

Fruitdale Elementary School
School Board Briefing
May 6, 2010

Superintendent and Esteemed School Board Members:

In reflection of this final trimester of school at Fruitdale, I am pleased to report on several great projects that are truly having an impact at our campus. Indeed, we have an innovative staff who desires to improve the educational experiences of our students, staff, and community.

One of the most important goals accomplished was that every teacher would have an Active Board in his/her classroom this year. Not only does every teacher have an Active Board, but they are actively using them to instruct kids on a much higher level. Several professional development opportunities have been provided by Rob Saunders to help our teachers be on top of their game and use this technology in its richest forms to engage students.

Our student garden project is really on the move using and incorporating our own recyclable materials in every way we can. Through a \$10,000.00 grant and the donation of another \$10,000.00, we will put in a system that will capture and retain 17,500 gallons of rainwater and store it underground for irrigation services during the summer. We have planted all the raised beds and are working on corn, pumpkins, etc. The progress of the garden is fast paced and exciting and a real learning instrument for our students and community.

At the beginning of the last trimester, the schedules for teachers and education assistants changed dramatically to accommodate our new reading strategy. Now, every teacher and every aide are teaching reading groups at the same time. This has allowed for smaller groups, which in turn forces participation from everyone—no one can hide any longer. This also provides more personal attention and engages all students. This program also gives us a chance to double dose students who are struggling, and they get a second dose of reading in the afternoon. We expect great improvements in D.I.B.L.E.S. test scores which will eventually be demonstrated in state test scores.

We also have a goal to partner with “Serve Grants Pass” to purchase the necessary materials and install a baseball diamond behind the school in June. We will then be able to play kickball, softball, etc. and provide another venue for organized games and team sports. This will help utilize a large space on our playground that currently sees little or no use.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at Fruitdale. I am encouraged daily by this proactive staff and am truly blessed to have the best staff in the district. We invite board members to come and visit any time and witness the positive educational experience provided here. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Kelly Christensen
Principal