Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Community Learning and Playing Together

Our theme for the month of November is gratitude. We are thankful for many things in our lives. We appreciate what people do for us. We show gratitude to our families, our teachers, our friends, and our community. Due to the hard work of many, we have much to be grateful for. The following shares just a bit of what our Paws-itive learning community has worked to be grateful for.

Kindergarten Led Veterans' Day Assembly

Our kindergarten teachers and students created and led our Veterans' Day assembly last week. It was a wonderful tribute to our country and those who have given so much for our freedom. We enjoyed and sang patriotic songs (such as You're a Grand Old Flag, This Land is Your Land, and God Bless America). Bill Hillgaertner, grandfather of Hunter Mallicoat, a retired Marine and Watch D.O.G., shared a tribute to our veterans. Mrs. Wise' class signed (American Sign Language) the Pledge of Allegiance as we recited. Four of our students (Tucker Harrington, Maddi Osborne, Brandon Ell, and Ashlynn Evans) presented a skit entitled "Who is a veteran?". We also enjoyed a beautiful rendition of America the Beautiful sung by our very own Brenda McKay. Five of our students (Eric Firl, Laynie Erickson, Sierra Harris, Logan Reed, and Calvin Robinson) posted and retired the colors. Carsten Robinson played an impressively accurate rendition of Taps for the retiring of the colors. Local veterans and parents were very kind to join us for the celebration. I can say that I truly enjoyed our time together and better understand what it means to be a veteran. It was another example of our students and community honoring and supporting others in our learning community.

Exciting Field Work

Our Mobius climbing wall has arrived, and Colf Construction has started work to install it on the field side of campus. I am very excited to see the work begin. Our Mobius climbing wall will give our students yet another option for healthy exercise during recesses. It will provide opportunities for our students to utilize what they have learned in PE on our gym traverse climbing wall. It also adds an artistic touch to our campus. Many students have enjoyed spending some recess time watching excavation and installation. Colf Construction is adding a large sand box which will have sand and concrete borders for seating. We will purchase brushes, bury petrified wood (donated by our very own John Parsons), and add artificial fossils students can discover. While we are at it, Colf Construction has also put in a gravel path from the blacktop to the track so that we do not need to close it in inclement weather due to high traffic and mud. All this would not have been possible without the

support of $5000 from our PTO and our students' work through our fundraisers. It all is estimated to be finished next week. You might want to come check it out.

Student Recognition

Mrs. Crandall's class has been working hard to help us find the best way(s) to recognize our students for special or extraordinary accomplishments. They wrote and shared letters and posters asking for the opportunity to consider starting up student of the month celebrations. We talked and students started work on the next phase, finding out what our students really want. Who would know better? Mrs. Crandall's students created a survey and supported classes in responding to them. Altogether, they received 504 responses, a pretty impressive number for a survey. They then compiled the data and put it into a usable format to find patterns. Students presented this data, which helped us to realize that our students do want to be recognized by other people, not only their teachers. Data also showed that students would like their pictures posted and to receive certificates. This was all taken to our building council, made up of staff representatives. Mrs. Crandall's students will soon take the input from our building council and lead the way to making meaningful (to students) student recognition a reality. I look forward to seeing the results. This is just another example of our students helping to create a Paws-itive Community.

4-Square

As you know, 4-Square has had a rough few years. It has not always led to the kind of behavior we believe is beneficial for our students. We even stopped playing it for a period of time. This has not lessened student yearning to play again. They have effectively shared their desire to re-instate the game at recesses and helped us to get it back on a limited basis last school year. The most common way to play was to have a Watch D.O.G. lead games. We sometimes saw long lines of excited players waiting to get into 4-Square games. Safe to say, while enjoying the attention, not all Watch D.O.G.S. wanted to play 4-Square every recess at every moment. This year, students and playground teachers worked together to come up with what felt like conditions for success. 4-Square was started up on a larger scale with some changes, including mandatory student referees (wearing a badge on a lanyard to show others who they are) who are not playing the game. We have completed a trial period, and I have to say it has gone quite well. Students have worked hard to support each other in an activity that is important to them. I have once again been impressed with students' abilities and will to effectively solve problems and find solutions.