

## How to Make Terry School FANTASTIC!

by Joe Krause, Terry School Superintendent & Principal

Terry's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are learning how to write formal letters. They decided it might not be a bad idea to write their principal to let him know how to improve Terry Schools. I've now read their letters and know exactly what I need to do to help make Terry Schools a better school for kids.

One of the largest improvements would be making the playground "tremendous". Sometimes kids get tired of our playground and want "tremendous" playground equipment...and MORE of it. Also, to go along with the improved playground our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders think we should have longer recesses...at least an hour long. However, if it's too cold, they want to have their hour recess spent inside playing games. If they had longer recesses they could get their energy out. Plus, everyone loves recess! Then, their teachers could grade more papers and maybe get some art projects ready for students to do. It seems to be a consensus that a one-hour recess would be most beneficial.

They also think kids need to be more respectful. Some 3<sup>rd</sup> graders wish people could talk nice and have better respect for each other. And...it might be easier to talk nice if they had SNACK TIME each day. Some students want snack time *before* recess and some want their snacks *after* recess. The "snacks after recess" crew explained that these snacks would help their teacher NOT be "cranky". Her crankiness is related to kids complaining about "being starving"! Thus, snacks help eliminate cranky teachers. Perfect reasoning!

Many of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders think school would be improved if they had a class pet. Maybe a cat, dog, hedgehog, or a guinea pig? The pet would help students learn about responsibility because they would each have a role in taking care of it. Some kids also think it'd be a good idea for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to read to our Kindergarteners every Tuesday and Thursday mornings because that would help encourage Kindergarteners to read, too.

One theme was to limit math instruction. One student wrote, "Maybe we have 10 minutes of math. So, I'm not totally kicking it out, but not many people in my class like it." Yet another penned, "We want no math ever. WE ALL DO NOT WANT MATH." Another student wrote that, "We want bumper cars in class. We all agree." The bumper car idea is pretty cool. I bet we would be the only school in the nation that had bumper cars in the classroom!

Another strong theme seemed to be Taco in a Bag and Pizza for lunch. Only because it's their favorite lunch. However, one student actually listed her ideal menu for the week's lunches: Monday should be chicken casserole, Tuesday = pizza, Wednesday is Taco in a Bag, Thursday should be Chicken Fajita, and Fridays should be Sandwich Day. After this she wrote, "YUM!"

Terry's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders also want more music and more sports. They indicate the need for more activities, like tackle football and baseball. I don't think they meant tackle baseball, but these Terry kids are pretty tough. We've also got one forward thinking student who wants a lighted football field. He's planning on playing high school football in Terry. Wouldn't it be great to have Friday Night Football in Terry in a few years?!?!?