

Annual Report

2007-2008

School Improvement and Innovation Plan

Principal's Perspective

The Bel Air Elementary staff is committed to helping each and every student achieve academic success. It has been very rewarding for staff and parents to see the positive results of this year's School Improvement and Innovation Plan. Together we have made a significant difference in the academic and social/emotional growth of our children, the work that has been done with "Responsive Classroom" strategies will continue this summer and into the 2008-09 school year.

The availability of reliable student data has enabled us to be more focused in our instructional practices. Assessment information is more easily accessible and staff members are more readily able to interpret and purposefully use the information.

I sincerely thank our parent community for their ongoing support and cooperation at Bel Air. You are to be commended for your tireless work as partners with us in your child's education. We are truly ready for the next steps in providing academic excellence in a safe and nurturing school environment, thanks to all staff, students and parents at Bel Air Elementary.

Goal #1: As a school-wide goal, students, parents and staff will collaborate to ensure a respectful and safe learning environment that is evident in each classroom and the greater school community.

Results: This year Bel Air continued to implement "CARES," a student management program. Student expectations were clearly outlined in print and explained during assemblies and classroom sessions. Expectations were reinforced throughout the school year with video announcements, PTA sessions and Student Council projects. To further support our goal, 97 percent of our teaching and support staff were trained in "Responsive Classroom" strategies. This intense week long training has resulted in very positive results for students. Each day begins with classroom "morning meetings" in which teachers and students gather for greetings, morning messages and sharing time. Great emphasis is made on building a classroom community of respectful and responsible students. The focus on respect and responsibility is reiterated throughout the day in small group instructional settings, on the playground, and in the cafeteria. Bel Air is a safer and more nurturing place to learn, due in great part to "Responsive Classroom" efforts.

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Conferences were held in early September. Parents led these conferences as they shared their hopes and dreams for their children with teachers. Teachers learned a great deal about student needs and strengths and were therefore able to plan with the "whole child" in mind. We feel the Individual Learning Plans greatly assist us in efforts to partner with parents to further their child's education.

Weekly themes supporting our Health Curriculum have stressed respect for self and others, positive decision-making, citizenship, safety and appreciation of cultural likes and differences. The "Principal's Book of the Month Club" has further supported the themes through children's literature. All K-5 students read the same book each month, identify themes and discuss the stories. This has been a very unifying program that supports collaboration, respect and community building in our school.

Goal #2: At Bel Air Elementary, 65 percent of students in grades three through five will improve their performance in language arts in 2007-08.

Results: Students' progress and success was measured using ongoing assessments such as NWEA, AIMSweb and MCA-II tests, and curriculum based measures. Assessment results assisted us in defining student needs and strengths. Students were then targeted by grade levels for reading interventions and a variety of strategies were employed to meet our goals.

Overall, we were very pleased with the year-end results. We met and exceeded our goal with more than 65 percent of students in grades three through five improving their performance in language arts. There was significant growth for a majority of our students in language arts. Working collaboratively with flexible groups helped us establish clear goals with measurable results. As student needs and data changed, so did their assigned language arts/reading groups.

Goal #3: At Bel Air Elementary, 75 percent of students in grades three through five will show improvement in mathematics based on goals set and measured at each grade level and department.

Results: Our students showed significant growth in mathematics as measured by pre and post tests as well as with NWEA assessments. We made great progress in meeting our goal with 73 percent of students in grades three through five showing improvement in mathematics. Students were served not only by classroom teachers, but also by licensed resource teachers, Special Education staff and High Performance teachers. Flexible groups were small in number and students moved in and out of their groups as assessment results warranted.