant Chinese girl into America. Students quickly learn to love this young girl as she transitions into American culture with some awkward and humorous situations. The story is rich with vocabulary building for third graders. The comparison of Chinese culture to baseball crazy Brooklyn, New York in the late 1940's provides a lesson in itself on the multicultural history of our country at that time. This is my third year teaching from Project CLUE's provided literature unit and I enjoy it more each year. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* is my favorite and of course this enthusiasm transfers to my students

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as well. Our culmination activity is a trip to The Oriental Inn, a Chinese restaurant within walking distance of our school.



Mrs. McDowell and students experience Chinese culture.

This seems like a natural way to end the unit and as I always tell my class, "I can't take you to China, but you can feel the Chinese experience through the food and décor of this restaurant." Of course, the students love this fieldtrip!

Crystal McDowell
3rd Grade Cluster Teacher
IPS School #88

My students really liked using manipulatives and setting up T-charts. They liked writing the rules! They especially liked the *In the Balance* book of puzzles. We set

up a scale and the students could manipulate in the beginning and then visualize as the puzzles increased in difficulty. It is quite evident that these students are using tools and formats that help to unpack their thinking in critical ways.

Elise Kilty
5th Grade Cluster Teacher
IPS School #34

Project CLUE Recognition

Ball State University's publication *Benefacta* showcases faculty endeavors in Indiana communities. Dr. Adams and Dr. Pierce were featured this year for Project CLUE contributions to gifted education at IPS. The article, "Exceptional Gifts, Special Keys," highlighted the goals of Project CLUE to identify underserved school populations. Lewis Goins' 3rd grade cluster class was featured in the article with wonderful

pictures of the students engaged in a CLUE Geometry lesson.

Summer Workshop

July 11-14, 2005
Mark your calendar!

Contact Information

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