

# Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

March 2020

## ***Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:***

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

## **Student and Staff Notable Learning**

### ***Terrance Talley Presentation on February 11, 2020***

Terrance started the assembly by having a group of teachers go up in front and dance to lighten the mood. He told the kids that he was there for the simple fact to teach them "*Don't Give Up*" and he talked about how everyone is on a journey called life and that a lot of kids in the room already don't like the track they are on, but they aren't alone. He shared with the students that about 5,000 school-age children a day try to stop their journey of life. He talked about how he can tell by looking at kids that some have given up on themselves and that he is sorry for all the wrongs that have happened in their lives. He reminded them that they are loved! He shared stories about how he was bullied and how he hated the way he looked because of his smile until he met his wife who taught him to love himself. He shared stories about how he changed the lives of many students he talked to just by making them realize they are not alone and that they are loved. He constantly reiterated the point that every action we make can impact someone and how a simple thing such as a hug could change someone's life. He then had all the teachers come up front and invited all of the students to come up and hug one of the teachers. His key phrases / points were "*Don't Give Up*," "*I am sorry for the wrongs that have happened to you*," "*You are not alone*," and "*You are loved*." When he invited the kids to come hug the teachers, some of our students with behavior needs were the first ones up and running towards the front. The teachers felt that a lot of kids heard things that they really needed to hear, especially that they are not alone in their feelings. *\*(I was not present / summary by Ms. Molitor)*

## **Innovation and Recognition**

### ***Crystal Apple Winner: Mr. Natzke***

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Debbie Bauer from the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce came to PES to announce that Mr. Natzke was a Crystal Apple Winner. Mr. Natzke will be featured in a video and will give a personal speech at the awards dinner in May. Congratulations, Mr. Natzke!

### ***Herb Kohl Winner: Mrs. Niedfeldt***

Congratulations to Mrs. Niedfeldt! She has been selected as a 2020 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellow. She was chosen for the \$6,000 grant from among many candidates because of her skills as a leader and agent for positive change, and her superior ability to inspire the love of learning.

Mrs. Niedfeldt has earned PES \$6000. That money will be used to support reader's / writer's workshop. She will also be recognized at a regional luncheon in the spring along with the other recipients.

### **Looking Ahead**

#### ***March 10th - 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 Empty Bowls***

Join us tomorrow as we host our annual Empty Bowls Soup Dinner!

#### ***March 11th - SAIL Team travels to Wisconsin Dells***

The SAIL team will participate in a full day conference to review our 100 day plan and determine next steps.

#### ***Working with Junior High Students on Handbook for 2020-2021***

As we continue to improve behaviors / routines in the Junior High, this spring I will be meeting with all students in Grades 6-8 (in small groups) to get their input on various topics in order to create a JH handbook for next school year. Student voice is the key to finding out what is important to the students and will be very helpful in creating a handbook designed for them.

#### ***SBG - Standards Based Grading***

The ES staff continues to review our current grading practices. We are transitioning into SBG. Grades 4K-3 already use SBG / Standards-based report cards. We want to focus on student learning / essential standards.

