
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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March 2005

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
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Help for ESL Families

In order to enhance two-way communications, the English as a Second Language (ESL) program offers VOICE mailboxes so that families can call about attendance issues and/or any other concerns they hope to be addressed. Three interpreters will check messages twice a day at the following phone numbers and pass along messages as needed:



Spanish (253) 945-2473
Russian (253) 945-2382
Korean (253) 945-2472

Please pass this information on to friends who may not be able to read English, and encourage them to use these access lines as often as needed!

Meredith Hill 10th Anniversary Plans

Meredith Hill will be holding their 10th Anniversary celebration on Friday, March 11. The events will include an all school assembly starting at 2:30 p.m. As part of the assembly we would like to invite past students, parents and staff to join us at the assembly for a then-and-now tribute.

An evening event will take place to honor past staff members and school dignitaries. Our Steel Drum Band and also the primary Honor choir will present entertainment. There will be a "Meet and Greet" starting at 6:30 p.m. for everyone to get reacquainted. Please be a part of our celebration. Call or e-mail Mary Jane Henry at (253) 945-3200 or mhenry@fwps.org.

Planning Ahead for Kindergarten Registration

We will be registering students for Kindergarten on May 2nd through May 13th. Remember to bring your child's immunization record and birth certificate when you register. If you have any questions, or if you would be interested in an all-day, tuition-based program, please call (253) 945-3200.

MARCH Calendar

- 2- 8 Scholastic Book Fair 9:00-3:00
- 3- Science Van at Meredith Hill:
Space Odyssey!
Cookie Day
Scholastic Book Fair Extended Hours
9:00 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.
- 8- 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Concerts
2:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- 11- "A Whale of a Day" Ten Year Celebration
Assembly 2:45
Meet and Greet 6:30-7:00 p.m.
PTA Family Night Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 14- Meredith Hill Battle of the Books
Gym 10:20
- 16- End of Second Trimester
- 17- District Waiver Day NO SCHOOL
- 18- State Inservice Day NO SCHOOL
- 21- 25 PTA Tee Shirt Sale
- 22- Kilo Presentation to 5th Grade Parents
- 24- PTA General Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Election of Officers
- 25- Report Cards Go Home
- 29- Battle of the Books
Decatur Middle School 7:00 p.m.
- 3/31-4/1- Parent/Teacher Conferences
NO SCHOOL

APRIL Calendar

- 1- Parent/Teacher Conferences
NO SCHOOL
- 4 -8 - Spring Break
NO SCHOOL
- 14- Read and Lead Assembly 2:30
Cookie Day
- 16- Practice Meet 8:30 a.m.
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 19- PTA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Budget
- 21- K/1st Music Concert
2:30 and 7:00 p.m.

March Is Poison Prevention Month

Take time now to remind yourself and your family about the common and potentially hazardous products found at home, at school, and in the workplace. Familiarize yourselves with the Washington Poison Center and its 24-hour hotline staffed by pharmacists, nurses, and physicians, all trained to respond to calls concerning household hazards, drug identification, drug and poison effects, and chemicals in the environment. Always, prevention is of key importance.

Poison centers aren't just for people; we should take precautions to avoid accidental pet poisonings too.

In case of poisoning:

1. Call the Poison Center immediately:
Toll-free 1-800-732-6985.
2. Confirm the poison involved.
3. As appropriate, either rinse skin, flush eyes or move to fresh air. ONLY if instructed, cause vomiting.
4. In the case of convulsion, coma and caustics, DO NOT induce vomiting.

Information provided by Washington Poison Center

Preschool Registration

Preschool registration for new students will begin on March 14th from 10:00-4:00. Please bring immunization records, a copy of a birth certificate, and a \$25.00 registration fee. One month's tuition of \$170, to be applied to the last month of enrollment, is also due by June 1, 2005.



Read Across America Day at Meredith Hill

What a great day of celebration Meredith Hill had on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday. To kick off the celebration, the Cat in the Hat arrived at Meredith Hill on board a Federal Way Fire Truck. The students entered the building to find the whole school decorated with balloons, and a blowup "Grinch" character in the foyer. Each teacher's door was decorated recognizing the wonderful books Dr. Seuss wrote. The morning activities also included a variety of guests from our community who read their favorite books to the children. Some students were even seen eating Green Eggs and Ham! The day's celebration came to a close in the afternoon at an assembly with magician, Jeff Evans, who helped us celebrate the fun things that happen when you read books! Thanks to the Meredith Hill students, staff, parents and the Read Across America committee for making this such a memorable day!

Han Woo-Ri: The Northwest Korean Sports & Cultural Festival

The first major Korean cultural festival in the Pacific Northwest will make its debut in May in Federal Way, Washington. The “Korean Wave,” or enthusiasm for Korean popular culture, is currently at its peak in Asia and is making its way to the U.S. The City of Federal Way is riding the Wave by hosting the new Festival, which features international, traditional and contemporary art and music, as well as golf, soccer, Tae Kwon Do, a Korean film showcase, and Bonsai demonstrations. The City hopes the Festival will become a signature event for the region.

The Han Woo-Ri Festival site will be a large circus-style tent in the Sears parking lot at the intersection of 320th and Pacific Highway in Federal Way, from May 13th through May 15th. Inside the tent will be multiple stages with local and international music and dance performances and areas for authentic Korean exhibits, demonstrations and culinary fare. The golf and soccer tournaments, the Bonsai demonstration, and a Korean film showcase are slated throughout the weekend at various venues in the immediate area. Suggested donation is \$5 at the door. Some events are ticketed separately.

Music and dance performances for school groups by Balkwang and the Gangwon Provincial Arts Group will kick off the Festival on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, presented in partnership with the Seattle International Children’s Festival.

The family festival will run Friday through Sunday, and will feature many aspects of Korean culture, including music and dance, art, ceremonies and crafts.

Three musical groups representing traditional and contemporary Korean music and dance are coming from Korea.

The Province of Gangwon, home of Federal Way’s sister city, Donghae, will send members of *The Gangwon Provincial Arts Group* to participate in the Festival. The group was formed to celebrate, preserve and share the cultural heritage of Gangwon, Korea. The performers will bring ancient Korea to the Pacific Northwest, sharing the rich history and traditions of this venerable province, including the unique instruments and graceful fan dances.



More than 75,000 Koreans and Korean-Americans live in Washington State, with nearly 7,500 in Federal Way alone. Patrick Doherty, Director of Economic Development for the City of Federal Way, the seventh-largest city in Washington, said “We are right in the middle of the Northwest Korean diaspora, which stretches from Lynnwood to Lakewood.” The Festival’s Korean sports, cultural and trade programs, developed with the help of the local Korean community as well as national and international Korean cultural organizations and business partners, will draw attendance from the area’s Korean population and will also offer a unique opportunity for non-Koreans to understand and appreciate aspects of Korean culture.

We hope you will plan to attend this cultural event in May.

State Assessments Scheduled for March and April

You've heard the phrase, "Testing, 1, 2, 3"? That could be the theme at Meredith Hill and at schools across the district during the months of March and April. The table below shows the state tests that are planned for grades 3, 4, and 5 during the next two months. These assessments will be used—along with classroom assignments, observations and tests—to help teachers measure student progress toward meeting state and district standards, and to determine students' readiness for promotion to the next grade.

	Who will take the test?	When & how long is this test?
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) (A "standardized test" which compares results with students across the nation)	All 3 rd grade students in WA.	The test takes approx. 3 hours total; each school selects testing dates between March 7-31. Meredith Hill 3 rd graders will be tested on March 15, 16, 22, and 23.
WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) (A state-wide test to measure how students are performing on state standards.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All 4th grade students in Washington are tested in Reading, Math & Writing. •All 5th grade students are tested in Science. •This year, 3rd and 5th grade students will take a WASL pilot test in reading and math. 	The test is not timed, but each sub-test must be completed within one school day. Teachers must schedule testing sessions between Apr. 18 and May 5.

How can I help my child prepare for these tests?

For any testing situation at school, parents can encourage students to stay calm and do their best. A good night's rest and a hearty breakfast provide energy and alertness. Third grade students at Meredith Hill will take the ITBS on March 15, 16, 22, and 23. If possible, try not to schedule any appointments or trips that would take students out of school during testing times. Third, fourth and fifth grade teachers will begin WASL testing the week of April 18. A letter has been sent informing parents of the exact testing dates.

The good news is, your work in helping your child meet grade level reading and math expectations is an on-going effort, and we encourage you to keep it up. Parents offer this support all year long by: (1) setting aside a 20-30 min. reading time with their children each day; (2) helping students practice skills in reading and math; (3) reviewing completed or corrected homework with their child; and (4) keeping in touch with the teacher regarding their child's progress.

When will I know the results of these tests?

Results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for 3rd grade are expected prior to the end of the school year, and will be shared with parents as soon as they are available. Results of the 4th grade WASL and 5th grade Science WASL will be sent to parents in early September, 2005. Since this is a "pilot year" for the 3rd and 5th grade Reading and Math WASL, no individual results will be available.

If you have specific questions about these tests, you can call your child's teacher or me. As you review March's report cards, we encourage you to celebrate with your children the progress you see in their learning. It is also an important time to collaborate with teachers and school staff on ways to increase success if students continue to struggle. Let us continue our work together to help ALL children achieve their highest potential!

Sincerely,
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

