



Manzanita Elementary



Third Trimester Board Report

2012-2013

by Jessica Durrant

Wow, what a school year! As I reflect over the past trimester and the entire year, I am amazed at the level of learning and growth our students have made. It is a special experience to witness a student read their first book or successfully answer a difficult math task or eloquently write a 5-paragraph essay. Our teachers are dedicated to the whole student, fostering growth not only academically but socially too. I am so lucky to work with such a committed staff and surrounded by a caring group of parents that want the best for our children. The following are some highlights and updates during the 3rd trimester at Manzanita.



Calculus?? ~ Manzanita students had an amazing experience in May when students from the Hidden Valley Calculus class came and taught math for an hour. High school students prepared lessons that used the ActiveBoard, got students engaged, and sparked their curiosity about math. All classrooms grades 2-5 participated and the feedback was amazing. Students talked about this experience and asked if the Calculus students could come back the following day. What a wonderful opportunity for the youth in our district!!



Battle of the Books ~ Students in grades 2-5 competed in the annual Battle of the Books. We had two teams compete in Level 1 and five teams compete in Level 2. These students read and re-read 10 books over the course of 4 months, learning every detail of the characters and plot. In the end, our 'reigning champs' won again, the 4th year in a row. They went on to earn 2nd at the district competition. Winning teams in both levels celebrated by going to Elmer's and having lunch with the principal. Thank you to Van Granger and Gloria Steimer for organizing such an enriching opportunity. Way to go!!



Spelling Bee ~ Can you spell the word extraordinary? How about unequivocal? Our super student spellers could spell these and many more words during the annual Spelling Bee. The top 3 spellers in each classroom competed against each other grades 1-3 and grades 4-5. While it was a written test and not a verbal exam, the words were difficult and even Mrs. Durrant had to look up the definition of a few words. Congratulations to Kylie Douglas and Courtney Tudor who won in their respective grade levels.



Volunteers ~ Manzanita is an outstanding school due to the dedicated staff AND volunteers that help each day in the classrooms. Manzanita hosted a Volunteer Reception to honor these volunteers. The Choir performed while cake and punch were served. Jennifer Hamilton, Ed Assistant at Manzanita, created wonderful posters to express our gratitude to the volunteers. We appreciate you!!

Perfect Attendance ~ Coming to school each day, being on-time, and staying for the full day is a priority at Manzanita. We reward students every trimester for both 'Perfect' and 'Excellent' attendance. There were 7 students who had perfect attendance for the entire school year!! They earned a trip in a limousine, lunch at Abby's Pizza, and a smoothie at Dutch Bros. Congratulation to these students and all of the others who take their school attendance seriously. You rock!!



Carnival ~ On May 31st, Manzanita held our annual Carnival. This PTA sponsored event is the main fundraiser to support our Music Program. Volunteers swirled cotton candy, crushed ice for snow cones, cooked hot-dogs, organized carnival games, and much more. Both the Silent Auction and Live Auction were a huge success with the entire event raising over \$8,800! Hundreds of hours went in to planning and coordinating such a large event and it is all for the kids. We are happy to report that enough money was raised to fund the music program for the 2013-2014 school year. Thank you to the businesses and families that supported this worthy fundraiser.

Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm for education. You are always welcome to attend one of our events, or even just come have lunch with us! We look forward to the new adventures and challenges the next year will bring.