



"Home of the Eagles"

Center Elementary School

Providing a quality education for students in
Kindergarten - Fourth Grade

317 Spokane Way

Also home to Grant County Headstart, SHARP KIDS, Community Preschool, WIC

JANUARY 2009 BOARD REPORT



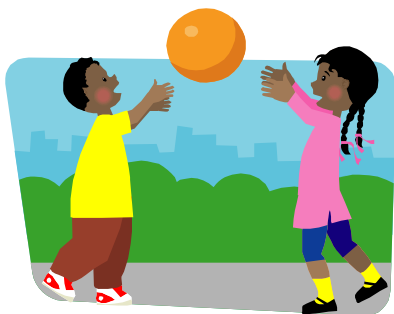
Submitted by Sue Hinton, Principal

Welcome to 2009! It's hard to believe that this school year is almost half way completed. Here's what's been going on at Center since we came back:

Box Tops

We received a pleasant surprise in the mail when we returned to school in the form of a check in the amount of \$526.90 from Box Tops. Each month students are encouraged to bring in a collection sheet with ten box tops attached. Each sheet is worth \$1.00. In exchange for the sheet, students receive a "treat", usually a pencil or a small candy.

Money raised from the Box Tops will be used to purchase playground equipment and other needed supplies.



Spelling Bee

It's that time of year again! Time to practice all the rules we know about Spelling, especially if you are a Fourth Grade student. All Fourth Grade students took the written test earlier this month. The top four spellers in each class will progress to the School Spelling Bee which will be held on Thursday, January 29th at 1:30. Congratulations to Gabriel Moses, Mikala Feeley, Evan Castrodale, Tyrell Kiser, Matthew Logan, Grace Engeseth, Jonathan Cooper, and Kourtney Harrington for making it to this level! The winner and runner-up of the Center Elementary Spelling Bee will represent our school on February 9th at the County Spelling Bee held at the Omak Performing Arts Center. I would like to send out a special thanks to Linda Peterson, Karyn Byam, and Amanda Poch for organizing our event.

Food Drive

On January 12th we began our annual Elementary Food Drive. This year students were challenged to see which grade level could bring in the most ounces per student. Food was collected daily, converted to ounces and averaged



by the number of students in the grade. A grand total of 39,125.21 ounces of food was donated. That equates to 2,445.33 pounds of food! Our Fourth Grade students won the Food Drive with a whopping average of 334.73 ounces per student. The Third Grade class was close behind with an average of 292.74 ounces per student.

The Fourth Grade will celebrate their accomplishment with a special Root Beer Float Party immediately following the Spelling Bee.

The success of our Food Drive would not have been possible without the generous donations of our students and their families and the time donated by Amanda Poch and Patty Neddo to collect and count the food donations.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Center Elementary has been chosen to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP is a congressionally mandated project overseen by the National Center for Educational Statistics to continuously monitor the knowledge, skills, and performance of the nation's children and youth. As "the Nation's Report Card," NAEP measures and reports on a regular basis what America's students know and can do in the core subjects of reading, mathematics, writing, and science.

All Native American students will also be given the National Indian Education Study survey to complete. This survey is designed to discover the various factors that might affect the educational achievement of American Indian students.

Parents have been notified of this assessment and survey and have the option of having their child "opt out". The school does not receive any individual or school-wide results from this assessment or survey.

Hat Day

Did you know that there is a special holiday dedicated to hats? National Hat Day falls on January 15th. This year students and staff were allowed to wear their hats all day at school. We certainly had a wide variety of both common and unusual head gear!

Learning Improvement Day

January 30 is one of our Learning Improvement Days as provided by the state. We will meet as a district at the Community Church in Coulee Dam for a day-long presentation by Lisa Carter on instructional alignment. Lisa Carter has served as an administrator at both the elementary and secondary levels and has worked in both rural and urban schools. She helped to establish the Mayerson Academy for Human Resource Development in Ohio. Ms. Carter is a noted presenter, keynote speaker, author and consultant. She is a regular presenter at nationwide conferences on Professional Learning Communities.

Lisa's presentation will focus on curriculum alignment K-12, both vertically and horizontally. All certificated staff have received a copy of her book, Total Instructional Alignment: From Standards to Student Success.

Title VII

The Title VII Parent Advisory Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on January 20th. Highlights from the meeting include:

- The Needs Assessment has been completed by the parents. We now need to compile the results.
- Part I of the 2009-2010 Grant has been completed and submitted. Part II of the Grant will open in February.
- Desiree LaPlante was appointed to fill the Member-At-Large position vacated by Stephanie Lelone.
- Grand Coulee Dam School District Policy 7231 and Procedures 7231P were reviewed with recommended changes. The committee voted to support the recommended changes in the policy and procedure.
- It was agreed that Title VII and JOM would serve as the Grand Coulee Dam School District Indian Education Committee. This committee is required by policy.

The next meeting of the Title VII Parent Advisory Committee will be held February 17th at 6:30 in the Nespelem Elementary Library.

Lock-Down Drill

On January 23rd we held a Level-Two Lock-Down drill from 9:07-9:55. Students and staff all remained calm and followed procedures during the drill. During the drill all windows were covered and admittance to the building was restricted.

We did find some problems, which is one of the purposes of a drill. Those problems included:

- Some locks on doors were inoperable (Room 104, upstairs NW and SW hall doors).
- There is no communication with the kitchen staff.
- The length of time to completely secure the building was too long (14 minutes 25 seconds). This, despite the fact that window coverings had been placed the previous day.

These problems are being or have been addressed.

Parents were notified both by written note and phone prior to the drill.

Collaboration Wednesdays

The Elementary Staff continue to meet in collaborative teams on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The teams use data to evaluate student achievement and to design interventions and enrichments for the students.

There is some concern about the amount of data required to refer a student for Special Education services therefore the teachers will use their collaboration time on January 28th to review the RTI model and collaboratively review/design interventions for each level. This is in direct correlation to two of our guiding questions—*"How will we know when each student has learned what is expected?"* and *"What will we do when a student does not learn what is expected?"*

Upcoming Events...

January 28th—Collaboration Wednesday
January 29th—4th Grade Spelling Bee
January 30th—Learning Improvement Day
February 3rd—NAEP Testing
February 11th—Collaboration Wednesday
February 13th—Valentine's Parties
--Students dismissed at noon
February 16th—No School
February 17th—Title VII PAC
February 18th—Passport to Learning Family Night

February 25th—Collaboration Wednesday
February 27th—Got Character Assembly

