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# MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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[www.fwsd.wednet.edu/Meredith](http://www.fwsd.wednet.edu/Meredith)

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Cindy Kelsey, Principal  
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Kerry Woller, Secretary  
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Dear Meredith Hill Families,

Spring is just around the corner and at school, this means that it's assessment time. The ITBS, WASL, and instructional assessments are a natural part of March activities and provide valuable information about how close students are to meeting grade-level expectations.

Here at school, we are continuing to keep focused on reading progress. Here are a few tips that could be used at home to help your child's continuing growth in reading:

- Have your child read out loud to you a few minutes each day.
- Use flash cards to review commonly used words in reading or readiness words.
- Read aloud with your child and take turns reading paragraphs.
- Model how the reading should sound. You read a passage and then have your child read the same passage.
- Have your child read into a tape recorder and play it back.

Most of all, have fun reading with your child and family!

Sincerely,

Cindy Kelsey, Principal

## 2003-2004 District Calendar

The District Calendar Committee is seeking input from parents regarding the upcoming 2003-2004 District Calendar. If you would like to provide input, please complete the calendar survey on the home page of the District's website at <http://www.fwsd.wednet.edu>.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### MARCH

- 1 – Read Across America Assembly, 9:30 a.m.
- 4-12 – P.T.A. T-shirt Sale
- 5 – P.T.A. Board Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 8 – NO SCHOOL, State Inservice Day
- 11 – NO SCHOOL, Parent/Teacher Conf.
- 11-14 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at Camp Waskowitz
- 14 – Cookie Day
- 15 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Teacher Conf. – NO SCHOOL for 6<sup>th</sup> grade only
- 22 – School Walk-a-thon
- 22 – S.L.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 22 – Report Cards go home
- 26 – Honor Choir Festival with Woodmont
- 26 – P.T.A. General Mtg., 7:00 p.m.
- 28 – Cookie Day

### Literacy Fair at SeaTac Mall

Education Foundation will host the Literacy Fair on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. at

the SeaTac Mall to benefit the Third Annual Community Literacy Celebration. There will be spelling bees, Seussism contests, giant crossword and word find puzzles, and story readings by celebrity guests in theme decorated areas. Following the theme of "The Town That Wouldn't Get Out of Bed", a popular Seuss story of a little boy who refused to get out of bed, some story areas will be decorated around the pleasure of reading in bed. There will also be special displays representing regions of the world and the many cultures that make up the Federal Way Community including sign language.

The Community Literacy Celebration is designed to heighten literacy awareness during the month of March.

## Great Body Shop for March

The theme for Great Body Shop for the month of March is Drug Awareness.

Each grade discusses this issue as is appropriate for that age level:

Kindergarten: No Drugs, No Way!

First grade: Drugs Are Dumb

Second grade: Drugs Are Dangerous

Third grade: Say No to Smoking, Drinking, Drugs

Fourth grade: Stay Drug Free

Fifth grade: Danger Ahead: Truth About Drugs

Sixth grade: Addictions

Students will learn there are three groups of drugs:

- Medicines that are helpful if taken in the right quantities with the permission of a doctor, parent, or school nurse.
- Alcohol and nicotine which are against the law for children.
- Drugs such as marijuana, crack and cocaine which are so dangerous that they are against the Federal law for everyone.

Play a game with your child. Make up a story in which your child is pressured into doing something that he/she doesn't want to do. This situation doesn't have to include drugs; for example pretend that a friend encourages him/her to play in the area that is off-limits. Or, pretend that a classmate suggests playing a mean trick on someone else.

**Discuss ways to say "No!"**

**Suggest phrases that would help him/her get out of the situation:**

"My mother would never let me ride my bike again if I did that"; "Are you kidding? My Dad would have a fit if he found out."

**Your child can offer alternatives:**

"I don't want to do that. Let's do this instead."

**Your child can show a lack of interest:**

"You can do that. I don't want to."

**"Growing Up Drug-Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention" is available free by calling 800-624-0100.**

## Board Recognition Event

The Seventh Annual Board Recognition Event will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Kilo Junior High School. This event is to honor individuals or groups who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, knowledge, skills or citizenship and are representative of our school and our district. The social will be from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and the program from 6:45-8:00 p.m. Schools honored this night will be from Meredith Hill, Camelot, Lake Dolloff, Lakeland and Kilo.

## Report Cards/Conferences

Report cards will be sent out on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the second time this year and they will be sent home with children the final time on the last day of school.

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> is our spring conference day for grades K-5 and Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers will be inviting some families to meet with them depending on children and their needs. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them directly.

## Thank You, Voters

On February 5, Federal Way voters gave their approval to the two-year maintenance and operations levy on the ballot, maintaining the current level of our schools' funding.

King County's Elections web page shows that approximately 23% of registered voters in our

district actually voted in this election. Of those voters, over 65% voted in favor of the levy. To see specific numbers, go to <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/2002feb/respage1.htm>.

At \$2.97 per thousand assessed property value, the levy rate is actually 19% lower than it was 5 years ago. District-wide, well over one-third of the levy dollars go to certificated staff, including 90 classroom teachers. Nearly one-third goes to classified staff, including approximately 200 classroom assistants, secretaries, security staff, and custodians. The rest pays for literacy training, transportation, additional supplies and materials, student activities and athletics and so on.