



# Manzanita Elementary



First Trimester Board Report

2012-2013

by Jessica Durrant

It seems that just yesterday we were putting the finishing touches on the classrooms in preparation for the start of school. Yet the end of the first trimester is just a few weeks away! Each day brings new challenges and opportunities for our students to grow academically and socially. I am so lucky to work with such a dedicated staff and surrounded by a caring group of parents that want the best for our children. The following are some highlights and updates on happenings at Manzanita thus far this year.

**‘OUTSTANDING’** ~ For the third year in a row, Manzanita Elementary received an ‘outstanding’ rating from the Oregon Department of Education for our academic achievement and growth. Congratulations to the staff who help each student every day, to students who give their best effort in all they do, and to all parents who value and are involved in their child’s education. Working together, we can accomplish anything!

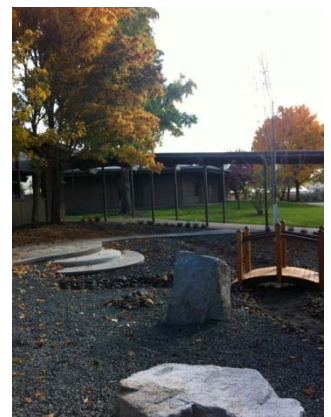
**Extended Learning** ~ Learning doesn’t only happen in the classroom at Manzanita; we offer several opportunities for students to extend their learning outside the classroom walls. A group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participate each week in Destination Imagination, a creative process that challenges student’s thinking and group skills. We also are offering two musical opportunities for students, General Choir and Honors Choir. You are invited to their concert to hear the culmination of their hard work!

**Outdoor Learning Area** ~ Over 18 months and approximately 340 hours of labor has resulted in the transformation of the area outside the library. This project began by removing the spider-web infested shrubs with the vision of creating an area that teachers can use with classrooms, students can use for learning, and an area in which the community can take pride. Thank you to all the ‘Serve Grants Pass’ volunteers, Manzanita staff, Manzanita parents, community businesses, and many more who made this dream transform into a reality.

**BEFORE...**



**AFTER!!!**



**Conferences** ~ Parent-teacher conferences were held in October and we had an amazing turnout! 90% of all Manzanita families attended conferences! Teachers were able to share with parents the growth their student has made thus far this year. Thank you to all the parents who attended as we encourage a strong line of communication between home and school.

**Outdoor Covered Structure** ~ I was able to share with the board at the October board meeting the vision and plan for building a covered structure for students to use during inclement weather. Our committee has been working on researching grant possibilities and writing RFP for construction bids. Doug Ely and Robert Horban have been an enormous help in determining what the Three Rivers Maintenance Department can do and what needs to be done by a contractor. Things are moving along and we hope to award the construction bid in the very near future.

**Wal-Mart** ~ Grants Pass Wal-Mart recently recognized teachers at Manzanita for their dedication and devotion to students. Manzanita was the only elementary school in Josephine County to receive such an honor! Each classroom teacher received a \$50 gift certificate to Wal-Mart to help purchase supplies for the room. Wal-Mart received feedback from community members and patrons in order to select a winner. Thank you to Laura and Roger from Wal-Mart for their kind generosity to our staff!

**Data Team** ~ Manzanita teachers are working through a new process this year taking a close look at student data in an effort to maximize interventions and drive instruction. Working in grade level teams, information about reading, math, science, and behavior is analyzed at to ensure that students who are struggling *and* those who are excelling are receiving the appropriate education. This important work is a priority at our school and we expect to see growth from all students this year.

**Jog-a-thon** ~ On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Manzanita held our annual Jog-a-thon at the Fleming Middle School track. Students worked together to set classroom goals for the number of laps they could run in 20 minutes. The overall school goal was 1881 laps. Not only did students meet that goal, they went beyond by running 2202 laps! Every student who participated received a certificate and a PAW pencil and those who brought in money received additional fun prizes too. In all, over \$9200 was raised for various projects around Manzanita. Take a look at these great pictures and you can see how much fun we had!



Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm for education. You are always welcome to attend one of our events, or even just come have lunch with us! We look forward to the new adventures and challenges the next trimester will bring.