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Eagle Lake Reflection

I loved my experience at Eagle Lake Elementary. The third grade teachers and principle were so welcoming and willing to help me. Likewise, the students were so well behaved and really wanted to listen to what I had to say. That being said, one of the things I noticed here was how important classroom management was. The students knew exactly what type of behavior was expected of them during a lesson. As soon as I was in the front of the classroom, they would stop everything that they were doing and sit silently staring at me. At first this was rather eerie and a little creepy, but I learned to love it. They would only speak when I called on them or if I asked the whole class to answer. Some of the students would also raise their hand to interject their opinion. The students would not use this as a time to get off task, rather to make connections from the new concept to themselves or things previously learned. To get this desired behavior, one can only assume that this was conditioned at the very beginning of the year. I observed the kindergarten class last year and the same expectations were given to them as the third graders. Therefore, I think that these behaviors have been instilled in them since they began school at Eagle Lake.

I also learned how important it was to review new concepts and tie them into new concepts. While teaching division, the students also had to know the terms dividend, divisor, and quotient. There were many ways in which to teach these concepts like drawing out the equation, writing the actual equation, and using manipulatives to show the equation. It was then important to keep using the terms in the following lessons. This way the students kept hearing the terms and seeing them be applied in other elements of math. I like this type of review because then the teacher is also

incorporating new concepts while reviewing old concepts. Sometimes applying them to new concepts can help children understand the old because the information is presented in a new way.

Lastly, I learned the importance of collaborating with other teachers. Because there were three third grade classes, the teachers were able to tell each other new ideas that they could utilize. The few times I met with them, they asked me what activities I would be doing and then wondered where I got them. Of course I shared that with them, and in return they gave me new ideas that I could use for my future classroom. If the teachers had the time, and heard that a teacher was doing a new activity, they would come to that classroom and watch. I liked this because then the teachers were constantly giving each other new ideas to ultimately help the students. Also, once a month they would have a technology day in which all of the teachers would get together and show new things they had found on their computers. This could be web pages or apps and then they would teach their peers how to use them in their classroom. The teachers at Eagle Lake were constantly looking for ways to enhance their classrooms.