



# Annual Report 2007-2008

## School Improvement and Innovation Plan

**Goal #1:** In 2007-2008, all Turtle Lake students will excel in reading and math. 61 percent of students will attain or surpass their target score in reading, and 69 percent of students will attain or surpass their target score in math. All students will show significant growth in both areas.

**Results:** Scores and evaluations for the 2007-08 school year indicated that 70 percent of Turtle Lake students in grades three through five met or exceeded their individual target RIT score in reading, and 71 percent of those students met or exceeded their individual target RIT score in math.

Teachers individualized and differentiated the instructional models for all students to reach and exceed NWEA RIT score goals school-wide. Teachers at all grade levels participated in a set of “instructional strategies” designed to specifically meet outcomes based on a continuum of student learning. These interventions focused on students’ needs, particularly those considered at risk for grade level proficiency. Grade level portfolios and AIMS WEB CBM assessments were given throughout the school year to monitor the progress of kindergarten and first-grade students. In grades two through five, NWEA scores provided teachers with the data necessary to determine student growth.

Parents were provided with results and indications as to whether or not their child was showing sufficient growth, and progress reports were shared with upcoming teachers in cross grade level meetings prior to school letting out in spring. This gave teachers a head start in designing strategies for the upcoming school year.

## Principal’s Perspective

Students at Turtle Lake performed at a high level of achievement in both our NWEA MAP assessments and our MCA-II benchmarks. Turtle Lake’s fifth-grade students also did very well on our MCA Science assessment. I am very proud of student, teacher and staff efforts. As a school, there was much to celebrate and feel successful about for both students and staff. Our theme for the year was again centered around “Literacy,” particularly with a focus on the importance of the “Read Aloud” component. With a significant amount of research drawing attention to the benefits of reading aloud to students, Turtle Lake continued to promote the Read Aloud program, and was honored to have Jim Trelease spend time with our staff and parents at the beginning of the year. Professional dialogue and action strategies will continue to be developed as well as seeking ways to continue to involve our parent and community groups. Efforts to shape, develop and motivate a nation of readers will carryover, year after year, with modifications as needed. For 2008-2009, our school is planning a visit from author/illustrator Lauren Stringer to share more insights into Literacy for both students and staff.

Student growth and achievement remain paramount for the 2008-2009 instructional design and strategies, and teachers are challenged to have purposeful and relevant curriculum offered at the instructional level of each of our students. Our goal is to have all our students challenged at their level of proficiency. We strongly feel our instructional platform is designed to meet the needs of our students wherever they may be along the academic continuum. The benchmarks Turtle Lake will continue to use - NWEA, MCA-II and Aimsweb assessments - to hold all Turtle Lake students accountable to a goal for growth in both reading and math - will help gauge students’ progress in all sub categories (strands) of each area. Teachers will hone-in on areas that may not be on the same level of success as others and will use tests to articulate areas of needed growth by using a variety of supplemental resources.

Another initiative which is underway at Turtle Lake for 2008-2009 is to look more closely at the development of students who are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Students need an education that emphasizes academic rigor as well as the essential 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills of critical thinking and creativity. To prepare every one of our students to participate fully in future global marketplaces, we need to look at “Whole Child” needs in a more personalized learning environment. We continue to value our parent and community volunteer groups. Their support is a needed commodity in making Turtle Lake Elementary School such an extraordinary place to grow and achieve.

