

CUSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

State and National School of Excellence

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ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

November 2003

A message from our school...

Custer Elementary: Building Lifelong Learners

At Custer Elementary School, we are highly committed to the development and maintenance of programs and teaching practices that are known to create effective schools with successful learners. We value achievement and are committed to working as a learning community to help our students reach high learning standards. Our Title I Reading specialists, our math specialist, our extended day tutorial and enrichment programs, our Pre-school and Resource program and the Aiming High program are all available to help our students achieve those standards.

We are in the second year of the ESD 189's School Improvement Planning and Technical Assistance Project or SIPTAP. Through this project we have reworked our vision (or aim), are taking an in-depth, analytical look at the data we generate, are utilizing researched *best practices* and have developed SMART goals, i.e. goals that are 1) Specific, 2) Manageable, 3) Attainable, 4) Results driven, and 5) Time bound. Each person in our building is part of a study team for reading, math, writing or technology. These teams are digging deeper into the research, data, and known *best practices*. The teams will also visit other schools that have improved their own performance in math, reading and writing. New knowledge and practices are being shared with the entire faculty. All of this will enable us to further refine, or change, our practices and further improve learning for all of our students.

The Custer Elementary School community enjoys great parent and community support and we have numerous opportunities for parental participation in our classrooms and school programs. Through our P.T.O. and School Improvement Team, we gather valued input from parents and the community; input which is used in our ongoing school improvement work. Parents and community are an integral part of our total school program.

OUR GOAL

School improvement at Custer Elementary is an ongoing process of growth, within a positive learning environment, based on data driven goals, which are continuously evaluated for evidence of maximum student achievement.

STAFFING & ENROLLMENT

The teaching staff at Custer Elementary consists of one principal, 17 classroom teachers, two reading specialists, one and one-half special education teachers, .5 math specialist, one librarian, a half-time P.E. Specialist, a half-time counselor, three part-time music specialists, a part-time speech/language pathologist, a part-time psychologist and a part-time school nurse.

Our support staff consists of our secretary, one assistant secretary, 12 full-time or part-time para-educators (library, classroom, and playground), two custodians, two food service workers, and eight bus drivers.

There are the equivalent of 25.353 full-time certificated positions and the equivalent of 5.039 full-time classified instructional support positions.

STUDENT ETHNICITY

Black	1.2%
American Indian	2.0%
Asian	1.2%
White	87%
Hispanic	8.6%

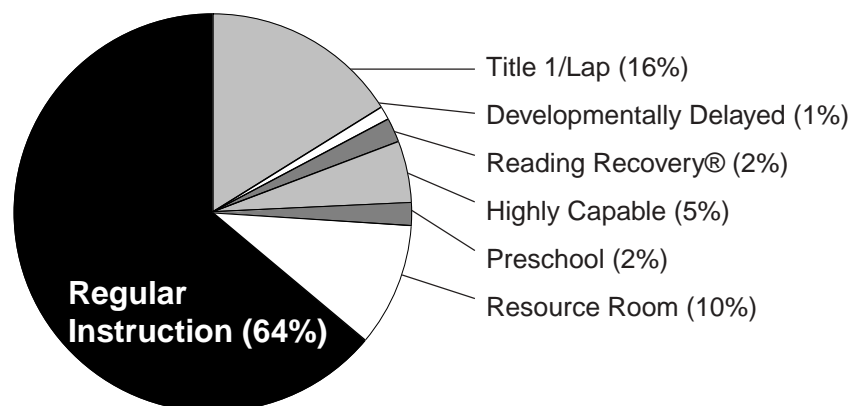
ENROLLMENT

Students Enrolled 2002-03	405
Average Class Attendance	96%
Average Class Size	23.8*

* without music and excluding special programs

PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Students at Custer participate in a variety of programs in addition to regular classroom instruction. These programs address some of the unique needs which some students have. Special programs receive state and federal funding.



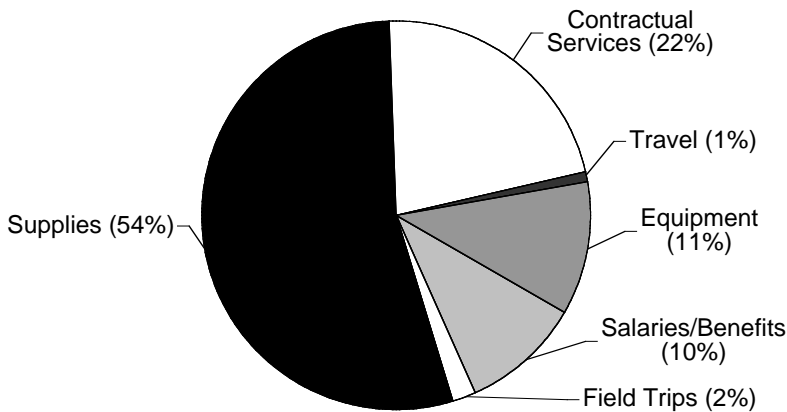
BUDGET

Districtwide

In 2001-02, Ferndale School District expenses for Basic Education activities were \$5,318.07 per student. The expenses for all activities including Transportation, Special Education, Gifted Education, etc., were \$7,047.66 per student.

Building

In 2001-02, Custer Elementary School's building budget expenditures totaled \$51,892.53. We spent our money in the following ways:



Note: 2001-02 is most current year budget information is available

SCHOOL FACILITY

Custer Elementary is located at 7660 Custer School Road, Custer. The original 17,481 square foot building was constructed in 1936. Additionally, 7,406 square feet were added in 1940, 5,619 square feet in 1959, 10,706 square feet in 1980, and 2,750 square feet in 1999, for a total of 45,049 square feet. This past year, we made the following improvements to our school:

- Repaired exterior walls and floor joists to rooms 1 and 2
- Painted various interior / exterior surfaces
- Installed septic overflow warning system
- Installed additional computer workstations in two classrooms



ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Each year Custer School participates in state-mandated achievement testing at the third, fourth and sixth grade levels. Results from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for the third and sixth grades and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) for fourth graders are made available individually to each parent. The ITBS and WASL are two distinctly different measures of student progress.

		ITBS*	
		Reading	Math
2002	Grade 3	52	56
2003	Grade 3	60	67
2002	Grade 6	65	68
2003	Grade 6	66	67

*Percentiles based on national norms with the national norm being 50

		WASL*			
		Math	Reading	Writing	Listening
2000		47.5	76.3	40.7	71.2
2001		57.5	80.0	68.0	80.0
2002		56.0	76.0	46.0	62.0
2003		49.2	75.8	57.1	66.7

*Percentage of students who meet the Washington Essential Learnings' Standards

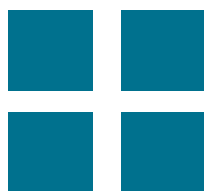
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Educational Accomplishments—75.8% of our students met or exceeded the WASL standards in reading and 66.7% in listening • 57.1% of our students met or exceeded the WASL standards in writing • 49.2% of our students met or exceeded the WASL standards in math • Continued staff development in best practices in reading, writing and math • Several teachers participated in summer math workshops • One teacher participated in the NECC Computer Conference • Practicum Students from WWU • One teacher participating as a TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) • Five Teacher Leadership Project recipients of grants from the Bill Gates Foundation • Yearly staff planning/goal setting retreat • .5 Math Specialist • .5 Reading Specialist • School participation in School Improvement Planning Technical Assistance Project (SIPTAP) through NW ESD 189

Enrichment—Artist-of-the-Month Art Docents Program featuring five artists and art lessons in classrooms at all grade levels • Mount Baker Theatre Arts Performances for second, third and fourth grades • Math Olympiad • Sixth Grade trip to the Pacific Science Center • Celebration of the Arts schoolwide evening program for the community highlighting fine and performing arts • Winter holiday play involving all classrooms, band, strings and choral music students • Student Newspaper • Student Produced Video Production • Student Council • Young Authors • After-school enrichment classes • Bookopoly • Summer Open Library

PTO—Family Fun Night Luau • Monthly after school enrichment classes • Spring Carnival • Jog-a-thon • Bedtime and Books • A field trip for each grade level • Holiday Store for students and a School Supply Store • Provided treats for teacher staff development days as well as soup and salad suppers for evening conferences • Parent members of the School Improvement Team (L.I.T.) • Purchase of one iBook and an additional microphone for student performances • Purchase of a new sound system • Skating parties • Passport Geography Club

Students—Cross-age reading buddies • Preschool program • Inclusion of students with diverse needs • School community service program managed by sixth grade students • Kids with Character program • Reading Recovery®, LAP and Title 1 special reading programs • ELL assistance available in the building • Aiming High available for highly capable students • Quarterly assemblies recognizing student accomplishments • Student Council • Two successful food drives that resulted in over a ton of food being donated to Project Concern • Essay winners in the VFW and Elks writing contests • Principal's Lunch Bunch



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE

A special invitation to our parents and community to participate:

PTO Opportunities

- School Store
- Holiday Store
- PTO Executive Board
- Bedtime and Books
- Spring Carnival
- Monthly after school enrichment
- Family Fun Nights
- Annual Fund-raising Events (e.g. Jog-A-Thon)

School Opportunities

- School Improvement Team
- Classroom Tutors
- Room Parent
- Celebration of the Arts
- Young Authors
- Student Council
- Talent Show
- Office Assistance
- Art Docent Program
- Field Day
- Math Olympiad
- Passport Club
- Monthly Enrichment Opportunities
- Health and Vision Screenings
- Field Trip Assistance
- 100 Lap Club

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Ferndale School District students and staff are strongly supported by the Ferndale Community. Community members and businesses provide volunteer time and monetary contributions to support a variety of Ferndale’s educational programs. This last year, schools received a total of over 168,000 hours of volunteer time. Three community businesses were honored with the Business of the Year Award for 2002-03: Key Bank, Delancey’s Garden Center and Kent’s Garden and Nursery.

In addition, our community consistently approves levy and bond issues which provide the district with needed financial resources to support the many programs offered to students, as well as to give students well-maintained facilities in which to learn.

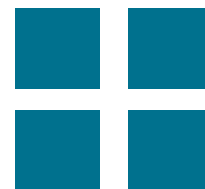
A special *thank you* to our community members for your support!

FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Ferndale School District, in partnership with families and the larger community, will educate each student to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to lead a self-reliant, socially responsible life.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GOALS

The state report card which reflects the No Child Left Behind Accountability goals and Custer School’s progress toward meeting these goals can be viewed at www.k12.wa.us under the state report card icon. Hard copies of this report are available upon request.





... Making A Difference

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