

Board Report
Jerome Prairie Elementary School

April 9, 2009

Number of students: 225

K- 32, 1st- 49, 2nd- 30, 3rd- 42, 4th- 37, 5th- 35

Spring has been a busy time at Jerome Prairie Elementary. In addition to regular class work, students have been preparing for the Battle of the Books, learning to play West African drums, listening to the Rogue Valley Opera, receiving dental prevention and hygiene instruction from the Siskiyou Community Dental Facility, planting trees on county forest lands and going to Science Works in Ashland. Next week I will be joining our 5th grade students for a visit to the state capital and special overnight program at the Oregon Zoo called the Zoo Snooze. This is a wonderful, learning experience with several hands-on activities. We have also started to use our new field for PE, recess, and youth baseball programs.

My Positive Behavior Support team had a great experience at the state PBS conference and has returned with plans to expand the committee and ramp-up our PBS activities such as our school-wide awards. We reviewed the results of the school evaluation tool and are making plans for improvement next year. We have also worked very hard on writing this year. Our efforts have focused on increasing writing fluency and concentrating more effort on the 6+1 writing traits developed by the Northwest regional Education Laboratory in Portland. Our scores more than doubled from last year and we are looking at ways to maintain our focus and keep student writing scores on the rise. Finally, we are forming a building math committee which will take the work and recommendations of the district level committee and work to effectively implement the state's new math standards. Our building committee will also be reviewing effective instructional strategies and providing on-going support and training to the rest of the teachers. We feel that along with writing, this is a major area needing improvement.

All of these areas include an effort to increase active learning and teaching that regularly checks for understanding. Two of my teachers, Jessica Coppes and Kellie Lovell recently attended a Kagan workshop. Both teachers were already highly invested in some of these teaching strategies, and they have returned with an even greater knowledge base. Jessica and Kellie will be sharing this information with teachers at the next district-wide staff development day on May 22. They will also be a great resource within our building.

Having three schools has made this a most challenging year for me. I appreciate the patience and understanding I have received from everyone at the district office. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Fuller