



Manzanita Elementary



September Board Report

2014-2015

By Renee Hults

It is hard to believe that summer time has come to an end. However, August was a little lonely. It is nice to see the classrooms filled with learning and laughter. Manzanita staff has worked hard getting ready for this school year. Countless personal hours were spent by staff members painting walls, hanging curtains and preparing their classroom for their students. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities for our students to grow academically and socially. I am so lucky to work with such a dedicated staff and surrounded by a caring group of parents that want the best for our children. The following are some highlights and updates on happenings at Manzanita.

New Staff Members ~ We have a couple of new additions to the Manzanita team. It is with great pleasure I introduce



Holly Cuhna- 4th grade teacher
Dana Decourcey- Special Education Assistant
Sabrina Hartford- Food Service

Summer Work & School Grounds: Manzanita looks amazing! Our Custodial staff, David and Brian did an amazing job getting our school ready over the summer. The interior door project, despite a few set-backs, are installed and the teachers are thrilled. Thank you to Cliff Woodruff Construction, his crew, maintenance department and my custodial staff for all of the effort put into making sure completion took place prior to students return. A few minor cosmetic details are on the list and will be completed soon. The picnic tables outside of the cafeteria are bolted down. This will prevent evening and weekend redecorating☺

Journeys Adoption: Our Journeys material arrived late August. (Shout out to Kelli Palmerton and Michelle Pitts for taking on the huge task of getting those materials sorted, labeled and out to schools! They did an amazing job!) Teachers received the first Journeys introduction training during the In-Service week. If time was a luxury we had, I am sure they could of spent days training. This is a new program and pushes all outside of our comfort zone. It is always much easier to do what we know. I am excited to see the Manzanita teachers embracing the program as their tool kit and learning to weave their skills in as the master teacher. This will be a learning process and it will be a journey not a race. We are thankful for the consistency from school to school which will help our students who are in continual transition.

Effective Instruction: In August the RTI team met to discuss reading instruction and increased student proficiency in reading. The elementary team recognizes the importance of systematic, intentional and purposeful reading instruction. We also acknowledge the relationship between reading achievement and graduation rates. Through the implementation of 90 minutes grade level instruction and 30 minutes of enrichment and intervention it is an elementary goal to bridge those learning gaps and help every child reach his or her potential. Our teachers are amazing and dedicated to student success.

100% Meeting ~ On September 11th the Manzanita teachers will meet in grade level teams to analyze their DIBELS and STAR data. We will be looking at 100% of our kids and looking for ways to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all learners. This is supported through the RTI grant. This is an “our” kids approach to improving the instruction and learning for the school. When we look at it as a group we look for what are “we” going to do to ensure that all kids get the education they deserve.

PTA: September is our PTA member drive. We have set a lofty goal of increasing our membership to 50 PTA Members!! Our families are an important part of Manzanita success and our PTA is here to support our students. They fund our music program, and work hand in hand with the school to provide fun learning opportunities and activities for our students.

Manzanita Events:

- Principal Meet & Greet~September 2nd 8-9am
- Site Council 3rd Tuesday of every month. Next meeting September 16th @ 2pm
- PTA Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month. Next Meeting October 2nd
- Back to School Night Open House- September 18
- September 23rd 5th Grade Outdoor Ed @ Crater Lake

Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm for education. You are always welcome to attend one of our events, or even just come have lunch with us! We look forward to the new adventures, challenges and opportunities the school year will bring.

