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 November is gratitude. The following shares some of the many things we are thankful for.

New A.C.E. Support

We are pleased to share that two effective and caring teachers have recently joined our learning community for the 2013-2014 school year. Megan Bright and Kate Denney will be working with Colleen Wing and our A.C.E. (Accelerated Club for Education) team to support our students. Both will support students assessed to be in the intensive tier for math and reading. This will give our paraprofessionals more opportunity to support students assessed to be in the strategic tier. Megan has a strong background in supporting students in the area of literacy and will work with students during the standard school day. She will also work to plan lessons for our paraprofessionals, allowing further opportunity for Colleen to coach our paraprofessionals while working with students. Kate has strong experience in supporting students in the area of math and will work with students beyond the standard school day. This will include working 9:30-5:00 each day, allowing her to support students after school. Her primary focus will be to support students who tend to have more than normal support needs. For example, we have students who can be pulled from class for math, reading, writing, ELL, and speech support during the day. Kate can work with students after school giving them the opportunity to spend more time with their home classes and maybe feel a little less scattered throughout the day. Kate will also work with Mr. Holland during fourth period further supporting his math students in need. I look forward to experiencing all that our students learn and what we learn with Megan and Kate.

Student Equipment Vote

As you know, our students and learning community worked hard to earn over $13,000 for our students during the Bobcat Walk/Run. Given the money was raised for our students, they also had opportunities to think, share, and vote to decide what we will do with our money. First many shared their thoughts to guide us in which direction we wanted to go. Many wonderful ideas were shared. We will be acting on many of the less expensive ideas (such as adding recess board games, hula hoops, etc.) without the need to vote. The main, more expensive ideas, were put into three main categories; play structure, swings, and fancy slides for the field side. Pictures and potential costs were shared with all classes and students voted for their top category, which we found to be play structure. Next students had the opportunity to vote for their favorite specific play structure option given six examples and their potential costs. These examples varied in price from a $11,500 to a $65,000 base price. Students chose the Intensity (shown in picture) as their top choice. It also happens to be one of the options that can be acted upon this school year. Now we are on to the next phases where our students help us make our play structure become a reality by the end of the school year.

3-5 Bobcat Computer Programming Club

Our 3-5 Bobcat programming club is up and running. Led by Steve Rippl, Dan Bentson, parents, and students have been working together to learn computer programming and develop and share their own programs for three one-hour sessions so far. They started with some basics to understanding logic and how programs interact with computer hardware. Students have learned such things as how to create and adapt sprites, program actions to take place, have the program interact with the user (including voices and sound effects), and even quiz others on math concepts. One third grader shared her excitement in how she has created a program where a ghost chases another sprite and interacts with user inputs. She assured me that she has much more in store for her program and is proud of her work, sharing it with clubmates, and others on the web. While students are having fun, they are also learning more about logic, positive and negative numbers, x,y coordinates, and more. Who knows, we may be witnessing the beginning to some world changing computer programming.

What's Coming Up in the Next Elementary Board Report?

-Projects being led by students to support our community

-What would you like to learn more about? As you know, we have many great things going on in our learning community. I strive to include topics I believe you would like to read about. I would love to hear from you what you would like to know more about. Please feel free to share and I will do my best to include what you like in upcoming elementary Board reports.