Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Community Learning and Playing Together

Our theme for the month of March is perseverance. Perseverance means not giving 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. The following shares just a bit of work towards goals by some in our Paws-itive learning community.

Water in the Cafeteria

This student initiated and led project has shown to be a great example of why perseverance can be such a worthy trait. Nathan Beer presented last school year on why having a water dispenser (for drinking water) in the cafeteria would be beneficial for students' health. He also did such things as research potential dispenser models, costs, and other needs. Nathan was supported in his efforts by his parents and Josh Soske. Later in his efforts, we found that we could not install a water dispenser because providing water would throw off federal nutritional requirements for student lunches (Students may not have received enough of certain nutrients like calcium because they could drink water instead of milk.). Well, do not give up. Just last week, Dr. Mansell did some checking and we learned that the aforementioned is not correct. Students may drink water. As a matter of fact, there is a requirement that we provide opportunities for water in the cafeteria. Thanks to the work of Nathan and others, our maintenance department is now looking into how we will create a space where students who wish will be able to fill cups and waterbottles. Sometimes things may take longer than we would like, but perseverance can truly pay off.

4th Graders for Cancer Research

Many of us have had cancer touch our lives in some way. Fourth graders Nic Budke, Dalton McGowen, and Andrew Scott have also seen the impact of cancer on others' lives. Nic has lost two family members. Andrew has lost a family member and has two who have been diagnosed. Dalton has experienced what cancer can do in the lives of those he cares about around him. All three want to make a difference. They have presented on having a cancer research fundraiser at our school where the proceeds go to St. Knight's Cancer Institute in Portland, Oregon. They have researched St. Knight's and have developed a core plan. Their hope is to advertise and have donation stations available for an April 11 to May 11 fundraiser. To better understand the need, we checked out The American Cancer Society website which projects 1,596,670 new cancer cases and 571,950 deaths due to cancer in the U.S. during 2011. These numbers represent people who have had their lives and the lives around them greatly impacted. I look forward to seeing what Nic, Dalton, and Andrew, along with our learning community, can do to help lessen the great impact to so many great humans.

Student Conferences and Book Fair

Teachers and family members have been working hard to get together this week to share report cards and how we may best work together to support our students. While it may not feel like we have a lot of time left in the school year, we do have plenty of time to start making a difference in the rest of the lives of our children. I would like to thank the many who have come together to do so.

A more recent tradition, our conference week is joined by our Book Fair. This year's event has been led by the hard work of Joelle Watson. She has been joined by many volunteers, including high schooler, and elementary alumnist, Carsten Robinson, sharing his fun rendition of Lizzy the dinosaur from The Magic School Bus. Students have enjoyed his character parading throughout the Book Fair. Saturday provided four hours of books, fun, and free pizza. Each student has

been given a coupon, free of charge, for $3 worth of purchases. Classes have made it through to check out and purchase books and more. The Book Fair will be ending this Friday. Thank you to all who have shared their time and energy to add to our students' lives.

Bobcat Walk/Run

As you know, our Bobcat Walk/Run fundraiser is taking the place of our regular magazine fundraiser. We hope the Bobcat Walk/Run will do such things as help promote a healthy lifestyle, provide all pledge money to our students for their efforts, and be fun for participants. The event leader, Treasha Reser, has been meeting and working with some of our great parents to prepare. Students will have the opportunity to vote on which idea we are raising the money for. The week before the event, students will gain pledges for laps walked/run in 20 minutes or simple sum sponsorships. The event will take place May 30 and 31. Students will have 20 minutes complete as many laps on our outdoor track with their classes as they can. They then will have one week to collect pledges/donations and turn them in. Any student who turns in any amount of money will receive a Bobcat Walk/Run wristband. The top two earning students from each grade level will also receive Bobcat Walk/Run t-shirts. All proceeds, after paying for wristbands, will go toward funding the project with the most student votes. I look forward to seeing what opportunities are gained from these efforts.