# Elementary Board Report

## A Paws-itive Community  Learning and Playing Together

There has been a lot going on at the elementary lately.  I thought I would share just a taste for some of our less academic efforts and some visuals.

**Food Drive Results**
We had our annual Food Drive last week.  Students and families worked hard to donate a grand total of 1,672 items to help support local families.  Sherri Birgensmith led our efforts and shared that this total weighed over 1,500 pounds altogether.  Not bad.  I also heard that the items donated were of the highest quality in recent years.  An example would be that more things such as canned tuna were donated.  It is great to know that so many in our learning community understand and care to support those in our greater community who may not be as fortunate this time of year.

**Cookie Dough Fundraiser**
We recently finished our Cookie Dough Fundraiser.  Proceeds go to raising money for our ASB and such goals as purchasing and constructing an outdoor climbing wall for students at recess and beyond the school day.  Students and families worked to sell enough dough to raise $4,970.30 in dough.  This will put us a long ways toward our outdoor wall.

**SOS**
This month saw the beginning of our Save Our Scraps (SOS) program in the cafeteria.  Students have been working to separate food scraps from garbage waste so that it may be taken away and re-used (not at a second hand food store, to be used as compost).  We hope this will lead to such things as lower garbage rates, less waste at the landfill, and a larger sense of responsibility on our part.  Our efforts are being led by Ms. Harmon's, Mrs. Nordstrom's, and Mrs. Barnes' classes.  Of note, students who have recently taken over supervisory responsibilities in the cafeteria have mentioned how much they appreciate our day custodian, Tom Murphy's, hard work to support us in the cafeteria.  This is especially obvious now that we are trying to take on just a small portion of his responsibilities.

**Holiday Shop**
Each year our fine PTO volunteers put in a great deal of work to support our students with the Holiday Shop.  Volunteers spend many hours purchasing great deals on items students can purchase and give to those they care about.  Dozens of hours are also spent setting up shop, restocking, supporting students in each class on their tour and shopping, wrapping presents, and helping students purchase items from the shop.  This also gives opportunities for students to budget their money and practice a little math.  It is all quite exciting and for four days can look somewhat like Walmart on Black Friday (a safer, yet busy version).

**SuccessMaker and our New Climbing Wall**

In recent weeks you have heard or read about our expanded SuccessMaker computers and climbing wall.  I thought you might want to see what they look like.