



Manzanita Elementary



November Board Report

2014-2015

by Renee Hults

Manzanita is a great place to learn and grow. The following are some highlights and updates on happenings at Manzanita thus far this year.

Student Announcers: 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. With the assistance of Mrs. Hults, Announcements are led by our 4th and 5th grade students. Individual classrooms present each month; September-Mr. Granger's class, October, Mrs. Chamberlain's class and November Mr. Davidson's class. This gives our students the opportunity to speak in front of their peers. We are adding in classical music appreciation by Mrs. Northcross and student book talks.

Family Lunch: Each month we invite families to join their student for lunch at Manzanita. Our October lunch was a big success and gives families an opportunity to visit our school and interact with their students at school.

Intervention/Enrichment: Each day our Manzanita students receive intervention and enrichment in the area of reading. This is instruction time dedicated to helping all elementary students reach his or her potential. Manzanita is dedicated to bridging the gaps and helping every student learn to love reading. I invite you to stop in and see the amazing teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms.

October Extended Learning: Our kindergarten class visited Fort Vannoy Farms. Our third grade visited Big Cats and our 4th grade did a learning expedition to Hanley Farms. Field trips allow our students the opportunity to explore new areas of Southern Oregon and allow for hands on learning. Our teachers work hard to extend the learning beyond the classroom and build learning connections.

Music at Manzanita: Manzanita Music Instruction began Oct. 7th. Our PTA sponsors a music teacher, Mrs. Hegdahl, to provide music instruction once a week at each grade level. In addition we have 22 kids that stay after school 2 days a week for choir practice. Our first music concert is on the evening of Dec. 17th, 6-7pm. You are all invited to attend.

Sleep Over: One of the rewards for our jog a thon was a Sleep Over at School. On October 30th, Mrs. Hults, Mrs. VanLandingham, Mrs. Cowie and 4 parent volunteers hosted 19 Manzanita students for a "Fun Filled Tremendous Stupendous Sleep Over". We had an amazing time eating Pizza, Ice Cream, playing games, watching a movie and laughing. The students ranged in age from kindergarten to fifth grade and they had an amazing time with each other. I saw evidence of the relationships built during the morning announcements. One of the 5th grade students read announcements as his new kinder buddy beamed on the gym floor. Waving to him, calling his name and telling the person next to him, "that's my friend".

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 quarter will bring.