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Dear Parents,

During the course of this school year teachers have been attending professional development that focuses on improving writing instruction. Once a month teachers attend a full day inservice where they focus on specific teaching points such as when to introduce details, voice and style in a piece of writing. After the full day professional development day the teachers observe a lesson being taught. They spend time breaking down the lesson in an effort to incorporate specific strategies into their instruction. Finally, the teacher instructs a lesson with a teacher consultant viewing each aspect of the lesson. The teacher then breaks down their lesson to ensure that our students are receiving the very best instruction possible.

This is what our K-2 teachers had to say about our progress so far this year:

“Throughout this past school year we have been working hard to implement Writer's Workshop in our classrooms. Writer's Workshop uses focused mini-lessons to teach strategies our students need to improve the craft of writing. This builds independence, which helps the students build stamina (writing for longer periods of time). This allows the teacher to conference one-on-one, meeting the individual needs of children in the classroom. Next time you are in the building admire the children's writing pieces throughout the building.”

K-2 Teachers and Support Staff  
Haas Elementary

I have posted samples of student work on our website for parents to see the hard work that goes into the student writings. The samples are from a lower elementary classroom and a sixth grade student. The sixth grade student's writing sample is only the first few pages of a seventeen-page story and is outstanding.

In addition to the professional development we are seeking your input on a survey that has been posted to our website. There are two surveys that are posted, a parent survey and a student survey. They can be found on the Pre K-6 tab of the district website. The results will be posted at the end of the month. A similar survey will be posted toward the end of the school year and the results will be compared in an effort to focus our efforts on improving our school.