

PreK-8 Principal Board Report February 2025

It's I Love to Read Month! Our theme is Raiders READ! Our students are working through 25 challenges this month to earn prizes at the end. We're celebrating with dress up days, school-wide DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), assemblies, including a virtual assembly that featured a couple of "celebrity readers," and staff reading challenges and recognitions, of course, including prizes. This is a little different than it has been in the past. There is a lot on the teacher's plates and we're in the middle of a raucous cold and flu season so everyone is stretched thin. We're doing something that feels reasonable and still lifts up the importance of reading!

I'm grateful for the work our Attendance Committee has done this year to work to encourage the culture of attendance in the building. They are working on a celebration for any student who has been present for 90% of our school days at the end of April. It's going to look a little different than the hot cocoa celebration in January because there were so many families attending-it's a great problem to have.

Regarding personnel and staffing.....I am hoping to settle up our two upcoming maternity leaves by the end of this week and we are celebrating our 4 new paraprofessionals who are on the personnel notes this evening. They passed the ParaPro Test on Thursday last week with flying colors.

This Thursday morning, we will have a virtual session for all certified staff with Mary Spaulding, our ELA lead from Resource. She is going to walk through the process for our ELA curriculum review and talk about who should be at the table as part of the committee. I attended the MESPA Winter Inservice on February 5th and 6th where I spoke with our Benchmark Literacy representative (which is our current ELA curriculum). The version we have in our building can be renewed only once more as it does not meet the new state ELA standards. The new version is currently under review at the state level and can certainly be an option that we look at for either a trial or purchase.

Our ELT met last week to talk about a pile of things including starting to lay the groundwork for daily planning for next school year, some shifts that need to happen on the PBIS committee (which is meeting on Friday morning), starting to get creative for how we can fill the gap until next fall when Ms. Conway returns for Ojibwe lessons in the elementary school, and work through the emergency early out-there were definitely some kinks that need to be adjusted in case we need to do this again.

As always, please know you are more than welcome at OES-I promise to find you if I'm not in my office.