

# Report to the Board

## Fort Vannoy Elementary School

### October 9, 2009

We had a great start to the school year! The beautiful, dry weather has helped, as students have been able to get outside every day.

The school was the “cleanest it has ever been” according to teachers who have been at Fort Vannoy nearly 30 years. In addition to spotlessly clean classrooms and hallways, the grounds were weeded and the bushes neatly trimmed. All this is thanks to our great custodial staff of Head Custodian, Eric Holte and Night Custodian Darrin Bossingham. The two make a great team and they always work hard to keep the school clean and safe.

We started the school year with an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. About 300 students and family members joined us for ice cream sundaes and meeting the teachers. The ice cream was served by PTA and volunteers from the community.

Open House on September 24<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Classroom teachers report between 50 % and 75 % attendance by a parent or guardian. Assistants were hired to supervise the playground during the two hour event so that parents could have time with the teachers. Door prizes were given away in a drawing as a means of getting parents to arrive on time to hear the PTA president, Paul Kelly and Kathie Hill talk about the school year.

The Community Garden started last year by Kari O’Brien’s fifth grade students and Susan Angeli’s third grade students provided a great learning area for the classes. Vegetables and sunflowers were harvested in advance of the freeze. These items will be used for math (guess the weight of the pumpkins and the number of sunflower seeds) and sunflower watercolor art.

PTA had a very successful Jog-A-Thon on September 30<sup>th</sup>, raising over \$10,000. Their goal was \$11,000, to pay for Dayna Hankins, our Music teacher. PTA is hoping to decrease the number of fund raisers necessary this year by making the Jog-A-Thon the main focus.

Fort Vannoy is partnering with Umpqua Bank in a Learn to Earn program. Representatives from Umpqua Bank talked to the students in first through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms about banking. Students are excited about the program and are eagerly enrolling in the weekly banking program. Representatives from Umpqua Bank are here each Wednesday morning to enroll students and accept their bank deposits.

Classified staff training was on-going throughout September. We have several new classified staff this year, due to retirements and promotions. Assistants were trained in “Systematic Supervision” during the first week of the year. Follow up meetings are planned monthly.

Kelli Palmerton held two sessions of DIBELS assessment training for the new assistants. We will now have an assistant in each classroom who can do DIBELS assessment and progress monitoring when necessary. This will decrease the amount of time assistants must be out of the classroom three times a year to conduct DIBELS assessment in K-5.

Several classrooms are looking forward to seeing a production of “Jack and the Beanstalk” at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

October 19<sup>th</sup> the school will have two Character Counts assemblies at 12:00 and 1:00. We will host Farm to Market on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October from 9:00 to 1:00.