



Priest Lake Elementary Board Report

February 18, 2026

Principal Tommy Hansen

Happy February! We are finally back in the full swing of school after winter break and the end of 1st Semester! We also have increased our enrollment to 43, after it dipped into the high 30s. We gained 5 students in the past few weeks that will prove to be valuable additions to the PLE student body!

All of our Midyear testing has been completed. The data on the chart below reflects both the initial testing data in the fall and data from this January midyear data.

Again we had some tech issues with the testing, especially for AMIRA, but most students were able to retest. Please also note that we have had a bit of student mobility affecting the data. With the loss of a couple students from our numbers and the additional enrollment of 5 students during the new testing window the results will look a little skewed, especially because the students had not previously used Easy CBM or AMIRA for testing before.

We have been continually giving the AMIRA testing to Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade to help identify gaps in student learning and provide insight into which students are in need of interventions. The same goes for the Easy CBM testing data.

We have been providing targeted supports to students who are identified by our data as in need of extra support. Most recently, our Secretary, Josie Baker, has been spending time working with students to help them improve their reading or helping them with math. I am so proud at PLE that every staff member is there to help the kids grow no matter what it takes. The community has also come around and shown support to the students to help them. All of these efforts have gone a long way, and I believe are the primary reason why the students at PLE are showing so much growth.

AMIRA Data

October Data				January Data			
Grade Level	# Students at Tier 1	# Students at Tier 2	# Students at Tier 3	Grade Level	# Students at Tier 1	# Students at Tier 2	# Students at Tier 3
K	3	1	0	K	4	1	1
1	4	2	0	1	4	2	1
2	2	1	1	2	3	0	0
3	3	3	0	3	6	1	0

Tier 1 means that students are at or above grade level for reading.

Tier 2 means that they are near grade level.

Tier 3 means that they are below grade level.

As previously mentioned, there was some data variation due to new students entering the school during the week of the January AMIRA testing. For the students that have stayed the entire year, we have seen massive improvements. The Kindergartners have grown in class size from 4 to 6. With that, students have not regressed, with 4 students now testing in green, one in yellow and one in red. 1st Grade did not see as much movement, but there is one student in the red. 2nd Grade has seen tremendous improvement, even though one student exited the school, the one yellow from October was able to get to a green. The 3rd graders have seen tremendous improvement, as they went from 3 green and 3 yellow to 6 green and only 1 yellow.

October- 20 Students Tested- 60% Tier 1

January- 23 Students Tested- 74% Tier 1

14% Growth in Tier 1 Students!!!!

EasyCBM Data

EasyCBM data can be a little tricky to read, but the overall data is reflective of whether or not each student might need additional help in a specific subject. Students are given a percentile score based on national student performance. Even though a student might be a “Some Risk or High Risk” student, it does not mean that they are far below grade level. They might just be missing one skill that has placed them at risk. For example, with the most recent testing that we completed, a 3rd grade student was placed in the high risk category despite having a lexile score of 800, which is at middle school level. They read and comprehend well, but it may be because they were slower at reading or because there were some other gaps. No risk means that the student does not have any major gaps in their knowledge and are at or very close to grade level for everything assessed by the test.

Reading Data

October				January			
Grade Level	No Risk	Some Risk	High Risk	Grade Level	No Risk	Some Risk	High Risk
K	3	1	0	K	6	0	0
1	5	1	0	1	7	0	0
2	2	1	1	2	2	1	0
3	5	1	0	3	6	1	0
4	5	1	0	4	6	0	0
5	6	1	0	5	7	0	0
6	3	4	0	6	4	1	2

October- 40 Students Assessed- 72.5% No Risk

January- 43 Students Assessed- 88.4% No Risk

While the students made great gains across the board, there were a few students who fell behind. 2 6th grade students are now in the High Risk category for reading. These students are receiving

targeted interventions for whatever gaps in their Reading they may have. Overall the school had 16% more students in the Low Risk category than the October Benchmark. The vast majority of the Some Risk students ended up moving on to the No Risk Category. The interventions that we have in place seem to be greatly benefitting the students that are struggling, seeing large improvements across the board. Most schools strive for proficiency rates in the 80% so seeing this school at 88% on track is incredible. This really goes back to how incredible and dedicated the staff at PLE are to improving the lives of these students.

Math

October				January			
Grade Level	No Risk	Some Risk	High Risk	Grade Level	No Risk	Some Risk	High Risk
K	4	0	0	K	4	2	0
1	5	0	1	1	7	0	0
2	4	0	0	2	3	0	0
3	4	2	0	3	7	0	0
4	6	0	0	4	6	0	0
5	5	1	1	5	5	1	1
6	4	2	1	6	4	3	0

October- 40 Students Assessed- 80% No Risk

January- 43 Students Assessed- 84% No Risk

There were less students in total the Some or High Risk tiers for our January testing, despite there being three more students in the school. The Winter EasyCBM testing compares the expected growth of the students to that of the fall, so the few students that did not grow enough fell to Some Risk. These students are being met with strategic interventions to help them get back on track. There is only 1 student in the entire school that is considered high risk for math! We are working with that one student to ensure that they are getting to where they need to be in order to be successful.

ISAT Interim Testing

Our teachers have been giving ISAT Interim tests to get the students more familiar with the ISAT system. They have not completed any specific tests to get the proficiency data. They have been completing the targeted ISAT for specific skills that the teachers believe the students need. With the small class sizes, it makes it much easier for the teachers to individualize the skills and tests needed for each student. The Science ISAT has been used quite extensively by Mrs. Barnes' 5th and 6th grade class to better prepare them for what they need to know for 7th and 8th grade science. We will begin the Summative ISAT Testing in April. The data from that will be available during the June Board Meeting.

Other News

On January 28th we had our monthly PTO Meeting. We discussed interest from staff and students about exploring a K-12 option at the Lake for students using the Edmentum online program and having teacher support. This was based on the high number of students that go through PLE but do not go on to attend the Jr/Sr high school or attend or for a short period of time before choosing an alternative education system.

On February 9th Mrs. Butler's K/1/2 class did their Sweetheart Social. Students chose a person (usually their parents, grandparents, or other family members) to make valentines with and share an Italian Soda. This year students and their families made some Valentines for Newport Assisted Living and their residents.

We will be starting the Missoula Children's Theatre play at PLE the week of March 2nd-6th. Performances will be on March 6th, with the 2 shows at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. This is open to all K-8 Students in the area, including homeschool. The play this year is Alice in Wonderland.

On February 26th we will be celebrating Read Across America at PLE. We will have many guests come in and read to the students!

PLE is also planning a Bingo Night for April 23rd at 6:00pm. Please join us for a fun night of games and prizes!

Thank you all for supporting Priest Lake Elementary!