

**Fruitdale Elementary School
School Board Briefing
November 15, 2010**

Superintendent and Esteemed School Board Members:

We have had a fantastic opening to this school year despite the setbacks that try to hinder the educational process we are trying so hard to maintain. Our teachers and staff at Fruitdale are dedicated professionals who seek to attain the highest levels they can though overcrowded classrooms, no contract, and constant national threats that we don't make the grade are forever looming over us.

We have a strong community in this area. We see a tremendous amount of transient students and families, and we do everything we can to see to the needs of those students and families. When you enter our building, it is the expectation that students will feel safe and their experience here will be positive and uplifting. With smiles on our faces we endeavor to greet everyone who comes through the door with warmth and care.

Though we haven't had too many incidents of outstanding proportion to report, I can certainly say we are succeeding with our goals of intentional relationships, students highly engaged in learning, and rethinking to reteach concepts not met. We were successful in the traditional opening of school as far as Back to School Night goes. And, we have already taken some very educational field trips. Academically, we are using our block schedule for reading and math groups and double dosing in both areas.

Every teacher at Fruitdale has an Activboard and they use them to engage students and provide superior lessons especially for those students who are visual learners. With technology as another goal, we are taking advantage of every opportunity we can for staff development. Teachers are great to experiment and come up with new and exciting ways to engage their students.

In our amazing garden project, we hosted a wonderful Harvest Festival in connection with a Book Fair. Families were encouraged to attend and receive some of the harvest the students have been working on all summer long. We served fresh, homemade salsa and chips and incorporated arts and crafts into the evening so everyone could participate. It was a well attended evening and a great time for all.

PBIS is strong and healthy at Fruitdale. We encourage students daily to be safe, respectful, responsible and positive. We challenge every student, everyday to make good choices. We celebrate often the good and positive we enjoy here and almost every student will tell you they are proud to be a panther.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we are beginning our first round of state wide testing. Our staff has been trained and the computer lab reserved so we can meet the challenges and expectations of our goals. We expect to reach and/or exceed those goals and look forward to the challenge.

It is an absolute pleasure to serve as principal of this wonderful school. Fruitdale has the best staff in the district. I love each person who works here. The students are a joy and a blessing and they light up my life every day. I am a blessed man and I respectfully submit this report to you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Christensen
Principal