

# *Halbur's Happenings*

A newsletter from your elementary principal.



We're nearing the end of another school year and what a year it's been! I had intentions of sending this newsletter quarterly and here it is almost May. It seems we had a lot to send out for communication this year and so this newsletter fell in my list of priorities. I would like to thank all of you for the support you've given our district over this past year. I know we don't always agree on everything and yet when it comes to the big things like the importance of having kids in school, we all agree. I also appreciate when you reach out directly to me or our teachers with problems or concerns. That leads me into reporting out on our last PBIS

assembly. Our focus was Problem Solving and Playing Fairly. Our students have been working to follow STEP when solving problems. (S: Say the problem, T: Think of Solutions, E: Explore Consequences, P: Pick the Best Solution). Part of my job that I love so much is working with our students and teachers to facilitate this process. It's fun to see our students rise to the occasion and solve some pretty tough problems. I've been able to recognize many students for their problem solving skills during our PBIS assemblies this year. I met my goal and have recognized each CR-B elementary student this year for one of their strengths. Your children continue to amaze me and I look forward to this task. Each one of our students has the potential to do amazing things given they use their strengths and continue to learn and grow in making good decisions. Our mission is to help each one of them do just that. Learning is ongoing and these skills are essential for life.

Academically, we are in the midst of our spring screening window which means that we are testing each student in reading and math. Our teachers have been working hard to develop the right intervention for each student or group of students. We work as a team around this data and our teachers do an amazing job of working with their students. We're always learning and applying that learning to do the best we can at helping students achieve at high levels. We administered the Iowa Statewide Test of Student Progress in March. We are getting preliminary results back and it is noted that missing a quarter of school last year has impacted their scores and learning, especially with our younger students. We recognize the problem and we're working to accelerate learning by exposing students to grade level standards and providing just in time instruction on learning gaps. This will take time and I'm proud to work with teachers that understand this and are willing to dig in and work hard to meet student needs.

**PBIS** The focus of our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Initiative (PBIS) continues to be to promote a community feeling where students feel safe and connected to school. PBIS emphasizes teaching behavior expectations. This work mirrors how we teach academic skills. Just like with academics, some students can struggle with behavior challenges. As part of this process, we have implemented a behavior intervention called Check in Check Out. This intervention works to provide identified students more teaching in the area of behavior. The intervention's focus is working with students to gain positive attention for acceptable behaviors. After two years of implementation, we have seen successful outcomes. Our next step is to incorporate Social Academic Instructional Groups to target learning to those students that need more instruction in this area. Our PBIS system is always a work in progress.

Please continue to reach out to us with questions and concerns. I firmly believe that when parents and teachers work together good things happen for kids. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your children!

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