
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

Volume 7, Issue 4

www.fwsd.wednet.edu/Meredith

October 2001

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Kerry Woller, Secretary
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Dear Meredith Hill Families,

The Meredith Hill staff is preparing for the upcoming conferences and looking forward to good conversations about student progress. In the early weeks of school, one of the things that students and teachers were engaged in was to assess students' present levels of achievement. The data collected during the fall testing window that ended earlier this month is being used to place students in appropriate programs, to direct the instruction in the classroom, and guide do-at-home activities that will support each child's academic achievement. Teachers will have reading and math results to share with you during the fall conferences, while writing results will be available late in November. Students whose assessment data indicate that they are below grade level or significantly above grade level will be supported by Individual Academic Plans (IAP's). The teachers will be presenting the IAP's during conference time to create a comprehensive plan that involves all the stake holders. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the Meredith Hill children and staff.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

25 – Cookie Day
30-Nov. 1 - NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher Conferences K-6

NOVEMBER

5 – Picture Retake Day
6 – Community Advisory Input Meeting
7:00 p.m., Library
7 – Health Screening
7 – Veteran's Day Assembly, 2:20 p.m.
8-9 – No School for Kindergarten
Parent/Teacher Conferences
12 – NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day
13-16 - P.T.A. Coat Drive
15 – Cookie Day
21 – NO SCHOOL, Teacher Inservice Day
22-23 – NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break
29 – Cookie Day
30 – End of 1st Trimester

Celebrating Veteran's Day

A celebration to honor those who have served our country in the armed forces has been planned for Wednesday, November 7th at 2:20 p.m. in the Gym. Students, staff, parents and Veteran's are invited to attend the assembly.

Health Screening

Washington State law mandates health screening for students. Meredith Hill Health Screening Day will be Wednesday, November 7. Grades K through 3 will have hearing and vision screening. Grade 5 will have hearing, vision, and Scoliosis screening. Screening is done with respect for the student's privacy. Rechecks will be done in the weeks following screening on any student not meeting the standards for hearing or vision. We will also screen students absent on screening day at that time. Parents are notified of the results only if the student does not meet the normal criteria for the screening. This notice is intended to inform you so that you may have your student checked by your health care provider.

A written note from the parent is required to waive any part of the state mandated screening. Please call me at 253-945-3200 with any questions.

Students at any grade level may be referred to the Speech Language Pathologist for hearing screening or the School Nurse for vision screening. Parents or teachers may do this at any time during the school year for concerns of reduced visual or auditory acuity.

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Health Screening Day at Meredith Hill is coming up Wednesday, November 7. The screening is done in one day to minimize disruption to classroom time. I rely on parent volunteers to help me with this task. I will need approximately 20 volunteers. Contact the P.T.A. or the school if you are interested in helping for all or part of the day. We will teach you to screen hearing or vision; no experience necessary!

-Linda Russo, School Nurse

Boundary Committee

In the Fall of 2003, the District will be opening a new high school and creating middle schools. Under the direction of the Board of Education and the Superintendent, **volunteers** are requested to serve on the District's Boundary Committee. The Boundary Committee's **purpose** will be to review enrollment projections and building capacities, develop boundary criteria, and conduct public forums to collect issues and comments from the community. Using this information, the committee will recommend boundary changes to the Board.

Weekly meetings are anticipated beginning on January 8th and ending on May 28th. These meetings will be conducted in the evenings from about 5:30 to 8:30. If you are **interested** please call 253-945-2043 for an application. Applications are also available on the District's web-site. Completed applications must be returned to the Business Office no later than November 21, 2001.

Informational meetings will be held on Thursday, November 8th at the following locations:

6:00 P.M.
Lakota

7:00 P.M.
Saghalie

Totem

Kilo

musicians. Please let us know if this advanced notice is helpful!
-The Music Staff

Thank You Volunteers!

Volunteers generously gave 282 hours of service in the month of September! Our thanks to you!

Yearly Concert Schedule

It is amazing to see how many activities one family can have. Between soccer, basketball and choir, family calendars are very full! With this in mind, we are publishing all of the concert dates for the 2001-2002 year with the hope that some advanced notice can simplify your life! (or at least help) We will do our best to stick to these dates – if a change is required, we will do our best to notify you as early as possible.

So, here goes:

Kindergarten: Thursday, May 23, 2002

Grades 1 & 2: Thursday, May 2, 2002

Grades 3 & 4: Thursday, February 7, 2002

Grades 5 & 6: Thursday, April 4, 2002

Steel Drums: Friday, December 7, 2001

WINTERFEST

Band/Orchestra/Honor Choir/Steel Drums:

Thursday, January 23, 2002

Band/Orchestra: May 23, 2002

Honor Choir/Steel Drums: Thursday,
May 30, 2002

Honor Choir Festival:

Steel Drum Tour (during day only):

Friday, May 31, 2001

Thursday, June 5, 2002

Friday, June 6, 2002

Mark your calendar now for some fabulous concerts featuring Meredith Hill's awesome

Gate Testing

GATE nominations for students currently in the second through fifth grades will be open from November 26, 2001 through December 21, 2001. Applications will be available at the student's home school office on Monday the 26th of November. All applications must be returned to your school office **no later than Friday, December 21, 2001.**

Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 will be tested in home schools able to accommodate our team of trained test administrators. Testing will take place one morning between February 1st and February 28th. Other arrangements will be made for buildings with space restrictions.

Testing for second graders will begin March 1st and continue through March 29th.

The test length runs approximately 3 ½ hours with time added for short breaks between tests.

Upon receipt of a completed nomination packet, parents will receive a confirmation letter from our office with the date of testing.

Questions may be directed to Gwen Knechtel, GATE Program Manager at 253-945-2093 or visit our web page on the Federal Way Public Schools Web Site at: www.fwsd.wednet.edu.

Holiday Market

Federal Way Public Academy is holding their 2nd Annual Holiday Market on November 10th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Sacajawea Junior High School's Cafeteria. The Spanish language classes are putting on this holiday market in order to go to Old Mexico February 14th-22nd.

Voicemail and E-Mail

Here is a list of phone numbers for all of our teachers, which you can call directly. Teachers can also be contacted by E-mail using the following address:

First initial & first seven letters of last name
@fwsd.wednet.edu. (bnelson@fwsd.wednet.edu
or jscott@fwsd.wednet.edu)

Tanya McLeod, Psychologist	945-3207
Patty EagleCruz, Counselor	945-3208
Linda Russo, Nurse	945-3209
Jeri Dyberg, Librarian	945-3210
Bethany Sillanpaa, Speech	945-3212
Jamie Schneider, Music	945-3219
T.J. Navilio, P.E.	945-3221
Shaunna Baldyga, KG	945-3223
Sandy Scott, 1 st /2 nd	945-3224
Jessica Williams, 1 st /2 nd	945-3224
Kara Friedman, KG	945-3226
Wendy Rossmeier, DD	945-3227
Patsy Banker, Preschool	945-3228
Kathy Gehrke, 1 st	945-3230
Barb Carson, 4 th	945-3231
Val Long, 3 rd	945-3233
Ellen Iff, 5 th	945-3234
Dennis Reiersgard, 1 st	945-3235
Jason Brown, 1 st	945-3236
Ted Gamble, 4 th	945-3237
Laura Weber, 3 rd	945-3238
Jane Scott, 6 th	945-3239
Kelli Drouet, 3 rd	945-3240

Leslie Rushton, 5 th	945-3241
Char Blanchard, 5 th	945-3242
Krissy Flynn, Resource Rm.	945-3243
Karen Foster, LAP	945-3243
Bert Nelson, 4 th	945-3244
Christy Sichmeller, 2 nd	945-3245
Jackie Appia, 4 th	945-3246
Kendra Winningham, 2 nd	945-3247
Linda Brown, 2 nd	945-3248
Aaron Rea-Smith, 6 th	945-3260
Marc Burgi, 6 th	945-3261
Dave Sorlie, 6 th	945-3263

Advisory Committee

Federal Way Public School's Community Advisory Committee is seeking Meredith Hill input regarding three questions that will affect all Meredith Hill students as they go into junior high and high school. The three questions are:

- 1) Beginning with the 10th grade class in 2006, students must pass the WASL to qualify for graduation. Once a student successfully passes the WASL in 10th grade, should the student be able to earn credit towards graduation through means other than the traditional six classes a semester?
- 2) Should the Board of Education make algebra a graduation requirement?
- 3) What changes need to be made in our high school academic programs and structure? (For example...should students be grouped in smaller learning communities? Should students see fewer teachers per day than the current six, etc.)

These are very important questions to be asking, and we have an opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas. A meeting will be held at Meredith Hill in the library on Tuesday, November 6th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. to provide you the opportunity to get some background information on these questions

and to voice your responses to these questions. All input will be recorded and passed on to the community advisory committee. I hope you will put this date on your calendar and plan on being a part of the conversation.

**PICTURE RETAKE
DAY
IS NOVEMBER 5th!**