

November 29, 2011

Dear Members of the Board,

I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. The “younger” I get the more amazed I become at the speed a year can pass by. I appreciate your work and dedication on behalf of our students and staff. Many of us recognize how difficult your job is because of the current state and national economy.

As we close out the first trimester it is important that you know how much effort and achievement our teachers are making in bringing proficiency based teaching and learning into our daily curriculum. We have seen substantial change in teaching practice and planning so that students in language arts, science and math are mastering what they are expected to know. The Hidden Valley Faculty has made significant growth in their use of standards and proficiencies. Our teachers continue providing leadership in the proficiency project. Our four language arts teachers visited Taft High School to see how proficiencies look in a school wide setting. We will be asking all teachers in the elective classes to support the school wide effort by planning and practicing a two-three week unit of learning using the proficiency model during the second trimester. I will be asking all teachers to submit a trimester plan that shows how they will be using proficiencies in reading and writing. We will be sending another information sheet about standards/proficiency based learning home with our report cards in the second week of December.

You may have seen the front page article about Mark Vidlak and his approach to furniture making in his Woods Classes. Our students, including a number of females, are making some beautiful projects that show the skills they are learning. I invite you to see those classes in period 3, 4 and 5. Our metals, art, agriculture, music and business programs continue to offer hands on learning for many of our students.

Chris Pendleton and Heidi Marks had more than 150 of their seniors successfully meet the presentation requirement for the College Prep/Senior Forum class. We had more than 30 community members on judging panels as our seniors presented. The senior presentations have become an outstanding addition to our school and most of our students had exceptional projects.

Outside of our classrooms we ended our fall season of sport with outstanding individual and team achievements: Sierra Brown, a junior, placed 2nd in State 4A Cross Country. She ran her personal best time on the course at Lane Community College. Our Volleyball team was 2nd in State after losing to 6 time state champion Crook County. Several of our girls gained high honors: Skylar Fate and Bailey Bars were selected to the 1st Team All-Tourney State Team and Elly Lengwin and Liz Venzon were selected to the 2nd Team All-Tourney State Team. Our coach, Robert Jackson, was named Skyline Coach of the Year. For the first time in several years none of our other fall teams made the State Playoffs.

We were making several small improvements to the physical plan: several small cement projects got completed, we had a successful pumpkin patch in our Agriculture classes and we have made upgrades to our Wrestling room. We have purchased electronic winches to raise and lower our backboards in the

gym. These should be installed over the Christmas break. When they are done, we will have removed a 30 year old safety hazard.

We continue to see solid efforts to meet the needs of our kids. With the help of the Greater Grants Pass Rotary, Interact Club and FBLA we have "adopted" 5 families throughout the district and more than 20 high school students to help with holiday food and gifts. We would like to do more but we will do the best we can with the resources we collect. It is important that our kids learn the joy of giving as they become more responsible citizens. The ladies in our office do a fantastic job of blessing many kids while doing so in a dignified manner.

Again, thank you for the continued opportunity to serve as the principal at Hidden Valley.

Dennis Misner