

## Greetings from Clackamas River Elementary

The 08-09 school year is off to a terrific start, and our staff, students, and parents are focused on “continuous improvement in a respectful environment.” In addition to academic and behavior goals, we are focused on improving family training opportunities and increasing community involvement.

State Assessment results are posted, and we’re in the process of analyzing and reflecting on our successes and challenges. Last year, we worked hard to improve attendance, fluency, and math scores; and we’re very proud to share these highlights:

- Student attendance increased from 94% to 95%.
- The percentage of students meeting the fluency benchmarks improved in every grade.
- The percentage of students meeting the State benchmarks in math improved in every grade.
- We met our learning goals at every grade level (80% meeting the State benchmark in Math and Reading).

A complete summary of our school improvement efforts will be shared at the Board meeting November 12<sup>th</sup>.

To support the behavioral and social development of our students, we are in the planning stages of implementing Positive Behavior Support (PBS). This program, developed at the University of Oregon, is used throughout the country, and is defined in the program blueprint, as follows: “PBS is comprised of a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior with students.” A six-member building team has been selected and will attend three full days of training with teams from all five Estacada schools. You’ll be hearing more about this in the coming months.

Our first family training activity was Open House, held September 22<sup>nd</sup>. In response to parent surveys, which indicated a need for training in math, reading, and homework, we changed the format of our Open House to include teacher instruction. During two 15-minute sessions, teachers shared information about their grading and homework policies, their curriculum, and upcoming events. All parents received copies of grade-level mastery items in Reading, Math, Science, and Writing. During our Title I Annual Meeting, our Reading Specialist, Bev Olds, shared information with over 70 family members about differentiating instruction and supporting their children’s growth in reading. Thirty new parents took advantage of Power School training and will now be able to track their students’ progress on-line. Additional family training opportunities this year will include Parent Teacher Conferences, Family Math Night (date to be determined), Family Literacy Night (March 19<sup>th</sup>), and Grandparents’ Day (March 20<sup>th</sup>).

In an effort to increase community involvement at CRE, various school committees will brainstorm how to involve the community in their activities and projects. CRE Committees include Artist in Residence, Green Club, Landscaping, Read Across America, Grandparents’ Day, Field Day, Family Math Night, and Family Literacy Night. Parents and community members are important partners in our work with students, and we’re going to reach out and see if we can get more people involved. If you have an interest in any of these Committees or have other ideas for how you might like to participate, give us a call and we’ll include you.

The staff, students, and parents at CRE appreciate the work the Board members perform, and we consider you part of our team. Anytime you’re wondering whether or not you’re making a difference, stop in and visit a classroom. Because of you, children in this community are thriving in fantastic learning environments. Working together, great things are happening for kids.