

Good afternoon!

I just wanted to take this opportunity to touch base with you! We are off to a fairly good start after Christmas break! Classrooms are getting back into their routines and learning is moving forward!

Here's what's new around the school!

We have made some changes in the primary grades (K-3) based on our mid year testing results. We have implemented additional small group opportunities for students to get focused, skill specific instruction based on their needs. Although we are introducing more adults to each cohort, we are continuing to follow COVID protocol and the cohorts themselves are not intermingling.

We have a lot to celebrate as far as growth and achievement go! We are showing our hard work, resilience, and perseverance!

Here is what NWEA looks like as a school. To put these percentages in context, NWEA expects about 50% of US students to meet or exceed their growth goals.

Math- 71% of our students met or exceeded their growth goals.

Reading- 62% of our students met or exceeded their growth goals.

Language Usage- 69% of our students met or exceeded their growth goals.

On top of this, there was still some significant growth across the board even though our students may not have all met or exceeded their growth goals. We will keep working to get there in the spring!!!

Here's another fun fact: Our students performed above the national average on 15 out of the 18 tests we administered in Math, Reading, and Language Usage in NWEA.

5 out of 7 classes performed above the national average in Math.

6 out of 7 classes performed above the national average in Reading.

4 out of 4 classes performed above the national average in Language Usage.

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be free of charge to students through the remainder of the school year!

Our System Support Review through S-CAP (Student Centered Accountability Program) is Wednesday, February 10th! This will be conducted virtually. If you have not yet completed the survey, please take the opportunity to provide feedback! If you did not get the link via email from Mr. Sanders, please let me know and I'd be happy to get it to you. We want to continue to grow and improve for our students and community!

I have attached some pictures for you to see the magic that is Ms. Mann. She led the students in creating a mural based on "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. Our students' art serves to remind me daily that no matter what is going on outside, there is so much good in our

school and much to be grateful for! Each day I marvel at the positivity and resilience of our kids and teachers and am honored to be here!

Stay well!

Courtney Rank  
Merino Elementary Principal







