



## ***Williams Elementary School***

# **Williams Elementary Board Report -- October 2014**

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### **"Back to School Night" a Success**

Parents and students enjoyed Back to School Night held Wed. Sept. 24. The evening included an old-fashioned "Ice Cream Social" which provided a pleasant setting for staff members and parents and students to talk about our school.



Parents were able to tour their students' classrooms, the library, the computer lab, and sign up for various community activities for enrichment outside of the school day. Not surprisingly, students seemed very interested in playing on the playground, where they spent considerable energy convincing their parents to play alongside them.

### **District Consultation with Oregon RTI Beneficial for Williams Staff and Students**

A recent training with Oregon "Response to Intervention" (OrRTI) entitled "100% Meetings" helped Williams teachers analyze data from recent "Dibels" assessments, and use those data to make decisions regarding what areas in reading students' needs instruction, as well as about student reading levels and placement in reading groups.



"Dibels" is an acronym for dynamic indicators of basic early literacy skills". Each student is "dibeled" at the beginning of each school year. Dibels data is considered the most predictive of student reading success.

Staff members reported gaining further clarity around use of data, about Dibels specifically, and about how to use data in deciding how to teach, and where to place students using the new "Journeys" English Language Arts adoption.

## **OCTOBER IS 'START UP' MONTH FOR KEY PROGRAMS AT WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY**

- **SMART STARTS**



*This year the Oregon-based SMART program (Start Making a Reader Today) returns to our school. SMART received the 2014 Library of Congress Literacy Award, and we're please to associate with this great reading program. Our students will benefit from volunteers who comet to the classroom to work with students one-on-one.*

- **STRINGS PROGRAM RESONATES**



*The strings and music program starts the first week of October. Each of our students K-2 will have opportunity to participate in choral music, while grades 3-5 will electively participate in guitar or violin.*

*This fine program is supported by Communiversity.*

- **"GOOD NEWS" AT WILLIAMS**

*Parents of many Williams Elementary students have given permission for their students to be released from school for religious study in keeping with tradition and the law of the land. "Good News" is the name of the Bible study program in which our students participate. Local volunteers will take students off campus then return each Tuesday afternoon.*

### **FIELD TRIPS PLANNED FOR WILLIAMS STUDENTS**

Students grades 4/5 will be headed to Crater Lake this October and again in the spring. This is an annual trip Ms. Cassie Elston-Bingham has conducted for her students "...quite a few years now, she said, "...and it is amazing!"



This trip is ranger-led, and ties directly to the 4/5 science curriculum and standards. Students will become on-site scientists as they study geology and lake formation, forestry, birding, animal adaptations, and stewardship of the environment.

Later in the month, Elston-Bingham's students will be headed to Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on another science adventure, to explore biodiversity of ecosystems. This outing will be led by SOU graduates in Environmental Education. This program is also aligned to science standards and, like the Crater Lake trip, has been a great learning experience for students.

### **THE GREAT AMERICAN PIONEER RACE TO BE RUN**

The annual Williams jog-a-thon, this year called “The Great American Pioneer Race” will be held Thursday, Oct. 16. Students are currently gathering pledges for the run. Over \$10,000 was raised by students last year!

Here is a link to the fun promotional video, produced by Mindi Gallegos, our Office Manager, and starring the staff and students at Williams Elementary:

<http://youtu.be/9JxF3In1ZUk>



**Mindi Gallegos** accepts a “Pioneer Pass” from a student – the passes are part of the PBIS program at Williams which will benefit from “The Great American Pioneer Race.”



*From Williams Elementary School  
“Amazing Race” Jog-A-Thon 2013*