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Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Middle School Math Club

By Anna Field, 5th-Grade Teacher, Humbolt Elementary
In September of 2023, Grant Union launched a Middle School Math Club. Select 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students were invited to participate in the competitive Math Club based on teacher recommendations. Mathletes were selected not only for their strong academic achievement in mathematics but also for their positive growth mindset. This year's team, known as the Grant Union Protractors, has been meeting twice weekly to prepare for their first competition scheduled for January 20. This year's Mathletes include Ashlyn Archibald, Noah Cobb, Riggan Dowdy, Artemis McKnab, and Thomas Shaw. Anna Field and Ryan McKnab work collaboratively as co-coaches.

The goal for this program is to enhance and foster an appreciation for the art of mathematical problem-solving within the district. Students have tackled challenging content, such as leaving behind the standard base-10 number system and exploring other systems, from the binary number system up to the hexadecimal number system. In December, Mathletes explored the Pythagorean theorem, learning about Pythagoras, his radical math society, and why exactly $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

After the school-level competition in January, the team will head to the Northeast Oregon Chapter-level competition at Blue Mountain Community College in February.

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KenKen is a favorite puzzle of the Math Club. Here is your chance to give it a try!

1-	6×		4
		2-	2÷
2÷			
2÷		7+	

KenKen Instructions:

Fill the grid with numbers. No repeats in any row or column. In this 4x4 puzzle, only numbers 1-4 may be used. Heavily-outlined areas, or "cages," must have an answer that equals the "target number" using the given operation. Please visit <https://www.kenkenpuzzle.com/howto/solve> if you need more detailed instructions.



Struggle

How much more value does food have after a fast, or a cold lemonade after a long day's work in the hot sun, or hot fire after a snowshoe journey to Strawberry Lake? How much value is in the one win after a season of mercy losses when you have practiced hard? How much value is in a season of mercy wins when you never practiced at all? How much value is in the experience of an intelligent senior getting an A in a junior high-level course? How much value is in the D student struggling and studying hard in an advanced course and earning a C? The value of the experience is in the range and depth of the experience.

Students - Embrace the struggle: the hard, the rigorous, the painful. It is what gives the experience its value. Welcome the: late night study groups to pass an AP exam, early morning study sessions to understand a difficult math concept, Friday mornings

on a science research project, writing and rewriting of English and history essays, weights and conditioning, batting practice, running, summer football, baseball, volleyball camps. Push yourself into the place where you are uncomfortable because it is in the discomfort that growth occurs.

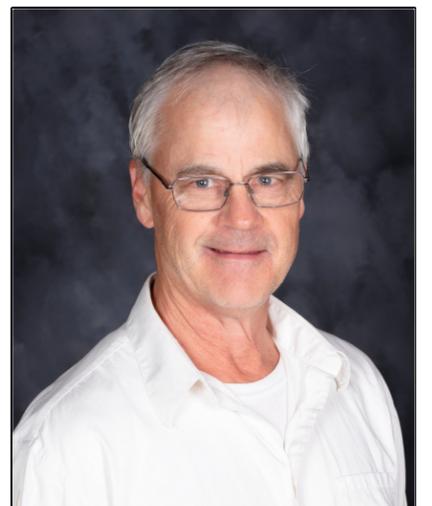
Parents - Be there to counsel your child when they encounter something that seems unfair or uncomfortable. Listen to them and help them problem solve. Don't prevent your child the benefits they will gain from discomfort. Sit around the dinner table, shut off the phones and TV and get out the books to study math and science or write the history paper. Read to your young children and make sure they learn their math facts. Get them to bed and get them up and to school every day. Teach them to be proud of regularly attending their job and giving an honest day's work.

Think back to your favorite teacher (Mr. Thunell, Mr. Ediger, Mrs. Feiger, Mrs. Betty Jones, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Don Jones, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Shelley, Mr. Kodesh, Mr. Baucum...) Trust in their wisdom when they say that the sacrifices of nights out partying, hours playing video games, watching TV, Facetime, Facebook, texting friends - is worth it. The sacrifice of the fun and easy to rigor - is worthwhile. Trust them when they say that delayed gratification is critical to success. Trust them when they say, "I have prepared what is good here. I know that in the short term it seems painful but in the long term there is more value. If you will just endure, you can do this. Your true character is revealed in your struggle."

Teachers - Bring your passionate, competent self into the classroom every day. Greet your students at the door. Go to their sporting events. Be available before and after school to tutor them. Build a relationship with every student built on trust and compassion so that when you ask them to do something that is hard and painful, they will feel safe enough to try. Be ready to defend the C earned by a student who has always been given an A. Be ready to celebrate with the D student when she earns a C. It is the student who displays the most depth that deserves the trophy.

What do you want for your students Grant School District? Do you want them to relax in the fun and easy or be pushed in the direction of meaningful and rigorous? Why not choose the "Hero's Journey-overcome adversity in a rigorous quest to help humanity?" Not much fun and easy on this path, but life-long learning lessons and productivity will be the result.

Your grateful servant,
Matthew Jones



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Sharon Flory is Leading With Her Heart...

I really appreciate the work that Sharon Flory is doing with our transportation department. She goes above and beyond to make sure that each student is well cared for. Recently, Sharon Flory brought a family that was in need of additional support to my attention. Her commitment to each student allowed us to make sure these students had what they needed to be truly successful.

-Mark Witty, Superintendent

Third Graders Bring Smiles to Seniors...

I would like to give a special thank you to Mrs. Miller's and Mrs. Hansen's 3rd-grade classes for providing cards and letters for the home-delivered meal program for homebound senior citizens in Grant County. These cards and letters are greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do and for bringing smiles!

-Misty Palmer, Grant County Senior Programs Manager

GU is Thankful for Rick Thompson!

Rick Thompson is a wonderful asset for Grant Union High School Athletics. His willingness to run our scoreboard for Football and Basketball Seasons is an incredible blessing to our school. Rick is enthusiastic, competent, and reliable. He gives so much of his time to make sure events run smoothly for our athletes and coaches. Rick is a great example of community service, and we are very thankful for him at Grant Union. Thanks for everything.

-Andy Lusco, Grant Union Assistant Principal

We are thankful for Community Support...

I would like to give a shout-out to Bob Armstrong for all the great work he has done to encourage the community to support our students. Keep up the good work, Bob! It makes a great difference in how they view their work on and off the sports area. Thanks!

-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

Thank you for Welcoming New Teachers!

I would love to say thank you to the entire Grant School District and community for being so welcoming to all of the new teachers in the district! You have made coming to work enjoyable, and I look forward to my job every day!

-Kailee Oliver, Grant Union Ag/Metals

Thankful for the Humbolt Kitchen Crew...

I would like to send a huge shout-out to the kitchen staff at Humbolt. KoRina and crew always ensure that the students and staff are well-fed with delicious food. KoRina cooks with love and compassion and makes sure we have the best quality of food possible every day.

-Shanley Cobb, Humbolt Special Education Teacher

Thank you, ODOT and Grant County!

I would like a shout-out to ODOT and the County for keeping the Transportation Department updated on road conditions throughout the year!

-Sharon Flory, Transportation Manager

Thankful for the GU Kitchen Crew...

I would like to give a shout-out to Natalie Weaver and her kitchen staff. She always has delicious meals and serves the students with a smile. I love her positive example for all of us. Thanks!

-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

Students Brighten Our Day...

I would like to give a shout-out to Mathew Delano for sharing his unique sense of humor with me and brightening my day. I love our science conversations, Mathew. Keep sharing your ideas with me. Thanks!

-Mrs. Smith, GU Science Teacher

Marci Judd Valued at Humbolt...

I would like to recognize Marci Judd for her dedication to students, families, and the overall success of Grant School District #3. Marci has served Humbolt Elementary students to facilitate their social and emotional development. She also leads our Student Support Team, connects families with community resources, collaborates with teachers to provide intervention strategies, and assists the administration with mental health support. This year she has taken a mentorship role and additional leadership responsibilities within the district. Marci provides GSD students with an outstanding level of support. Marci, we appreciate your care and passion for the well-being of children in our community.

-Janine Attlesperger, Principal, Humbolt Elementary

Thank you, Grandma Mary!

We would like to thank Grandma Mary for all that she does for Humbolt students. Grandma Mary works so hard to support student learning, both with individuals and groups of students. She is a joy to have in our quad! We love having her around with her amazing and fun personality. We appreciate her so much for all that she does!

-Humbolt Elementary, 1st and 2nd Grade Teachers

Local Beef Served in School Lunch Program

I am very appreciative of the donation of a steer from Mat and Jennifer Carter to our cafeteria program through the Ranchers Feeding Kids Program. We love to have locally grown beef to utilize in our lunch program and the kids can certainly tell the difference when they are served Grant County Beef. Thank you, Mat & Jennifer!

-Natalie Weaver, Grant SD #3 Nutrition Director

Send a shout-out to staff, students or community members, in 100 words or less by sending an email to shoutout@granted.org.



Left top: Mrs. Suchorski's 7th-Grade Science classes made 3-D models of plant and animal cells.

Left bottom: Mrs. Suchorski's 11th and 12th-Grade Applied Science students engineered gingerbread houses during December.



Mr. Humbird's Literature of a Genre class wraps up video essays (expository, persuasion, narrative, informative, and more). Students wrote, recorded, and edited essays on topics important to them.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Seneca

If interested in volunteering, please call the office at 541-542-2542.

Humbolt

Lunch Buddies Needed! Lunch Buddies commit to having lunch with an assigned elementary student each week. They spend time playing and interacting with the students on the playground and ultimately have a lifelong impact on the life of a child. If interested, please contact Marci Judd at 541-575-0454 ext. 3103.

Grant Union

Grant Union Athletics is looking for adults willing to work the gate at home events. Meet the public and enjoy all the popcorn you can eat! Contact Andy Lusco at luscoa@granted.org or 541-575-1799 ext. 3325.



GSD3 Represented in Light Parade!

Outstanding job to our Transportation Department for their participation in the Timber Truckers Light Parade. The bus was AMAZING and created such a positive buzz around the community. I love that our district employees are so invested in our community and willing to put in the extra time to do something special that made a huge impact. Keep up the good work!

-Shanna Northway, Special Programs Director



Grant School District 3 won First Place in the Community Category of the Timber Trucker Lights Parade, December 9, 2023!



Humbolt Elementary PE teacher Doug Sharp (left) shows off an autograph from professional baseball player Gene Tenace (right) that he has had from childhood. Sharp was able to meet Tenace in person when he attended a John Day wrestling match for his grandsons Jack (pictured) and Gene Fisher.

Grant Union Farm Academy Coming Soon

By Kailee Oliver, Grant Union Agriculture Teacher

The Grant Union CTE Department is excited to announce the award of a \$200,000 revitalization grant to build a new greenhouse and chicken facility titled "Grant Union Farm Academy!" This grant will allow students at Grant Union to learn valuable skills in agriculture and apply them using hands on opportunities in a lab setting. Also, students will be able to work with the elementary students to provide early access to agriculture education and build partnerships with the local industries! Plans are being developed to start building this summer, with the hope to be operating by Fall of 2024! Be on the look out for more information coming soon!

Grant Union Provides a Business Pathway for Students

The bell rings, and the class rises for the pledge of allegiance and listens to the daily announcements before jumping onto computers and completing their daily work. The noise level is a little louder than in other classrooms as the Business Communication and Yearbook classes work side by side. The students sit in two different groups, with the Yearbook class collecting photos and planning details while the Business Communication class listens to instructions on a new project. The challenge given is a new district newsletter, an opportunity to share what the school district is doing with the community, an open house through printed material.

The Business Communication class catches the vision and jumps in, eagerly embracing the opportunity to learn new software and computer skills, as well as the opportunity to submit pictures and story ideas. Business Communication is a CTE (Career and Technical Education) class offered at Grant Union. Previously known as the computer pathway, Kalli Wilson's classes are now considered a business pathway. With a project-based approach, each unit is taught through hands-on projects such as resumes, letters, and even marketing and advertising campaigns.

Mrs. Wilson's CTE classes include Introduction to Business, Business Communication, and Sports and Entertainment Marketing, which she teaches alongside Yearbook, Leadership, Middle School Coding, and Computers. Each of these courses works on individual and group projects, exploring the business environment and gaining business experience. This may include working together to solve a problem, facing a deadline, or learning a new skill.

The Leadership class includes student body officers and class officers working together to host assemblies, decorate hallways, and do anything needed to make the school a better place. Each Leadership team member has special projects, including a print shop called GU Pro Printing. They are working to fulfill t-shirt and poster printing orders from within the district. These students can work on their projects in an adjoining room Wilson calls The Maker Space. Here they have access to a t-shirt press, a special poster printer, and a mug printer. They are excited about printing buttons on a new button press that has been donated to the group by Chester's.



Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams pose with giant checks, printed by the Business Classes. Subway and Chester's are sponsoring the Basketball teams, donating \$1 for every basket scored this season. Thank you!

Wilson also leads the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club, which includes participating in business meetings and competitions. In June 2023, Wilson took four students to the National Leadership Conference to compete, network, trade pins with members from other states, attend workshops, and explore Atlanta, Georgia. These students included Morgan Walker, Benjamin Finley, Logan Randleas, and Maddie Bailey, who also happens to represent Grant Union as the Oregon State FBLA President. Wilson has proposed the National Convention as an every-other-year goal for the students.

FBLA is currently preparing for the regional meeting on February 1st, which will qualify individuals to compete at the state competition, which will be held in April. The students each compete in several of 60 different competitions available in the areas of marketing, event management, entrepreneurship, and public speaking.

Another exciting adventure for these students is the recent partnership between the Business Pathway and the GU Booster Club. Students can gain valuable business experience by being involved in Booster Club meetings, and the Sports and Entertainment Marketing students look forward to printing posters and hosting events for the club. They have also discussed a partnership to create and sell Prospector clothing and gear.

The classroom is buzzing, and business is booming around the business pathway program. Every student feels the pressure of creative work, finishing projects, and planning a future in business. Each day brings a new challenge and the promise of an even brighter future!

Right: Maddie Bailey, Oregon FBLA President, on stage at the FBLA National Leadership Conference.



Below: FBLA members Taylor Gosnell, Benjamin Finley, Landon James, Logan Randleas, Eliza Ashley, Maddie Bailey, Eliza Bailey, and Abbie Justice pose at their recent Christmas party with co-leaders Heather Rookstool and Kalli Wilson.



Alumni Spotlight: Bob & Lauri Armstrong

"It all started with the simple desire to encourage our boys after a tough loss on the football field. For me, it has now grown into a passion and a real desire to love and support our kids and their friends." Bob Armstrong noticed the 2023 Grant Union football team was young, inexperienced, and approaching discouragement. He and his wife, Lauri, show up for every game to cheer for their grandson, Charley, and his friends. As alumni of Grant Union, they wanted to encourage other community members to show up and support these kids, too.

Bob started with a Facebook post, challenging any community member to show up and sit in the bleachers with him. He offered to make a donation to the football program for every person sitting with him at the start of the second quarter, and the community did show up! A movement was started, and it soon snowballed from his own donations to encourage local businesses to sponsor admissions to football and volleyball. This wave of community support has continued on into the winter sports with basketball and wrestling, as well.

Bob and Lauri are excited by the increase in community support. They both graduated from Grant Union in 1977, participating in every opportunity they were given. Bob was a football player, wrestler, and Student Body President, as well as a member of the National Honor Society, the Ski Club, and the Letterman Club. He also added baseball his senior year to hang out with the scorekeeper, his fiancée Lauri. Lauri (daughter of long-time teacher and coach Don Jones) was a football and basketball cheerleader, the Salutatorian for their class, and a member of the National Honor Society and the Pep Club.

After graduation, Bob and Lauri married and moved to Ashland, Oregon, to attend Southern Oregon College. As students, they were active with the youth in their

local church. Their son Brad was born in 1980, and after graduating in 1981, the three moved to Colorado Springs to attend Nazarene Bible College. They were soon blessed with their daughter Jessica. They returned to work at the John Day Church of the Nazarene for a few years before heading to Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City to pursue foreign missions. Their long-term plan changed when they both realized they needed to return to Oregon with their families. The logical occupation direction for Bob was into accounting, which is what his degree from SOU is in and the area he was working in while attending Bible School and Seminary. To prepare for their next step as a family, Bob began studying for the CPA exam. With his new CPA license, the family returned to Oregon in 1990, working for Oster Professional Group, CPAs in Burns before moving to John Day to open a new CPA office in 1991.

Bob and Lauri have been actively involved in the community and the schools ever since. Brad graduated from Grant Union in 1999, and Jessica followed in 2002. They now have all five of their grandkids in the Grant School District: Charley (11th grade), Jack (8th grade), Cody (4th grade), Owen (3rd grade), and Eli (Kindergarten). Bob and Lauri enjoy being at school events to cheer on their grandsons. "From now on, we will have at least one grandson in high school for the next 13 years. How exciting is that? I think it is awesome. I love my grandsons more than anything. There is absolutely nothing I would not do for them."

Bob and Lauri know about busy schedules. They both work full-time for Solutions CPAs, make time to spend with their family, and attend sporting and school functions. Recently, Bob has added substitute teaching to his list of activities. "What a great day to be a Prospector and a Prospector fan!"



Pictures from left to right: Bob & Lauri Armstrong with their five grandsons, Bob & Lauri's engagement photo their Senior year, Lauri giving her Salutatorian speech at their graduation in 1977, and Bob on the GU baseball team.

Students Work With Advisors to Plan Their Own Course

The office is hopping, phones are ringing, and students are stopping by during free time to register for their next classes. The start of the second semester is here! It is important to make sure each student's classes fit into their education goals. That is where academic advisors are important to the student's success. Amy Hunt is the academic advisor for Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, assisting students to explore their future pathway and choose the classes to accomplish their goals. These students are considering their options and preparing for a future they are still exploring. While every student must complete the minimum graduation requirements, each student also needs to work towards their individual goals. Whether they are considering the military, a career or trade school, or a college/university degree; it is important for students to take the right classes to explore their interests and prepare for their future.

Some students are working with military recruiters to pursue a military career. Representatives from each of the military branches will be at the school at least once during the school year. Students hoping to enlist in a branch of the military must receive their diploma, or be on schedule to complete their diploma, at the time of enlistment. Advisors help these students take the ASVAB test and line out the right classes to stay on track for their diploma.

Several students plan to pursue a career or enter a trades school. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers work hard to introduce students to opportunities that interest them; this may include finding the right trade school, funding for classes, or networking to meet local businesses in their area of interest. Between business classes, health and science classes, automotive classes, and wood and metal shop, students are able to learn about many different trade opportunities

and make decisions on careers they are interested in pursuing.

Students who decide to go to college after graduation also need guidance advice, choosing the right college, completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Students Aid), applying for scholarships, as well as making sure they complete all classes necessary to prepare them for their course of study. Several of the advanced science and math classes at Grant Union are dual-enrollment classes, worth both high school and college credits. In addition to these, some students choose to take college classes during high school to get a jump start on their future education. Hunt works closely with a network of community members, including Ashley Armichardy at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and Jesse Schaefer at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), who can proctor tests and enroll students in college classes in place of high school electives. Didgette McCracken, with Oregon State University (OSU) Open Campus, helps students complete their FAFSA, explore different trades and schools, find scholarship funding, and multiple other opportunities in the interest of helping students plan out their future. At this time, 23 students are enrolled in EOU classes and three in BMCC classes. Individuals enrolled in EOU's Early College Initiatives are awarded for their work with EOU logo ropes to wear at graduation, college credit towards their future degree, and confidence they can handle education at the next level. Several of these students have earned enough credits to cover the first year or two of college.

Whether a student is pursuing a trade, a college degree, or the military, Hunt and the staff at Grant Union are proud of their students' hard work and are ready to help them accomplish their goals. Go Prospectors!

Student Testimonial

Halle Parsons, Senior, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School

As a senior in high school, I have been taking college courses through EOU provided by our school since my junior year. Using this resource that the school provides has put me ahead in my college career. Ashley Armichardy and Amy Hunt have been so helpful throughout the college course process. They are great people and work hard at helping kids find ways to get ahead and use this great opportunity at our school. Taking college classes can be challenging, but if your high school academic schedule allows you time to take classes that help you with the career of your choice, I recommend it.

It is a great advantage for Grant Union students to get a head start with their journey of pursuing the career that they want. Our school provides this opportunity to students with no cost, as long as you pass your college courses. Because of the connection through EOU, I am many courses ahead of where I would be without it. This is something that is very helpful, and students should definitely look into it by talking to Mrs. Hunt if you are planning on furthering your education.

Thank You



Kris Beal | Zone 1 | Will Blood | Chair | Amy Charette | Vice Chair | M.T. Anderson | Zone 2



Chris Labhart | Zone 4 | Zac Bailey | At Large | Jake Taylor | At Large

Thank you Grant School District 3 School Board! We appreciate you!

District Continues Work on Strategic Plan

Strategic planning is a comprehensive way to make long-term, systemic improvements to all phases of an organization. The plan will be composed of:

-**Foundational Values** that represent the District's key beliefs and values.
 In November, 2023, John Day School District 3 Board members and Superintendent Mark Witty initiated a multi-year strategic planning process.

-**A Mission Statement** that is a brief definition of what GSD 3's purpose is.
 The plan is currently being created by a representative 15 member volunteer planning committee that includes District parents, students, staff, and various community members. Implementation will start this summer and will continue until the end of the 2026-27 school year.

-**A Vision Statement** that defines what the District wants to become.
 An important part of the strategic planning process was to survey hundreds of GSD 3 constituents to record their suggestions as to how the District can improve. The result was the compilation of a 21 page survey report that the District planning team and Board members are using as a reference throughout the planning process.

-**Specific Strategic Goals** that need to be achieved for the District's vision to be realized.

Accountability measures will be put in place to ensure implementation of the strategic goals steadily progress. The District will analyze data to measure progress and GSD 3 Board members will receive periodic progress reports throughout the three-year life of the strategic plan. Once the strategic plan is agreed upon at the board level, the District leadership team will utilize those key areas targeted for growth to help guide the budgeting process.

Humbolt Elementary Hosts "Principal for the Day"

Humbolt Principal Janine Attlesperger challenged students to an optional essay competition, titled "Principal for the Day." Twenty-nine students used their free time to write about the issues important to them and why they felt they would be a good principal.

The winning essay belonged to 5th-grader Sam Bailey, who submitted his response in poetic form. Attlesperger met with Bailey to review the remaining essays and choose a vice-principal. When they could not decide between several compelling essays, they did the only thing that made sense, they held in-person interviews with the top candidates.

On Thursday, January 11, Principal Sam Bailey and Vice-Principal Kristina Manitsas were in charge of Humbolt Elementary. They spent time researching the rules of Eliminator, a dodgeball game that is a favorite among students at Humbolt, but has not been allowed recently due to arguments and injuries. Principal Bailey wanted to find ways to encourage responsibility for the rules in order to return the game to students. Bailey and Manitsas proposed the game begin with Self-Managers, a group of students who have gone through a rigorous application process and proven their character to the staff.

The second task was to hang posters in each of the hallways, which will be used for future discussion building

problem-solving skills.

Next, Bailey and Manitsas helped Attlesperger roll out a self-manager program for second, third, and fourth-graders. Previously only available for fifth and sixth-graders, the new Junior Self-Manager Program will have a shorter application process and limited freedom and responsibility.

Bailey and Manitsas were given a budget of \$100 for the day, which they chose to spend on a prize for each student who participated in the essay competition, as well as an additional gift for every student at Humbolt. The two completed their day in the office by hosting a school-wide assembly and sharing their accomplishments with the student body. Great job Principal Bailey and Vice-Principal Manitsas!



Above: Attlesperger poses with Principal Bailey and Vice-Principal Manitsas.



Left: Bailey discusses issues with School Superintendent.

If I was principal for the day,
 you know just what I'll do.
 I wouldn't shout, jump around,
 or even go coo-coo.
 I'll make things fair,
 I'll show you that I really care.
 Now listen to what I have to say:
 I will get the balls blown up for recess,
 Fix up the black top,
 and get the trash thrown away.
 I will care for my fellow peers,
 lift them up,
 not drag them down to depression.
 People these days are taking us down,
 making us feel sad,
 But that's just bad.
 So, I'm here to fix it.
 Wait, but not just me,
 Everyone.
 Principal for the day is just,
 four words,
 eighteen letters,
 put together,
 If we stand strong,
 We'll make infinite words,
 and infinite letters.
 Let me help make us better.
 So if I was principal for the day this Fall,
 I'd make us all stand tall.
 So, in conclusion what I have to say,
 if I were principal for the day,
 fix the black top, make things fair.
 It's a position I would share,
 I'll share my ideas with the school,
 make it so everyone gets to rule their way
 When I was principal for the day!
 by Sam Bailey, 5th Grade