

Communicator

eNews from The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative

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Co-op News:

12th Annual Intervention Assistance Team Workshop & Appreciation Luncheon



(Doug Cochran-Roberts role-plays an intervention team meeting with a group of teachers and administrator)

Building level intervention teams from Co-op member schools were treated to a day out of the classroom, catered lunch, laughs and a top notch presentation by Doug Cochran-Roberts.

Improving building intervention team meetings, staying cool when buttons are pushed and involving parents were topics at the workshop sponsored

by the Bitterroot Valley Cooperative and hosted by Washington Elementary School.

Washington Elementary staff also arranged for Santa to drop off a few door prize gifts of appreciation.



(Santa's helper, Principal Seidensticker, tries on a salad bowl for a hat)

Matters of Interest:

Prereferral teams must try multiple interventions

The purpose of the prereferral process is to empower teachers to improve the quality of the general education program. This empowerment should reduce the level of underachievement in schools.

Regardless of the cause of the problem, if the intervention determined by the prereferral team is not successful, then the team must try another intervention, rather than just giving up and referring the student for special education -- unless it is clear to the entire prereferral team that a disability exists.

In the event that the intervention is successful, then the intervention continues and becomes a part of the teaching strategies for that student.

Educators find new value in phonemic awareness training

To boost stagnant reading scores, educators on Intervention Teams are recommending more classroom time to phonemic awareness, which trains students to notice the sound bits that make up words. Educators consult with Co-op Speech/Language therapists who say the approach, advocated by dyslexia experts and reading specialists, is most effective when used on children in the primary grades.

To contribute to a future edition of this newsletter please send an email message to Tricia Leonard at leonardt@stevensville.k12.mt.us