

Jerome Prairie Elementary  
School Board Report

December 3, 2008

Number of Students: 237 (an increase of 9 students from this time last year with one less teacher)

K- 35, 1<sup>st</sup>- 49, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 32, 3<sup>rd</sup>-44, 4<sup>th</sup>- 41 5<sup>th</sup>- 36

The first trimester has been very exciting at Jerome Prairie. We have seen our two new teachers quickly become important members of our school team and two others willingly take on the challenge of a blend and/or new grade level. Our strong relationship with the PTO has led to a major renovation of our athletic fields. Academically, we have targeted writing improvement as our number one goal this year, and behaviorally we are committed to our system of Positive Behavior Supports.

We have established three teams of three teachers each this year- K/1, 2/3, and 4/5. Each team meets once per week to discuss progress curriculum and progress on school goals. For example, we used several of the meetings at the beginning of the year to discuss team plans for working on writing. These discussions included how to increase writing fluency using journals and writers' workshops, monitoring progress in writing conventions using quick writes, and teaching the modes and structures of writing with the 6+1 writing traits model. We have also used the team format to discuss topics such as PBS and student behavior as well as to plan for state assessment testing. These teams meet during our "Time in a Bottle" activity period when students are engaged in activities in the library, computer lab or writing or math enrichment.

I want to stress that the loss of Friday late starts has made it very difficult to manage continuous staff development in relation to our improvement goals for the year. We have tried to mitigate the impact of this loss with team meetings, but it is still essential to have longer extended periods of time for training the entire staff. A good example is the need for more time to reinforce the Kagan training we provided teachers. I encourage the board to please consider reinstating late starts on the calendar for next year.

The PTO has spearheaded our own "Field of Dreams" project. By utilizing their efforts to get donations, discounts, and volunteer labor in combination with funds we have raised the past several years for playground improvement, we have undertaken a resurfacing project for our field and track. Based on work estimates we have received we are going to accomplish an approximately \$50,000 project for about \$20,000. All money is from fundraising and no general fund dollars are being used for this project. The project includes adjustments to the irrigation system, complete removal and replacement of the base soil, installation of new sod, curbing around the track and resurfacing of the track (decomposed granite).

We have also continued our participation in the PBS program. We began the year by teaching expectations and rules for each area of the school. Three of the strongest aspects

of this program are its emphasis on reteaching rules, establishing consistent expectations throughout the building, and providing positive rewards and acknowledgement for students. The program helps establish a positive rather than punitive tone in the classroom and playground environments. We sent a team to the Southern Oregon PBS conference at SOU in order to look at what we can do to keep moving forward with this program. Also, all our educational assistants participated in PBS training on playground supervision that was well received.

We will continue to do our best for children and maintain the value of our motto, "There is no better place to learn!"

Respectfully submitted,  
David Fuller