



Manzanita Elementary



October Board Report

2014-2015

by Renee Hulst

The school year is off to an amazing start. Manzanita is truly a great place for kids. I am one of the few people who are privileged to go to a job that I love.

“You never stand as tall as when you kneel to help a child”

The following are some highlights and updates on happenings at Manzanita thus far this year.

Morning Assembly: Each day Manzanita begins our day in the gym. This allows for general morning announcements, school-wide flag salute and it fosters a sense of community. We come together to start our day on a positive note, celebrating our learning journey.

Open House : On September 11th we opened our doors to Manzanita families. Overall we had a great turn out and consumed nearly 800 cookies!! Open house is a great way to involve our community in our school. In addition to showcasing classrooms and bragging about our amazing start to the school year, we were able to invite community groups to host tables.

Effective Instruction: Manzanita teachers are absolutely amazing. They are truly dedicated to doing what is best for kids. They are embracing the changes and focusing on student learning. Our focus is on reading instruction and increased student proficiency in reading. The elementary team recognizes the importance of systematic, intentional and purposeful reading instruction. We also acknowledge the relationship between reading achievement and graduation rates. Through the implementation of 90 minutes grade level instruction and 30 minutes of enrichment and intervention it is an elementary goal to bridge those learning gaps and help every child reach his or her potential. I invite you to stop in and see the amazing teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms.

100% Meeting ~ On September 11th the Manzanita teachers met in grade level teams to analyze their DIBELS. We looked at 100% of our kids and for ways to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all learners. Teachers came together and collaborated to evaluate systems to deliver core +more instruction in reading. We established reading goals to help guide us through data driven instruction.

Staff Brag: “I have to say.... at Manzanita we truly ARE a family. So many subs that visit our school mention that the atmosphere is "different" at Manzanita and that we really seem to care about each other and the well-being of "our" kids. This is something that I see examples of every day. All of the aides share ideas and ways to work together to improve our working environment as well as ways to work together to help students achieve their goals. From throwing an impromptu pot-luck to boost morale (or to just EAT!!)or to just hanging out after school to discuss our duties..... it's all about teamwork!” Mrs. Jannett

Extended Learning: Our 5th Grade students had the amazing opportunity to visit Crater Lake. It is always exciting to take the classroom outside and expose our students to the wonderful educational opportunities and wonders our state has to offer.

“On September 23rd, 24th, and 25th the three 5th grade classes at Manzanita each visited Crater Lake National Park. Leaving school at 7:00am, students endured a two and a half hour bus ride to see the deepest lake in the United States and Oregon’s only national park. One highlight was a 0.7 mile hike up to Watchman’s Peak, a fire lookout tower on the

rim of the caldera overlooking Wizard Island. Students also got to visit Sinnot Memorial, a small viewing station and museum set down inside the wall of Mt. Mazama, the volcano that blew up and eventually became Crater Lake. Despite some rain and wind on some of the days, students and chaperones had a great learning experience.” Mr. Granger



Mrs. Chamberlains 5th Grade Class

“The 5th grade classes at Manzanita explored the natural geological formations along with the flora and fauna along the Watchman Tower Trail at Crater Lake National Park. It was a day of new experiences, seeing first-hand the beauty that remains after a volcanic eruption that occurred about 7,700 years ago. “ Mrs. Chamberlain.

Music at Manzanita: Manzanita Music Instruction begins Oct. 7th. Our PTA sponsors a music teacher to provide music instruction once a week at each grade level. Additionally we are able to provide an afterschool choir program. We will have 3 evening music programs throughout the year. Our choir would love the opportunity to display their talents to the board. Let us know if you would like a song or two to brighten up a board meeting.

Jog a thon: Our annual fund raiser jog a thon is Friday, October 3rd. This is an fun opportunity for our students to raise funds to support school wide projects. Our elementary students think it’s pretty exciting to go run on the middle school track.

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 trimester will bring.