

Board Report
Jerome Prairie Elementary School

June 10, 2010

Number of students: 215

K- 31, 1st- 35, 2nd- 41, 3rd- 31, 4th- 36, 5th- 41

The end of the year is a good time for reflecting on our accomplishments and the challenges that we have yet to overcome. We embraced the four district goals with varying degrees of success and have already begun formulating plans for extending our efforts for next year. As teachers reviewed the goals it was clear that there was a general consensus about their importance and the need to continue our focus in these areas.

- We made great progress on our math instruction this year with several in-services related to the new standards and teaching techniques. We deeply explored the use of math problem solving including the Problem of the Month model. We featured a Problem of the Month walkabout for all the classrooms at our end of the year celebration of learning. We received many positive comments from parents and students about the increased focus on problem solving. We have plans to continue refining our efforts in math and increasing depth of knowledge. We believe that we will see a big boost in our math scores next year.
- Increasing the use of student engagement activities was woven into the content of most of our in-services. Two of my teachers have had extensive Kagan training and along with Peg Cowens shared techniques with the staff. Teachers commented that they found many of these ideas useful and implemented or adapted them for their classrooms.
- We are heavily invested in the PBIS system and the development of intentional relationships. We have clear expectations and actively teach them to our students. All staff members are encouraged to develop intentional relationships and we have explicit structures such as our HUGS program (a check-in, check-out type program.). We have implemented new ways to positively recognize students this year and have plans to expand this part of the program next year.
- Technology has been the weak link for us this year. We have had some staff involved in training throughout the year, but our school wide efforts did not begin until late this spring. We have assessed our needs and determined what fits us best. We began training with Rob Saunders in May related to improving our web pages and communication with parents. We have also identified what technology will be most helpful for improving instruction in the classroom, are in the process of obtaining these materials (document cameras, laptops, and projectors), and have scheduled training for the fall to maximize their use.

We finished the year with many successful events. We had about 400 people come to our Celebration of Learning where we showcased many of the great things our students have accomplished throughout the year. Our fifth grade participated in a Zoo

Snooze field trip at the Oregon Zoo. We also had a successful read-a-thon just to name a few.

Finally, our biggest challenge at the moment is probably trying to determine how we will structure our classrooms next fall. It appears we will lose a teacher from our staff due to budget reductions. We currently had anticipated two blended classrooms (1/2 and 4/5), but the loss of a teacher will result in 4 blended classrooms (1/2, 2/3, 3/4, and 4/5). This poses some real challenges as some teachers will be asked to do some new things next year as we continue to raise our expectations.

I look forward to the upcoming school year and working with the Jerome Prairie staff to provide the best education possible for our students.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Fuller