

# Dunn School Principal Report

## November 2009

Grade 3	169
Grade 4	167
TOTAL	336

### Recognition

There are 9 staff members from Dunn School that are joining me each Monday afternoon for the graduate on-line course Standards Based Design. This group is asked to think and reflect on the theories behind standards based classrooms. This group has been doing awesome work and they are the group that will be leading this initiative within our school.

### Topics of Interest

Today at school was funky hat day. What a riot to see these kids donning their hats of so many different colors and designs. The boy that was sporting the plucked turkey took the prize as the hat of the season.

I am pleased that 9 staff members and myself are taking the course on Re-Inventing Schools. It is offered on-line through the University of Alaska. We are meeting every Monday at Dunn School from 3:15-4:45. There also staff members from Russell School and the GNG High School joining us.

Report Cards are scheduled to go to parents next Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The report card is now being created in Infinite Campus. Barbara Foster recently used some staff time to share the new process with teachers. Many staff members have reported how easy the program is to use and how much they like the convenience it offers. Barb Foster is awesome!

The cafeteria staff at Dunn School will be providing a breakfast for the fourth grade students and their parents on December 4<sup>th</sup>. I expect there will be a large crowd but there is always room for you! If you are available and would like to stop by you will not be disappointed. The food is always good and the company can't be beat!

I think I have two coaches for Destination Imagination and will begin organizing the teams this month. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will enjoy this opportunity. It will be a new challenge for some because they will be the leaders of the teams now that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have moved along to the middle school.

Dunn School has started a before school recess from 8:35-8:50. Any students coming on the buses or with parents during that time go directly to the playground where staff members meet them each morning. It has been well received to date. Children are anxious to get here and to get out and moving.

The facilities walk through went well. I know that budget times are going to be tight and that the lists can at times be overwhelming. I want the committee to know that I do appreciate the energy and the effort that they go through in this tough process.

I recently had a chance to join the Special Olympians at the bowling alley in Saco. This population of students re-energizes me on a regular basis. They are so much fun to spend time with. The district is fortunate to have such a terrific staff working alongside these learners.

Class sizes continue to hold pretty steady at 24-25. This year the population at the school has increased about 5 students from our August 26<sup>th</sup> projection. Teachers and students have been great at accepting the new students into the classrooms. I am really proud of the culture that is established at Dunn School – there are terrific kids here!

### Success

The Swine Flu clinic at the school was a huge success. It was well organized and ran smoothly once we got it started.

The third grade breakfast in early November was a bit hit as usual. I had a chance to meet a few new parents and to make sure things were going well.

### Challenges

With testing behind us it has made for a terrific stretch of time to get work done in the classroom. Teachers really enjoy the long stretches of uninterrupted instructional time. We need to look at the fall assessment schedule and make sure our results are indicative of students ability.