



Madrona Elementary School

Lise Van Brunt - Principal

Dayle Powell - Office Manager

Julie Rauch- Office Clerk

520 Detrick Drive

Grants Pass, OR 97527

(541) 476-6624

Dear Mrs. Adams and Esteemed Board Members,

It is my pleasure to update you on Madrona Elementary. As you know we started our year working wildly to try and get everything in place for our bigger population and the transition of students and staff to Madrona. Our efforts to help students, staff and families transition in a positive way seem to have paid off. I have had no complaints from parents. In general, what I do hear is that both populations sometimes miss the closeness and familiarity of their "smaller" school environments. A big school can seem like a place where individuals get lost. We continue to try to help staff, students and parents to make those important connections that help each person feel special and cared for. Our first holiday lunch in November was well attended. We had 200 additional family members attending that lunch. It was a sweet event and there were lots of compliments about the meal and the school in general.

Our academic focus is to help each child make measurable growth in reading and math this year. That is a mighty goal, but we are already seeing progress towards that goal! This year we have developed professional learning teams. We are having regular in-service in how these teams work and how we can impact student success through our teamwork. It is daunting at times, but also work that teachers enjoy. They have asked for time to work together and this process allows for that. We meet at least twice per month to work on understanding our standards, determining key learning goals and developing assessment and teaching strategies to address students who are not making adequate growth. These same strategies also help us better serve students who are reaching and exceeding standards by helping us identify their needs as well.

This month I am meeting with each grade level team to review data and discuss the direction we need to be headed to help those students who are struggling. Teachers also will get a little extra time through the use of our roving subs to do some planning after we meet.

We are excited to have an additional kindergarten teacher starting this week. Her name is Tiffany Bonney. Tiffany taught a split position between Manzanita and Evergreen last year and was teaching half time at Evergreen this year. When it was apparent that our kinder classes were beginning to overflow it was wonderful to have the opportunity to place Mrs. Bonney at Madrona. She has been very flexible and easy to work with. She has been diligent in visiting and planning with our other kinder teacher Mrs. Gutierrez. Last week we had a little open house for those students and their families that would be moving to the new session. Parents understood the need to make a new session and we are looking forward to their first day this week, barring any more bad weather! It will really be wonderful for them to be in classes of only 21 over classes of 31 or 32.

There are many festivities in the month of December including a school Winter performance to be held December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Our second, third and Life Skills students will be showing up their singing, signing and some instrumental skills as they perform a range of winter music, poetry and song. Our staff is going to enjoy a wonderful staff party with at least half of the staff already signed up already to attend. We always welcome board members and our superintendent to drop in and visit. If you come next week, you might even see a "right jolly old elf" called Santa hanging around. We'd love to see you.

Lise Van Brunt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lise Van Brunt".

Principal