

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR 2013-2014



## **2nd Grade Team Kirkwood Elementary School**

The second grade PLC team at Kirkwood Elementary School consisting of Jovita Hurtado, Allison McGuire, Natalie Riel, Emily Sevigny, and Brandie Valadez is a strong team dedicated to student learning. They go above and beyond to ensure all students in second grade are receiving quality instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Their first order of business for the 2013-14 school year was to make the commitment that each and every one of the 124 second graders

belonged to all of them and that they would work with the reading, math and science coaches provided by Heritage University to ensure that all students would benefit from their expertise. The second grade team meets regularly to discuss and plan resources for instruction, build assessments around the Common Core, and to become familiar with the Common Core progressions of learning and proficiency scales.

This team is supportive of one another. Every member shares resources and contributes toward the task at hand. Each member has a strength that is recognized and valued by the team. They work together to develop and deepen their understanding in content knowledge and teaching strategies. The second grade team demonstrates great cognitive conflict skills. They are not afraid to disagree with one another or be the catalyst for change in the group. The second grade team also includes four teacher candidates from the HU105 program. Although candidates are housed in two of the five classrooms, all the second grade team supports the learning of these candidates by including them in discussions, decision-making, and providing feedback.

Currently, the second grade team at Kirkwood Elementary is working to implement the Daily Five Program. They have watched Daily Five Videos, shared resources they have gathered from the Internet, and have worked with the Garfield teaching staff on implementation issues. Their commitment to student learning is rooted deeply in their strong belief that all students can learn. The partnership they have cultivated has allowed them to demonstrate effective teaching practices that impact student learning.

Toppenish School District is proud to recognize Jovita Hurtado, Allison McGuire, Natalie Riel, Emily Sevigny, and Brandie Valadez the 2013-14 Professional Learning Community of the Year.



A Special Thank You to our sponsors Keith and Lori Galland (Budget Septic Service) and Dan Eshleman (Dad's Restaurant)