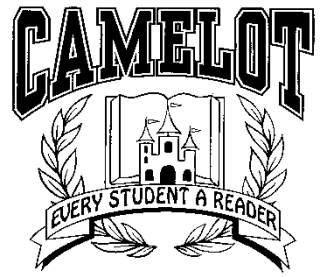


# Camelot Elementary School

## DRAWBRIDGE

www.fwps.org/cam



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January 21, 2010

### From the Principal



Dear Camelot Families,

### Remember to Vote February 9<sup>th</sup> School District Technology Levy

Time sure is flying by this school year. We have already visited at open house, had student led-conferences, knighted some students, enjoyed math night, celebrated the Thanksgiving and winter holiday, and students are busy making incredible academic gains in the classroom.

For the students to make the most progress teachers, parents, and students working together really do make a difference. Thank you for being involved and sharing in both the great school activities and the passion for learning with us! Our kids deserve it!!

So with school well on its way this year and the end of semester approaching, what can you do to help your child meet their goals? The easiest thing you can do is make sure students are reading every night at least 20 minutes. It is also important to have a great attitude about learning and make learning fun. Learning does not need to be only associated with lectures and sitting in your seat. There are great stories to share, fun science activities on the Internet, and opportunities for math everywhere you go. These simple things go a long way toward promoting the success of students. At Camelot we have read research that demonstrates the correlation between reading at home and success. This success is not only academic but helps build a love for reading and learning as well!

The following chart illustrates the importance of time spent reading and the relationship to percentile ranking on standardized reading assessments.

Independent Reading Minutes Per Day	Words Read Per Year	Percentile Rank
67.3	4,733,000	98 <sup>th</sup>
33.4	2,357,000	90 <sup>th</sup>
16.9	1,168,000	70 <sup>th</sup>
9.2	601,000	50 <sup>th</sup>
4.3	251,000	30 <sup>th</sup>
1.0	51,000	10 <sup>th</sup>
0.0	0	2 <sup>nd</sup>

### Dates to Remember

**January 26**  
 Celebration Assembly  
 9:30a-10:00a - Gym

**January 28**  
 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert  
 1:30p and 7:00p - Gym

**January 29**  
 End of Semester  
**NO SCHOOL**

**February 2**  
 Middle School Showcase  
 King County Aquatic Center  
 6:00-8:00p

**February 15**  
 President's Day Holiday  
**NO SCHOOL**

**February 16**  
 Mid-Winter break  
**NO SCHOOL**

As you can see, the 20-minute expectation at Camelot for reading at home places students at about the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile rank. This means that they would achieve higher than 80% of all the other students. Adding a few more minutes every day is well worth the time for the results! **I know parents want their children to excel.** By making time for reading, providing opportunities for real world math problem solving, and making homework a priority you can boost your child's performance dramatically!

I strongly encourage you to look at your daily schedule and see what you can do to make reading and math practice an important part of your regular household routine! You won't regret the gains your student will make and the time you get to spend together!

For activities you can do with your child at home please visit our district websites Parent and Student Learning Center at <http://www.fwps.org/cur/plc/>

Sincerely,

Paul Marquardt  
 Principal



## Reading Strategies for the Month: Inferring Meaning & Predicting



## Intelligent Behavior of the Month: Precision

Uses words carefully, checks for accuracy,  
attends to detail

### Reading Comprehension Strategies

Each month Camelot focuses on certain **Reading Comprehension Strategies**. Every adult and student emphasizes these strategies. They are discussed in morning announcements, classroom lessons, and even during specialist times like PE and music.

The Reading Comprehension strategies for January are: **Inferring Meaning and Predicting**

**Inferring meaning** is when you use clues in a text to draw conclusions about characters or events.

**Predicting** is when you guess what may happen next in a story based on clues from a text.

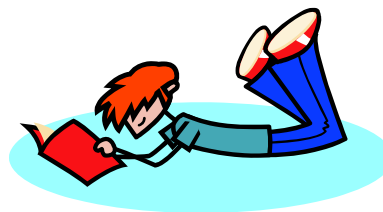
Questions to ask kids to support these comprehension strategies:

"Why do you think the character...?"

"What in the text tells you why the character...?"

"What do you think will happen next?"

"How do you think that made the character feel?"



### Replacement Technology Levy On Ballot Feb. 9

Did you know that funding for technology in schools depends entirely on local taxpayer support? The state's basic funding allocation to schools does not provide money for technology. We're grateful that our voters supported the district's first technology levy six years ago by a two-to-one margin.

However, this technology levy expires in 2010. A replacement levy is needed to keep current technology in the hands of students and staff. This is not about frills and having the latest bells and whistles. It's about keeping our students on the same footing as students around the state, nation and world.



*The replacement technology levy will not increase our taxes.* The proposed levy has been structured to coincide with a decrease in the construction bond measure collections, so that taxpayers' contributions to these two funds combined will remain level through the next six years.

The district has accomplished the goals it set out with the first technology levy. Perhaps most important of all, it's kept up-to-date computers in front of our students. At our school alone, the current technology levy has provided an average of 15 new computers for Camelot to replace aging computers each year for the past six years. This has helped ensure the computers available for our students' and staff's use are relevant and reliable. For more information, please visit <http://www.fwps.org/dept/tech/levy/>.

### Attention Fifth Grade Families

Do you know about all the programs offered for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in our district middle schools? Would you like to learn more about the choices you have in selecting your child's middle school? Please join us for the Middle School Showcase on February 2. It will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the King County Aquatics Center. All middle school programs in the district will be showcased, and you can get information on the open Choice Enrollment that occurs during the month of February. If you have a student in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year, you won't want to miss this important and informative event.

### Do You Have A Great School Success Story?

The Family & Community Partnership Office is collecting success stories in connection with great family school partnerships. If you have a positive partnership experience to share, please contact the Family Partnership Advocate, Trise Moore, at [tmoore@fwps.org](mailto:tmoore@fwps.org) or call 253-945-2273.

### Pennies for Peace

The students at Camelot are having a penny drive for the children in Pakistan and Afghanistan to help them have a better education. One penny will buy a pencil to help a student learn, and when schools come together, their pennies help build an entire school. The penny drive runs now through February 5.



### HIV/Aids Curriculum Preview

The Federal Way School District would like the opportunity to share with you the HIV/AIDS Prevention Curriculum, which will be presented to students in grades 5 through 12. This curriculum focuses on the transmission and prevention of the disease, emphasizing abstinence. The district has adopted The Great Body Shop and KNOW for this area of study.

The preview will be held Thursday, February 18th, 2010, in the Board Room at the Educational Service Center, at 31405 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Curriculum used at each grade level will be presented from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in different rooms according to grade level so that you have the opportunity to preview the materials that will be used in your child's classroom. If you need further information, please call Scott Haines at (253) 945-2780 or contact him by email at [shaines@fwps.org](mailto:shaines@fwps.org). **This presentation is for parents only.**