



Madrona Elementary School

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Dear Mr. Kantola and Board Members,

It has been a busy start to 2012 at both of my schools. We have been working on State Wide Assessments for third, fourth and fifth grades. Both schools are offering after school Title One math intervention classes for students in those grades who are struggling with their math understanding.

Both schools have experienced a number of students moving in and out since January as well. That always causes a bit of work getting reports ready for those students who are leaving and to help everyone get new desks, materials etc., for the new students.

Both schools participated in the district science fair again this year. Madrona has a school science fair. Our PTA provided a spaghetti dinner prior to the fair. They also contacted the Grants Pass Astronomy Club to come out and they displayed a number of high powered telescopes and provided many cool materials for our students. The Jerome Prairie PTA provides an after school Science Club. The students not only learn many of the science concepts through hands on study at the club, but each student creates their own science fair project for the District fair. This year Madrona had several students who earned first, second and third place awards at the district fair.

Recently both schools PTO's went through the laborious process of changing over to PTA's. This process was begun mainly due to new laws around the non- profit status of small groups like PTO's. PTA's have a structure that fits the current laws both state and federal so it was much more cost effective and frankly easier to become PTA organizations. I'm proud of the work each group put into this process including making sure their by-laws reflected the group's needs and aligned with PTA guidelines.

My teachers have been working hard at both schools gaining new skills through the collaborative process. Most of my teachers belong to one or more collaboratives. This process has been refreshing for our teachers and has truly helped them grow in areas of interest and in areas designated by the district. My two schools will be working soon with Applegate and Williams on unwrapping some state standards in Math with Peg Cowens. They are all looking forward to that opportunity to learn and work with other grade level teachers.

Before I know it, it will be time to start planning for a new school year. Our site councils are focusing on helping to strengthen our PBIS programs and plan final earned events at each school. Soon they will be helping our staff members prioritize for school plan and Title One budget for next year. I can hardly believe I am saying that! I hope this finds you all doing well. I do appreciate each of you and want to welcome you any time to visit my schools. I especially want to encourage you to visit our Life Skills Program at Madrona. It is such a different program and it has grown quickly over the last four years. I know it would astound you as to what we are able to do to help our special needs population in that placement. Please schedule a visit with us soon.

Lise Van Brunt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lise Van Brunt".

Principal