

The Washington County Consortium

NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by Sarah Woog, Executive Director of the Washington County Consortium (WCC)

January 2, 2019

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a happy and restful break with loved ones. I am eager to share some of the learning opportunities the Washington County Consortium is able to bring in 2019.

The Maine DOE continues to offer professional development opportunities in WASHINGTON COUNTY. Please check out their PD calendar (<https://www.maine.gov/doe/calendar/>) for full descriptions and to register for any of the following events:

Mindset- Train the Trainer Session 3	January 16 at UMM
Strategies on Engaging Parents and Students	January 23 at UMM
#DigCit4ME	January 29 at Washington Academy

Planning for Harvest of Ideas 2019 will begin soon. If you are interested in being on an advisory committee or would just like to share your recommendations for programming, please email me at wcc@maine.edu. I would love to hear about your needs and work collaboratively to meet them.

Please refer to the following page to see a new feature that will be a regular part of this monthly communication. It is a profile of a school or educator. This month, I'm happy to share an interview with Debbie Jamieson, teaching principal at Pembroke Elementary. If you think I should profile your school, you, or a colleague in the coming months, please reach out and let me know!

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Washington County Educator Profile



Meet Debbie Jamieson, teaching principal of Pembroke Elementary School

Debbie graciously gave me some of her time so I could pick her brain about why she thinks Pembroke Elementary School is experiencing the success shown by their most recent proficiency rates. Below is a summary of our conversation. Thank you, Debbie, for sharing your time, experiences, and insights!

Q: Why do you think you have such strong proficiency rates?

A: We have an excellent staff and have been doing proficiency-based reporting for over ten years. When that effort began, we read and got support from Anne Davies. We put a lot of work into proficiency-based reporting and giving students useful feedback. Since then, we've spent time reviewing our data and using pre and post assessments to make informed instructional adjustments. We've also worked to create an optimal testing atmosphere and ensure students are invested in the assessments.

Q: Could you share an example of how you work efficiently with limited resources?

A: We were identified as a focus school, which increased our access to professional development opportunities through the Maine DOE. We've taken advantage of these opportunities. Guided Reading has been very beneficial.

Q: What are some of the best practices you use to increase family and community engagement?

A: It's a huge challenge. Parents are busy. We've developed a parent advisory team, which works with Title I staff to share academic and non-academic concerns. Ice fishing and bounce houses were big hits for family engagement activities and math and literacy nights have become popular too. It's helpful to make family engagement activities not only academic but also fun.

Q: What are some of the greatest lessons you've learned as an educator?

A: Think before you speak. Have patience and be reflective about concerns. Adopt a growth mindset to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn.

Q: Any shout-out you'd like me to include here?

A: I can't be more thankful for the teachers, staff, secretaries. We may sometimes have disagreements, but we always work together in the best interest of the students.