

Fruitdale Elementary School

Heather Yount -Principal Dianne Phelan-Office Manager

1560 Bill Baker Way
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527
Phone (541) 476-2276
Fax (541) 471-2447



November 12, 2013

Dear Board,

We have had a great start to the 2013-2014 school year. Staff and students came back to Fruitdale ready for another outstanding academic year. We are very proud of the work we did last year and are looking forward to another model school year. The first trimester at Fruitdale Elementary School is rapidly coming to a close. I am proud of the hard work from the students, staff and parents of Fruitdale. Below are some of the reasons Fruitdale is full of Panther Pride:

Model School

Our staff came back from the summer vacation and we celebrated student success on the first day. The preliminary data was out from the Oregon State Report card and we learned we moved from a Level 4 rating to a Level 5 rating. This was so exciting to celebrate, knowing that our intervention and special education systems look different. While we believed in the systems we had in place due to the progress monitoring of students last year, this added validity to our processes.

In October, we were able to celebrate again when Fruitdale was announced as a Model School. This time, our parents and students shared in this excitement. Our school community is proud of the success of our students.

Staff Development

We have already had several opportunities for Staff Development this year. As with any school year, 2012-2013 is full of changes. We have adopted Common Core Standards in Language Arts this year and continue to teach these standards in math. We are also anticipating a big change with our Summative Assessment as we move to the Smarter Balanced test next year. Listed below is some of the staff development the Fruitdale Staff has been part of:

- We sent four teachers and our Administrator to the DeFour Conference in Portland for two days during the month of October. They were able to bring back ideas to share with the staff. This information has already been implemented into our Math PLC meetings on a monthly basis.
- All teachers participated in our District Staff Development on October 18th. We spent the morning working on SIOP strategies as well as our new Synergy Program. We then had time in the afternoon in which Fruitdale teachers worked collaborately to look at reading intervention data in grade-level teams. We then took this information to assess successfulness of our intervention and to identify needed changes.
- We had some other teachers participate in a Common Core Language Arts and Common Core math workshop. These teachers learned not only teaching strategies to support the new standards but also how this instruction can work to support the new Smarter Balanced test next year.
- Our Title One teacher participated in a Smarter Balanced informative webinar in order to facilitate support for our staff as we move forward with this assessment next year.

- We have had several staff development opportunities with our classified staff as well. We began the year with a Common Core Language Arts development. In this, we focused on questioning strategies to support the higher level learning needed in this shift. We also trained our staff on DIBELS assessment. While many of the staff has been trained, we felt it was important to work together to ensure consistency in our processes.

As the school year progresses, we are looking forward to continuing on with staff development focus as our needs arise. As a matter of fact, we have a Renaissance training this afternoon for our teaching staff which focus is to use our STAR assessment to plan student instruction.

PBIS

Fruitdale's PBIS program is continuing to grow! Here is what we have been working on:

- We have participated in a Panther Rodeo teaching all behavioral expectations. Students received classroom lessons school-wide reinforcing the expectations. We then followed up the classroom instruction with on-site lessons integrating both our certified and classified staff.
- We have continued Friday's PRIDE Class in which we have 30 minutes of protected time to teach school-wide lessons. This trimester's lessons have been *Do Unto Otters*, *Just Kidding*, and a Jeopardy review.
- We have continued to implement a structured discipline system. We have analyzed discipline data to provide a focus for our school-wide system.
- Once a month we have a Panther Pride Assembly in which we recognize outstanding students who are safe, respectful, responsible, and positive.

Academics

We have a strong system for Double Dosing our students in both reading and math. This provides opportunities for both our students in need of intervention as well as enrichment. Every student at Fruitdale receives grade level instruction in both reading and math. We then have a system to remediate, enrich, or intervene in an extra half hour math and reading blocks. Progress monitoring is occurring at identified times throughout the trimester, with several opportunities for those students who are at the greatest risk. This is a true collaborative effort from all teachers including our specialists in Title One and Special Education.

Family and Community Support

On September 26th, we invited parents to come to school for our annual Open House. On this night, parents were invited to come into classrooms where we described our Title One opportunities as well as our classroom procedures and schedules. We also emphasized ways in which parents can work together with us to enhance student growth.

On October 22nd, Fruitdale hosted our annual Harvest Festival. This event was organized by collaboration between our community garden volunteers and a group of teachers. We invited parents for an evening of fun with their children. We offered pumpkin decorating, crafts, garden tours, and other fun for all families. Our turn-out was astonishing and we have received so much positive feedback from our school community.

These are just a few things to demonstrate what an outstanding school community Fruitdale Elementary School is. Our students, staff, and parents make this an exceptional school.

Sincerely,

Heather Yount
Principal
Fruitdale Elementary School