

Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

March 11, 2019

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

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS

To help provide teachers with opportunities to participate in professional development/growth, there has been a schedule created with learning opportunities for teachers to participate in. These sessions are created by administration and staff members who are willing to share their area of expertise with others. The PD sessions include flipping the classroom, how to create DonorsChoose.org accounts to request funding, updating and maintaining Google sites, and more. Peer observation is encouraged for teachers to observe one another to learn effective strategies to implement into their own instructional practice.

4TH GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN NAEP

On Wednesday, February 27th all of the 4th grade students participated in the NAEP assessment (National Assessment for Educational Progress). All of our students who participate in the Forward Exam were required to participate, unless his/her parent requested for his/her child to opt out. We have two students in 4th grade who will not take the Forward Exam so they did not take the test and we had three students absent that day. Ms. Raygo worked closely with NAEP so everything was organized on the day of testing. The students were randomly chosen to take either the math or reading test. Each test took about 60-90 minutes to complete. The students received earbuds as a gift from NAEP.

Innovation and Recognition

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK BRINGS FUN FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

During the week of February 25th, the staff and students had a lot of fun celebrating reading! There were dress up days for staff and students to participate in each day. There were trivia questions on the announcements and students could submit their answers in the office. Many classes integrated reading and writing activities using Dr. Seuss books. On Friday, our yearly visitor, the Cat in the Hat greeted all the students in their classroom in the morning and then delivered treats to all the students during lunch. This year's treat was cupcakes in honor of *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. New this year, I recruited two first graders to be Thing 1 and Thing 2 during the junior high lunch and that idea was embraced by all! *"If you never did these things you should. These things are fun and FUN is good."* - Dr. Seuss

READING ROCKS NIGHT - MARCH 5TH

Due to the weather, Reading Rocks Night was rescheduled for March 5th. We had many families and students attend the event. Community members and staff members volunteered to read to the students in various rooms in the primary wing. All the students ended the evening of fun in the cafeteria where they enjoyed cookies and milk and were invited to take free books home! The Cat in the Hat was present for photos throughout the evening and there games and activities to participate in for a chance to win prizes. Students who attended Reading Rocks received a Dr. Seuss button and bookmark/ruler.

KNOWLEDGE QUEST - PTO

This was our first year doing Knowledge Quest through the PTO. We raised \$4,808.34 for flexible seating and innovative teaching tools! Thank you to everyone who supported this new fundraiser.

Looking Ahead

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT YEAR

Ms. Raygo and I are working on creating the 2019-2020 schedule. We draft the schedule using feedback from the staff and then we meet with individual groups when necessary to ensure we are creating a schedule that is best for students using the resources we have. We are moving Grades 6-8 math and science from block classes to skinnies (42 minute class periods) and Grades 7-8 Social Studies and ELA to semester classes (instead of switching classes each day).

Teachers will create class lists for the 2019-2020 school year the first week of May. All parent requests for teachers must be turned into me no later than April 30, 2019 and require an educational reason for the request.

Empty Bowls, the art show, STEM Night, and the Learning Fair are on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Empty Bowls is from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. STEM Night and Learning Fair are from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. We appreciate all the support with this school and community event.

8TH GRADE PROMOTION AND PLANNING

There is an optional parent meeting on Thursday, March 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the ES Library for all parents who are interested in helping with the planning of the 8th Grade Promotion and Dance. I lead the first meeting and then parents use their creativity and resources to make it a memorable night for the students. 8th Grade Promotion is Thursday, May 23rd at 6 p.m. with a dance to follow from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

AWSA SAIL PROGRAM

Beginning with a 3-day workshop in June and continuing for a 2-year commitment, a team of teachers and principals from the district will be participating in the SAIL Program (School Administrative Institute for Transformational Leadership) to provide focus for the PSD for school/district improvement.

