

June 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Kantola and Esteemed Board Members:

It is a wild and crazy time at our schools, but a good time as well. We are enjoying our last days with our fifth graders. It is a time when we can see them exhibiting their excitement about moving on to the middle school. Some are a bit scared, but most realize they are entering a new phase in life and are curious about how things will be in their new school. It is also a time when there are many kids pushing the limits of their behavior thinking "What have I got to lose?" Most kids however, continue to be a joy to work with.

Last week we had our last earned PBIS events. At Jerome Prairie, we had our first ever "Trashion Show". Students who had earned the event had the opportunity to make something to wear out of some kind of recycled materials. All kinds of things from Dutch Bros. cups, dog food bags, wrapping paper and old holiday decorations came to school in the form of clothing, jewelry, hats, shoes and bags of all types. Nearly every eligible child in the school participated. Some of our 5th graders were "too cool for school" and they didn't dress up, but once the assembly started, it was obvious some of them wished they had. It was a fun, creative, childlike dress up time and staff, parents and kids alike enjoyed the event. At Madrona we were treated to an amazing Minute to Win It event put on by our site council parents. They recruited other parents and did all of the planning and preparation for this event. It was tons of fun for everyone. Classes went two at a time during the morning hours for about 40 minutes. All eligible students got to play at least four different games. The winners of those games then battled with the teachers and Mrs. Van Brunt in the afternoon at a whole school assembly. Spirits were high throughout the school. Each class had a special color to wear and developed their own cheers. There was lots of wild cheering and antics as we played together. These two events were highly anticipated and kids recognized the value of earning their way there through good school behavior.

On Monday, at both schools we will honor special students with awards ranging from perfect attendance, citizens of the year, best readers and mathematicians, etc. Parents are invited to these events. Last Friday, Jerome Prairie enjoyed a Hawaiian theme Moving On ceremony. The fifth grade students performed a Jerome Prairie version of "The Pirates Life" song and gave speeches. On Tuesday, our last day of school, Jerome Prairie will enjoy an all school field day with many parents coming to help and watch their kids play. Parents are also invited to a barbeque lunch with the students. At Madrona we will be having our Moving On Ceremony in the morning and each class will enjoy a class party in the afternoon.

The last month is always a bit hectic with so many special events happening. However, many important things like the principal meeting with all classified staff for evaluations, Early Intervention meetings happen to help with the transition of special needs students into our kindergartens for next year, Kindergarten Round ups happen, staff and site councils meet for planning for next year, teachers meet to determine the best placement of students into classes for next year, final assessments and grading for report cards and other critical work is done. We all just put our heads together and hold on till it all is accomplished. I can say that I have been proud of both of my school's teaching staffs for their amazing dedication and their high level of professionalism when working collaboratively this year.

I could ramble on and on, but I hope this gives you a quick view into some of the happenings at Jerome Prairie and Madrona. As always, my thanks to each of you for the difficult work you do for our district.

Sincerely, Lise Van Brunt, Principal