

Update from the Principal – Chuck Raisch

I was watching a duck sitting in a slow moving stream that seemed so carefree and relaxed enjoying his world. If I would have been one of these goldfish the first graders are watching swimming under that duck I would have an entirely different observation.

This time of the school year makes me feel like what those goldfish are seeing. I would like to share with you, the parents what is happening under the water. The state budget dilemma has reached into the public school budget probably not to the degree many of you have experienced in your own personal lives. That discussion is for another time and another debate. Nonetheless we have experienced a 5% budget decrease. I will attempt to bring you up to date on the budget submitted and approved for next year. Growth can be a wonderful thing when each student generates a sum of money to then be traded to purchase staff. Next year we are staffing:

Two all day 4 year old ECE classrooms and two half day 4 year old ECE programs.

Four all day kindergarten classrooms

Four 1st grade classrooms (+1 increase)

Four 2nd grade classrooms (+1 increase)

Three 3rd grade classrooms (+1 increase)

Two 4th grade classrooms (+2 increase)

Full Time Art (+ ½ Teacher increase)

Full Time Music

Full Time PE (+ ½ Teacher increase)

One Full Time and a ½ Time Mild Moderate Teacher (+ ½ Teacher increase)

One Full Time English Language Teacher (+ ½ Teacher increase)

One Principal

Two Secretaries

One Technology Library Paraprofessional

Paraprofessionals all day in ECE classrooms

Paraprofessionals 4 hours per day in Kindergarten classrooms

10 hours of paraprofessionals for the building.

Additionally for Stapleton 3 who will be housed in Westerly Creek while the new school is being built:

Two ECE all day classrooms

Two ECE ½ day classrooms

Four Kindergarten all day classrooms

All the Stapleton 3 classrooms will have the same amount of paraprofessional hours as the Westerly Creek Kindergarten and ECE.

There is also a Principal to be hired that will assist Jill next year and get the new school moving forward.

The PTA has pledged to pay for 2 hours of paraprofessional staff for each classroom k-4.

That's what we've been able to do related to staffing. I would like to state that through registration and the choice process the ECE and Kindergarten at Stapleton 3 have yet to be filled with students. In fact we don't even have 33% of the students yet identified.

Staff openings have been identified and the hiring cycle has begun. The first step is to ask staff in the building if they would like to apply for a different job. That is what has taken place as of today. The next step is to post all of our openings on the district website. Normally we would begin interviewing this weekend but due to the budget reductions both in the building and at the district level we will need to participate in helping the district find jobs for the staff who have lost their jobs. We are hopeful that we will be able to hire many of the talented staff members who due to reorganization and drastic reduction in teaching ranks have to be placed in jobs. Curriculum leaders, area specialists, facilitators, closed school teachers, teachers returning from leaves and teacher reduction in their buildings due to budget cuts are all seeking positions and we at Westerly Creek due to growth have many positions available. If you know someone who is a great teacher that has had their position reduced encourage them to come to WC, and let us know they are interested in a position here.

Budget, staffing, CSAP testing, observations and evaluations have all been competing for time and attention.

So next time you see that duck sitting still in the water think about the goldfish that sees those legs moving quickly under the water keeping the ducks in place and think of me quacking along.