



# Madrona Elementary School

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Dear Mr. Huber-Kantola and Board Members,

We are off to a great start at Madrona. We asked parents to come in prior to school this year to fill out enrollment cards and have all but three students completely updated in Esis already. This is a huge step in the right direction to provide a safe beginning to school for students. Our enrollment is stable with 242 students. We are actually up by two students over our June enrollment. This is a positive way to start!

Our Life Skills class is bursting at the seams with 19 enrolled students and two more potential students waiting in the wings for possible placement. That is a challenge, but it is a challenge we welcome here at Madrona. The program has grown and improved in service to students so much in the last two years. I am so proud of the work my teachers Kim Watson and Steve Jones have accomplished in partnership with other specialists. Doug Ely has provided the district level leadership to completing a vision of a high quality program that is safe and appropriate for each child served. Kudos!

We were blessed in June by the Serve Grants Pass Committee. They provided about 35 volunteers including two contractors who scraped, primed and painted the fascia board around our entire facility. This included the fascia up on top of two of the buildings as well. It has really spruced up our school! Some of the boards had no paint on them at all. The group also painted the doors on two of our pods. They are lovely colors and look fresh and clean. These may seem like small projects, but they had big impact. We are so thankful for their time and effort. Many people worked from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to complete this project.

Although our classes are the biggest we have had in many years, teachers have had great attitudes and kids seem very happy this first week of school. We have three blends which means we have no straight second grades and no straight third grades. Our class sizes are averaging about 27 per class with the exception of Kdg. which has 17 students per session.

Our first week has been great and we are looking forward to a wonderful year at Madrona! Our Back to School Night is September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing any of you who might be interested in attending.