# Elementary Board Report

**A Paws-itive Community  Learning and Playing Together**
Our theme for the month of February is goal setting.  Setting goals helps us decide what we want and how to make a plan to make it happen.  Setting goals sometimes requires us to think about our areas of strengths and weaknesses and where we need to improve.  Some goals are long term and take longer to accomplish.  Some goals are short term and can be accomplished more quickly.  The following shares some of our recent work on goals.

**Safety**
As you know, one of our consistent goals is to improve upon and do all we can to ensure the safety of all in our learning community.  The January elementary report made mention of some of our safety work.  We also perform monthly safety drills.  At least six of our monthly drills must be fire drills.  So far, we have had two lockdown drills, an earthquake drill, and fire drills.  We most recently learned a great deal during a lockdown drill the morning of February 6.  Officer Lester from the La Center Police Department joined us to observe and offer advice.  The following shares some of what we learned through the drill and subsequent debriefings.

**-Oadmin:** All but five staff replied using "oadmin" or phoned 309 with their status.  We have since found why we did not receive communications regarding their status and believe we have made needed changes.
**-E-Mail:** All who replied via e-mail (oadmin) correctly stated their status color in the title portion and then added notes if they were at "yellow" status.
**-Locked Doors:** All but one door to occupied rooms was locked.  This has been addressed.
**-Full or modified?**: If staff for some reason are unsure as to whether or not we are in a full or modified lockdown, then we will treat it as a full lockdown.
**-Window Status Colors:** We found that some window status color strips did not fully block the view of classroom interiors.  We may need to make new ones that are large enough to cover the full door window frame.
**-Conference Room Status Colors:** Though the elementary conference room does not have a window, we will make status color strips for use when occupied.
**-Window Blinds:** The vast majority of window blinds completely blocked the view of classroom interiors.  The ones which did not had objects, such as plants, blocking them from fully closing.  We will make sure window blinds are fully closed during any lockdown in the future.
**-Workroom:** People in our workroom shared that they could not hear the call to lockdown.  We had the company come last year to make sure the speakers could be heard in our bathrooms, workrooms, etc.  Our next effort will be to change to a less gentle ring tone prior to announcement of lockdown.  I might also have to rewire some speakers.
**-Preschool:** Staff have helped our preschool teachers to be kept up to date on safety changes.  We learned that preschool has not consistently received all safety communications.  Winnie has now included preschool staff on our "Elem-teachers" e-mail distribution list so that they will receive e-mails on changes.
**-Cafeteria:** Our cafeteria's physical attributes (lots of glass) and large numbers of children (at times) continue to be of concern.  We discussed such options as applying one-way vision laminate on windows to deter interior vision and keep glass from shattering.  Other options, such as evacuating to wetlands were discussed.  Officer Lester will consult resident tactical experts on potential best options.
**-Surprise Lockdown Drill:** There was also discussion on the potential of having a surprise lockdown later in the school year now that we have experienced a planned one.

We will be having a fire drill followed by a reunification drill on February 26. This will include our use of what we believe to be an improved reunification process. We have invited the La Center Police Department to join us and offer advice. Parents of students from the elementary and middle school have been invited to help us with our reunification process. I believe we have at least 40 parents who have shared that they plan to join us. Our district leadership team will also observe and offer advice. I look forward to all that we will learn from this experience.

**Kindergarten**

As mentioned in the January elementary report, our kindergarten teachers have been working to find the most effective ways to meet the individual needs of each of our students as a whole child. One strategy I wrote about was to have a new teacher working with 15 of our kindergarten students in groups of three (accelerated learning is most likely to happen with one highly qualified teacher working with three or fewer students at least four days a week) Monday through Thursday and then have those 15 students attend a fifth day on Fridays as one new class working together. I am excited to share that we have hired a highly qualified and caring teacher to work with our students for the remainder of the school year. Amy Webberley has been doing a wonderful job of supporting our students in their literacy and math skills. This has included her work with our students on Fridays. Not only does she continue to help our students in literacy and math, but she also helps to support them as a whole child. Our students do need balance in their lives. This includes such things as learning to play together appropriately and how to be a good friend. Amy has worked closely with our kindergarten team and A.C.E. team to better understand our students' needs, meet their learning needs, and do so in a caring way. All students have done a great job of coming together and bonding as a fifth day kindergarten class. I look forward to experiencing all that we will learn.

**Coming up in March**

There are many great things happening at the elementary. I thought I would give a bit of a heads up as to what will be shared in the March Elementary Board Report.

-What is happening in our efforts to support our four-year-old future kindergartners, families, and local preschools?
-What is our recent A.C.E. data regarding our efforts to support our students?
-What is happening in our efforts to help our students with bicycle safety and bicycling to school?