

REPORT OF THE ELLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure I write this yearly review for the Ellis Elementary School. 2005 brought with it many changes in the administration, staff, students and the physical building at Ellis. The residents of Fremont should be very proud of their continued support and efforts over the past year. I thank you.

It is important to note that 2005 also brought many new regulations, procedures and requirements both from the federal and state governments. Accountability, assessment, common educational standards and technology all have changed how we educate our students. It has changed how we do business. Even so, our first and only priority is to provide an excellent education to the students of Fremont, to provide them with an enriched and safe environment in which they will learn, grow and become productive citizens. Beginning in grade one students encounter their first experience in formal education, it is a year they will never forget. It is here students begin to love to learn, a journey that will hopefully last a lifetime.

In 2005 Ellis school saw the largest enrollment of incoming first graders ever. The growing number of school-aged children has been accommodated by a wonderful new eight-room addition that was completed in February of 2005. The new rooms in the addition include large sunny windows, storage space and a student bathroom. The addition also includes two new playgrounds. Students now have a variety of play equipment and space to enjoy recess. This project was a positive statement by the residents of Fremont declaring their commitment to education.

In 2005 we took an active approach to purposefully aligning curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development. This included formally adopting the state standards, learning innovative methods of curriculum design and alignment of daily instruction with specific learning objectives. Using both formal and informal assessments teachers can better monitor student progress. Teachers are using a new math program. Everyday Math is a standards based curriculum that has been fully implemented in grades 1 and 2 this year and in the 06/07 school year grades 3, 4, and 5 will be added. Grade 1 is also implementing a new reading program, a structured approach to phonics, word knowledge and writing. The Wilson Reading Program is a needed addition to balance our literacy program. Other initiatives include working with Tufts University to improve overall literacy practices throughout the building, web based curriculum alignment, innovative practices for classroom management and creative scheduling that allows teachers to have common planning time for ongoing collaboration.

Technology has taken its place in the daily routine of both staff and students. Teachers have the opportunity to use web based curriculum planning tools, computer based assessments and research. With available technology, communication with families and the community is seamless; teachers have their own web pages and often use email to contact families. With the addition of the computer lab and two portable computer labs, students have access to technology throughout their day; writing, presentations, research, testing and remediation are all common tools or activities that occur.

The enriched environment at Ellis also includes opportunities for our students to participate in art, music, band, PE, guidance, library, computers and a variety of special education services including guidance, transition services, Title One and literacy coaches.

At Ellis, staff and administration actively promote a climate of achievement through incentives and celebrations. The PBIS program continues to have a positive affect on promoting positive school climate and community relations. With the addition of family nights, Fine Arts evenings, holiday concerts and open house, parents and extended family members have the opportunity to be actively involved in a child's education. Our Family Resource coordinator actively provides home to school communication and resources for families. Ellis school has a very involved and dedicated PTA and parent volunteer program.

In all, 2005 has been a year of change, change that has promoted positive outcomes for students and change that has paved the way for innovative practices in the future.

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn Lewis
Elementary Principal