2009-2010 Parent Survey Results

The Biennial Parent Survey was distributed in February 2010 and final results tabulated on April 4, 2010. The survey was used to gather parent perceptions regarding Brown’s effectiveness in Curriculum and Instruction, the Learning Climate, Effective Communication, Parent Involvement, and Positive Reinforcement Programs. These topics reflect areas of success typically found in highly effective schools.

21 families completed surveys representing 30 children (compared to 56/63 in 08) were submitted. In nearly all of these broad categories on average, over 82% of the survey participants “agreed or strongly agreed” that their child’s school is meeting or exceeding expectations, with specific areas exceeding 90%.

Each graph included represents data gathered from the same categories from 2002-2010 respectively.

**High Standards and Expectations for Curriculum and Instruction:** 82% of the survey respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Brown supports high standards and expectations in the areas of curriculum and instruction. We continue to be pleased with these results, in light of the fact we were designated a Title One Target Assist school for 2008-09, and a Title I school for the 2009-10 SY. Additionally, we had over 30% mobility during both school years. Given all of the demographic changes, we continue to take seriously our ultimate goal of providing quality teaching and learning experiences for every child in the school.

The staff at Brown consistently demonstrates that they believe all children should be “masters of the knowledge and skills needed for life long success” *(OSD Mission Statement)*. Our teachers are life long learners. They come well prepared with most possessing advanced degrees, and represent more than 300 years of collective teaching experience. The current district and state test data confirm that our students demonstrate both academic growth and achievement. In order to ensure ongoing progress, our teachers continue to participate in a variety of staff development opportunities. Over 700 hours of training are accessed annually by this staff, which enhances the professional practice necessary to effectively address all learning needs.

The staff also believes in the importance of integrating technology into daily instruction. In addition to classroom computers and a complete computer lab, district Tech Levy funds and annual funding from PTA for technology purchases, such as computer software and digital cameras, have met critical needs. The School’s Learning Improvement Plan (SIP) will continue to be the working document used to set instructional goals that reflect researched based “best practices”. Based on this year’s survey, an added emphasis for the 2010-11 SY will be to offer specific opportunities for comprehensive conversations with parents describing grade level assessments, scores and ways they can help support their child at home.
High Levels of Parent and Community Involvement: 83% of the survey respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Brown enjoys a high level of parent and community involvement. We are pleased that these results reflect evidence of our efforts and belief that “creating quality learning opportunities, in partnership with staff, families and community” is a priority. (OSD Mission Statement)

Within the survey, over 90% indicated that volunteers meet critical needs in schools. Our school’s patrons stepped right up to that challenge. Students and staff alike benefited from an incredible gift of over 2,000 volunteer hours contributed during the 09-10 SY. The 08-09 results also reflect similar results. The staff is most appreciative of this gift and will continue to identify areas where volunteers are regularly needed. Examples include volunteers who can support playground activities, the office or library staff, or provide Reading or Math support for our most “at risk” students. Staff would also like to use volunteers to better support our new initiative of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support). In 2010-11 we will explore opportunities for volunteers who would like to become mentors, or assist with a homework club, peer mediators or other school leader opportunities.

More than 85% of the survey responses indicated that annual activities and events sponsored by the PTA and the school staff continue to help connect their family with the broader school community. Both the PTA and school staff work closely to plan and fund many family events throughout the year. Most of these events are attended by more than 80% of our families. Scheduling of these events is important and will continue to be examined to maximize family participation. In addition to volunteer opportunities or membership in the PTA, L.P. Brown has an active Site Council where parents and community members can join with staff to plan for and support on-going or new school initiatives.

School Climate and Learning Environment: 83% of the survey respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Brown is a nurturing school community and has a staff that believes providing students with a safe learning environment, is its priority. (School Learning Improvement Plan)

We are very pleased with these results. The staff works diligently with students to communicate consistent expectations for appropriate behavior that is safe, kind and respectful. The primary instruction and guidance in this area starts in the classroom. Class meetings, class developed expectations and personal responsibility provide ownership and pride for their efforts. Parents are included as necessary and are considered critical partners in the reinforcement of our
expectations. Quarterly reviews of all playground rules are carried out by the para educator staff, in concert with the classroom teachers. When appropriate, behavior contracts and reinforcement systems, focused on positive behaviors, are implemented. Social Skills instruction, by the school counselor, has been added to the basic curriculum every week, with targeted enrichment activities funded through PTA.

Eagles SOAR awards and other incentives have been put in place to acknowledge individuals as well as classrooms’ efforts toward safe, kind and respectful behaviors. These awards are given daily and shared with the entire student body at monthly Spirit assemblies. We have seen the students respond favorably to this initiative and appropriate social behaviors can be seen throughout the school day. As well as implementing solution focused processes for behavior, addressing general peer “social” issues, has been successful. Some of these include, lunch bunches, student support teams, staff training in the areas of poverty and diversity as well as training in effective classroom management and the implementation of PBIS.(Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)

All building safety practices and procedures have been fine tuned, and are practiced monthly or quarterly. We during the 09-10SY more focus has been placed on school attendance, tardies, unexcused absences and BECCA processes. We will continue to shoot for a 90% school wide attendance rate for the 10-11SY. Finally, significant improvements in the school and playground have created a welcoming, peaceful, and inclusive environment that reflects the hard work of our PTA to purchase equipment and supplies, the custodial staff ensuring barriers are removed which could cause injury and a focus on celebrating our natural surroundings has helped students care for their play space.

**High Levels of Communication and Collaboration:** 83% of the respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Brown supports open communication and collaboration within the school environment. Effective communication and collaboration are indicated by strong teamwork and a sense of connectedness between the entire staff, children and parents.

In this year’s survey, we continue to see steady improvement, which reflects a renewed effort on the part of staff to reach all of our families, particularly new families and those impacted by economic hardships. Collaboration with PTA to host social events such as the Ice Cream Social, the Fun Run, the Fall Fun Festival, the Art Show, the Science Fair, the annual auction and the June Jamboree help families connect socially to build community. By supporting formal activities such as Kindergarten screenings, parent/student Goal Setting Conferences, Curriculum Night, and family Math/Reading Nights, the staff provides more opportunities for family and teacher conversations regarding curriculum and school programs.

Verbal, visual and written communication were also evaluated and revamped for effectiveness. Building signage is more prominent. Office procedures, in response to phone calls and messages, have been updated. An updated web-site has expanded our ability to share information easily and in a timely fashion. The Student Handbook was reprinted professionally and enrollment packets were revamped and updated. The PTA and building staff consolidated their monthly news to
include a single newsletter with information from both groups which is distributed to every family. Finally, emphasis has been placed on increasing staff’s effective use of e-mail and voice mail. This renewed emphasis is in direct response to survey feedback indicating that response time from staff could be improved.

**Enrichment Programs and Positive Reinforcement Activities:** 75% of the survey respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Brown’s enrichment and positive reinforcement activities are present, important and valuable. With so many competing interests, it is heartening to see increased parent involvement and staff implementation of valuable activities that genuinely recognize or enrich our students’ school experience.

Several activities focused on recognition and reinforcement have been updated and others added. Quality work “Gallery” assemblies, Eagle awards, school wide “Spirit” assemblies, birthday recognition, AR reading winners, Lunch Buddies, Kindergarten Buddies, Walking club and Brown’s World participants all help students develop a strong sense of community and ownership in their school.

Enrichment activities are often the first thing to be eliminated in school budgets. However, Brown staff and PTA members believe that enrichment activities are a critical part of a well rounded education. As such, the PTA has made a financial commitment to help offset these cuts. This year (09-10) alone children at Brown received over $11,000 worth of enrichment activities including assemblies, writing workshops, Artists In Residence, Dance/movement instruction, Olympia Junior Programs, Toy workshops focused on Science concepts, theatre productions from Seattle and Portland, and curriculum based field trips. The ongoing efforts by PTA and staff to help identify, align and financially support these activities and many more, are the key to continued success.

On behalf of the entire school and parent community, we would like to thank you for your participation in this survey, as well as your commitment of time, talent and treasure in support of our students. This survey provided one more formal opportunity to share important input and insights that are so necessary for growth. The information we have gathered will continue to inform our work as professionals. It will also keep our vision of being a school of excellence aligned with the reality of life in our school on a day to day basis. We know that the amazing support each of you provides cannot be achieved in a short period of time; it is gained only through consistent and ongoing effort. We look forward to the coming school year and invite you to become an active partner in support of our school.

With appreciation,

Maureen Spacciante, Principal
L.P. Brown Staff and Site Council Members