

**Chautauqua Elementary School**  
**State of the School 2006-2008**

**Goal #1: Create a school climate that promotes inclusion and student responsibility.**

- Researched and discussed multiple school wide culture/discipline models and learning behaviors at the committee level. Several mini-discussions were held at staff meetings. Work on identifying school needs and expectations is still in process.
- Multiple student leadership opportunities have been established. A crossing guard program was implemented in the fall of 2007 for the fifth graders. There have been Spirit Ambassadors for two years. Students collaborated on establishing spirit days. The activities were student driven and directed. Other leadership activities include a recycling program, Study Buddy mentoring and Reading with Rover.
- Kindergarten open house is held annually. Some of the transition activities for kindergarten students include eating lunch in the cafeteria, like the “big kids”. McMurray and the fifth grade team work together to establish several transition activities throughout the spring. Activities include combined assemblies, mentor tours, band concerts, panel discussions and eating lunch at the middle school. Parents have the opportunity to attend an orientation night.
- Vashon Youth and Family Services (VYFS) sponsored a Second Steps staff professional development opportunity. VYFS participates in weekly partnership meetings with the school counselor and Readiness to Learn family advocate. They have also supported several discussions throughout the year in which the topic focused on student social and emotional needs.
- Tier 2 services have been changed over the past two years. Learning Assistance Program (LAP) currently serves 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in mathematics and Title 1 serves 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in reading. Our early intervention program continues to help identify our kindergarteners who need extra school readiness academic assistance.
- CARES Team met throughout the year to support student success. Teachers and families are able to refer students who are struggling academically, emotionally or socially.

**Goal #2: Provide appropriately challenging curriculum for all students and an expectation of excellence.**

- Data analysis sessions were held at the beginning of each the school year. Areas of focus were math, science and particularly writing. These sessions help identify the focus for expository writing in the Professional Learning Communities
- The Literacy Committee met throughout both 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 in order to discuss current literacy culture, piloting options and piloting experiences.
- A staff wide literacy professional development opportunity was offered in the spring of 2007. Staff read and discussed, “Reading with Meaning” by Debbie Miller. The discussions helped focus the work of the staff on comprehension activities and instructional practices.
- Several grade levels participated in piloting, Scott Foresman, Read Well and Readers Workshop programs in 2007-2008.
- Some staff professional development offerings were developed and administered by teacher leaders. Offerings included sessions on Sitton Spelling, and the Developmental Reading Assessment.
- During annual data analysis sessions problem solving in math was identified as an area of concern which lead to a staff member seeking a grant to purchase supplementary materials.
- Teachers had continued training in Everyday Math into the second year of the adoption.
- A standards based report card was piloted in 2007-2008. Mathematics were a particular focus in terms of establishing common expectations, recording methods and aligning expectations with learning goals.
- Classroom Based Assessments are still being developed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Teachers in our district have continued to hold collaborative discussions, to seek information and resources.

### **Goal #3: Promote and enhance positive relationships with students, home and community.**

- The Orca News was published online on a regular basis as an informational tool for parents and families. Columns were written by the principal, counselor, and dean of students on school policy, procedures and pertinent school issues. Also highlighted were special activities, student and classroom achievements, and upcoming events. The Orca News transferred into an online publication this year in an effort to help conserve our use of renewable resources.
- The CES website is consistently updated and provides valuable information for families and the community. There are archives, updates, stories and pictures, as well as forms and documents.
- In 2007-2008 an email program was established called, "Next week at CES" which provides a weekly calendar to all families on our email distribution list.
- Principal Teas and topical gatherings were held throughout 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.
- Chautauqua added new community events which proved to be popular with our families. We kicked off our fall Read-A-Thon fundraiser in December with a family event that included the PTSA Book Fair, special activities, and bake sale. Math Night was conducted in February and allowed students and parents to vie against each other in a Math Is Cool competition. Activities around the school also included a math scavenger hunt, edible math station, make and take, and games stations. Our final celebration of the year was a Literacy Week which culminated in a Friday evening family event. The positive response from the community was a testament to the need for more of these functions.
- The Safe Routes to School grant was implemented. The school parking lot was reconfigured for the opening of the school year 2007-2008. This led to the development of the crossing guard program.
- Bike to School days continued to be popular and were expanded to include a beginning point from students riding in from the south end. The Reading with Rover program began and has proven to be a very popular opportunity for students identified by their classroom teacher as benefitting from one on one reading with Newberg, the Golden Retriever. We also have continued our partnerships with the Vashon Maury Island Garden Club and the multi-age garden and the incentive bike program sponsored by the Masonic Lodge.
- Individual classrooms participated in various service learning opportunities such as the Purple Pinky Project, Heifer Project, Vashon-Maury Island Food Bank. The administrators adopted an Orca for winter holiday staff appreciation gift.

**Goal #4: Promote effective instructional leadership and professional development with a focus toward improved student achievement.**

- There has been an increased number of staff participating in the Professional Growth Option (PGO), particularly collegial efforts in group PGOs.
- There have been a variety of TRI time offerings throughout 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Many were teacher leader developed and lead as well as various school wide professional development opportunities. Opportunities included: Sitton Spelling, Every Day Math, Helping Hands/Family Advocacy, Book Club“Reading with Meaning”, Asbergers and ASD, Creative Movement, Second Steps, ELL, Instructional Technology, Developmental Reading Assessment, and Science Inquiry.
- In 2007-2008 Professional Learning Communities were established. The shared focus (learning target area) was on expository math. All staff participated in developing a common assessment and rubric.
- The Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools was introduced to Site Council. This OSPI document will be used to develop climate surveys and guide future goal setting and activities.
- The district has worked on developing a Strategic Plan which will inform mission statement development.
- In 2007-2008 a standards based report card was developed and piloted at three grade levels. Work included PSESD training, collegial discussions regarding standards and more consistent reporting practices. School wide implementation is scheduled for 2008-2009.