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March 1, 2012

Board Report for Evergreen Elementary School – Trimester #2

Dear Dan and TRSD School Board members:

Reflection on the second trimester of this school year is bitter sweet. As you know I recently accepted the Director of K-8 Education, Federal Programs and Technology position with the District. This means that I will be leaving Evergreen Elementary School at the end of this year. Evergreen is an exceptional school with an exceptional network of support in the Illinois Valley community. This school and the people I have work with over the past six years will always have special meaning and sentiment to me.

As you drive into our parking lot you'll notice our new look! We recently purchased a digital display school sign after years of fundraising. Our digital display is updated from a computer in the office and can run multiple messages at once. This gives us a big advantage over our old static reader board and allows us to get a lot more information out to parents and students. In addition to the increased functionality of the sign, it looks great as well. It is the first thing that a visitor or new-comer will see when they visit Evergreen and it is a sight to see.

More beautification to come! In a joint effort with Boys and Girls Club, Evergreen will be starting two new projects that will drastically improve our facilities in the next few weeks. We will be painting the exterior of two portable classrooms and our old Eagle Wing (5th grade hall). The portable classrooms are used for a number of different academic groups and classes during the school day. The B&G uses them a lot to foster their Teen Program and Keystone Club participation. We hope that a facelift (new paint job) will help develop ownership and pride in the students using the facilities. We are also constructing a new deck that will connect the two portables and increase the amount of useable space for those two buildings. The initial design of the deck is enormous and would be put to good use by both the school and the B&G. We are working to get all the materials donated as well as the labor.

Over the years we have worked very hard to create a school that our students are proud of. Evergreen is looking better and better all the time and it is because of the dedicated people that have made the choice to take care of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Valenzuela