Primary Board Report

A Learning Community Works Together and Supports Together

We are a caring community of learners that works hard to support those in our community. Times have been tough for some. Mrs. Birgensmith has been working hard to lead the way in finding our families in need and the resources to support them. This includes such things as going to Safeway to purchase meals and deliver them to families on her day off. Teachers have been helpful in sharing the names of students and families in need, as well as potential ways they could be supported.

Our students and staff also want to help those outside our local community. Many have expressed concern for the children and families in Haiti impacted by the recent earthquake. We will soon start our Pennies for Port-au-Prince fundraiser to help out in the relief effort.

Our students are very important to us and we want to celebrate their successes. The efforts of the Soske family led the way in creating a hearty breakfast for our recent students of the month. It went so well that we are planning a similar meal for our January students of the month. Karen Harris (right) and Shannon Stabel (left) have kindly stepped up to donate their time, efforts, and expertise to create a breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, and juice. Joyce Hantho (center) has and will continue to play an important part in our student of the month celebrations. Lessons learned at the last celebration have also helped us to plan for a new serving system that should double our abilities to serve students and will hopefully include our fine Bobcat Ambassadors. We look forward to celebrating with our students. I wonder who the guest chef will be.

Hard work by our Math Club staff, our technology department, and Josh Soske is starting to show. We now have four more laptops and SuccessMaker math support licenses, almost doubling our capacity to support fourth and fifth grade students in their math learning. Three of the new stations have already been tested by our students. Hopefully all nine stations will be up and running at the time of your reading this. Word of SuccessMaker has been getting around. Students have been visiting the Math Club daily asking if the new computers are ready for them to join in. They are raring and ready to go.

Capacity, Collaboration, Contemplation

Capacity

We need to develop our staff capacity to effectively support our students in their learning. Our efforts to do so have continued with our January grade level literacy workshops. Colleen Johnson and Lynette Lindblom led the efforts with 90 minute sessions for each

grade level team. At a staff meeting prior to the workshops, grade level teams gave input as to what their needs were to better support their students in their literacy learning. Each team then had the opportunity at their workshop to work on their given needs with their team, Colleen, and Lynette. We look forward to seeing the results from their work. Colleen & Lynette's effective literacy leadership partnership had a great start to a bright future.

Collaboration

The primary lab classroom project collaborations have been positive, supportive, and inspiring. Our January experience included Barbara Harmon sharing GLAD strategies as she effectively supported her students in their science learning. Her strategies utilized visual, oral, and kinesthetic strategies. One of our team members was unable to join us at school for our lesson debrief and collaboration, so all agreed to participate in an hour long phone conference. The photo shows a portion of our team as we discuss. The phone on the bottom right represents our colleague participating from another location.

Contemplation

Our January 22 early release will include support from math consultant, Amy Barber. She will work with our fourth and fifth grade teams for 90 minutes each in the morning. The afternoon will involve work with our K-3 teams, assessment software, curriculum templates, and an effective online math facts program for students. Much like our literacy workshops, grade level teams worked at an earlier staff meeting to decide which needs they would address and work on when Amy joins us. This will be a great opportunity to collaborate and contemplate how we will improve our efforts to support our students in their math learning.

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