

Report to the Board

March 1, 2012

Fort Vannoy's focus for this tri-mester, as with last tri-mester, is to increase the success of students in their understanding of Math. Teachers have been meeting in Collaborative Groups, attending workshops and sharing strategies to improve Math instruction and student success.

Two teachers, Phil Biencourt and Jim Kriz, have started after school tutoring in Math with wonderful results.

Kari O'Brien and Sheri Rubey (ERC) have recently received an iPad as well as six student iPads to pilot the use of the devices to raise Math scores. The initial response from the ERC students is fantastic. They are engaged in learning games and motivated to work harder to have the opportunity to work on the iPad.

Along with this is to improve student behavior through PBIS and to continue to increase student attendance. In tracking the behavior data, we have found that overall referrals are down by half from a year ago. The number of students receiving multiple referrals has also dropped by about half. The work the staff is doing on teaching PBIS and enforcing the expectations is leading to fewer behavior issues and therefore more time-on-task in the classroom.

Our attendance continues to improve. We hold weekly meetings with the Family Advocate, Office Clerk and Principal to check attendance. The Family Advocate, Theresa Ogden, follows up with phone calls to families to address reasons for poor attendance or tardiness. As a result, Fort Vannoy once again had the highest increase of attendance from January 2011 to January 2012 (1.51%) of any school in the District. Our attendance for the year is 95.63%.

We had such a wonderful Christmas program at the GPPAC in December that the students did an encore performance at the school two weeks later. Our PTA pays for Music Teacher Dayna Hankins to conduct Music instruction for all grades weekly. She is not starting after school rehearsals for any interested third, 4th and 5th grade students to put on a performance of Arisitocats.

We have not neglected Science! Fort Vannoy had the highest number of projects at the Science Fair in the District. In addition, the students' success on their projects was the best in years. In January we had Science Works of Ashland work with our third, 4th and 5th grade students and teachers on the scientific process and science inquiry method. With the help of PTA we also

had OMSI do a very engaging assembly for all students on physics. The students learned how we use physics in our lives and they learned new vocabulary to define the processes.

Our wonderful parent volunteers Nadyah Field and Carol Pock contributed greatly to parent involvement by putting on the Book Fair and Art Night for families. The Book Fair raised funds for the Library and Art Night is a way to share the wonderful work that students have done in the area of Art. In addition to the gallery of work, family members made crafts together and shared a great time.

The other parent involvement function promoted by the PTA and volunteers is our monthly Family Movie Night showing. For no cost to the families we gather in the gym and watch recently released movies with a positive theme. To help our Family Advocate program, free popcorn is available for the donation of a canned food item.

The next big project to be undertaken is to begin to “unwrap” the Math Common Core Standards. Lindsay DeVore and Josh Standley attended a two day workshop at Douglas ESD to learn the process of “unwrapping” a Standards and checking for student understanding.

Lindsay and Josh will help Peggy Cowens lead the Fort Vannoy teachers through the process of “unwrapping” Math Standards as part of a Districtwide effort to make progress on the process by May.

In the meantime, we continue to carefully monitor student progress on Reading, Math and Science on the OAKS assessment. We still have a lot of work to do in the second half of the year to get our students to the level of meeting AYP in Math. However, the students are showing great gains and everyone is working together to reach the goal.