

## News From Clackamas River Elementary

It's hard to believe there are only about 8 weeks left in the 07-08 school year!! This time of year is especially enjoyable as it provides an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments of our fantastic learning community. Students, staff, parents, and numerous volunteers have again worked tirelessly to support our young learners and help them succeed. Kindergarten students are reading; first and second graders are writing descriptive sentences and paragraphs; third graders recently completed impressive presidential speeches; 4<sup>th</sup> graders just celebrated their State Writing results; 5<sup>th</sup> graders are looking forward to a trip to the capitol as part of their study of U.S. history; and sixth graders are getting excited about Outdoor School and their transition to the Junior High. Having the opportunity to observe children traverse their educational journey is a true joy!

Our learning community believes "the road to success is always under construction," and we have worked diligently to intervene with all students to help them maximize their potential. Differentiated small-group reading and math instruction continue to be successful interventions for the majority of our students, and the addition of the Caring Center has provided an additional 30-minutes per day of learning time and support for those in need. Our extended-day program for at-risk kindergarten students has been a huge success and has helped little ones catch-up and achieve at the same level as their peers. Our Building Support Team has been busy each week reviewing the academic and social progress of our students using classroom, playground, and state assessment data; and our Pyramid of Interventions has guided our decision-making. Staff participation in district grade-level Professional Learning Communities has resulted in mastery items and common assessments, more focused instruction, and data-driven instructional decisions. Over the next six weeks, our Site Council/School Improvement Team will review this year's assessment data, school climate survey results, and interventions; and we'll establish new goals and an action plan for next year.

There have been many events and activities over the past year that supported our educational efforts and brought family and community members into our school. Some of the most memorable included:

- Open House and our Annual Title I Meeting to share information about our school and programs
- Grandparents, special family members and students sharing an afternoon together during Grandparents' Day
- Students performing during our recent Talent Show
- Parents and their children learning and reading together during Literacy Night
- Dr. Seuss characters parading through our school sharing their favorite Dr. Seuss books during our Read Across America Celebration
- Parents and children celebrating individual and family accomplishments together during Awards' Assemblies

With better weather ahead, staff and students are looking forward to the opportunity to enrich classroom instruction through numerous field trips and activities that will take place between now and the end of the year. Some upcoming special dates include:

- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten students continue their study of butterflies at McIver Park
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders go to OMSI
- May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – all students participate in physically active games teaching about ecology – collaborative effort between our PE teacher, Erika Olson, and Abby Lietz from Mt. Hood National Forest
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders attend the play “Henry and Mudge”
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10 students attend Girls’ Summit with our counselor, Karin Ryan
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders participate in their annual Zoo Snooze
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> – OMSI conducts PTA-sponsored grade-level workshops for each class at CRE

As we look ahead to the 08-09 school year, some of our opportunities and challenges include balancing our needs and budgets with declining enrollment and revenue, finding enough time in our day to adequately cover all content areas, meeting the growing needs of at-risk children, and successfully supporting and implementing district initiatives, including a dual-language program. Working together, in partnership with our community, we’ll find solutions, good things will happen, and children will continue to thrive at Clackamas River Elementary.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in our school district and your participation in our children’s educational journey. Your commitment is admirable, and we value your input and support. Please stop by any time and check out the wonderful things happening in our school. Our doors are always open, and we have many staff and students who would love to share their work with you.

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