



BLUE OAK SCHOOL

A WALDORF-INSPIRED PUBLIC CHARTER (K-8)

Executive Director's Report

Susan Domenighini

December 15, 2020

Favorite Moments

Every year since first grade I have brought a Christmas radio that broadcasts about what is going on in the North Pole as we count down until Christmas. My 7th graders are still SO excited about it! They ask for North Pole news every day.

Witnessing the magic of teaching taking place as I made up what is now my new favorite mini-lesson. Just for fun, our class counted up all the times we could find the high-frequency word "the" in our books during quiet reading time. We found a total of 727 "the's" in 16 books. Wow!! I love this activity for 2 reasons: this is a great way to get my students to practice reading, and also because they just can't believe how frequently we use certain words. We use the standard algorithm for addition to getting our total, which means that this mini-lesson lets us integrate ELA with math, it's my new favorite warm-up activity, I plan to do this once a week with one of our high-frequency words of the week. So fun!

Watching my 6th graders play in the leaves outside my classroom during snack time. They were all so happy and engaged scooping up leaves and then sitting and resting in them. So cute!! Seeing them so happy at their task of playing made me realize at that moment that they need more of that.

I really loved working with a 3rd-grade zoom group today, exploring different ways to add numbers. Students were sharing their thinking, coming up with interesting solution paths, and in general, just being excited about their own creativity. :)

Seeing Nick quiz his kids as they come to class in the morning and taking the time to talk them through it.

Hiring

We continue to be successful in interviewing and hiring needed aides for individual classroom support.

Marketing/Enrollment/fundraising

December 20th Holiday Fundraiser

Full-Day Kindergarten Offering

I met Cheryl Grant, Susan Whittlesey, and Sheila Moss on ideas and issues for a full-day Kindergarten. A full proposal is in the works.

Preschool

I began research on potential funding/options for a Preschool program.

Facility

Options continue to be explored.

Testing

The length of state standardized testing has been shortened and there is a discussion of eliminating it again this year. We may need to lean on iReady for the charter renewal. This is being discussed with leadership.