

# **STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY**

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

**March 2008**

**February is always a difficult month because of the weather. The weather and flu have taken their toll on us. We have had 50+ out on a regular basis during the month of February. Add the illnesses to the off and on bad weather, we are in need of many days of sunshine and temperatures just over 32 degrees.**

**Our most exciting happening, was the day the Smart Boards were installed in fourth and fifth grade. We trained the same week and teachers began to use them immediately. There have many late nights at school with the teachers finding curriculum to use in their classrooms. We are thankful for the use of the MAPS money.**

**We are still going to do the OK ACTs grant to finish the building in smart boards. The reason we are writing for the grant is because of the professional development that accompanies the grant. With this professional development money we can train for growth through our Professional Learning Communities. Teachers will have time to observe each other's classroom in order to discuss techniques for learning. They will be able to critique lessons developed for students and decide what needs to be changed for greater student understanding. At present, we can plan lesson plans together but the additional time needed to learn from each other is at a minimum.**

**We use every moment we get to train in our Professional Learning Communities. If we have a student out for a day who has a paraprofessional, we utilize the paraprofessional to rotate among the classrooms so the teachers can observe in each other's classrooms. Kindergarten has been able to observe in each other's classrooms as has fourth grade. This helps the teachers to be able to discuss their classrooms with knowledge of how the teacher accomplishes her lesson plans.**

**Dr. Seuss' week was a great success. Mrs. Pam Craig and Mrs. Laura Butler planned a week for the students which was very much appreciated by everyone. The grand finale was the Friday afternoon celebration which was a Dr. Seuss reading by Mrs. Gertrude Sniffapickle, (alias Shelley Lamle) Mrs. Lacefield's sister-in-law. Mrs. Lau added an excellent musical by the second graders which turned**

**the event into magnificent celebration of a man who has impacted the reading process.**

**The State Spelling Bee was Saturday. Our own Barrett Stout placed second for the State PeeWee Bee and Parker Strubhar placed fourth for the State Bee. We are proud of both of them.**

**Our third graders presented a well attended concert Thursday evening the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. It is always a time of marvel when we see the accomplishments of these students in being able to present their musical abilities. Mr. Lau has provided excellent musical opportunities for our students.**

**El Chico Night will be on March 7th. The money will support leveled readers for our students who are reading below grade level. I know I mention these prized readers all the time. There is no way to express how valuable these readers are to students who are reading below grade level. We buy as many non-fiction as we do fiction. One problem with below grade level readers is that they can not read their text books with ease which cuts down on their comprehension. We buy leveled readers to support information which is taught at grade level but is at the level of the reader. This helps them to continue to learn as they are becoming proficient in reading. It is difficult to make up the amount of learning lost when a student cannot read at grade level. This money is very important for our students.**

**Margaret McNair Dale  
Principal**