



## **WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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**TO:** Three Rivers School District Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Williams Elementary School  
Principal, Ms. Michelle Sesock  
**RE:** Second Trimester Board Briefing  
**DATE:** February 25, 2010

Dear Board Members,

We want to thank the Cultural Coalition Trust for their grant to Communiversy and Williams Elementary School. With the \$1,500.00 grant we will maintain our strings program until May of 2010.

### **ENROLLMENT**

K	-	12
1	-	9
2	-	16
3	-	24
4	-	15
5	-	15
Part time students	-	2
Total Current Enrollment	-	93

### **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS-21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant**

We are in our second six week session of our afterschool academic and enrichment program. In January 2010, our afterschool program increased in time and activities. After a nutritious snack, students spend time with homework and study help, followed by lessons that are designed to enhance the skills the students are learning in class. We have added a one hour activities program which includes a variety of classes ranging from computers, indoor sports, beading, and leather. This second session will run through the end of February. The third six week session will start in April and will include classes such as: A community garden project, outdoor sports, arts and crafts, accelerated reader book club, digital photography, and cooking.

## **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

Students and staff at Williams Elementary had the opportunity to have Artist in Residence Jill Fjeldheim return on February 5<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Jill has performed internationally and conducted workshops in mime and physical comedy for children of all abilities. Jill uses techniques including: Characterization, pantomime, playwriting, slapstick, and improvisation to engage students to blossom and perform for their peers. She has performed with The American Mime Theatre in New York City, Ringling Bros. Circus, and Barnum & Bailey Circus. We have enjoyed having Jill work with our students to create performances that use creative movement and circus arts. Students, along with Jill entertained staff, visiting parents, and community members on February 19<sup>th</sup> for a final “Showcase Performance”.



## **FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

On February 28th students from Mrs. Agnifili and Mrs. Bingham’s class participated in the district Science Fair. All thirteen projects received ribbons including first, second, and third place gold ribbons. Also during the month of February Williams Elementary is busy with field trips and activities. On the 10th students and staff had the pleasure of listening to a selection of pieces performed by the Rogue Opera. Students from Mrs. Agnifili and Mrs. Bingham’s class traveled to the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center to see the production of “Miss Nelson is Missing”. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> students were entertained by the wonderful music from the Rogue Valley Symphony. During the week of the 22-26<sup>th</sup> students will take class trips to ScienceWorks in Ashland.

## **FOURTH GRADE WRITING ASSESSMENTS**

William’s fourth graders completed their statewide writing assessments in February. In addition, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are completing the OAKS Online assessments in reading and math. Fifth graders are excited to “show what they know” in the area of science as well. The online assessments allow students to immediately see their score when they complete their test. Students take their testing very seriously, and feel an accomplishment when they “meet” or “exceed” in the assessments. When students “do not meet”, they appreciate seeing how many points they need in order to “beat the test” when they try again. Every student gets three tries on each test and they are allowed to better their score.

## **LATE STARTS**

Activities for late start have included:

- A. Revisiting our PBS timeline for the 2009-2010 school year and learning new PBS strategies.
- B. Teaching and discussing Charlotte Danielson strategies to all staff.
- C. Teaching all staff Kagan strategies to use in all facets of our school.
- D. Reviewing school safety.
- E. Reviewing Sensible Math by Steven Leinwand
- F. Develop, revise, and refine our timeline and courses for after school program.

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

The Williams Strings program has been in full swing since October with about 70% of students who are participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Students meet with Mr. Warren Whistler and his assistant Alison Huber twice a week. Students are encouraged to practice every day.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 you are invited to attend a benefit concert at Williams Elementary School. Williams School will host a Premier Benefit Concert starring internationally known classical guitarist Ray Reussner. Ray is known for his beautiful artistic style and sound. The benefits of Ray's concert will go to the Williams Elementary School Strings Program. We are pleased to have such wonderful artist who is an encouragement to our young musicians. Tickets will be on sale for \$10.00 each beginning in March. Ray's concert will follow a PBS documentary airing on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

In May we will have our annual "Strings in the Spring" concert featuring various violin and guitar numbers performed by the Williams Elementary students who have been participating in Mr. Whistlers program though out the year. Benefits from this concert will go towards the continued funding of the Strings Program.

## **PBS**

Students at Williams Elementary continue to practice positive behaviors through our Pioneer Pride program. Throughout the day students receive Pioneer Pride tickets to encourage using proper life skills in the classrooms, playground, cafeteria, and other common areas. Tickets are taken to the office, left in a bucket, and exchanged for a small reward. Each week two names are pulled from the bucket to win a chance to ring the school bell. Teachers are keeping tallies of how many Pioneer Prides their students have earned though out the month to reach an all school goal of 200 per month. On February 26<sup>th</sup> we had our monthly Pioneer Pride Celebration with an all school BBQ featuring our own chef Wes Nevotti. Parents and students enjoyed a hot dog lunch with all the fixings. We will continue our celebrations each month as students continue to accumulate more Pioneer Prides.

**WE ARE PBS AND IT SHOWS IN OUR PIONEER PRIDE!**