

Dear Mr. Kantola and Board Members:

First let me send my regards and respect to you all. I will miss those of you not returning. Your dedication and work to support our students is appreciated. I know the closing of Jerome Prairie has been difficult for all of you as well as us.

I am happy to say that our school pulled together the last month even with the specter of closing hanging over us. Everyone was highly professional and caring. They put the kids first. What else could I wish for? We had many good times with a Rodeo/Farm Day on May 31st which included the FFA kids from Hidden Valley bringing petting animals and providing a hay ride. We also had other community groups providing a mini-mule station, a roping station, square dancing and our Master Gardener's from Madrona came over and helped the kids plant their own tomato plants to take home.

We had our visit with all Kdg-4th grade students going to Madrona on May 30th. We had classroom activities, a parent lunch, visits to the garden and a whole school (yes 410 kids) assembly. We had a welcome to Madrona video made by some of our 4th graders that introduces most of the Madrona staff, the school mascot and song. Last, but not least the teaching staff (all in their Madrona shirts including JP folks) dressed up in silly stuff and rocked to a silly song on the stage for our grand finale. We did not have one negative thing happen except lots of tired and happy kids and staff!

We finished our year with our moving on ceremony on the last day and a field day. Parents also were invited for lunch. The community came for a reception in our library in the afternoon. We had about sixty people including a man who attended JP in the late fifties and early sixties. He came all the way from the Sacramento area. We had all age groups from two twin girls who left in 2005 to an 88 year old who had family who attended before and after him. We had many of the school and PTA scrap books, pictures, trophies and old uniforms displayed thanks to some of my most dedicated staff.

Many of the Jerome Prairie staff members have spent many, many extra hours here trying to help us prepare for the move. I cannot express my thanks clearly enough for their wonderful support. The place is a mess, but will soon become neat and organized again so that the materials and items that are not needed at Madrona will be easily accessible for other schools when the time comes. I have been working with our Directors to help make the transition for all to Madrona in the fall a success. Wish me luck!

Blessings on each of you as the summer approaches.

Lise Van Brunt,

Principal Jerome Prairie and Madrona