Intermediate News!
March 18, 2010

Greetings,

We had an outstanding week of Parent/Teacher Conferences, March 8th – 12th! As you know this is an important time of the school year to conference with the child's parent and teacher to discuss the successes and areas of work needed to reach benchmark in each academic area. Several of our Intermediate Staff held "Student Led Conferences" for the first time. The student presented work samples and shared what they have accomplished in their learning thus far to their parents. Discussions took place with the student explaining what areas they had to meet benchmark and the 'team' for this student collaborated on goal setting. Students were taking ownership in their learning and parents got to hear their child reflect on their education in the conferences. It was very exciting!

A BIG 'Thank You' goes to all the PTO volunteers for helping with our Book Fair. PTO provided a $3.00 coupon to each child towards purchasing a book, giving all our 700 students a wonderful opportunity to own their own book. A challenge was presented to the student body by PTO that read 'if the whole school could read 100,000 minutes in the week our Library and Reading Club staff would become human Sundays!' We made it! An assembly will be planned for that wonderful event. We hope everyone continues to read like they did this past week. It was amazing!

The Intermediate Lab Classroom members spent a half day in the Middle School enjoying Learning Walks. We visited four different classrooms, had powerful discussions about student to student learning and all the Intermediate teachers shared several ideas they learned from the visit. This was a meaningful event! The teachers felt this was so powerful they donated their $500.00 back into the building budget from the grant to use the funds for substitutes at a later time for more Learning Walks and discussions. This shows how dedicated our staff is about collaboration, finding ways to increase the flow of information, raising the cognitive demand in the classroom and building trust which empowers students to take ownership in their learning. We have learned so many important points by having this opportunity to meet and discuss how we need to reach all types of learners we hope to continue this work into next year.

I have begun testing 3rd, 4th and 5th graders for the Highly Capable program. We had 29 students apply for the testing process this year. This week and next week we will complete the nine sections of the Cognitive Abilities Test. Scores will be recorded into the matrix, including the score for the parent, teacher and WASL (4th and 5th include last years WASL). Results will go to the parent after Spring Break. It is very exciting to see so many students wanting to be involved in this program. My hope is to generate additional grant money for next year and then offer teachers afterschool opportunities to teach Highly Capable classes. Professional Development will also be offered for teachers on how to differentiate instruction for the Highly Capable student. We are beginning this process and look forward to the opportunities for out students.

Respectively,
Carol Patton
Intermediate Principal