

**Teachers Reports for the Board**  
**January 18, 2022**

**Grades 1 & 2 -Ms. Gibson**

Our morning meetings are discussing achievement as well as working on our daily practises of geometry and vocabulary.

The ELA centers are choral reading with Ms. B reading non-fiction and fiction books including The Bison Are Back and Earth's Water.

Group 3 in the writing center with Ms. Brinks continues our creative writing paragraphs with a topic sentence and 3 detailed sentences. Phonological awareness with me is moving onto VCe word patterns with the long vowel sounds.

In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we have just started The American West Module. We have read The Bison Are Back. This book describes the history of the Native American Indians, the settlers and President Theodore Roosevelt.

We are moving towards the end of Unit 5 . First Grade students are working on Geometry. 2D and 3D shapes and their attributes. Second Grade students are adding money such as pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars.

In social studies we are looking at civics and how to be a good citizen in your community..

In science we are looking at the unit about how water works. This includes flash floods and canyons.

Art occurs every Thursday. We will be using watercolors this week to create a landscape of the great plains where the buffalo roam!

Mrs. Gibson

**Grades 3 & 4 -Ms. Shoptaw**

First, I want to thank all of our board members and volunteers! Thank you for all you do!

Next: With several 3-4 families experiencing covid exposure, and other families hoping to avoid exposure thus keeping students home, we have had lots of students using the digital classroom system.

Students zoom into the classroom for morning class meeting and live ELA instruction from 8:30 to 9:50. Most often, they participate in all of what's going on, including discussion groups. The seat-based students are all savvy with the chromebook, so we mix seat based with online students to form discussion groups. This is facilitated by the amazing Ms. Huerta. Online students return to class at 10:30 for live math instruction. Anything the seat based students will experience in the course of the school day, I build an online counterpart for the online kids.

We are about to begin the CA landmarks floats/parade project. Students research a prominent CA landmark, build an educational slide presentation. Once complete they build a mini float honoring the landmark on top of a shoe box (the faux trailer bed for the "float"). On day TBA all floats are due and we have our "parade." The kids are excited! Yep, online kids will be doing it too!

We could use 10 more shoe boxes if you happen to have one laying around...

### **Grades 5 & 6 -Ms. Krebs**

Hello everyone!

We are wrapping up our unit in Wit and Wisdom about the Nez Perce, and the impact the US government had on Native Americans. This unit has been teaching students about how someone's actions and intentions can impact someone else either positively or negatively, and the consequences of those actions. I am excited to see what the next unit will bring!

In Math, the 6th graders have finished their third unit and started their fourth, and the 5th graders are continuing their studies about fractions.

In Science, we conducted a science experiment where the students had to make aerodynamic cars using only the materials provided. We raced the cars, and then the students had a chance to "fix" their cars and race them again. All of the cars did better the second time around. I explained that this is what scientists do, where they have a hypothesis, try it out, and fix it until they have improved. The students loved it!

In Specials the students had a week of music class, and the students were able to create their own stomping/clapping beats and perform them. I showed the class a video of Beethoven's 5th symphony that was remixed by a producer. I am trying to introduce these different kinds of careers in case students really love them. The music special was a hit, and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them grow up and have a career in this field.

Until next time!

Dani Krebs

## **Grades 7 & 8- Mr. Lang**

We're very happy to be back in the classroom after Winter Break and excited to wrap up our first semester.

Our class just had the opportunity to make flower vases out of some beautiful art paper. We got to give one to our little buddies in the 3/4 class and also have some left over to donate to our local Senior Center for table centerpieces. Our little buddies made amazing paper bouquets to fill them with and were able to provide us with those to fill our personal vases.

We will be commencing our spring short novel series, beginning with one of Mr. Lang's personal favorites, *Hatchet*. We will read one novel every few weeks and will work through some exciting stories this semester. Our history lessons will guide us through the 1800's and the expansion of our country. We will also look at our interactions with foreign governments and how those affected various events.

Math and science are focused on inputs and outputs. We're wrapping up learning about functions in math, while we focus on chemical substances and reactions in Science. We just finished making our own chemical reactions, including a volcano, lava lamp, and M&Ms rainbow. We're very excited to continue learning about how various substances react with each other.

Lastly, we've been focusing on Trust during Health and learning various languages during Electives. Our class is doing a fantastic job of guiding their learning and owning their outcomes.

We're looking forward to an exciting Spring semester. Thank you all for your support throughout these difficult times.

Mr. Lang's 7/8 Class