

## Report to the Board Fort Vannoy Elementary School Winter 2011

Fort Vannoy School and staff took great advantage of community resources in the past trimester. It is wonderful to have so many programs that come into the schools to help our students. While some of the programs incur a cost to the school, many others are provided solely with volunteers.

First of all, our SMART program continues to grow in both volunteers and in the reading success of students. Carol Strode, our SMART coordinator, is doing an outstanding job. Her organizational skills and dedication to children have come together to provide extra reading support for students in first, second and third grades. We have about 40 volunteers reading with children two afternoons a week. We are outgrowing the classroom with so many volunteers. What a wonderful problem to have!

Through fundraisers by PTA, we are able to provide a Music teacher and music programs for our students. The yearly Jog-A-Thon in the fall is able to fully fund Dayna Hankins for two mornings a week of music. She also does two evening performances for family and community members. In December we used the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center for an all-school sing. The theme was "Christmas in Hawaii". Each grade level had a special song to sing, some songs were sung by K-5th grade students together, and the evening's event ended with audience participation in singing traditional Christmas chorals. Everyone, young and old alike, enjoyed the event. We received many positive comments from family members who attended the performance.

This spring Mrs. Hankins will be working with interested third, fourth and fifth grade students after school to rehearse for "Jungle Book." All interested students are able to be in the show. The students will perform for the community on May 19, 2011. Dress rehearsal is at 1:00 and the evening performance is at 7:00 PM in the Fort Vannoy gym.

We have had several assemblies for students, mainly with Science themes. First and second grade students loved the Bugs-R Us assembly. Third grade students once again took part in Talk About Trees. All students were able to thrill to the Science Circus from OMSI. We benefited from a \$500 grant, as well as splitting the remaining cost for OMSI with the PTA. In November, all students were able to experience "Comedy for Kids: Social and Emotional Learning Through Humor and Improvisation." They really enjoyed that assembly! Fifth grade students learned to tie knots and cast with the local Steelheader group over two days in late November.

Another community group that has volunteered at Fort Vannoy is the Rural Metro Fire Department. Two firefighters from Rural Metro spent lunch time recess on the playground with the children. The children loved playing basketball, four square and chase with the fire fighters.

Our PRIDE activities for PBIS continue to be very popular with the students and a "must not miss" activity. Students who have good behavior at school and on the bus are eligible to attend PRIDE each month. For November we brought back the Duck vs. Beaver challenge. In addition to having a lot of fun with cheering and being silly, dressing Mrs. Hill in Duck grab, we raised over \$700 for playground improvements. That's \$1,400 raised in two years through the Duck vs. Beaver Challenge.

**Continued on page 2**

Other popular PRIDE activities have been a series of relay challenges between classrooms for December and a Trashion Fashion Show for January. We will combine February and March and hold a PRIDE activity in the last week before Spring Break. The plan is to have Wildlife Images bring in wild animals and Fort Vannoy Farms bring in domestic animals. Students will learn about these two types of animals in a rotation and, time allowing, write about the experience.

For the teaching staff we held a Math workshop with Jim Kriz on January 28, 2011. Jim took the teachers through the opening chapter of the Van de Walle books, Teaching Student Centered Mathematics. In November the teaching staff was assisted with technology by Rob Saunders on Wednesday, November 16, 2010, and time was given to finalize work on goals and to do Safe Schools on-line workshops Friday, November 19, 2011.

We are getting ready for Science Fair this week. Thirty-five students in grades 1-5 will take part in the District Science Fair.

Classified Employees Appreciation week will be celebrated March 8-11. Between the licensed staff and PTA we will celebrate our classified staff every day with treats and notes of appreciation from the students.