



Madrona Elementary School

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Dear Mr. Kantola and Esteemed Board Members:

It is delightful to think of the successes of our year here at Madrona in the 2009-10 school year. We successfully doubled our multihandicapped program to serve 18 students with wide ranging needs. One student will move on to middle school next year and we are anticipating 3 new students so should settle in at about 20 students for the 10-11 school year. Our teachers and staff have formed an incredible team and our kids are getting an excellent education here at Madrona. The majority of our M.H. students also access our regular classrooms for a portion of their day as is appropriate. It is a great life experience for everyone at Madrona. All of our staff has a common vision for students.

We were the recipients of two small grants. One was a cultural grant for purchasing drums and getting staff training in using the drums. They are used regularly by the M.H. students and with some matching funds out of Student Body funds we have purchased enough drums for a class of 29 to enjoy the drums. All teachers and some classified staff got some basic training. We also used the same trainer to provide our Artist in Residence experience for our students grades 3-5 this year including our M.H. students. Next year she will serve our Kdg-3 students. PTO finances the artist program.

Our second grant was a community grant to build a garden on our campus. The grant provided materials for raised, boxed beds, an automatic drip water system, tools, soil and plants to start our garden. About 40 volunteers from as far away as the coast and Roseburg came to help build the garden. I provided some fencing materials and other lumber and we will build additional fencing around the garden to protect it from vandalism and deer damage. We hope to enlist a few special volunteers to harvest the garden during the summer months to provide food to our local food bank. During the school year, foods will be harvested to eat in class and maybe even in our café! Science, math, art, literature and writing are all academic areas that will be enriched through our garden project. The OSU Master Gardeners program is providing a teacher liaison that will support teaching using the garden. Students also learn responsibility when working in the garden. Our kids are so excited about this project. We hope you will stop by sometime and see it. The garden was designed to provide access to our staff and students with handicaps so there is a bed raised to wheelchair height, there are sitting ledges and we have leveled one area and cut a path that is wheelchair and walker accessible. One of our talented staff members is busy building a shed to house the tools and supplies for the garden. It is truly a community effort.

PBS has taken off in a great way this year! We established our expectations, taught our lessons and reaped the benefits of seeing kids become more responsible for their behavior at school. Good behavior always improves the opportunity for everyone to learn more! We have had three big PBS events including a Madrona Olympics in December. A "Trashion" show featuring clothing items created out of recycled materials and a school field day consisting of many fun, silly and engaging games and activities. Students earn their way to these events. We also have a monthly drawing for kids demonstrating good behavior choices. Winners get to choose from a variety of school jobs or privileges to help with. Some kids work in the library or office; help the principal put up bulletin boards or the custodian take down the flag properly. In all cases, kids are excited and very responsible for completing their special job! We have taken off the emphasis on purchased or food incentives this way.

Several teachers have worked to incorporate more student engagement techniques and classrooms are buzzing with kids learning! Passing writing scores nearly doubled this year. Overall, we are thrilled with our growth as a school. It has been a great year! We are thankful for every opportunity to meet student needs. We recognize that with tight budgets things are not likely to improve anytime soon, but our kids still benefit from great teamwork and common goals for success. Thanks for the hard work you do to provide as much to classrooms as you do!