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 our gratitude to our families, our teachers, our friends, and our community. As you know, an overarching goal of our school is to meet the individual needs of each student as a whole child. While we want to support our students in the main curricular areas, such as math, reading, and writing, we also know that our students need support in other areas of their lives. The following shares some of the many opportunities we are thankful for and further support the whole child beyond the core curriculum:

Science Olympiad Third, fourth, and fifth graders on our teams just finished up their second season of competition, placing first and third against teams from other elementary schools in the region. While this opportunity does involve science, it also includes strong work in such areas as teamwork and problem-solving.

Math is Cool We will soon be starting our first Math is Cool teams. Our teams will be comprised of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade teams of four each and will compete against others in our region. This opportunity will also include extra-curricular work in the areas of problem-solving and teamwork.

Holiday Choir This extra-curricular opportunity gives third and fourth graders the chance to entertain the community while expressing their musical talents.

Talent Show We hold this every other school year, including this spring. Students have the opportunity to share their talents with our community.

Art Specialists Our kindergarten teachers work hard to support our students in their artistic growth on Fridays. Each grade level attends class about once a month.

Father/Daughter Dance New to us this school year, we will be having our first Father/Daughter Dance in April to help provide a special time together for daughters and father figures. This dance will also serve as a fundraiser for our gifted and talented program. More information to come.

Bobcat Walk/Run Our first Bobcat Walk/Run last school year was a great success. Our students earned over $12000 for our school, had fun, and practiced a healthy lifestyle through exercise. Due to its success and timing during the school year, we will not have another Bobcat Walk/Run until next Fall. All proceeds went to our students, making it possible to end our cookie dough and magazine fundraisers.

Track and Mobius Climber Not many elementary schools have their own track and Mobius climbing walls. We are lucky to have these options to promote a healthy lifestyle. Many students walk and run during recesses to gain their necklaces and feet in our Happy Feet program.

Walking School Bus We started our walking schoolbuses last spring and will start up again next spring. These are just another example of striving to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Bobcat Bicycle Club We will be starting our Bobcat Bicycle Club this spring, riding to and from school. The kick-off will be held with riding safety classes. We have already installed our "new to us" bike rack next to our gym.

Watch D.O.G.S. We are in our third year of our D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) program. Our students know that our father figures care and look forward to working and playing with them.

JumpStart Program Some in our community are not able to purchase the school supplies and backpacks helpful to starting the school year. Many in our community work together to provide these supplies to K-12 students before and during the school year.

Friendship Groups Our counselor, Mrs. Birgensmith, works with students to help promote and gain friendship skills.

Second Step Each teacher works with our students using the Second Step program to gain skills in such areas as empathy, anger management, and problem-solving.
Recess School Some students work with our counselor and playground teachers to promote positive play on the playground.
Photo Club Students are working to take photographs throughout the school year for such efforts as our end-of-school year slide show. I also hope to use many on our Facebook page.
Chess Club and Weaving Many fifth graders have the opportunity to participate in a recess chess club and weaving group led by Mrs. Smith.
District Food Service Advisory Panel Starting last school year, we have had fourth and fifth grade students representing our school on the district food service advisory panel. They help to advise on such things as to what choices we have for healthy and interesting school lunches and breakfasts.
Save Our Scraps (SOS) Students help us with this daily lunch program so that we may do such things as waste less with our lunches and save money on our garbage costs.
Edible Gardens Our kindergarten classes and Ms. Harmon's class grow and eat food from their raised-bed gardens. My hope is that we will have opportunities to add some to the cafeteria in the future.
Field Trips All classes join in on field trips to expand students' experiences. These include such activities as going to Tears of Joy puppet shows, riding on the sternwheeler, learning more about the watershed, and visiting our own wetlands.
Assemblies We have opportunities to join in on assemblies, such as our own music concerts, our Veterans' Day program led by our kindergartners, our January Reptile Man assembly, and our talent shows.
Learner Competencies Our learner competencies have been developed to promote such things as higher level thinking and learning to utilize the knowledge we gain through our learning. More will be shared in the near future.
Race to Nowhere We have purchased the video "Race to Nowhere" for staff, parents, students, and community members to view. It will promote discussion on the impact of such things as homework, test pressures, and more on student wellness and stress. Community will be invited to an evening showing and discussions soon after Winter Break.
Recess Games and Activities Students develop and present on ideas they would like to have implemented on the playground. Many new activities and games have started at recess thanks to our students' efforts. Ideas implemented include such things as marbles, 4-Square, paper airplane making, our Mobius Climber, and moving and lowering our zipline.
Student Created and Implemented Endeavors Students are constantly thinking of and sharing new ways to help our learning community. Some examples include our participation on the district food service advisory panel, Pennies for Japan, the cancer research fundraiser, our water dispenser in the cafeteria, and work on our SOS video.
P.T.O. Our P.T.O. has worked hard not only to give financial support for our students, but also to provide fun activities and opportunities for those in our community. Examples include our fall carnival, the holiday shop, bingo night, movie nights, and our end of year fun days.