



Shaw Island School District 10

November, 2021

Dear Shaw Island Community,

Wow! The school year is just skipping by and all the students are deep into their learning. It is such a pleasure to visit the classrooms and see the amazing learning that is taking place. I once again am so grateful to our teachers, Diane, Abi and Anita and their selfless dedication to their students. And like students everywhere, ours are so genuinely curious about the world and all of the things they have still to learn. What a great and fabulous learning community!!!

This fall our School Board adopted our two School Improvement Plans: to deepen and improve all of our communication efforts and to broaden students learning horizons beyond the classroom and Shaw Island. We will be reporting our efforts with these two goals in February. Stay tuned.

Also, this fall, our upper grade students were required by the State to test on their learning from the previous year. Our students took these tests very seriously and I am sure, when the results are in, we will be extremely pleased with how much growth they will show.

We continue to deal with all things COVID...masks, social distancing, thorough and hygienic cleaning and vaccines. With all students now able to be vaccinated, we are hopeful that we will be able to return to more "normal" classroom/school procedures before this school year ends. We remain genuinely optimistic and feel immense gratitude that our students and staff will remain safe.

I have been asked about how much of your tax dollars are supporting our public school. Because we are a remote and rural school, your tax dollars go a long, long way. For us, we are funded about \$39,000.00 per student. In most other districts like SJISD their tax dollars fund about \$9300.00 per student. Having said that, because we are so small, a decrease in the number of students vastly effects our spending ability to manage all of the state's educational requirements. Also, the state does not even fund us at a level for one full time teacher much less the two we need to teach the wide expanse of grade levels. All this to say.....we budgetarily live precariously from year to year in our abilities to financially meet the mandated educational needs of our students based on the State's funding models. We absolutely could use more dependable funding streams!

Another huge concern for our district is the lack of affordable housing for teachers and staff. Without that, it grows increasing more difficult to attract and retain quality staff. If you have any ideas of how to help.....don't hesitate to reach out to me!

We are moving into the Holiday season and I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Shaw Island Community. Your outreach and caring shows with every person I meet. I am so thankful to each and every one of you!

May the Season of Thanksgiving and the holidays find you all with peace, joy, laughter and love!

Best Always,


Kari McVeigh