

Wow 'em with W.O.W. Wonderful Outstanding Words

Samoset Elementary School's
School-wide Vocabulary Initiative

Presented by the Administration & Coaches
of Samoset Elementary School,
Bradenton, FL
for Just Read, Florida!

Presentation Overview



- Introduction to W.O.W.
- Data-driven need
- Initial activities that built recognition
- Ongoing activities that sustain and support
- Evidence that W.O.W. is working
- How-to Guide for Implementing W.O.W.

Introduction to W.O.W.



- Last summer, Scott Boyes and Pat Stream attended the Florida Leadership Conference sponsored by Council for Educational Change. At the conference, they were introduced to a curriculum specialist from another county who had experienced tremendous success in writing at a school with very similar demographics.

Data-driven Need

- FCAT data showed weaknesses in reading comprehension.
- Analysis of data put the focus on vocabulary.
- Vocabulary was the connection to the W.O.W. program--if it worked at another school with similar demographics... why wouldn't it work at Samoset?



Initial Activities that Created Staff Buy-in and Excited Participation!

- Staff development for 3rd and 4th teachers
- Commitment of administrators and reading coaches
- WOW-ni-VAL



Ongoing Activities that Sustain and Support

- Mini-lessons linked to WOW-ni-VAL “booths”
- W.O.W. classroom materials including posters, W.O.W. wordsmith appreciation certificates, vocabulary display cards
- W.O.W. school banners and hall displays



Ongoing Activities that Sustain and Support



- On air announcements for weekly W.O.W.
- W.O.W. weekly bulletin
- W.O.W. Woman & W.O.W. Man
- celebration drawings
- “Wah” word lullaby
- W.O.W. Bee/Scavenger Hunt

Evidence that W.O.W is Working



Evidenced by Instruction

- Oral language--Staff modeling use of and monitoring student use of W.O.W. words
- Student awareness of W.O.W. words in teaching and conversation
- Reading lessons
- Writing lessons

Evidence that W.O.W is Working



Evidenced by Assessment--quantitative data

- benchmark assessments
- student portfolios
- FCAT

Evidence that W.O.W is Working



Evidenced by Engagement—qualitative data

- testimonials by administration
- testimonials by coaches
- testimonials by teachers
- testimonials by parents
- testimonials by students

How-to Guide for Implementing W.O.W.



- Budget
- Planning calendar:
 - Professional development
 - School events: single, daily, weekly

Contacts

- Pat Stream:
streamp@manateeschools.net
- Ro MacEachen:
maceachenr@manateeschools.net
- “A teacher’s major contribution may pop out anonymously in the life of some ex-student’s grandchild.”
Wendell Berry, American Poet, Teacher