



# Manzanita Elementary



December Board Report

2014-2015

by Renee Hults

Manzanita is a great place to learn and grow. The following are a few highlights and updates on happenings at Manzanita.

**Instruction & Learning:** The teachers and assistants at Manzanita work so hard! I truly appreciate their dedication to teaching and learning. The lessons go so far beyond academics. Daily we strive to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs. There are great things happening in each and every area of Manzanita School. Students are learning and growing at an amazing rate. As we monitor our learning data we can see where our hard work is paying off and where we need to adjust. Effective educators are continually seeking ways to improve their craft, learn new things, and grow as a professional. We are meeting in grade level teams and discussing our reading data and striving to meet the needs of each learner. Teachers are finding their groove with the new reading curriculum and the collaboration amongst colleagues is impressive. I would like the board to know how hard the entire Manzanita staff is working to benefit each and every student we have the privilege to teach.



**Community Involvement:** In October one of our Manzanita 1<sup>st</sup> grade students received the diagnosis of Ewing Sarcoma cancer. Our school rallied together alongside a couple of community volunteers to begin fund raising efforts. We began a coin drive with our students. A parent volunteer held a coin jar in the public areas of our school in the morning and we set a jar in the office. The first collection raised \$265.53 In addition to cash our school donated a \$50 gas card and a local business, Little Pantry, generously donated a \$250 gift card for gas and food. North Valley High School has joined our efforts and the leadership team will be running a coin drive there as well.



**Back Pack Pantry Program:** We have started a back pack food program with the goal to discreetly provide nutritious, child-friendly, easy to prepare food to chronically hungry children in every day backpacks to take home over weekends and out-of-school times. The Friday before our Thanksgiving Holiday Break we sent 20 students home with food in their backpack. All food was donated through our student food drive. Bread, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, canned items, granola bars etc. We are in the beginning stages of this program and our Family advocate is working hard to grow the program and build sustainability. I am amazed by the community support and the volunteers that commit to making this happen.



**Holiday Lunch:** Each month we invite families to join their student for lunch at Manzanita so our Holiday lunch is part of the normal routine. However, our November Holiday lunch was a big success. We served approximately 100 adult lunches and had many family members attend just to visit with their child. This is always an exciting day for our students.



**And the Winner is:** In October our 4<sup>th</sup> grade did a learning expedition to Hanley Farms. Part of the classroom learning opportunity involved creating historical character scarecrows and reports for school made scarecrows contest. These scarecrows were then left on display at Hanley Farms for all to see. Laney N. & Destiny Y. won the People's Choice Award. They created an Abigail Scott Duniway scarecrow. The Hanley Farm Scarecrow Planning Committee said "On Saturday and Sunday people loved reading the cards on the History Scarecrows. I think they learned a lot from your students' work... the Abigail Scott Duniway was a big hit, especially her bun."



**Music:** 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. 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-7pm. You are all invited to attend. Our Honors Choir members have been invited to sing at the Merlin Community Baptist Church on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>



**Perfect Attendance Celebration:** For the first trimester 68 students earned perfect attendance! Impressive! We had fun celebrating at our morning assembly. In addition to their certificate of recognition, those students will be entered into a perfect attendance prize drawing.



**Book Talks & Classical Music:** Every Monday morning during morning assembly on average 5 students stand before the student body and deliver a book talk! The students work with our Title I Teacher and at home to complete the form and practice their presentation. This is a fun way to celebrate reading and expose our students to new and interesting books. It is also extremely cute! On Wednesdays we introduce and play a classical music selection. It is always interesting to see the student's response as they learn to appreciate new music.



**Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm for education.**

**You are always welcome to attend one of our events or visit our classrooms in actions!**