
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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Countdown to June 14 and August 28 Begins

The excitement in the classroom shows signs that the much-anticipated summer vacation is just around the corner! Our sights are focused on June 14, the last day of school for grades 1-6. And behind the scenes, teachers and office staff are also working busily on plans to open the new school year on August 28. Following is information which will update you on plans and schedules for the end of this year and the start of the next!

Last day of school: June 14 is the last day of school for students in grades 1-6. Meredith Hill students will be dismissed at 11:10 a.m. and no lunches will be served that day. Kindergarten classes will end on June 13, and the last day for preschool classes is June 12. Reminders for parents prior to the last day include: (1) Make sure students have returned all library and school books, as they will not receive their report card until these are turned in or fines are paid. (2) Check the Lost and Found for any missing clothing items. We send left-behind items to the clothing bank soon after the last day of school. (3) If your child has any medications at school, make sure they are picked up by the last day. We must discard all medications at the end of the year.

Your plans for next year: Thank you to each family who returned "Enrollment Information for Next Year." This helps us make accurate plans for next year's classrooms. If you did not return this form and find that you will be moving from our service area, please give us a call at 253-945-3200 as soon as possible. It's also fine to leave a message at this number over the summer.

Next year's school hours: Meredith Hill's school day will start next year at 8:50 a.m. and will end at 3:20 p.m. Half-day preschool and kindergarten classes run from 8:50 a.m. to

11:35 a.m. for the morning session and from 12:35 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. for the afternoon session.

Next year's calendar: A copy of the 2002-2003 calendar will come home with the students' report cards. Please put this in a safe place for your reference. You will note that Wednesday, August 28 is the first day of school for students in grades 1-6. Kindergarten classes will begin on Tuesday, September 3.

Next year's class assignments: Class lists for next year will be posted on Friday, August 23. Tentative assignments have been made, and will be finalized at the end of summer when we have more accurate enrollment information.

School supply lists: A list of school supplies for your child's next grade will be included in the final report card, which goes home on the last day of school. This will allow parents to shop early and avoid the back-to-school rush. Supply lists will also be posted in our school display case in August and at the Community Resource Center at SeaTac Mall throughout the summer.

Lunch prices: Lunch prices for next year will be increased by \$.25 per meal, bringing the price of an elementary lunch to \$2.00 and junior/senior high lunch to \$2.25. The cost of breakfast for all grades, K-12, will remain the same at \$1.25.

Farewells: We extend a fond farewell and our sincere best wishes to the following staff members who will be leaving us in June. Mrs. Gehrke (1st grade, retiring), Mrs. Leapaldt (5th grade), Mr. Reiersgard (1st grade), Miss Weber (3rd grade), Mr. Ottele (2nd grade), Mrs. Sichmeller (on a one year leave from 2nd grade) and the following teacher assistants, Mrs. Dickson (technology instructor), Mrs. Jaeger, Miss Christensen, Mrs. Morrell, Mrs. Gourdine and Mrs. Thomas.

We also want to express our congratulations and farewell to our 6th grade classes as they move on to junior high, and especially to those 6th grade families who have no younger students remaining at Meredith Hill. Likewise, our fondest

wishes go to the students and families who will be moving to a new school next year. We treasure our association with each student and family, and we will miss you!

Summer office hours: Thank you, parents, for working closely alongside us this year. A strong partnership between home and school is a key to students' high achievement and learning success. Whether your travels take you near or far, have a safe and enjoyable summer! And if you need to reach me for any reason after the school year is out, please call (253) 945-3205. I'll be checking my messages throughout the summer!

Sincerely,

Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Immunizations for 5th Graders

If you have not received your 2nd MMR vaccinations you will not be assigned to a 6th grade classroom. If you have received your shot, please send your shot date to the Meredith Hill office. The next "free" immunization clinic is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th, at SeaTac Mall. Hours are 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Watch for other "free" immunization clinics in the area this summer.

Waiver and Conference Days

The School Board has approved the following to go to the State Board for approval: four non-student waiver days for next year on October 10, November 8, March 10 and May 27. These days will provide planning and training for teachers as they prepare for the transition to middle schools in 2003-2004. In addition the schedule and format for parent conferences will change next year. All elementary schools will hold student-led conferences for three days in the fall (October 30, October 31 and November 1) and for two days in the spring (March 27 and March 28). The board has recognized research which shows that learning increases when students reflect on and set goals toward their own learning.

Limos

We strongly discourage limousine rides for our departing sixth-grade students on the last day of school. We hope you will save something really special like this for when your children really graduate six years from now. Limousines at school tend to cause at least as many bad feelings as good. They also create traffic tie-ups.

If you still want to send a limousine, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Please schedule it to arrive **after** our busses depart (11:30 or so would be good.)
- All students riding in the limousine must have written permission from their parents to be taken home in the limousine – no last minute additions, please!
- Limousines are **not to enter the bus zone** until after all busses have departed – please instruct your limousine company about this expectation.

Mark Your Calendar

JUNE

- 5 – Steel Drum Tour
- 5 – Mrs. Gehrke's Class Musical, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 6 – Steel Drum Tour
- 6 – Last Cookie Day
- 6 – Mrs. Gehrke's Class Musical
- 7 – NO SCHOOL – Waiver Day
- 11 – Last Day for Band/Orchestra
- 12 – 6th Grade Recognition at Norpoint, 10:30-1:30
- 12 – Preschool Last Day
- 13 – Kindergarten Last Day
- 13 – Field Day
- 14 – End of the Year Assembly
- 14 – Last Day of School Grades 1-6, 11:10 a.m. dismissal

Culminating Project and 13th Year Plan Committee

Parents and community members are invited to participate on a committee to create a proposal for the culminating project and 13th year plan, which will go into effect as a high school graduation requirement in 2008. We hope to pilot a proposal in 2004.

Meetings of this committee will be held bi-monthly on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. from September to May 2003.

Please contact Karen Dickinson, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction at (253) 945-2122, or via email at kdickins@fwsd.wednet.edu prior to July 1, 2002.

School Times

2002-2003 School Year

First Bell:	8:48 a.m.
Tardy Bell:	8:50 a.m.
Dismissal:	3:20 p.m.
Office Hours:	7:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
A.M. Kindergarten:	8:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten:	12:35 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

First Day of School
August 28, 2002