

# **Brookings School District**

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

# **MEDARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Chris Gruenhagen, Principal 718 5<sup>th</sup> Street South • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4300 • Fax 605-696-4362

## **December 2024 School Board Report**

#### A Great Place to Learn

I want to highlight a creative and engaging approach taken by our physical education teacher that integrated movement with academics. During a recent lesson, she incorporated the board game Scrabble by combining physical fitness with classroom learning.

Students not only stayed active but also practiced their vocabulary skills from class, reinforcing their literacy skills in a dynamic and fun way. This innovative method allowed for cross-curricular learning and showcased how we can creatively connect subjects to enhance student engagement and achievement.

This is a wonderful example of the dedication and creativity our staff bring to their work every day. It's initiatives like these that make our school a vibrant place for students to learn and grow!



### A Great Place to Work

Our staff was treated to a delicious meal provided by our amazing PTA, and it was truly appreciated! This thoughtful gesture gave our team a chance to pause, connect, and recharge during a busy day.

The meal not only nourished our staff but also fostered meaningful conversation and collaboration, strengthening our sense of community and teamwork. We are so grateful to our PTA for their continued support and generosity—it makes a big difference for our hardworking team!



#### A Great Place to Collaborate

As we reflect on our recent fall conferences, I'm pleased to report an impressive **95.6% attendance rate**. This demonstrates the strong partnership between our school and families in supporting student learning and growth.

I'd like to commend our teachers and staff for their preparation and dedication to making these conferences productive and welcoming. Their focus on building relationships and providing clear, actionable feedback is a cornerstone of our work.

We'll continue striving to engage all families and explore ways to connect with those we may have missed. Overall, this high attendance rate is a testament to the strength of our school community, and we look forward to building on this momentum as the year progresses.

#### A District of Excellence

We recently hosted a wonderful PTA-sponsored Family Game Night, and it was a huge success! Families gathered for an evening of fun, enjoying a free meal and engaging in games together.

This event provided a fantastic opportunity for parents to connect with their children and build relationships with other families in our school community. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, collaboration, and togetherness that makes our school so special.

A big thank you to our PTA for organizing and sponsoring this event—it's these moments that strengthen our sense of community and support our students' overall well-being.