

Jerome Prairie Elementary  
School Board Report

October 8, 2009

Number of Students: 218

K- 30, 1<sup>st</sup>- 36, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 44, 3<sup>rd</sup>-30, 4<sup>th</sup>- 38, 5<sup>th</sup>- 40

OUTSTANDING! We were excited to receive the news from the Oregon Department of Education that Jerome Prairie received the rating of “outstanding” on our state report card. To be rated outstanding you must have a two year achievement index above 90, a participation rate on state testing above 94.5% or higher and an attendance rate of 92% or higher. Our achievement index was 94.9 based on a formula that weighs the number of students meeting, exceeding, or making satisfactory growth in reading and math. Our participation rate was 100%, and our attendance rate was 95%.

We completed our school-wide title one plan for this year; it was approved by the site council on October 6. This culminated a process that began last spring with a review of the progress on last year’s plan. We started this year by reviewing all of our data on academic progress and student behavior. Several groups had input into the plan in addition to the site council. We involved the PBS committee, the PTO, school staff and obtained valuable parent feedback from a survey. Our plan includes areas of reading/writing, math, science, parent involvement, and student context and organization (student behavior/PBS). Our priorities within the plan are: 1) improving math scores by teaching to the new standards, using effective techniques to increase active student engagement and increasing math reasoning skills; 2) increasing writing fluency and the ability to use effective writing strategies to successfully complete on-demand writing activities; and 3) strengthening our PBS program in the school.

Our first two hour late start was a great success. Our school math team met in advance with Peggy Cowens, district math TOSA, to plan a session on number talks and the supplementary Envision math materials. Number talks provide students with the opportunity to develop mathematical thinking and vocabulary beyond the simple constructs of an algorithm. This creates a deeper understanding of math concepts that can create greater success and growth as students move into higher levels of math. We then looked at ways of using the Envision materials to expand student understanding. These

materials have been targeted at the specific concepts in the new math standards.

We began our new after school science club for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with support from the PTO. It is off to a fantastic start! 49 students are participating and have already learned about chemical reactions, mixtures, suspensions, and surface tension. Rob Harrington, 4/5 teacher, has this program well organized with engaging activities for the students. The program even supports our math instruction with real world applications. We really appreciate the extra parent help that the PTO has provided for this initiative.

Well, I have to go run a few more laps around our field in the jog-a-thon now. The flu has reduced our ranks a bit this year, but Steve Clogston, has done a great job of organizing this fund-raiser again this year. This reminds me to mention that we are working with Dave Bracken and Applegate Well Drilling who has offered to drill us a well for field irrigation!

I want to close by thanking my staff for the high level of cooperation and team work we experience here everyday as we work together to serve our students. They do an outstanding job!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Fuller