



THE BUTTE FALLS BULLETIN

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Helping Hands ~ Building Futures

At the Butte Falls Elementary School in grades kindergarten through fourth, something wonderful goes on every school day. People from in and around our community are in these classrooms giving undivided, unconditional attention and love to the students.

Kindergarten is blessed with five wonderful grandparents. Grandma's Kathy (Gorham), Ida (Loring), Burg (Aileen), Aloha (Adams) and Grandpa Driskell (Bob).

Grandma Ida and Grandma Kathy are part of the Foster Grandparent Program and help with several grades. Grandma Burg, Grandma Aloha and Grandpa Driskell are members of the community that just LOVE kindergarten students!

All five help the students individually and in small groups with reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also teach life skills like how to tie their shoes, cut with scissors, and even how to be a friend.

Examples of their individual love include Grandma Kathy digging up flowers and carting bird houses to school to teach us to appreciate nature. Grandma Ida reading to the kids in Spanish and recently for "H" week she brought a potato from her garden that was shaped like a hippo. Grandma Burg has been in the Kindergarten classroom every Tuesday for almost four years to help with Capon in the gym. Capon is like a physical education class, so this is quite a workout for everyone! She even helps with the Kindergarten Circus in the Spring. Grandpa Driskell not only helps kindergarten with their supply of paper bags with handles, but fixes lunches for field trips and hand delivers notes to parents that can't be reached. Recently Grandpa Driskell stopped by the room at 7:45 am to ask Mrs. McNeill if it might be ok if he went to town that day. Her answer, "Yes Grandpa, you haven't missed a school day yet!"

Grandpa Driskell's favorite part of the lesson is the beginning when he gets his *GOOD MORNINGS* and his *BIG HUGS!* Don't let this soft exterior fool you, he is very serious about the kids studies and makes them buckle down and do their reading homework! And, as with all the other Grandparents, the kids are eager to please and show they have accomplished something.

The newest helper in kindergarten is Grandma Aloha. She has jumped right in, feet first with the academics, and has already become close friends with a few of the girls in the class. Kindergarten loves their grandparents! Mrs. McNeil would be happy to have any grandparents that enjoy influencing the future come on in and adopt a class.

Grandma Ida has ventured into second grade this year giving one-on-one study sessions. Mr. Faurholt has her for two hours each day. She always has a hug and a smile for each student before the studies begin, then it's all easy learning from here on out!. Grandma Kathy joined the second graders last year and has helped these young readers advance with her patience and understanding. Mr. Faurholt strongly encourages second graders to read, "Reading is KING!" Having extra one-on-one help with reading at this level of schooling is essential.

In third grade, Grandma Ida helps the students with their spelling words for preparation for their weekly test. She listens to kids read and provides loving discipline when necessary. This is Mrs. Sipple's first year having Grandma Ida in her classroom and says she is a valuable and appreciated addition to her program. Mr. Sipple has Grandma Ida in his fourth grade classroom helping with math, one-on-one. Rumor is, this is Grandma Ida's favorite subject. How lucky for Mr. Sipple and the fourth graders! Grandma Ida has really bonded with age group in the past. You can see her in the hallways genuinely asking how her kids are and getting her hugs and smiles in response.

As you can see, these are busy, busy Grandparents. They all have a set schedule that they follow, moving from classroom to classroom. They are always in cheerful moods and come to school ready to help! We are so blessed to have them helping our future leaders.

You're encouraged to talk to your child's teacher about helping with their studies at home or in their classroom.

By Carrie Driskell