



Elementary School Board Report

January 2025

Literacy Training:

We are continuing to progress through our literacy training. Staff are working hard to complete all 9 training modules. Each module takes roughly 5-6 hours to complete. We are very grateful to have the time to complete this training, reflect upon current instructional practices and make adjustments based upon our learning to best meet the needs of our learners. I'm very proud of the dedication and thoughtful commitment our teachers continue to show throughout our training sessions.

Brave & Strong Like Lochlan

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of meeting with a 4th grader and his parents. They shared the story that is written below about the courageous journey that Lochlan and their family have been on. I left our visit incredibly inspired by the strength, courage and positivity that Lochlan demonstrates each and every single day.

Here is Lochlan's story:

Lochlan Mowers is a happy, smart, witty, 4th grader at CRES this year. Looking at him, no one would ever guess he has already been through cancer twice at such a young age.

When he was only 18 months old, he suddenly started showing symptoms which stumped doctors for months. At age two, he was finally diagnosed with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis of his upper and lower jaw bones, scalp, pituitary and thyroid. He was "famous" at the U of M hospital, as this was a very rare form of cancer. Lochlan was in a lot of pain for quite some time, since his jaw bones had been disintegrating. Seeing him poked by needles, put to sleep for tests, and becoming sick from chemotherapy was extremely

hard for him and his entire family. Lochlan had a port surgically placed in his chest and was treated with different types of chemotherapy at the children's hospital for two years. He had his ups and downs, with side effects in his tiny little body. However, during those two years, Lochlan grew up around doctors and nurses and became a little expert on all things medical and developed very close relationships with his medical team. At age four, he was finally able to finish his grueling schedule of chemotherapy.

Lochlan was able to be done with treatment in time for preschool at CRES. Lochlan was able to attend elementary school cancer-free, that is, until this year. In June of 2024, he went in for his five-year cancer check up with hopes of yet another good report. Unfortunately, cancer was found in his pituitary gland and thyroid. At age nine, young enough to remember some of his cancer-kicking days but old enough to know how scary cancer can be, this was devastating for Lochlan to hear. Lochlan has been undergoing treatment throughout this school year, but has still been able to stay in school thanks to a different type of treatment this time around.

He is a strong and determined boy, but could always use encouragement! He has decided to share his story with his school. Let's remind Lochlan to stay, "Lochlan Strong!"

As a school, we are going to rally around Lochlan as he continues to be brave, strong and an inspiration to all of us. Lochlan and his classmates created a t-shirt design that best represents him. Through the generous donation from CRMC and the amazingly talented work of Ms. Larsen and our 5th grade students, we have brought this t-shirt to life. Each child and staff member will be given a t-shirt FREE of charge. We will be wearing these shirts to show our support for Lochlan prior to his upcoming appointments. Our first schoolwide t-shirt day is January 30th.

These are the stories that I feel are so important to share, as this type of community work is what our Crosby-Ironton School District is all about. I truly am grateful to be part of such a supportive and loving school community.

January at a Glance:

- ❖ Feb. 12: No School (CRES Only-READ ACT Training)
- ❖ Feb. 17: No School

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Demuth