

Seton School Improvement Goals: Fall Update 2011

1. Bully Prevention Goal:

In this, our third year of implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, we continue to practice the key components of the program daily. Supervision is essential, especially in the unstructured settings, such as the playground, cafeteria, and hallways. Class meetings are held weekly or bi-weekly to establish rapport between students and their homeroom teachers, teach students about bullying and how to prevent it, as well as discuss issues of concern to students. Students are encouraged and practice how to “step up” and report bullying when they experience or witness it. All faculty and staff are trained to intervene and follow up on any bullying witnessed or reported to them.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their students regarding all types of bullying on an ongoing basis. Some good websites to guide parents in their discussions:

www.stopbully.gov www.stopbullyingnow.org www.isafe.org

Our fall Parents’ Club Meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Collin Lodico, Ph.D. and Sgt. Terry Garmon on “*Technology: Use and Misuse by Kids Today.*” These gentlemen included a very informative segment on cyber-bullying in their discussion. To sum up their advice to parents regarding students and technology: limit, supervise, and communicate.

2. Writing:

Research tells us students who read well and often tend to be better writers. The Accelerated Reader program is not only helping to raise reading comprehension, it is supporting our efforts to improve student writing as well. All students continue to receive at least 50 minutes of formal writing instruction/practice and 30 minutes of free writing time each week. Teachers are continually attending professional development to improve and expand their teaching practices in regard to writing.

At home we ask that you continue to promote daily reading in addition to assigned homework. Also, encourage your child to express themselves in writing through thank you notes, letters to relatives, and personal journals. These activities help children to understand that reading and writing are both skills that can bring them enjoyment and serve a useful purpose in real life.

3. Math Computation:

As we look at our Iowa Tests of Basic Skills scores from the fall of 2009, 2010, and 2011, we note the following in regards to math computation scores:

- The current 3rd grade scored at about the 50th percentile this fall, which is right at the national average.
- The 3rd grade scores have shown improvement each year, possibly due to the primary math program’s emphasis the past two years on computation skills.
- Although the current 4th grade’s computation skills showed little growth from last year, the current 5th grade showed growth, the current 6th and 7th grades showed significant growth, and the current 8th grade showed moderate growth over the three years of ITBS math computation scores.

We will continue to examine our ITBS results as well as our math curriculum, use the Mastering Math Facts Program daily, and look for new ways to enhance our teaching of basic number sense.

