



Madrona Elementary School

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Dear Board Members and Mr. Kantola,

I am thankful to be winding up a challenging, but successful year. Both of my schools ended the year on a happy note. We juggled two big PBIS outdoor events, two Moving On Ceremonies and two staff parties and still live to tell about it!

I am consistently reminded of the reasons I am so thankful for the people that I work with. As the year has unfolded, I have had to lean on them more and more in order to get the jobs done at our schools. Many different hands went in to providing good staff development, supporting learning in the classrooms, helping with discipline when I wasn't on campus, working with parents when they had issues, running SST meetings, IEP's and a myriad of other meetings.

We became even tighter teams as we learned we could trust each other to see the "BIG" picture and fill each other's gaps. Mrs. Jan Castillo, my new office manager at Jerome Prairie is to be commended for her ability to learn on the fly, think for herself and for problem solving just about every situation you can imagine. She has done it all with patience and grace. The kids, parents and staff all love her. I count her as one of my blessings. Mrs. Dayle Powell, the office manager at Madrona, is also to be commended. She has stepped up and provided many hours of training and support to the Jerome Prairie staff as we worked through the year. She holds down the fort here at Madrona so life is good for our kids and staff at all times.

I have mixed feelings about running two schools. It is a hard job. I have gained insight into a whole new part of our district, including the richness of the history of JP and the sweetness of this small school. I am proud of my students at each of the schools. I have seen growth in each staff and know that eventually that growth will help our students.

I'm looking forward to starting next year with a better understanding of what each of my schools need and what kind of schedule just might work a little better than the crazy schedule I kept this year! I can only improve in that area! We all face many changes at our schools and will feel even more the impact of our budget crisis. However, I am calmed by the fact that we are led by very talented and dedicated leaders in our District Office. I see their willingness to listen to all players and try through creative ways to support the children in our schools.

I am sending my regards to all of our board members, but especially to Mr. Dave Strahan and Mr. Jim Weaver. I will miss seeing your friendly faces at board meetings and events and I will forever hold dear the knowledge that you gave many long hours of hard work to help improve our service to students. You are to be commended for your service to Three Rivers. God Bless.