



Confident. Considerate. Creative.

DATE: Nov. 7, 2025

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Kara Benston, Principal CES

SUBJECT: CES Principal's Report to the CSD School Board

This report covers the period from October 21 - November 7.

Academic Excellence:

This month, students have engaged in STAR progress monitoring and self-evaluation activities in preparation for upcoming family conferences. Students are selecting and reflecting on their best work to share during conferences, reinforcing ownership of learning. In addition, all grade levels have completed their first writing benchmark assessment, which will guide instructional next steps in writing instruction and skill development.

Staff Development:

Teachers are busy preparing for conferences and finalizing grades for the first reporting period. Staff development efforts remain focused on strengthening social-emotional learning (SEL) practices anchored in the Oregon Transformative SEL (TSEL) standards. Our work centers on building supportive classroom environments, promoting self-regulation, and fostering meaningful connections between students and staff.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

Our facilities team acted quickly to address a potential issue with overheating in the building boilers. The heat was turned off briefly while maintenance was performed, and there were no disruptions to the learning environment. The teamwork and responsiveness of our custodial and maintenance staff continue to ensure a safe and comfortable school setting for all.

Student Engagement and Well-being:

Dr. Hudson has been delivering bullying prevention lessons to 4th–6th grade students, while Principal Benston has been leading similar lessons for grades K–3 focused on recognizing bullying and being an upstander. These lessons serve as an introduction to *Rachel's Challenge*, a nationally recognized program that promotes kindness, empathy, and inclusion that will be presented to students on November 19th.

Challenges and Mitigation:

We continue to work toward building a culture of belonging for all students through targeted initiatives around bullying prevention, disability awareness, and SEL integration. By promoting empathy, perspective-taking, and accountability, we aim to ensure every student feels valued and connected within our school community.

Extracurricular:

We are looking forward to launching a *Friends of Rachel* Club to continue the message of kindness and compassion beyond our upcoming *Rachel's Challenge* presentation. Recruitment for a club advisor is currently underway, and we are excited for the positive impact this club will have on our school culture.

Conclusion:

The past month has been defined by reflection, student goal setting, and a deepened commitment to social and emotional well-being. With academic progress monitoring, ongoing staff development, and a strong focus on inclusion, Clatskanie Elementary continues to make steady strides toward our mission of fostering confident, considerate, and creative learners.