Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Community Learning and Playing Together

Our theme for the month of June is Self and Other Awareness. We are building relationships with others by:
-Listening and finding out more about them
-Learning to accept others for who they are
-Understanding our own talents and skills and sharing them with others

The following shares just a bit to help develop more awareness about our Paws-itive learning community.

Start to the Year

It has been a great start to the school year. I have been very impressed with how positive students, parents, and staff have been. It is like we did not stop for the summer. Discipline referrals and behavior concerns also seem to be lower than years past. We will find out with reports at the end of September.

Much happened at school over the summer months to help support our students. We enjoyed working with some of our incoming kindergarten and first grade students during summer school. Our special education team worked with students during their extended school year program. Many of our staff participated in such opportunities as our math centers book study, continuum work, other book studies, and common core standards workshops. We have gained 80 iPads and two moving carts which should be up and running this week to support our students in their learning. Our maintenance department has focused on such projects as resurfacing our portable ramps, installing a water dispenser for waterbottles in our cafeteria, installing a sink in our preschool room (Rm. 314), and putting in a metal rail (to hopefully deter yellow jackets) on Mrs. Wing and Mr. Hall's portable. The play structure company has finished building our needed parts to move our zipline and monkey rings to the field side. Colf Construction will soon install both pieces of equipment near the Mobius Climber. Students are excited and ready.

Our community also helped us out over the summer. Colleen, John, and KC Johnson painted our playground U.S. map. Staci Firl led numerous volunteers from the La Center ward of the LDS in painting our playground games and spreading bark chips over the K-8 campus. Kalyn Flatt (5th grade student) led volunteer efforts to edge and spruce up our track. Josh and Kris Soske, as well as Karen Kennedy, gained donations and led efforts to install irrigation and five new planter beds for our kindergarten classes in the area outside Mr. Lepak's classroom. Josh and Kris have also helped with organizing work in the loft.

Regularly Scheduled, Late Student Arrival

We are also off to a great start with our regularly scheduled, late student arrival weekly learning time. Our teachers and classified staff (when available), have made good use of our beginning two hours. Each chooses what learning would most benefit their students, often arrange to learn with colleagues, and shares their plans with us. As you know, we can use our time in the following three areas:

1) Time for professional team learning efforts around a specific problem of practice
2) Team efforts to solve support challenges for students in need
3) Time for staff to meet parent communication responsibilities

Our staff have chosen many various learning opportunities, covering each of the three areas. Learning has taken place in groups of around fourteen staff all the way to a few individual efforts. Individual efforts have already expanded out since the first Monday. One example is of one of our teachers working to improve their parent and community communications through work to improve their school website. Another learned of these efforts and wanted to tap into the

energy by collaborating on the second Monday. Some have worked to align math power standards, the common core standards, and our math program. Two grade level teams worked with others to better understand our new math common assessment which more closely ties to the math common core standards. This work could better help us to understand our students' learning needs and strive to meet them. Team teachers have worked with counterparts to review standards and improve learning scope and sequence to better support their current students. An intervention group worked together to assess new changes and their impacts on students so they could also find ways to improve their services to meet students' needs. There are other great efforts happening. I look forward to learning more about them and how they positively impact our students.

A.C.E.

As you know, we combined our intervention groups of special education and Learning Club into one new group called A.C.E. (Accelerated Club for Education –we wanted a positive, student friendly name which also could communicate the intent to accelerate learning). As was shared last school year, there were many reasons we wanted to do this join services and efforts. One included the desire to better meet students' needs through flexibility and fluidity of sharing resources and better matching staffing strengths with students' needs. There has been a great deal of passion and effort involved in getting off to a great start. I can share that I am very proud of the great work by all staff and look forward to many positive results. It was shared at our last staff meeting that this start has led to the most flexible intervention system to meet individual needs experienced. I am also excited to share that there are staff from neighboring communities which will be coming to visit our school to learn more about how we are working to meet our students' individual needs.