Intermediate News
May 17, 2010

Greetings,

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are completing the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) state test this week. Make-up testing will take place the following week. Students have done a great job taking this test while working hard to do their best. Many of our staff members have voiced their concerns that the test had more questions than OSPI advertised. Teachers also felt that two days of material was packed into one day of testing. In either case, our students have risen to the occasion and done their very best.

As we reflect on the work from our Lab Classroom experience and school visitations, several of the Intermediate teachers are looking at piloting a couple varieties of classroom teaming next year. In 4th grade Mr. Lepak and Mrs. Collins will be teaming. Mr. Lepak will focus on Math and Science for sharing students from the two classes and Mrs. Collins will teach Literacy which includes Reading and Writing. They each will teach Social Studies, Art, and Second Step. Mr. Grotte, Mr. Sloniker and Mrs. Barnes are also teaming. Mr. Grotte with teach Math, Mr. Sloniker will teach Science and Mrs. Barnes will teach Literacy. All three will include Writing within each core subject area including teach their homeroom classes Social Studies, Art and Second Step.

Our 5th grade team will also look a little different. Mrs. Alanko, Mrs. Klump and Mrs. Poffenroth are thinking of using thematic topics for all subject excluding Math and Science. This approach builds literacy skills by using core content areas. Mrs. Bussler and Mrs. Smith will team. Mrs. Bussler will focus on Math, Science while incorporating technology and Mrs. Smith will teach Literacy. On the upcoming early release the Intermediate teachers will have an opportunity to discuss the vision of the Intermediate team and begin discussions about communicating this information with our parents of incoming students and composing a supply list for next year's students.

All of these pilot programs are outcomes from visiting Corbett and Endeavor Elementary. It also includes the research and discussions from Lab Classroom projects and Learning Walks. Teachers are seeing how they can put more emphasis on state standards, meeting target goals and improve the flow of information while focusing on differentiating instruction.

On another note, I would like to thank Mr. Cooke, the Middle School Principal, for his time with the 5th grade boys instructing them on the Human Growth and Development workshop mandated by the state. He had time to connect with his future 6th graders and get an understanding of their concerns. Mrs. Cooke, the school nurse and no relation to our MS Principal, taught the 5th grade girls. Both groups of students had an opportunity to learn about their own bodies, ask questions and address any misconceptions. The workshop proved to be very positive.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Patton, Intermediate Principal

Upcoming Events

May 20th - Elementary Talent Show at 7:00 P.M. in the Elementary Gym
May 26th – 4th Grade Concert at 7:00 P.M. in the MS Gym
May 28th - HS Band, Jazz Band and Choir Assembly at 8:45 in the MS Gym
June 9th – 5th Grade Choir/Band Concert at 7:00 P.M. in the MS Gym
June 11th – Elementary Slide Show at 2:00 in the MS Gym
June 14th – Field Day