



# Madrona Elementary School

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Dear Superintendent Huber-Kantola and Esteemed Board Members:

I begin with my most humble thanks for allowing me to present our Student of the Year kids. It means so much for our families to have that opportunity.

This has been a great month at Madrona. Many of our third, fourth and fifth grade students began taking their first round of the State Wide Assessments in reading, math and/or science. We have more students exceeding at this time this year than all of last year! That alone is inspiring! We are heartened that in some areas we have already had as many students meet or exceed as we did last year by the end of the year. Math is still our weakest area, so we are eager to begin our after school program specifically designed to help those students. It is the first year for us to try this approach. We did the same thing for our fourth grade students who seemed to be less prepared for the state wide writing assessment. They will take their writing assessment in February. We hope that intervention helps them be more successful with this important life skill! We should get that info sometime in late April.

I am very proud that Madrona continues to have excellent attendance. We had the best in the district from Sept. through Nov. We know that students gain more when they attend more regularly. I think it is also an indicator that our students enjoy school and that is always an added plus!

Mrs. Buscher, one of our very talented fifth grade teachers, led her class in creating an amazing entry for the annual "Vincent Can Gogh" competition. This competition is in support of the local food banks. Mrs. Buscher's class of fifth graders created a snowman scene completely created out of cans of food decorated with candy. Her class won \$300 which will go towards the purchase of special arts supplies for our school. This is the second year in a row that Mrs. Buscher's class has won this event.

Set this date on your calendars! Madrona will be enjoying the Third Annual "Celebrate Reading Day" on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be inviting all board members, District Office employees, and other esteemed community partners to come to our school to read to our classes between the hours of 8:00 and 11:30a.m. Teachers will have wonderful books available for our visitors to read. It is a day devoted to the love of reading and having wonderful folks like you as a part of our day gives it special importance and significance to our students and staff. Look for your invitation soon! As always you and your work impact the success of our district. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.