Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Community Learning and Playing Together

Our theme for the month of March is perseverance. We do not give up easily. Even if we have problems, it is difficult or we fail at first, we keep trying. We try hard because we know we can do it (kind of like the Little Engine That Could). The following shares a just a small taste of projects we have persevered on:

Watch D.O.G.S.

As you may remember, Sherri Birgensmith, our counselor, is leading efforts to start up own Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) group. Our dads and father figures will volunteer at least a day at a time to help our students in classes and on the playground. On Monday, March 7, we had our initial information and pizza feed meeting. Twenty-two dads and father figures (including granddads and other male community members) attended the meeting led by Sherri, Walt Hansen, and Rodney Harrington. The history of Watch D.O.G.S. was shared, as well as motivational stories and some details of how our program will work. Out of the twenty-two in attendance, twenty-one have signed up to to be a part of the program. Watch D.O.G.S. will start on March 28 and continue on through the end of the school year. So far, eighteen of the fifty-one days are scheduled with Watch D.O.G.S. set to volunteer. Each will wear a special shirt and vest showing students they are Watch D.O.G.S. I look forward to seeing the positive impact they have on our students. I also look forward to seeing the ideas Sherri has for next year. She has already started planning for such things as picture collages, testimonials, and web-based calendar sign-ups for future Watch D.O.G.S.

Penny Drive for Japan

We have two students, Christian Pratka-Sutherland and Rebecca Hobart, who have been working hard to create and implement a Pennies for Japan drive. They have created and received signatures on a petition to have the drive, have met with me at length to plan and prepare, and will start advertising the drive tomorrow. Their posters are ready to go up (They purchased their own posterboard and used their creativity and thought to create them.). They have worked to speak with Brett Blechschmidt regarding legalities. The drive will take place March 21 –April 1. All money donated will go to the Red Cross to support efforts in Japan. Tomorrow (Friday) I will announce the drive during morning announcements using the script they have written. They are gaining donations of containers from local businesses to collect money in each classroom. I look forward to seeing how our learning community supports these two students who have given great time and effort and have shown a passion for helping others in need.

Book Fair

We are just finishing up another successful weeklong Book Fair put on by our PTO. They are counting money as I type. This book fair had many opportunities for our students. Each student was allowed to choose $3 worth of books at no cost to students. Each teacher was allowed to choose $100 for their classroom free of charge. All other proceeds will be donated to our library for the purchase of books. Saturday included a green eggs and ham breakfast (also fruit and juice) donated and staffed by Beaches restaurant and attended by over 200 people. From breakfast students could create and take their own books. They could also purchase books from the Book Fair. Throughout

this week classes have been competing to read the most minutes possible. Many classes will end up reading over 10,000 minutes during the week. Our goal is to achieve at least 100,000 minutes. Grade level winning classes will win ice-cream sundae parties and there will be a public human sundae decorating of some of our staff. This has all been for a good cause. I can say that this event has led to a lot of reading and fun. As an example, I know my third grade daughter has read over 260 minutes each day. Many have been motivated to read and enjoy. Way to go Bobcats!