

Board Report  
Jerome Prairie Elementary School

November 4, 2010

Number of students: 197

K- 29, 1<sup>st</sup>- 33, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 29, 3<sup>rd</sup>- 43, 4<sup>th</sup>- 29, 5<sup>th</sup>- 34

The first trimester has been one filled with adjustments and growth for the students and teachers at Jerome Prairie. Our biggest change has been in class assignments. Due to the retirement of one teacher and our inability to replace him due to budgetary constraints, half of the classroom teachers (4) are teaching blended classrooms this year. In addition our kindergarten teacher is .5 fte at Williams and our special education teacher is .4 fte at Williams. Although these changes have created additional stressors for many staff members, I appreciate the professional manner in which they have approached the problem.

We have focused on several areas for professional development already this year. We are continuing to expand on our use of technology to improve instruction. Our teachers have spent several hours this fall learning how to use document cameras, projectors, laptop computers and the internet to improve the educational experience of our students. Most recently, teachers are learning how to use a wireless student response system that allows the teacher to quickly check an entire classroom for understanding and identify students who may need some extra help. We have also made improvements to our use of the school web site with updated school information and each teacher's classroom newsletters being posted on-line.

Finally in math we are continuing a major effort to improve math instruction to meet the higher standards being set by the state. All of our teachers are teaching to the new standards using a pacing guide developed by the district. We are learning new ways to increase the amount of active engagement with math by introducing more opportunities to explore the meaning of math problems as students strengthen their math reasoning abilities. As an example, Problem of the Month has become very popular with students as they work their way through multiple levels of a problem over the course of a month. We have also added some excellent training and resources made available from Peg Cowens, our district math mentor.

Students and parents have participated in a variety of activities. Our open house was a huge success. We served dinner to over 600 people who were in attendance. Families enjoyed visiting the classrooms, meeting teachers, and visiting the PTO book fair. We have 24 students participating in an after school science program sponsored by our PTO. First and second grade students have been to the Pumpkin Patch or Hanley Farm and third grade students went to the Oregon Caves. A trip to Science Works is planned shortly. Finally our jog-a-thon was held in October and raised \$8,251.78 to help support these activities.

Finally, I would like to note that our attendance rate so far this year is 96.79%. As our motto states, "There is no better place to Learn!"

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Fuller