

Attachment B

From: Gollither20@aol.com

Date: August 4, 2006 6:21:30 AM PDT

To: ruthp@mec-math.org, pattyl@mec-math.org

Subject: (no subject)

I wanted you to know how well our school did on the state tests. I know that the inappropriate use of testing is one of your concerns, but overall, I think CSAP is a reasonable test and it has made teachers and schools focus on math which is not a bad thing. Our students do number talks daily and teachers use Investigations as the core program. In Title 1, we use Kathy Richardson's assessment system in grade 2-4 to guide instruction and then use Knowing Mathematics with our Title 1 kids in 5th grade. This year, Michelle Faye moved to Rocky Mountain Elementary to work as a .5 math coach, so she helped the teachers while I continued to work with the Title 1 kids.

The results of this year's tests were release yesterday and we received an award from the Governor because we made more improvement than any other school in the state. For a school with more than 75% of its students on free or reduced lunches and well over 60% of the students bilingual, we did exceptionally well. In 3rd and 4th grades, NO students scored in the "unsatisfactory" range. In fact, in 3rd-5th grades we only had 2 students score unsatisfactory. Remember, a large percentage of our students are native Spanish speakers and the test is in English. In third grade, we can translate the test orally so they are hearing it in Spanish but looking at the words in English which I think would be very confusing.

In 2003, 18% of the 5th graders at our school were Proficient or Advanced, this year 63% were in those categories. In third grade 76% were proficient or advanced--in fact, we beat the district and state scores for 3rd grade. Michelle was interviewed by the papers and TV and she did a fabulous job. In the only part of the interview that they showed on TV, she said, "We used to teach kids to memorize, but now we teach them to think." In the interviews in the paper she emphasized the need to link assessment to instruction and meet as grade level teams to analyze the data and plan instruction.

So, all our work with the MST really paid off. Our kids are learning a lot more math and we are showing that good teaching makes the difference even if your students come from challenging backgrounds. It is a good feeling to leave teaching knowing that our work together did make a difference.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe!