

Fruitdale Elementary Board Report

March 1, 2011

Dear Board Members:

We have worked diligently the past three months to keep our focus on best instructional practice and maintaining high yet realistic goals for the school year. Since coming to Fruitdale Elementary I have been impressed with the overall professionalism in the classroom and the teachers' willingness to do what is best for our students. Teachers have maintained a high level of instruction in the classroom despite the various distractions that have been a part of our school year.

We are currently engaged in staff development related to best practice in math instruction. We are increasing our understanding of student-centered math through the VandeWalle staff development materials. This is an excellent resource tied directly to the math standards that provides a wealth of research-based ideas and strategies. Even though we have lost some of our late starts we are committed to continuing with our learning.

We have had several outstanding events the past three months. Our two holiday programs in December (K-2 and 3-5) were well attended and extremely popular with our patrons. In February we had a science week that included an OMSI assembly during the day and a Science Night that featured a special exhibit on outer space from Science Works and a special exhibit from Pacifica. I want to thank the PTO for all their hard work in helping to put this event together! Again, the night activity was well attended and we even had some coverage from the Daily Courier.

We are currently completing our second round of state testing. Our reading scores are looking good and are above state averages. Of some real concern are our math scores. With the new, higher cut scores it appears unlikely we (or most schools in the state) will meet the standard for Adequate Yearly Progress. However, I must say that my upper grade teachers remain optimistic about the amount of student growth possible. I am certain my teachers will do their absolute best to help students be successful.

Hope springs eternal.

Respectfully submitted,
David Fuller