

## Jerome Prairie Elementary School Board Report

December 3, 2009

Number of Students: 219

K- 30, 1<sup>st</sup>- 35, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 43, 3<sup>rd</sup>-32 4<sup>th</sup>- 40, 5<sup>th</sup>-39

We look forward to hosting the December 14 school board meeting and the chance to recognize some of the individuals that have helped us shine over the past two years. It is a great pleasure to work with such a highly dedicated group of parents, teachers and educational assistants. We will also have student work displayed including some projects from our new science club.

As we expected over 80% of our students passed the state assessment in reading on their first attempt. Consequently, we are continuing with our planned focus on math and writing during our staff development. Teachers have been working to increase mathematical thinking by adding number talks and problems of the month to their repertoire. We are meeting with Peg Cowens again after school on December 15<sup>th</sup> to examine our progress, look at obstacles and identify possible solutions. During our November late start we broke into cross-grade teams to evaluate student writing. We looked for areas of strength and weakness in student writing to guide our instruction. Teachers found it useful to review the expectations at each grade level and to see the range of actual student writing. Teachers were then able to take scored student writing back to the classroom and use it to help students examine strengths and weaknesses in their individual writing. We are following this up at our January late start with another school-wide writing assessment.

We just had our second PBS all school reward activity for the year. The PBS committee is off to a good start and we have seen a reduction in our top two problem areas- aggressive behavior and non-compliance. The committee has reviewed our practices, helped strengthen certain areas such as playground expectations, supervision, and recognition/rewards. We have instituted a new monthly student recognition for students of the month, a selected character trait, and perfect attendance for each classroom. The recognition takes place during music in the morning time when all K-2 (cafeteria) and 3-5 (gym) students are together.

See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Fuller