

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
From: Terri Vasquez, Principal
Date: August 11, 2014
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

LIBRARY GRANT: The elementary school received the Idaho Commission for Libraries Elementary School Library Access to Books grant for \$5,000. This grant is specifically for K-1 students. This is an area in which we are lacking reading materials. The students will get many more books and be able to check out more than one book to take home each week.

FOOD BANK: Over the summer, the Homedale Elementary Lil' Pantry (H.E.L.P.) moved from their regular routine of opening the small pantry twice a month to having a mobile pantry deliver once a month. The mobile pantry is a semi-truck that parks in the back parking lot for approximately three hours. Volunteers unload food and people are free to walk around and get what they need. The Food Pantry has been serving between 75-90 people, or roughly 15-19 families. The summer mobile pantry served 123 families in June and 134 families in July! That was over 400 people that received food! With this type of distribution, we are able to serve the community more effectively. I am looking at just doing a monthly mobile pantry on Fridays instead of having our small pantry open twice a month. We would still do the backpack foods on Thursdays for the students who need them.

TECHNOLOGY: With the key shifts in English/Language Arts Idaho Core Standards, students are to digitally conduct research, and create and present material using digital resources. Using a little bit of technology money and our fundraiser money, we were able to purchase 20 additional iPad minis to use in the classrooms. These are split between teachers, so two teachers will share five iPads. At this point they will be using them in groups during workshop or learning center time to practice skills, research, create projects, and present them to the class.

MEET THE TEACHER: "Meet the Teacher" night will be held on Friday, August 15, 2014. Teachers will be holding five 25-minute informative sessions for their students and parents. Parents will sign up for sessions at registration. Students will bring their supplies to put away and the teacher will share the new handbook, expectations and procedures for the classroom, grade level, and school. PTO will be serving refreshments to welcome parents and students.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 13-15 Teacher Work Days

August 15 Meet the Teacher 3:30-6:00 pm

September 4 Picture Day