

509-J Schools in Action!

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Leadership Corner

A Message from the JCSD School Board



On behalf of the JCSD School Board, I want to share our excitement about the Strategic Plan that this community has helped us create. It's been a great process working with such a large group of community members to create a vision for the future of our children and education in Jefferson County. Together with students, families, teachers, staff and community members, we have built the foundation for something special in our communities. Now the work begins to make the Strategic Plan real for our students.

As a next step, we are putting together a team of representatives from multiple grade levels and schools including our Warm Springs community. Their role will be to help us ensure that District decisions align with the Strategic Plan so we can "walk the talk" in terms of living up to our community's expectations. Two of our School Board members, Laurie Danzuka and Brad Holiday will be part of this team and the work moving forward.

If you visit our schools anytime soon, you will see posters and booklets with information about the Strategic Plan. Please take the time to review them and ask questions of our School Board and District team members. Help us shape the world by supporting our students and communities.

Sincerely,

Stan Sullivan
JCSD School Board Chair

More kudos to MHS athletes!

This email (excerpts) from the assistant principal at Philomath High School needs no explanation. Way to go MHS athletes.

"Friday night I had a great experience with your student athletes. I usually work the games but last night I had off, so after dinner my wife and I sat in the courtside seats to watch our varsity boys' game..."

Once the varsity game ended I was surprised to see a couple of your players over on the home side of the court shaking hands with a retired teacher. Then, before I knew it a young man (Devon Wolf) walked up and extended a hand to me and then to my wife telling us "thanks for having us here." Before it was over every one of your varsity team members had worked their way up and down the opposing sideline shaking hands with each person in our 32 courtside seats and with our announcer and radio broadcaster. I was so impressed, but I must admit that as a former AD and long term educator I had been discussing your coach with my wife the entire game because we were impressed with how he was handling his team.

Even so I have to credit your entire program because in nearly 30 years of education and over half of it in Philomath I have never seen a road team do what I saw last night. I just want you to know that Coach Hair and his kids did an outstanding job of representing your school and community last night. They battled hard on the floor and were consummate gentlemen afterward. They need to know that people noticed!"

Best Regards, Jon Bartlow, PHS Assistant Principal



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— Jon Bartlow, Philomath High School Assistant Principal

What happens at school when the kids are gone?

School Board member Tom Norton recently spent an afternoon at Madras Primary School to get a better understanding of what happens on early release days in JCSD.

"I was very impressed with the work taking place during the teacher development time," said Norton. "Every teacher there was 110% engaged in the conversations about what's working for our students and where we need to improve. This was no coffee break, it was a working partnership that gave me a new appreciation for what these early release days are all about."

JCSD Alumni: Where are they now?

Do you know a JCSD alumni who has moved on to college and/or career success? We are looking to feature our graduates in future *Schools in Action* updates. If you know of a former student, drop a note and photo to Superintendent Rick Molitor: rmolitor@509j.net.

Visit the District website at
jcsd.k12.or.us

Calendar

March

6 No School MHS/JCMS Conferences/WSK-8 Teacher Inservice
9 School Board Meeting, 7-9 p.m. SSB
11 Early Release
23-27 No School/Spring Break

April

1 Early Release



Students at Madras Primary School work in small groups with teachers and education assistants to improve reading comprehension and fluency.

Still reading to succeed!

For nearly five years, the teachers and staff at JCSD have been extra focused on helping students become stronger readers. The District's Read to Succeed effort is still in full swing and a new reading curriculum called Read Well is making a big difference for JCSD's youngest readers.

"I'm seeing a much higher level of interest from the kids," said Madras Primary School Teacher Billie White. "The new Read Well curriculum includes much more non-fiction reading and the students love learning about volcanoes and gorillas and other things that interest them."

In addition to reading about animals, science and other real life topics, students are engaged in reading activities for 120 minutes each day, shifting every 27 minutes to keep it interesting, working in small groups and getting the individual attention they need.

"No matter what reading level the kids are in, we want to help them grow," said Madras Primary Principal Deborah Hunt. "We know if they need extra help, or extra challenge and we adapt to each student's needs."

Madras Primary School Teacher Steele Bailey explained that Read Well does a great job of preparing students for the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) reading assessment.

"Read Well is helping our students read to learn as well as learn to read," said Bailey who added that his class was enjoying reading about The Great Barrier Reef.

According to Hunt, the goal is for 95% of all JCSD students to be reading at grade level by the third grade.

"We have a lot of work to do, but we're making great progress and the kids are coming to school excited to learn," said Hunt.



District Superintendent Rick Molitor checks in with students at Madras Primary School.



Madras Primary School Teacher Steele Bailey works with students during reading time.

About the District's new Read Well curriculum...

"We used to sit down and do worksheets and it wasn't as interesting for the students. Now we're reading in a new way."

— Hailee Kathrein, Madras Primary School Student, grade 2

"I love the new reading curriculum. I think there is more student investment in progress and work and it's more fun to teach."

— Kayla Krumwieda, Madras Primary School Teacher

"Our reading groups are designed to focus on the skills our learners need to grow. We also want them to love books and reading."

— Deborah Hunt, Madras Primary School Principal



Madras Primary School Teacher Billie White works with students in a small reading group.



(From left) Principal Deborah Hunt greets District Superintendent Rick Molitor and School Board members Stan Sullivan and Tom Norton during a visit to Madras Primary School.

How can families help their kids become better readers?

When asked what parents and families can do to help their children become better readers, Madras Primary School Principal Deborah Hunt had these suggestions:

- **Attendance.** Helping your children get to school everyday and on time will make a huge difference their success at school.
- **Ask questions.** Children love to share what they're learning in school and your interest will make it even more fun for them.
- **Read with your child.** Reading together is a great way to connect with your child and show them you care about their learning.

