



Howard Valentine School

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“Home of the Timberwolves”



Date: March 24, 2017
To: SISD School Board
From: Colter W. Barnes; Principal, Teacher, and Greenhouse Manager
RE: **Howard Valentine Board Report for March 2017**

Student Count: We lost 4 students in March and currently have 16 enrolled; 3 kindergarteners, 2 first graders, 1 fourth grader, 2 fifth graders, 2 sixth graders, 1 seventh grader, 3 freshman, and 2 juniors.

Update: Some notable projects from March are as follows:

MS Math: The middle school math students continue to progress in their curriculum and Aleks programs. Along with that, they have been incorporating as many real-life math projects as possible. Recently they've been working on a “Mother's Day” flower project. This has entailed dividing the flower plugs up evenly (based on enrollment) between our sites, dividing up the appropriate amount of pots and soil to each site, and calculating the cost of everything so as to determine what we should charge for each flower arrangement to make a certain percentage of profit.

Sustainability Class - the sustainability class is focusing on three initiatives: 1) building a wind turbine; 2) planting our soil greenhouse; and 3) wilderness skills. The wind turbine will hopefully be constructed this coming week and mounted near the school. The plants (tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, etc.) are currently in the classroom and are just in the sprouting stages. For wilderness skills, the students attempted to start fires using magnifying glasses, flint and steel, and a bow drill. Thus far they have succeeded to get a fire going with flint and steel and no other man-made products.

Language Arts - the students just completed the second edition of our school newsletter (attached). For the next edition, students are hoping to insert QR code video links.

High School Alaska History - the high school students are finishing local history video projects. We hope to have those available for the community to watch at the beginning of the next quarter.

Elementary Math - the elementary math class is delving into money, and recently took a trip to the Riggin' Shack, each with \$2.00 in their hand. The students practiced budgeting, identifying dollars and cents, and getting the right amount of change back. They also, of course, enjoyed the candy they were able to buy ☺.

Elementary & Middle School Science - they are conducting science experiments in the greenhouse as a precursor to starting larger science fair projects for our spring fair. The elementary class is comparing seedlings both on and off a heat pad to see which sprouts better and will be documenting their progress with both data and photos. The MS class is experimenting with a variety of things, including watering seedlings with different substances (fish tank water, tap water, garlic water, etc.).

Tide-Pools & Sourdough Ed Camp - 9 students K-9 hiked around the point in Coffman Cove to identify various creatures of the tide pools. We took pictures and collected different kinds of shells hoping to identify the various species that we found. 5 students learned all about sourdough from the microscopic level, to making pancakes and bread with it. It was a very engaging and tasty class ☺!

Miscellaneous - on Wednesday, March 22nd we took the entire school to Craig for our “Cabin Fever” pizza and pool party. Everyone looked and expressed their enjoyment on the trip and it was just what we needed (as a team/family/school) this spring. Students used the funds accrued from their daily janitorial work to pay for this; a big thanks to them for their continued hard work keeping the school clean!