Aloha. As you’ll see from reading this ezine, things are ‘movin’ along!

**Consent forms**

Thank you for the great job on getting both the student and parent consent forms signed and returned so quickly. Thus far we have 271 student consent forms back (85% return rate) and 234 parent consent forms returned (73% return rate). In the next few days, will be distributing additional copies for your new students to sign and take home to their parents.

Please remind all students that in order to get their wrist bands (which have the thumb drive affixed at one end) they will need to have returned both forms signed. Our next effort will be to make individual contact with parents for whom we have not yet received their forms. As you can imagine, this will be time consuming and costly, so please do a little more “nudging” for us.

**Wrist bands**

Good news! Lynn will be ordering the wrist bands next week. Keep your fingers crossed that we will get them in time for the start of second quarter.

**MyAccess! (and yes, in case you’re wondering, this is how it’s spelled and written)**

Congratulations to Leah and Greg for closely monitoring their students’ progress by administering the MyAccess! writing prompt entitled, *An Important Change*. By using MYAccess! as a supplement to the teaching of the organization and ideas mini-modules, both Greg and Leah were able to quickly identify which students understood these particular traits and those who need more refined instruction. Leah and Greg are scheduled to administer another prompt, after teaching the voice and sentence fluency mini-modules.

All 9th graders will be utilizing MYAccess! for their personal essay which is due at the end of the first quarter. Bravo for your collaborative efforts!

Remember, as we work toward having students write for at least 90 minutes per day, MYAccess! is an invaluable tool for moving us closer to our target. Let’s think of it as a high impact, low prep tool!
**Upcoming Professional Development**

Our first, of four, professional development sessions for the 2010-2011 school year is right around the corner.

*When:* September 15, 2010 – 8:30am – 12:30pm  
*Where:* Castle High School Library  
*What to bring:* Your notebooks - which were distributed at our Summer Institute

**CD of Mini-Modules**

As this *Update* is being written, the CDs are being burned. We will place them in your mailbox as soon as they are done.

**Instructional Materials**

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like small, class-size posters of the following mnemonic devices.

LISTEN  
PAUSE  
THINK

**TOWL**

Dr. Julie Smith, soon to be known as Dr. TOWL, has been busily scoring the tests and below is her thoughts for the week.

There is a spelling pattern that is becoming a bit more apparent. Students are phonetic in their approach to spelling, which is a relatively safe approach.  
A common result of too much dependence on phonics is that often students can produce multisyllabic words, but lack ability to correctly spell basic sight words (and those that are phonetically irregular). This yields some interesting scoring. They score low on overall spelling because of the sheer number of spelling errors, but score higher on words with 7 or more letters.

Other than that, the same pattern from last week applies - students seem to be creating interesting stories, but sentence structure suffers. Again, that might be a time issue.

Aloha, Julie

*It's not where you start that matters, it's where you finish!*