

Ellis Middle School
Principal's Report
February 8, 2011

NWEA Winter Data

NWEA Winter Testing occurred during the month of January in grades 5-8. Attached is a report that shows number of kids above and below the 40th percentile as compared to the NWEA Fall testing. We showed some great gains during the winter testing. Typical growth for students is 2-3 points. Our students showed overall growth of 5-7 points. Students in our Corrective Reading program showed gains of 8 points.

SINI/DINI

Our School in Need of Improvement grant has been approved by the state. The focus of the 14,000.00 grant will be to bring in some professional development, expand our focus monitoring system (AIMS WEB) into the middle school grades and a large portion will go to purchasing Math interventions for students.

National No Name Calling Week

The middle school recently celebrated National No Name Calling Week. January 24th-28th was National No Name- Calling Week. No Name- Calling week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled The Misfits by author James Howe. The book tells the story of a group of friends trying to survive the 7th grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, etc. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, the "Gang of Five" (as they are known) creates a new political party during the student council elections and runs on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. They win the support of the school's principal for their cause and their idea for a "No Name Day" at school. Motivated by this simple yet powerful idea, a coalition of over forty educators, youth advocacy, and mental health organizations have partnered to organize an actual No Name-Calling week in schools across the nation annually.

The goal is that No Name-Calling week will help all students consider the weight of the words they use, and make school a safer, healthier place for all students. More information can be found at www.nonamecallingweek.org

During their gym class students viewed a movie that discusses safe ways to deal with taunting and teasing, followed with discussion questions from Mrs. Farrar

Title I Onsite

Recently, we had our first Title I onsite visit since establishing the program last January. We had a great visit and representatives from the state were truly impressed with the program and the staff. Congratulations to Melissa Olms, Title I coordinator and Meredith Corso, Title I teacher as well as our after school Title I support staff.

John Safina

Ellis Middle School Principal