



# Evergreen Elementary School

*An Oregon Title 1 School of Merit*

520 W. River Road • Cave Junction, Oregon 97523 • (541) 592-3136 • Fax (541) 592-3186

December 1, 2008

## **Board Report for Evergreen Elementary School – Trimester #1 08/09**

The first trimester of the 2008/2009 school year has been positive, exciting and very busy for the staff and students at Evergreen Elementary School. We began this school year operating with a complete Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) program in place. So far the impact has been significant. Our discipline referral rate has dropped along with our “Red Zone” incident occurrence rate. We have adjusted to the new school calendar and start/end times and we are conducting business as usual with a steady enrollment.

PBS has proven to be a valuable addition to Evergreen and momentum for this program is strong. We have many components in place to assist students in remaining safe, respectful and responsible. The PBS team has developed a consistent and easy to use manual for teachers and classified staff to use on a regular basis with our students. The manual provides lesson plans on how to teach desired behaviors in specific situations and areas around our campus as well as on the bus. The manual also provides staff with tools to use to correct behaviors and communicate expectations in a consistent way. The benefit is that our students will go into different situations knowing what the expectations are, or they can be given the expectations in a manner that is easily understood.

Through PBS we have developed a positive reinforcement plan that is cost effective, sustainable and meaningful to our students. Each month we have a PBS assembly for all students. The students retain their eligibility to these assemblies by not receiving an office referral, bus citation or no more than 2 redirection room passes. The response to these assemblies from the students has been overwhelming. I have students with ‘red’ and ‘yellow’ zone potential working very hard to make it to these assemblies. The PBS assemblies involve the students and staff in any number of free and fun activities that not only reward students for their consistently good behavior but also help build a positive school climate. We have also instituted an ‘Eagle Reward’ system over the past four weeks of this year. Students have

to opportunity to earn these rewards through behavior that is above and beyond the expectations set for them. Examples on how students earn these rewards include: picking up trash simply because it is there, doing the right thing when others around you are not and going out of your way to help others or your school. Students can use their reward tickets to claim small prizes in the principal's office, turn them in for a larger reward drawing during the PBS assemblies or use them as a fast pass in the cafeteria. We also use these tickets to draw names for participants in the assembly activities.

As the PBS team examines the overall impact of all components to the program we see a significant positive impact on the school's climate. Students are generally more successful and teachers have more time to teach given the decreased number of behavior issues in the classroom.

Evergreen has faced some challenges with the new trimester calendar and our start and end times. The last week in November and the first week in December have created some inconsistency to the teaching schedule at the elementary level. Two consecutive weeks of only two days makes it difficult to provide continuity in lesson delivery. We have adjusted well to the 7:35 a.m. start time. Initially we had some problems with busses dropping off students before we had adequate supervision on campus. This has been addressed and things are going well. We have had to come up with creative activity options for our students in the morning prior to the first bell. When we have the fortune of good weather; students report to the playground after eating breakfast. As it fails to become light outside early enough for this option or rain dominates the skyline we have to provide something else. On these days students have several choices on what to do following breakfast. They can request a pass for the library (up to 30 students), they can request a computer lab pass (up to 30 students and open to 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade), they can report to the gym for staff led morning exercises to music, students can go to our motor perception room to watch a short video, or they can remain in the cafeteria to talk with friends. With 470 students we had to come up with several options to accommodate everyone.

Our enrolment has remained steady this year. We currently have 469 students enrolled at Evergreen. Our new second grade teacher, Ashley Carmack, has proven to be an outstanding addition to our staff and lessened the impact of our large second grade student count. Fourth grade class sizes have proven to be a challenge. Our three fourth grade teachers all have over 30 students in class. We also have an abnormal number of students

receiving special education and students identified as TAG in our fourth grade. The recent addition of our three educational assistant positions has been beneficial to the fourth grade classes.

New to Evergreen this year is our School Based Health Center. Carolyn Litak and Marshall Hamilton along with the Siskiyou Health Center have brought this wonderful service to our school. We renovated an empty classroom to create a fully functioning and professional health center. The health center is currently open four days a week and provides a number of health related services to our student and their families.

In my three years as principal of Evergreen Elementary School I feel that this has been the strongest opening we have had. My students are happy and learning in their classes, teachers are working hard and doing a great job and my classified/support staff is as strong as any I have had the pleasure of working with.

NEW STAFF:

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Erica Lundberg | -Office Manager        |
| ✓ Ashley Carmack | -Second Grade Teacher  |
| ✓ Rebecca Neal   | -SPED EA               |
| ✓ Sandy Box      | -Educational Assistant |
| ✓ Carolyn Heald  | -SPED EA               |
| ✓ Sue Fiske      | -new 3 hour EA         |
| ✓ Tina Hart      | -new 3 hour EA         |
| ✓ Carol Baker    | -new 3 hour EA         |

Respectfully Submitted,



David Valenzuela