

**Project MORE 2008 Fall Meetings  
Network Sessions Summary**

**COORDINATORS:**

**Question #1: How have your parents become involved in you PM program? How are you communicating with them?**

- Send home letters
- Send home books (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  send books home)
- Send home letters with overview of PM
- Send book home with each student for summer lessons (Fairlawn)
- Send home communication folder each week (everything the child did that week) (St. Marys)
- Parents who may struggle with reading- face to face contact @ conferences IAT"s, etc. (St. Marys)
- Show video and send home so that each parent can see what the program is about. Sends newsletters, tips, booklets home. Also hold open house for parents & teachers. (Elida)
- Invite parents/mentors to luncheon. A local church sponsors a breakfast and invites mentors, parents, administrators, etc. (Fairlawn)
- During open house, coordinator goes to the classrooms to get parents; doesn't wait for parents to come to her.
- Uses incentives and door prizes.
- Students get a prize for reading four books- an extra incentive page in take home folder- parents sign and the student gets a star.
- Give login to parents & teachers.
- Serve food to get family involved.
- Send folder home nightly- put books in a shoebox at home/library. Also, Family Night of Reading (Millersport).
- A 5<sup>th</sup> grade student with multiple disabilities read his first book to his mom. Parent cried! (Xenia/McKinley)
- 20 nights of reading at home = one soccer ball from Project MORE

**Question #2: Please share Mentor Recruitment success stories. Where and how did you find mentors?**

- Churches, retired teachers, university students, high school students (including national honor society, key club, student organizations), bus drivers, Lion's and Rotary Club members.

- Grandparents association at school (Elmwood), high school students receive one credit (Arcanum), press releases help recruit mentors,
- In-house school aide, check high school study hall and library times.
- Specials teachers planning periods, library aides, middle school students, kindergarten moms, lunch ladies in between time, after-school helper comes in early.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders make books as do senior citizens center; Malone College students help with lesson plans, churches pay for fingerprinting,
- Sheriff's department, adult and juvenile probation officers, subs on sub list, local newspaper.

### **Mentor Appreciation Ideas.**

- Take pictures and put pictures in newspaper/newsletter,
- Subway gift cards, appreciation to teachers who help/support program
- Gas cards, food, pizza party, end of year celebration, beginning of year kick off
- Plants, students sing on CD and give out to mentors, students write letters/cards and gives to mentors, students make clay pots
- Last week of program- celebrate all week to make sure that everyone gets recognized, High school Magic Club (Elmwood) is entertainment for end of year recognition, pictures of students in frames
- Nice Christmas gift, Wal Mart card for teens, collaborate with PTO for luncheon, basket of gifts

### **ADMINISTRATORS:**

#### **How to Sustain Project MORE without Grant Funds?**

- Principal gets regular education teachers to "buy in" for OAT and for AYP- not just a special ed issue: all regular ed teachers have access to Reading A-Z, parent volunteer created vertical file for Reading-tutors so parents & teachers can use- that is when regular ed teachers saw value, assigned a special ed aide and offered additional planning time for Project MORE coordination, and will demonstrate Project MORE (DVD) at local board meeting with a student present (Findlay/Lincoln)
- When scheduling is a problem for regular ed teachers, principal shares that individual help at that child's reading level will net better results than what that child will get in a classroom full of kids. The local district will use the growth on report card as incentive to continue

- Project MORE, may use block grant funds, will use in after school program as well as have a big appreciation dinner at the end of the year (Findlay/Washington)
- Principal saw huge success with Project MORE in Title I. More parents than ever are mentoring (Columbus Grove)
  - The key components were already in place for us (DIBELS and Reading A-Z), principal created an intervention period per grade level each day, which is when mentoring, occurs, and PTO always purchased Reading A-Z and Reading-tutors. (Paulding)
  - Common intervention time for mentoring and mentors are specials teachers, parent liaison, etc., and a vertical file is available for staff (Lima/Liberty)
  - Coordinator provides ice cream to high school mentors, purchased Reading A-Z building wide and staff was inserviced in fall- parking lot is full at 4:00 as teachers are making copies, Heidelberg professor has her students in building, local telephone company donated money and they named a phys ed ball cage after the man/company (Mohawk)
  - Assigned librarian as Project MORE coordinator, advocate PM to high school and college students as service learning project (Cory-Rawson)
  - Allowed extra planning time for coordinator, realigned assistants to mentor students (Indian Lake/Lakeview)
  - Need to present to district as a tool to help meet AYP, 3 special ed teachers are coordinators, will use two -half time teachers in building to do extra mentoring as well as aides (Findlay/Bigelow Hill)
  - Principals funds, Ohio Reads volunteers, set aside time for intervention specialist to coordinate, parapro's mentor twice/week, use TAG students as mentors (Tuslaw/Beech Grove)
  - 50 Malone College students, all seniors must have 30 hrs/service, local church is paying for 10 background checks, cooks and bus drivers mentor when Malone College is not in session (Plain Local/Little Eagle)
  - Mentors include librarian and art teacher as well as a parapro (Plymouth-Shiloh)
  - Project MORE Coordinator (parapro) tells people that "six kids will leave our school far better readers than if we don't have this program", word of mouth brings more mentors, 6'5 custodian and basketball coach, kitchen staff, bus drivers, and instead of the district purchasing new text books, they purchased district-wide Reading A-Z, etc. (Perry/Watson)

- Eagle Scouts, girl scouts, and nuns (Stark Co ESC)
- College credit for staff who mentor from Ashland University (Jackson/Strausser)