

Report to the School Board

June 10, 2024

By Elementary School Principal Dave Riebel

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

- Concerts:

Professional Bluegrass Band:

Through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, our school was a part of a May 16 visit by The Waddington Brothers, a professional Bluegrass Band. They left a performance in Branson, Missouri and came to our elementary on their way to a weekend Bluegrass Festival at a Houston, Mn. campground. It was an impressive showcase of musical skills in a fashion many students have not experienced before.



Elementary spring concerts:

Mr. Harper and students begin preparations months prior. The results of that preparation and practice gets showcased in the spring elementary concert performances, held this year on May 23. Our kindergarten, first and second graders performed in the first show, followed by the third and fifth graders. Our fourth graders put on a performance that is also a part of their social studies learning of American history. Members of the fifth grade also joined Mr. Hamilton on stage to show off their new instrumental band skills with their first band concert. All of these performances allow students to highlight their musical skill's and build excitement for the future years.



- Elementary Track Meet:

The fourth, fifth and sixth graders worked on their track and field skills during the springtime phy.ed. classes. They then showcased some of those skills at the elementary track and field day. St. John's Elementary school also sent their students to compete and enjoy the event. Thank you to Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Montgomery for their coordination efforts.



- Last day of school events:



Walk of the Graduates

The annual Walk of the Graduates starts the fun of the last day of school at the Elementary. It is a great way for our youngest students to look up to these seniors, cousins, neighbors and friends than in their cap and gowns. We hope that the seniors also feel the genuine congratulations expressed by the elementary students and staff as they visit.

Fifth Grade Graduation:

We are proud to send 36 students on to the high school as graduating fifth graders. A graduation ceremony was held on the last day of school to honor this milestone event of the halfway point of their educational Lewiston-Altura school journey. A few awards were followed by the handing out of graduation certificates and wrapped up with a couple of songs for their parents and family members. Congratulations!



Last Day Olympics:

The weather cooperated nicely on the last day of school. Our staff met and put together a revised plan for our last day afternoon activities. An Olympic theme was chosen. The Olympics allowed us to set up in multi grade level, country teams. Each country participated in seven different activities such as sack races, hula hoop challenge and Unicorn relay race. Lots of fun together as we finished up the school year.

Strategic Priority 2: Effective Staffing

- Cardinal Club update:

We thank Vicky Greden for all of her coordination efforts and wish her the best in her next adventure. Ms. Linda Leibfried rejoins the Cardinal Club staff, taking over the coordination efforts beginning in June and heading into the upcoming school year. We appreciate Linda's experience and knowledge as a former Cardinal Club staff member, elementary school paraprofessional and office worker.

- Administrative Assistant

Our elementary school family welcomes Victoria Schrimpf to the elementary school. Ms. Schrimpf will take over the elementary administrative assistant and transportation secretary position vacated by Ms. Leibfried. When the school year begins, stop in and welcome Ms. Schrempf.

Strategic Priority 3: Finance

- Successful fundraising:

As a result of the unsuccessful levy and bond referendum votes, our elementary staff understood the budget needs and discussed ways that we could help the district situation. It was agreed that we would work to find ways to fundraise to cover the costs of our Elementary School field trips so that those costs could/would be taken off the district expenditures. Planning and preparations were made to have an elementary school spring fundraiser. A purposeful decision was made to delay the fundraising effort until all Fools Five fundraising was completed in the community. In early April, our elementary students and staff jumped into our own World's Finest Chocolate fundraising effort. After a review of student registration costs and estimations of transportation costs, the estimated amount needed for '23-24 was \$9,400 so our goal was to raise \$10,000 to cover those costs. Any funds beyond this year's costs will be put towards the "24-25 field trip expenditures.



Through an excellent example of our Cardinal CARES qualities of Cooperation, Assertion and Responsibility, the families of the elementary school produced results that exceeded expectations. The final total generated by our fundraising efforts was **\$13,500**. Thank you to families for all the efforts!

Strategic Priority 4: Facilities

- Tree removal:

It's always sad to see a beautiful, old tree come down. The large tree at the exit of the elementary school parking lot was removed recently after losing a major limb in a recent storm. Examination of the tree revealed substantial internal rotting and the call was made to harvest the usable board feet and remove the damaged and rotted portions.

- Summer cleaning is underway:

The custodial crew began the yearly room cleaning process at the elementary school during the first week of June. Thanks for all the annual efforts. Once the elementary school cleaning process is complete, the crew moves on to the high school.

Strategic Priority 5: Community Engagement

- Tons of Summer Activities!!!

Community education events, camps and summer library activities dominated the pages of the final newsletters sent home to parents. Sixteen newsletter pages of flyers and links are available for parents to utilize to keep kids active and engaged this summer!

- Summer School and Extended School year classes are scheduled for July 15 – August 2 this summer.