Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Learning Community Striving to Meet the Individual Needs of Each Student as a Whole Child

Our theme for the month of October is cooperation. The following shares some of the many efforts we are cooperating on.

Bobcat Walk/Run

Our 2013 Bobcat Walk/Run was a success. Students worked hard to support our school and complete as many laps as they could within their class' time. Many shared their excitement in having participated and their amount of laps walked/run. Twenty laps was a common number heard from many hard working walkers/runners. Our goal for this year was to raise $10,000 to support our students in this, our only school fundraiser. Impressively, our students, families, and community members were able to raise over $13,000. Now, what do we do with all the money? Students had previously shared what they would like money to be used for at our school. Many ideas shared by students will be acted upon due to their lower costs. Some of these ideas include purchasing more table games, jumpropes, hula hoops, tetherballs, and finding permanent ways of marking a baseball/kickball field. Students have been voting this past week on which of three major categories we will use the majority of the money for; swings on the field side, play structure on the field side, or a fancy slide on the field side. The totals will be compiled on Friday. Students will then be given options and costs and will help us design the final product. I look forward to experiencing how our students help to make our school a better place.

New Opportunities

Walking School Bus

As you know, our walking school buses give our students opportunities for exercise, to socialize, and to get our brains ready for learning. This year also includes donations for participants which were generously provided by Tiffany Pratt. 250 Z Fruit Ropes, reflective tape, safety and activity sheets, and more have been donated for our walking students. Renee Sanders has volunteered to start a walking schoolbus in the Stone Creek area. Flyers and communications will be shared with our students and families. Donations will also be given to all participants. We look forward to a great year of exercise and fun.

3-5 Bobcat Computer Programming Club

Steve Rippl, technology director for the Woodland School District, has been so kind as to volunteer to start and lead the new Bobcat Computer Programming Club. Dan Bentson, our technology director, will be working with Steve and our students. This club will start up November 5th and will be available free of cost to third through fifth grade students on Tuesdays, from 4:00-5:00. Up to thirty students will use our Google Chromebooks to interface via the internet and use Scratch, a graphic-based (drag 'n' drop, very little typing) programming language to create such things as games, interactive art, stories, simulations, and many other possibilities. They will also be able to work on and share their projects from home. This is a great opportunity for students who are serious about exploring the field of computer programming.

Foreign Languages

Each year we strive to find new ways to challenge our students in their learning. This year is no different. We are in the process giving our HiCap students the opportunity to learn a foreign language. While we may not have many staff ready to teach various languages, we will have Rosetta Stone available online (one calendar year from startup date). Our plan is to also have a

one-to-one device available for each student participating to use at school and at home for the school year. If current testing goes well, this could be a Google Chromebook for each. If something like the microphone setup on the Chromebook causes concern, we may need to look for another device option.

We will purchase online access for each interested HiCap student soon so that each may start accessing and learning from home (those who have internet access) while we work out effective devices we may provide. Each student will choose from numerous languages, ranging from Mandarin to Swahili. Students have the option of changing their language of choice one time during the one year license. Rosetta Stone recommends that students utilize their online service at least thirty minutes a day, three times a week. We look forward to learning from this experience.