Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Learning Community Striving to Meet the Individual Needs of Each Student as a Whole Child

Our theme for the month of April is respecting the environment. When I have respect for the environment, I honor nature. I show I am grateful by keeping living creatures, the land, water, and air clean and protected. I do my part to protect the environment for now and for the future. The following shares a couple of new events approaching.

Bike Fair

As you know, we continue in our efforts to meet the individual needs of each student as a whole child. One important component includes the area of health and safety. I am excited to share that we will be having our first La Center Bike Fair on Saturday, June 1, 10:00-2:00. Dr. Mansell and Eric Giacchino (president of Bike Clark County) have been working hard with the Vancouver Bike Club, Bike Clark County, C-Tran, and the La Center Lions to plan and prepare for the event.

All students, families, and community members are invited to join in on the fun and learning. We will have a helmet fitting station where volunteers will inspect participants' helmets for safety and fit. If a participant does not have a helmet, it does not fit properly, or it is deemed unsafe, a helmet will be provided and properly fitted.

There will also be bike inspections, a bike lock and bike rack clinic, a tire change clinic, and a barbecue. The bike inspections will check participants' bikes to ensure they are serviceable and safe. Volunteers will make quick adjustments, but will not have time to conduct tune-ups. For those who cannot bring a bike or their bike needs more maintenance than a quick adjustment, Bike Clark County will bring a fleet of 30 bikes for use. The bike lock and rack clinic will discuss keyed locks versus combination locks and teach participants how to use our school bike rack. The tire clinic and barbecue are self-explanatory.

All participants (including parents) will be able to join in on our bike rodeo or our road course classes. The bike rodeo is for participants up to fourth grade (and parents). Participants will learn about the rules of the road, identifying traffic signs, and following the laws. They will also learn how to conduct an ABC-Q check of their bicycles. Then they will have the opportunity to ride our rodeo course. Just make sure not to break any laws. You can go to "jail".

Our road course participants, grade 5 and up, will also learn how to conduct an ABC-Q check of their bicycles, rules of the road, following the laws, and more. They will also work with C-Tran to understand such things as blind spots, making eye contact with drivers, and how to use the bike racks on buses. From there, participants will be led on a road ride from the school, to the Lockwood Creek neighborhood, and back to school.

I look forward to this positive experience and how it may impact our students' and community members' lives.

Race to Nowhere

As you may remember, we have purchased the video "Race to Nowhere" for our community to view. Our belief is "Race to Nowhere" will promote discussion on the impact of such things as homework, test pressures, and more on student wellness and stress. Our teachers have had the opportunity to watch and discuss the video. We would like to give parents and community members the opportunity to view and discuss "Race to Nowhere".

I am pleased to share that parents and community members are invited to watch the video and participate in small group discussions afterward on Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30, in the K-8 library. The video lasts about 85 minutes and discussions afterward have taken anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours. I look forward to the discussions and hope you choose to join us.

Coming in April

There are many great things happening at the elementary. I will share about the following ideas in the May Elementary Board Report.

-How did our first Kindy Cub Night go?

-What have we learned from our La Center Elementary Math Lessons Learned project?

-What is in the works for the 2013-2014 school year?