



Priest Lake Elementary Board Report

January 21, 2026

Principal Tommy Hansen

Happy New Year! We will officially complete the first half of the school year tomorrow, January 22nd. I want to take a moment to thank our students, staff, parents, and volunteers for the continued support and care they bring to Priest Lake Elementary. It truly takes a team, and the commitment from our school community continues to make PLE a special place for kids.

This month's board report is intentionally shorter than usual. Board reports are due one week prior to the monthly meeting, and only six instructional days have passed since the previous report. While limited in length, there have still been several positive highlights across the school.

The next round of state testing is currently underway. Students are completing both AMIRA and EasyCBM assessments this week. These data sets will be available for review at the next board meeting. The February report will include a detailed breakdown comparing the first and second testing windows, with a specific focus on student growth and progress over the first half of the year. We are looking forward to sharing that information and using it to guide instructional decisions moving forward.

Our annual Food Drive was a great success. Pizza was delivered to Mrs. Butler's class, the winning Food Drive Donors at PLE. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the winning class and helping make the event fun and engaging for students while supporting a great cause.

In another exciting community event, Mrs. Gilbert's 4th grade class took first place in a gingerbread house decorating contest and raised over \$2,000 for the Priest Lake Education Foundation. This was an outstanding effort by our students and families and a great example of how PLE continues to support and give back to the local community.

Looking ahead, Missoula Children's Theater will be returning to PLE in March to produce Alice in Wonderland. This is always a highlight for our students and provides a unique opportunity for them to experience live theater and performance. We are currently looking for a piano accompanist to assist with backing tracks during rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested or who knows someone who may be willing to help is encouraged to reach out to the school.

Finally, our 5th and 6th grade students have been enjoying winter activities including snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at PLE. Despite warmer than average temperatures, there is still plenty of snow for students to safely participate and stay active outdoors..

Next month's board report will include a more comprehensive focus on student data as we move into the second half of the school year.

Thank you all for supporting Priest Lake Elementary!