

# BOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



School Board Report

11/5/09

It is wonderful to visit classrooms and to already see evidence of great progress since our first day of school. Young children are often such eager and engaged learners. It is wonderful to share in the exciting learning process with our BES students.

In all elementary schools, literacy development is a primary focus of instruction. Learning the 'code' of written language opens worlds of opportunities to new learning and new experiences. While the ultimate purpose of all reading and writing is to gain and convey meaning through text, this is a process that has many, many steps and involves many, many complex skills. While we integrate literacy instruction across all areas of the curriculum, targeted reading instruction in small groups occurs during a ninety-minute literacy block each day. Targeted instruction and intervention begin with the

assessment of very specific skills needed by all students to learn to read. Individual assessment results (data) guide our instruction to focus on the specific areas a student needs to learn next. This enables our instruction to be highly effective and highly efficient.

Every grade level has a designated ninety-minute literacy block during the day. For example, literacy block at grade one is from 8:15 – 9:45; for grade three it is 10:30 – 12:00. All students receive core literacy instruction (Tier I) during that time in their classrooms. Some students also receive targeted intervention in the classroom delivered by intervention team members from the Reading Department and grade level special educators (Tier II) during the ninety-minute block. Students who need the most intense instruction, will receive an additional intervention session (Tier III) at another time during their day.

What might one see in classrooms during the ninety-minute block? You most certainly would see small groups of students, usually no more than five, working with a carefully selected ('good fit') text with their teacher. You could also see students partner reading and/or reading independently. You could see students writing in response to something they have read. They might be playing skills games and/or engaging in building or taking apart words. They might be working with the word wall or taking notes recording information from a non-fiction text. Each day you will see students practicing new skills in a variety of ways and applying these skills to decoding text and making meaning from what they read. Research supports that targeted, direct instruction and ongoing opportunities to practice and apply skills are required for students to become fluent and effective readers.

## RECOGNIZE★ENCOURAGE★ACHIEVE★CHALLENGE★HONOR

REACH has numerous programs up and running! I am receiving an amazing number of BES Challenges from all grade levels. Keep these weekly challenges coming! Thank you to all the Junior Great Books leaders for their time in training and for their thoughtful time with our young readers and thinkers! Chess Club room is full to capacity and you can see the wheels turning as Pastor Rick challenges the students with a variety of modified games to help them begin to have a deeper understanding of the

different moves set before them in a game. Origami Math has been both challenging and fun. As the students gain an understanding of modular origami they are creating some wonderful structures! Thank you all who were able to come to our Family DI night! Mrs. Romano and I will have teams ready to begin by the end of October. I am having a wonderful time in everyone's classrooms getting to know your children and sharing all that REACH has to offer.

Sue Kurtz

### The Phoenix Flyer

We have a group of fourth grade students that are very interested in creating a school newspaper. This would be run during the fourth grade lunch/recess (12:00-12:45) time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the REACH Room. I am looking for a couple of parent volunteers to come in and help out with the editing and production of this paper.

### UPCOMING DATES:

- NOV. 3– PARENTING PRESENTATION 6:30PM
- NOV. 5– SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7PM
- NOV. 10 & 12– EARLY RELEASE DAYS
- NOV. 11– NO SCHOOL
- NOV. 16– 3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP- CAPITOL CENTER
- NOV. 18– PTO MEETING 7PM
- NOV. 25-27– NO SCHOOL
- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- DEC. 3– SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7PM
- DEC. 10– REPORT CARDS SENT HOME

