**Board Report**

**January 2015**

**Duane Krusemark, Elementary Principal**

**National Blue Ribbon School:** On January 5th, I received a phone call from Kim Snyder and the State Assessment and Accountability Office. She asked me if DC West Elementary would be willing to fill out the application for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The format has changed in the past few years and I will outline the timeline of events for us. I asked Kim if this means that we would win this award and she stated that the federal government almost always goes along with the state recommendation. GREAT NEWS FOR **DC WEST ELEMENTARY!!!!**

This award recognizes school in one of two categories: 1) schools whose students achieve at very high levels or 2) schools making significant progress in closing achievement gaps among different groups of students. I assume we are in the first category with our recent test scores. According to the information I have looked up, a nominated school must meet the testing criteria for the past three years, including last year’s scores. There are many other factors in the nomination process that we will be learning as we fill out the application.

Timeline of events for 2015:

January 9th State submits selected schools to federal gov.

January 15th Federal gov. sends school portal to submit application

March 15th Deadline to submit application

April Applications are reviewed

August States certify schools have met all requirements

September The Secretary of Education announces the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools

November Two representatives attend recognition in Washington, DC

As you can see, it is a lengthy process from the time of the first phone call to the actual presentation of the award. The staff was very excited and honored to receive this news. Now the work begins…

**Buffet Early Childhood Institute Update:** More great news for DC West – we were selected to be one of nine schools in the Metro area to be a site for full implementation. This will impact all students in our community from birth to third grade. We look forward to learning the latest research and hope that this association with the Buffet Institute will promote our programs to an even higher level.

**PBiS Conference:** Mrs. Hare and I will be attending a conference in Omaha on the 15th of January for PBiS. This is an annual meeting that all the school leaders involved with the state and PBiS grant get together to work on plans for this summer’s conference. You may recall, we have been part of this grant for the past 17 years, which works on using positive language and expectations to guide student discipline.

**NAEP testing:** We will be administering this test to our 4th grade students on January 26th. It is a ninety-minute test in reading, science, and math.

**NeSA Writing:** Fourth grade will complete our state writing on the 27th and 28th of January.