



TOUCHING BASE

APRIL 20, 2007

PUTTING PROVEN METHODS OF READING RESEARCH IN THE CLASSROOM
 TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS THE NATION

DATA BOARDS, BENCHMARKS AND BROOMSTICKS

In a previous issue of Touching Base, we shared the data boards from Washington Primary School in Rocky Ford, Colorado. In this issue, we look at the approach from Fremont Elementary in Florence, Colorado, shared by Debbie Wolfe, Literacy Coach.

“We use pink, yellow, and green 3 x 3 inch sticky notes for the Fall Benchmark instruction recommendations.

We add small school pictures to the upper left corner, and put scores in the upper right. This way you see all of those smiling faces looking at you and they become more than just the Benchmark numbers.

There is also a color-coded dot in the bottom left hand corner that identifies the teacher.

At the Winter Benchmark, we use pink, yellow and green 1-1/2 x 2 inch sticky notes, write the winter scores and place them in the upper right-hand corner. Part of the original scores are covered, but can easily be lifted if needed.

At Spring Benchmark, we will add the last set of scores on an additional 1-1/2 x 2 inch sticky note. We will layer these on the bottom right hand corners of the original sticky note.

We like this method because we can see the movement of the children. The

square sticky note showed us where they started; the upper right sticky note where they were at winter; and the lower right sticky where they finish in the spring.

You can easily see which children are benchmark, which are strategic, and which are intensive. We like this presentation because you can see the journey that each child has been on throughout the year. We plan to give the data board to the next grade level for the following year so that they will get a quick visual of the incoming class.”

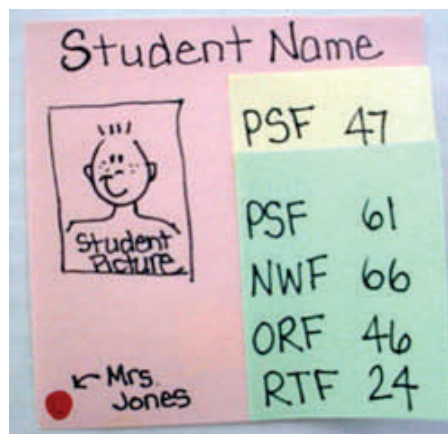
Thank you for sharing your data board with us, Fremont Elementary.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *More on Data Boards!*
- *Colorado Reading Summit on May 7!*
- *Summer Book Study*
- *Professional Development Dates*
- *Online Updates*
- *DIBELS and BEAR testing*
- *CRF Calendar- See what's coming up!*



First Grade Data Board
 Fremont Elementary



Mock Student Sticky Note
 Fremont Elementary

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COLORADO READING SUMMIT INVITATION

The Third Annual Colorado Reading Summit, sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education, is May 7, 2007 at the Adams Mark Hotel, downtown Denver. The fee for the conference is \$75.

If you were unable to attend the April CRF conference, the Summit may be used as a make-up. CRF funds may be used to attend and this event will provide six contact hours of professional development, equal to that provided at the CRF conference. Registration deadline is May 1, 2007.

All educators are welcome

to register for this full day Reading Summit where sessions will highlight:

- Gains with English Language Learners;
- Beating the odds with students from poverty;
- Professional development in literacy; and
- Presentations by national and state schools recognized for closing the achievement gap.

Plus, learn how to use time, money, and personnel to ensure the effectiveness of

power standards, curriculum and instruction, and assessments.

Please see the attached flier at the end of this Touching Base, for additional information about the Reading Summit. Register today through the CDE website at http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_readsum/index.htm.

Please feel free to pass this information along to all those interested including your local school board members, educators and parents.

“BOOKS ARE
THE QUIETEST
AND MOST
CONSTANT OF
FRIENDS.”
~CHARLES W.
ELIOT~

ONLINE COURSE UPDATES!

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for online courses has been updated. It is available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/CRF/downloads/

[PD/OnlineCourses/CRF_OnlineCourseFAQ.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/CRF/downloads/PD/OnlineCourses/CRF_OnlineCourseFAQ.pdf).

Also, the Online Course User Guide has been updated and is available at

www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/CRF/downloads/PD/OnlineCourses/CRF_Online_Course_Info.pdf.

SUMMER BOOK STUDY



The final Reading First professional development course will be a book study on the reading process rather than an online course. It will be based on David Sousa's book, *How the Brain Learns to Read*, an informative and readable analysis of the research and the process of reading. The book costs about \$40, so we suggest that you build this cost into your 2008 budget. We recommend that you purchase at least one book for every two teachers.

The book study is designed to take place for one and a half hours per week over a ten week period, although you may choose to structure the course differently. So that Colorado Reading First can document that all CRF teachers have taken the course, you will need to register and take the end-of-course assessment online.

Like the revised online courses, the assessment will be divided into three parts so

that, as teachers move through the book, they can answer questions related to what they have just studied.

You may choose to schedule the book study in the summer, although we recommend that you offer it during the school year so that teachers can apply what they are learning in their classrooms. The course should be completed no later than March 15, 2008.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many opportunities for professional development are coming in the next few months.

You may want to mark your calendar with the following dates.

May 7, 2007
Colorado Reading Summit
Adams Mark Hotel
Denver, Colorado
6 contact hours available
\$75 registration fee

[http://
www.cde.state.co.us/
cde_readsum/index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_readsum/index.htm)

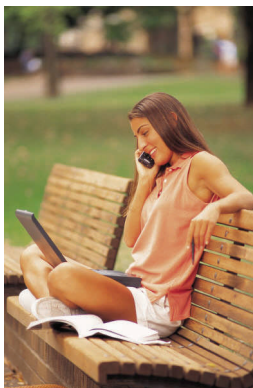
June 24-27, 2007
Rocky Mountain Summer
Institute
Beaver Run Resort
Breckenridge, Colorado
[http://
www.bettereducator.com](http://www.bettereducator.com)

Official Colorado Reading First Professional Development Dates:

Summer 2007
CRF Conference
July 26-27: Denver
July 30-31: Colorado Springs
August 6-7: Pueblo
August 9-10: Alamosa

Spring 2008
CRF Conference
April 16: Denver
April 17: Colorado Springs
April 18: Pueblo

“EDUCATION IS
NOT FILLING A
BUCKET, BUT
LIGHTING A
FIRE.”
~
WILLIAM YEATS~



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAKE-UP

The April 13 Reading First Conference was met with additional challenges this year. Mainly, the entire state of Colorado was under severe weather warnings, including blowing snow and blizzards.

We recognize that many schools were unable to make the conference and we missed you! We have received many notes of positive feedback from our participants, which we will be sharing in later

issues of Touching Base.

The Conference provided six contact hours of professional development and these hours are tied to Year 3 Funding. The upcoming Reading Summit on May 7 in Denver will provide these required hours.

We recommend that individuals still needing the required contact hours attend this one-day summit. CRF funds that were allocated to attend the April conferences

can be used to attend the Reading Summit.

If you choose not to attend the Summit, you must contact CRF with a plan for completing the professional development hours. CRF will not be organizing an event for the make-up hours.

If you have any additional questions, please email Della Shorman at shorman_d@cde.state.co.us.

COLORADO READING FIRST ONLINE COURSES

Recently, questions have arisen regarding the completion of the online courses for professional development.

CRF expectations are that all teachers and administrators complete the online courses. This expectation is a part of the AIR document and will be considered as Year 3 funding decisions are made. (Please

refer to the Annual Implementation Review document, Item #64: Principal, coach, K-3 classroom teachers, reading specialists e.g., special education, ELL, Title I, and district leadership participate in all required state level professional development, online courses).

Staff who are in their first

year of Reading First are to:

- complete the Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, and Fluency courses by June 1, 2007;
- complete the Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Assessment courses by February 1, 2008; and

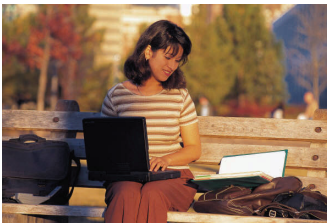
(continued on page 4)

CRF ONLINE COURSES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

- participate in the *How the Brain Learns to Read* book study during the 2007-08 school year.

Staff who are in their second year of Reading First are to:

- complete the Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Assessment courses by June 1, 2007; and



- participate in the *How the Brain Learns to Read* book study during the 2007-08 school year.

We realize the time required for completion of online courses may present a challenge for some teachers. If this is a significant problem in your school, we suggest that you budget for substitute teachers next year and provide time for teachers to take the online courses during the school day.

Additionally, we encourage school or district-wide cohort classes. This allows teachers,

coaches, and principals the opportunity to network and reflect.

Please remember that if you choose to take the courses as a cohort, you must complete the assessments individually online.

If you have further questions, please contact Colleen O'Neil, Project Manager and Online Course Manager at oneil_c@cde.state.co.us or 303.866.6672. You may also contact Della Shorman, Communications Coordinator at shorman_d@cde.state.co.us or 303.866.6756.



DIBELS AND BEAR REMINDER

It is hard to believe, but the DIBELS window will soon close and the BEAR testing window will quickly follow.

Please remember the following dates:

- DIBELS testing window closes this Friday, **April 20, 2007**.
- DIBELS data is due by Friday, **April 27, 2007**.
- BEAR testing window is from **April 23, 2007** to **May 11, 2007**.
- BEAR data is due in the CDE ADE system no later than Friday, **May 18, 2007**.

SEND THE CRF TEAM YOUR FEEDBACK AND IDEAS BY EMAILING DELLA SHORMAN AT SHORMAN_D@CDE.STATE.CO.US.





COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
COLORADO READING FIRST

Competitive Grants and Awards
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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/
CDECOMP/RF_HOME.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/CDECOMP/RF_HOME.HTM)

PUT **READING** FIRST!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUMMER INSTITUTE

Plan now to attend the Rocky Mountain Summer Institute in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado, June 24-27, at the Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center. This year's theme is *Raising the Bar: Narrowing the Gap for All, Some, AND Few!*

Join with other participants and discover innovative, practical strategies to help your school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and implement Response To Intervention (RTI) services.

This hands-on Institute demonstrates how to:

- Increase reading and math fluency for older students;
- Create a positive school climate;
- Achieve school-wide literacy success;
- Meet the needs of struggling younger students; and
- Implement academic intervention strategies.

If you are interested in attending the Summer Institute, please visit the web site at www.bettereducator.com. The Rocky Mountain Summer Institute content qualifies for Reading First funds.

CRF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

April / May 2007



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23 Sopris visits: Ellicott Columbian BEAR testing window opens	24 Sopris visits: Ellicott Dupont Columbian Coach Training #4: Southwest #2-Bill Metz	25 Sopris visits: Longfellow Stratton Meadows Dupont Columbian RCs, Denver, WRRFTAC	26 Sopris visits: Longfellow Stratton Meadows	27 CRF Annual Conference-Pueblo	28
29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 BEAR testing window closes	12

**2007-08
Professional
Development
Dates**

Summer 07
July 26-27:
Denver

July 30-31:
CO Springs

August 6-7:
Pueblo

August 9-10:
Alamosa

Spring 08
April 16:
Denver

April 17:
CO Springs

April 18:
Pueblo



Leveraging Literacy

Increasing Your Return on Investment

Colorado Reading Summit
May 7, 2007

7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Adam's Mark Hotel
Denver

Keynote Topics

Hear success stories from sites that are effectively leveraging their resources:

*Washington State Revs Up
Reading Proficiency*

*California's Long Beach
School District Makes Great Strides*

*Special Guest: Barbara O'Brien,
Lieutenant Governor*

Who Should Attend

Superintendents

BOCES directors

Principals

**Curriculum and assessment
directors**

Special education directors

Title I directors

ELA directors

State Board members

Legislators/policymakers

Higher-ed representatives

**Literacy coaches/
teacher leaders**

**Literacy consultants
and trainers**



Register NOW!

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn how to leverage your hard work and resources into improved student achievement. Take your core competencies to the next level with innovative best practices and sound solutions.

You — and your students — will profit.

The day-long program features:

State and National Gainmakers

Beating the Odds with Students from Poverty

Gains with English Language Learners

Reading First Results

Distinguished Title I Schools

Blue Ribbon Schools

Plus!

- ▶ Learn how to use time, money, and personnel to ensure the effectiveness of power standards, curriculum and instruction, assessments, and professional development
- ▶ Elementary, secondary and district level interactive sessions
- ▶ Findings from State Reading and Writing Standards Review
- ▶ Presentations by national and state schools recognized for making significant gains in reading and writing achievement and closing achievement gaps related to ethnicity, language differences, disabilities, and socioeconomic differences
- ▶ Snapshots of implementation based on scientific research for early and adolescent reading and writing instruction

**Click here for details
and to register online!**

(http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_readsum/index.htm)