

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
From: Terri Vasquez, Principal
Date: January 13, 2014
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

ENROLLMENT:

AM Kindergarten: 61	2 nd Grade: 105 (up 2)
ELL Kindergarten (AM): 13	3 rd Grade: 88
PM Kindergarten: 37 (down 1)	4 th Grade: 103 (up 2)
1 st Grade: 81 (up 1)	Special Day (COSSA): 13

LEP LITERACY NIGHT: The LEP Literacy Night was held at the elementary school on the evening of December 4th. Families were treated to a chicken dinner before students went to various classrooms for literacy activities so the parent meeting could begin. I talked about the importance of attendance and our district attendance policies and Ms. Winters talked about upcoming testing for the students. The remainder of the meeting included other guest speakers and a book giveaway.

IDAHO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT: The elementary school was awarded a \$500 grant for the Walkin' Talkin' Trojans Walking Club. Mr. Moore wrote the grant at the end of the 2012-2013 school year requesting funding for the operation of the walking program. This money will help fund rewards for achieving mileage goals throughout the year. These rewards include lunch parties with Subway sandwiches and Idaho Pizza, popcorn parties, sports clinics with HHS athletes, t-shirts, and year-end trips to the YMCA and Wahooz.

NURSING HOME VISITS: Following Mrs. Chandler's lead as reported last month, the Special Day, 2nd grade, and 4th grade classes also visited the nursing home during December to sing carols, and take cards and holiday decorations to the residents.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: The 1st and 2nd grades students presented a Rockin' Christmas Program to their families and community members on December 19th. Mr. Bradshaw selected some rockin' Christmas music and the students did a great job singing and entertaining the crowd. The audience even participated by singing "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"! The evening ended with a visit from Santa Claus who joined the students on their last musical number.

COATS AND CLOTHES: A huge THANK YOU to Shelley Shenk and Stacy Woods for bringing winter coats and clothes for our elementary students! They were greatly appreciated in this cold weather.

LOCK DOWN: Chief Eidemiller observed and helped with our Lock Down drill in December. We discussed a few things that could be changed and improved to help keep our students as safe as possible. Sgt. McFetridge has offered to help improve our fire drill and lock down procedures.

HOMEDALE ELEMENTARY LIL' PANTRY (H.E.L.P.): December 19th was the first afternoon the food pantry was open for our elementary parents. We had 4 volunteers, Mrs. DeWitt, and me registering families and distributing food. Even though there are guidelines for the amounts of each food families can get, families are allowed to choose the kinds of vegetables, fruits, proteins, and grains their family will eat depending upon availability in the pantry. The pantry is supported by the Idaho Food Bank and we will receive monthly shipments of food. Our first shipment was roughly 1,600 pounds and included frozen turkey dinners complete with potatoes and stuffing. The pantry will be open twice a month after school hours. We are grateful for several donations and help: Kasey and Keri Garrett for shelving, Mike and Lori Conant for a freezer, Lori Idsinga for a refrigerator, and Travis and Jessie Kerbs for a refrigerator. Heidi Ankeny, Lindsey Love, Ray Powell, and Clara Leigh Evans helped unload the initial shipment of food and organized the pantry.



UNIVERSAL BENCHMARK TESTING / IDAHO READING INDICATOR: Students will be given benchmark tests and Winter IRI assessments the week of January 13-17.

SANTA BRUNCH: The PTO made \$5,500 on the 2nd Annual Santa Brunch. They have earmarked the funds to go toward a BrightLink for one Kindergarten classroom and the Parent Notification System that was on the last two levies.

DOLLAR DEEDS: The 4th grade students completed a project last month to raise money for relief efforts in the Philippines. The project was spearheaded by Mary Jo Larzelier as students were concerned after hearing news reports about the disaster in the Philippines. Students did "Dollar Deeds" in the form of chores at home to raise money. They sent \$296.29 to the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Foundation on December 19th. We have great students at HES!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 16 – Annual Elk's Hoop Shoot

January 23 – Family Math Night

January 31 – WTT Sports Party