



Evergreen Elementary School

An Oregon Title 1 School of Merit

520 W. River Road • Cave Junction, Oregon 97523 • (541) 592-3136 • Fax (541) 592-3186

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Board Report for Evergreen Elementary School – Trimester #1 09/10

As we approach the end of the first trimester for the 2009/2010 school year I am enthusiastic and optimistic about the wonderful year we have planned and all of the wonderful opportunities we have before us. This year we will be entering into the first year of a 5-year 21st Century grant along with Lorna Byrne Middle School. We are taking full advantage of the Title 1 opportunities available and focusing our professional development efforts on true and sustainable instructional improvement. Evergreen is also entering into its 4th year as a PBS school and the school climate has never been better. The staff is working incredibly hard to set clear expectations and recognize positive behavior with our students' school wide.

I am very excited to report that our 21st Century program is up and running as of September and is quickly gaining momentum. Jannie Heller, our Title 1 coordinator, has taken the 21st Century coordinator role and is doing a fabulous job. We have many after school enrichment classes in session right now and more planned throughout the year. We are also close to launching our academic power hour, set to operate from 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm Monday through Thursday. Our power hour program will allow us to prescribe academic interventions to our students who are struggling with reading, math or writing. It will also provide an opportunity for our students to get help with homework, spelling, social studies, computer skills and science on a regular basis. Another focus of our 21st century efforts will be to bridge the gap from 5th grade to 6th grade and lay foundations for a smooth elementary to middle school transition.

We have been very appreciative and taken full advantage of our math coach, Peg Cowens and our technology instruction coach, Rob Saunders. Peg is currently mentoring two teachers at Evergreen, Ashley Carmack in 3rd grade and Shawn Hardy in 5th. Peg has also worked with several of my teachers to develop our October late start professional development workshop. We focused on teaching to the new k-8 math standards while using cooperative learning/engagement strategies and technology. The workshop was a huge success and very beneficial to the staff. Rob Saunders has been visiting Evergreen regularly and the excitement for using technology in our instruction continues to grow. Rob comes to Evergreen every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The 2nd Wednesday is dedicated to professional learning communities (PLCs) and Rob is able to work with a specific group of teachers with a focus. The 4th Wednesday is our professional development preview and Rob is able to work with the whole staff on these days. As I walk through classrooms I see more and more genuine technology enhanced instruction taking place thanks to Rob's efforts.

We have on-site staff members that have also been integral in providing meaningful professional development this year. Lori Shinerock attended the Kagan winter institute last year and has provided Evergreen teachers with hours of professional development since that time. The student engagement and cooperative learning strategies she brought back from that workshop have been incredibly valuable and provided a vehicle for instructional improvement to our teachers. Lori, along with Kelly Bethke, will be attending a two day workshop specifically dealing with these strategies as applied to math instruction. Tammy Griffis is a member of the TRSD technology team and has been a wonderful resource to teachers wishing to utilize technology in the classroom. Our emphasis has been to develop authentic and meaningful lessons that integrate technology into our instruction and not just provide a flashy way to support content. I am very fortunate to have staff members like Lori and Tammy who are able to provide powerful yet free professional development to the rest of the staff.

PBS continues to be a critical component to our successes at Evergreen Elementary School. We now have students who have been exposed to the PBS structures for three years and it is becoming quite natural for them. This year the PBS team at Evergreen will be focusing on providing more resources to the entire staff on a consistent and regular basis. We have many lesson plans and activity guides centered on specific areas around the school. We are developing the same type of resources for specific behaviors or situations that we see in our students. Having a very supportive staff has been incredibly valuable and made our level of PBS implementation possible.

Evergreen Elementary School is a wonderful place with a nurturing, innovative and engaging learning environment. We are dedicated to adding value to the students we serve while ensuring their safety and happiness. Our enrollment remains steady at 470+ students this year. With the poor, yet recovering, economy we face more challenges than ever with poverty and our many families in need.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Valenzuela

