

Learn Today...Lead Tomorrow
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by Joe Krause, Superintendent & Principal

"I love it when the clerk at Walmart is nice to me. That means a great deal to me. I love it. But my kid's teachers had better be nice to them, because it's so much more important." Todd Whitaker

I was reminded of this statement today as I visited each classroom. Terry's teachers were hard at work preparing our students to eventually lead all of us old people!

I started out in Ms. Geirke's room and watched her 2nd grade kids learn how to make letters correctly. It's one thing to know how to form a "W", but to form it correctly takes intentional instruction. Ms. Geirke's students always laugh a lot...and NOT at their teacher! She makes it fun to be in 2nd grade! If a teacher can make the classroom fun it makes kids *actually want to go to school*. I then went across the hall to Ms. Smith's 1st grade classroom. They were all fully engaged working on their morning ritual of learning about all those things we just take for granted. Is it partly cloudy or partly sunny? How many days of school have gone by (we're on day 38 today!)? What day of the week is it? How do you spell Wednesday (and WHY do we spell it like that...seriously!)? I always leave Ms. Smith's class knowing our 1st graders are in good hands!

I wandered into Mrs. Pisk's Kindergarten class next. They were getting their wiggles out doing a group movement activity. Keeping 12 rambunctious Kindergarteners on task and learning takes almost superhero ability. Mrs. Pisk has the ability to keep them in line while keeping her patience and treating each child with kindness. That's just NOT an easy thing to do, and we're so grateful our Kindergarteners have Kay Pisk as their teacher! Mrs. Pisk even brought me into the conversation as they discussed the book about bats that they were reading. The students were so engaged, energetic, and polite. Don't believe anything Mrs. Pisk might mention to you about me referring to my wife as the bat I have at home!

During my visit to Ms. Murr's 3rd grade room I was so happy to see that they were working very hard on writing. They must have been recently reading *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst because I think their writing prompt was to write about a similar day they may have experienced. I was impressed that the kids felt comfortable enough in the classroom to share their ideas. Ms. Murr has such a friendly, easy-going classroom setting. Kids obviously like being in her class and they're producing some excellent work!

I'll focus on more classrooms in the coming weeks. I'm so proud of the teaching that I observed today. The teachers I observed were not only nice to our students, they took educating them seriously. They came to Terry School today to work...and work hard to educate the students in their classrooms. I feel fortunate to be able to watch excellent educators teach, laugh with, and care about Terry's students every day!