

Greenbrier Elementary School- Inquiry
Looping
'03-'04 School Year

In late August 2003 Mrs. Mancusi, building coordinator, discussed the need for an Inquiry and possible topics at a Greenbrier Elementary School faculty meeting. On September 5, 2003 Mrs. Mancusi gave the faculty a copy of the framework for inquiry. She asked for volunteers for an Inquiry committee. A number of teachers and paraprofessionals volunteered. On September 3, 2003 Mrs. Mancusi, building coordinator, gave the list of volunteers to Mr. Pike, Principal. He approved the committee. It consisted of seven teachers, Mancusi, Etheridge, Wilkins, Peita, Bessman, Klapthor, and Wesley, and two paraprofessionals, Adams and Suppa.

Mrs. Mancusi, Mr. Pike, and Mrs. Bonadio, Assistant Principal, met shortly thereafter to discuss topics for Inquiry. As our new Principal, as well as the faculty, was very interested in looping it was decided that looping would be brought before the committee as a topic for Inquiry. The committee unanimously approved an Inquiry into looping at GBE.

The Looping Committee had its first meeting on October 13, 2003 where research assignments were given out. The committee also drew up a faculty Looping survey (see attached) to determine what percentage of the faculty had any interest in looping. On November 6, 2003 the committee met again to discuss the research. Once again Mrs. Mancusi met with Mr. Pike and Mrs. Bonadio to discuss the findings. The research was shared with the faculty at a faculty meeting and the faculty surveys were given out. All faculty surveys were in by October 31, 2003. Mrs. Suppa, and Mrs. Adams tabulated

them. They found that 81 % of the faculty was in favor of looping in the 2004- 2005 school year.

The looping committee met on November 6, 2003 to put together a parent questionnaire and another faculty survey to see who actually wanted to loop *next year*. Both surveys were created and distributed. The faculty surveys were returned by November 11, 2004 and the parent surveys were returned almost as quickly. Again, these were tabulated by Mrs. Suppa and Mrs. Adams. (see attached).

The committee had another meeting on December 9, 2003 to look at the results of both surveys. The committee and the administration were disappointed to see that although 81% of the staff was in favor of looping at GBE only two people replied that they wished to loop next year. The parent surveys were overwhelmingly in favor of looping. It was decided that GBE teachers would loop next year and the final decisions as to who would loop where were taken over by the administration.

On January 30, 2004 Mr. Pike sent out a "Friday Focus" (see attached) stating that GBE would pilot looping next year. However he had to look at the addition of two new classes and the possibility of more. He said that room assignments and grade placements were a priority issue at this time. On February 2, 2004 Mr. Pike issued an interoffice memorandum stating that he was preparing a template of teaching assignments to include looping, transfers, and new positions. Teachers were to pick their first three choices for teaching assignments next year. On February 12, 2004 the Teacher Assignments for the '04/'05 school year came out. There were three pairs of teacher looping. Two of these were 1st/2nd grade loops the other was a 4th/5th grade loop. Two first grade teachers will

be moving up and one fourth grade teacher is moving up. More people have volunteered to try looping next year after they see how it plays out.

9/5/03

Dear Teachers,

This is a copy of the ASU-PSN framework for inquiry that I mentioned in the faculty meeting. As everyone in the schools will be involved in this in one way or another, I am giving you a copy of what is expected. I have had 3 people volunteer to be on the committee so far. I can use 1 or 2 more. Let me know if you would be interested ASAP. I think it will play out like a graduate thesis as far as research and then actually implementing the research. If you don't want to be on the committee but have an interesting idea about what we could use for our inquiry please let me know. I was thinking Harry Wong, Max Thompson, or homework.

Thanks for your cooperation 😊

Sandra Mancusi

Faculty Looping Survey

Return to sandra mancusi by friday 10/31/03

GBE is considering looping next year. Looping is when a teacher and her parapro keep the same students in the same classroom for 2 years. The only thing that will change is the curriculum. In order for looping to be successful, there needs to be as little change as possible. Possible grades for looping will be K-3. Anyone who is interested in looping needs to find a partner/mentor. This will be a person to rotate grade levels with and who will mentor you in their grade level and you will mentor them in yours. You may create this partnership in any of these combinations. K/1, 1/2, 2/3. Teachers and parents will have the option to remove a child from the loop.

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|--|----------------|
| 1. I have participated in looping in the past. | Yes No |
| 2. I would like to see looping at GBE. | Agree Disagree |
| 3. I would like to participate in looping. | Agree Disagree |
| 4. I believe looping will help my students feel more secure. | Agree Disagree |
| 5. I believe looping will help with routines. | Agree Disagree |
| 6. I believe looping would be detrimental to the students. | Agree Disagree |

Looping Survey Results

	Yes	No		Undecided
1. I have participated in looping in the past.	6	24		1
2. I would like to see looping at GBF.	25 <i>872</i>	2		4 <i>872</i>
3. I would like to participate in looping.	12	11		8
4. I believe looping will help my students feel more secure.	25	3		3
5. I believe looping will help with routines.	25	2		4
6. I believe looping will be detrimental to the students.	1	27		3

11/6/03

Greenbrier Elementary Faculty Looping Questionnaire

Please return to sandra mancusi by Monday 11/10/03

Name _____

1. I would be interested in looping *next year*. yes no
2. I cannot do it next year but I would be interested in looping *in the future*. yes no
3. I don't wish to loop at all. yes no (skip rest of questionnaire)
4. I wish to loop up yes no
5. I wish to loop down yes no
6. I do not want to loop but I will be a mentor for a new teacher looping to my grade level. yes no
7. I am a 4th or 5th grade teacher who would like to move to a lower grade level (K-3) next year, in order to loop the following year. yes no
8. Is there another person on an appropriate grade level that you have already discussed looping with and would like to share a loop. yes no
9. What is their name? _____