

Dunn School Principal Report

September 2009

Grade 3	169
Grade 4	163
TOTAL	332

Recognition

Lots of work, time and energy went into getting the school year off to such a terrific start. The Dunn School custodial crew was not only responsible for cleaning and preparing the building but they also shifted lots of classroom furniture around the building. In the end the school looked great as the students returned from summer vacation.

I also want to take a second to thank Vicky Banton for her years of service to the students in Gray and New Gloucester. Vicky retired from the staff at Dunn School over the summer. I wish her the best in her retirement years.

Topics of Interest

On Wednesday, October 7th, Gitana Beriau will be recognized by Office Max with the award "A Day Made Better". Gitana will receive a number of gifts from Office Max at a full school assembly. I think she will be surprised.

Dunn School has started a before school recess for students that arrive prior to 8:50. The kids appear happy to have a few minutes before school so they can run and have a little fun. The bus drivers have been very helpful in this transition.

Our Shared Vision work is going well. Parent and staff feedback has been compared and it is interesting to see the similarities in the responses. I am planning to post the similarities at the upcoming parent breakfasts and ask for more feedback. This has been some interesting, valuable work.

We have been assessing to beat the band! AIMSweb fall benchmarks are complete, NWEA fall testing just finished and now we have started the NECAP tests. I anticipate NECAP testing to be complete by October 8th.

Fall Goal Setting Conferences are being planned. Conferences will begin October 13 and go until October 23. There are two common nights supported by the PTSA. Snacks and a nice dinner are provided to staff that take advantage of these times.

The new Treasures Reading Program is now being used in the classrooms. There was a beneficial staff development day at the start of school for all staff. There was also a follow-up opportunity for staff to sit with a representative and discuss the challenges in the program. A few staff members took advantage of this time, while others would like a little more time using the program before additional staff support.

School pictures were taken on Tuesday, the 29th. Everything went well, the photographers indicated that they had no problem with the students and appreciated the support they received.

The Ice Cream Social was a huge hit – AGAIN! It is a bunch of fun when the students come back from summer break and I have a chance to see how much they have grown over the summer. I do have to say that not having the fifth graders has taken some time to adjust. I sure miss their funny antics and their level of maturity.

Pineland Farms will be collecting the apples from the orchard and making cider during their fall harvest days. Many of the classes will help gather the apples as a community service project. I am hoping that some of the classrooms have an opportunity to take advantage of the programs that are offered through Pineland Farms.

The new lunch schedule is working fine. We do have one group this year that goes to recess first and then comes in for lunch. The kids have adjusted well and the staff has put good systems in place.

Successes/Challenges

There are a couple of things that we continue to work on at Dunn School:

- Treasures
- Investigations
- Shared Vision
- Flexible Grouping
- Report Card

The staff continues to work together to find the time and resources that best meet student needs. The staff is very hard working and everyone should be proud of their efforts.