
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

Volume 10, Issue 8

www.fwps.org/Meredith

April 2005

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ECEAP Preschool Assistance

Federal Way ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and Head Start are accepting applications for enrollment into preschool for next September. These are free preschool programs for low-income families. Eligibility is based on annual income and child's age. Priority is given to children who turn age four before September 1, 2005. A limited number of three-year-olds may be considered if space is available. If you have any questions or would like an application, you can call the Information Line at 253-945-2379. Leave your name, address, and child's date of birth, and someone will return your call.

Nomination Notice for 3/4/5 GATE Program

Nominations for placement in the 2005-06 GATE class are open to Meredith Hill students in second, third, and fourth grade. Nomination forms will be available in the main office starting Monday, April 11. Please return them to Mrs. Kelsey by Friday, April 29.

The placement team will consider information from the following:

- * Student test scores (State & district)
- * Student Portfolio (Classroom work samples etc.)
- * DASIS (Developmentally Accelerated Skills Inventory)
- * Parent, Teacher, Community member nominations.

Parents will be notified by Mrs. Kelsey regarding final placement in the GATE class.

Kindergarten Registration

We are ready to welcome our 2005-2006 Kindergarten students and their parents. Registration will be in the Meredith Hill office from 10:00 to 3:30 on May 2 through May 13.

Before the first day of school, your child must be current on immunizations according to district guidelines:

- * Four doses of DTP, last dose after four years old
- * Three doses Polio, last dose after four years old
- * Two doses MMR, both after one year old and at least 28 days apart
- * Three doses Hep B.

In addition to bringing your student's immunization records, please bring with you for registration:

- * A copy of your child's birth certificate
- * Addresses and phone numbers for paperwork
- * Proof of residence.

We hope to offer kindergarten parents the option of a half-day or full-day class for next year. Full-day requires parents to pay \$200 each month in tuition. To plan in advance for these classes, we need everyone to come in and sign up!

Kindergarten Round Up will be held at our school on Thursday, May 19 from 6:30 to 7:30. Please plan on meeting the principal and kindergarten teachers at that time.

What is the "BECCA Bill"?

In 1995, the Washington Legislature passed the Compulsory School Attendance Law, a law known as the Becca Bill. This bill addresses several areas of public policy, including those affecting at-risk, runaway, and truant youth, and outlines duties of students, schools and parents regarding school attendance.

1. All parents in this state shall cause a student to attend the public school (with exceptions – see RCW 28A.224.010) between eight years of age and eighteen years of age.
2. The child shall have the responsibility to, and therefore, shall attend for the full time when public school is in session (with documented exceptions).
3. If a child fails to attend school without valid justification, the School District duties are:
 - a. Inform the custodial parent by a notice in writing or by telephone after one unexcused absence within any month during the current school year
 - b. Schedule (or attempt to schedule) a conference with parent and child after 2nd unexcused absence
 - c. Take steps to eliminate or reduce the child's absences
 - d. File a petition with juvenile court after youth has seven unexcused absences in one month or ten unexcused absences in one school year or at any time excused or unexcused absences are barriers to academic progress.

The biggest change with this law is that youth are required to attend school or another approved education program until they are 18 years of age or have a diploma or a GED Certificate. **Prior to the passage of this law**, students were not legally required to attend school once they turned 16.

Parents can file a *BECCA Petition*, an *At Risk Youth Petition* or a *Child in Need of Services Petition* under this law. To find out more about the Compulsory School Attendance Law, go to <http://www.metrokc.gov/proatty/Truancy>.

The FWPS BECCA Representative is Nancy Saunders; she can be contacted by e-mail (nsaunder@fwps.org) or by phone (253-945-2058).

AmeriCorps Sweets for Success Dessert Benefit

Come join us at Todd Beamer High School on May 20th for Sweets for Success. The Federal Way AmeriCorps team has put together this informal dessert benefit to establish a fund supporting students in need of financial assistance for FWPS sponsored activities. The event will start at 6:00 p.m. Admission includes your selection from a variety of mouth watering desserts, as well as local entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. For tickets, donation information, or questions, contact sweetsforsuccess@hotmail.com or call AmeriCorps Vista Leader Danielle Bonner at (253) 839-4259. Hope to see you there!

Battle Trophy Brought Home

On March 29th, the fifth annual District Battle of the Books Competition was held at Decatur High School. The room was a mix of excitement and tension as students from all 23 elementary schools competed to see which team could answer the most questions correctly from this year's Battle of the Books reading list. When all was said and done, Meredith Hill's team, The Long Patrol, was declared the winner with 22 out of 25 questions answered correctly. Meredith Hill's team members were David Camp, Marshall Herrick, Paul Jaquish, and Zach Martin. The students each received a medallion and a gift certificate to Borders bookstore. In addition to their individual awards, they were presented with a Battle of the Books trophy which will remain at Meredith Hill until the 2006 Battle of the Books Championship takes place next March. Battle of the Books – Making Reading a Varsity Sport!

APRIL Calendar

- 11– Welcome Back!
- 13– Drouet, Blanchard, Gamble
4th Grade Field Trip to Olympia
9:30-2:45
Last Read and Lead bookstore
- 14– Read and Lead Assembly
“Lewis and Clark” 2:30
Cookie Day
Juggling Begins-Thursdays 3:50-4:30
- 16– Practice Meet 8:30 a.m.
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 18-May 5– WASL Testing
- 19– PTA Board Meeting 6:30
Budget
- 21– K/1st Music Concerts 2:30/7:00
Juggling 3:50-4:30
- 23– Grades K-2 District Meet
9:30/1:30
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 28– Cookie Day
- 29– Preschool to Seattle Aquarium
10:00-3:00
Juggling 3:50-4:30
- 30– District Qualifying Meet 8:30/12:30
Grades 3/4/5
FWHS Memorial Stadium

Planning Your Vacation Time

Planning your vacation for 2005-2006? Please take time to check the Federal Way School District website at www.fwps.org. The calendar for the 2005-2006 school year, with the first and last days of school, winter, mid-winter and spring breaks are all there. Please consult the calendar before you make travel or vacation plans. We want all our students here every day. Even a few missed days can make a difference for a student. Missed school days can affect your student's academic success, relationships with peers, and make it difficult to transition back into the classroom smoothly. Thank you for helping us, by having your student attend every day he or she can possibly be present.

MAY Calendar

- 2-13– Kindergarten Registration
- 4– 2nd Grade Field Trip
Museum of Flight 9:30-2:00
- 5– Last Day WASL Testing
Juggling 3:50-4:30
- 9– Barb Carson Class Field Trip
Seattle City Center 9:30-3:30
- 12– Jason Brown 1st Grade Class
Field Trip to Olympia 9:00-3:30
Grades 4/5 Music Concerts 2:30/7:00
Juggling 3:50-4:30
Cookie Day
- 14– Grades 3/4/5 Championship Meet
9:00 a.m. Qualifiers Only
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 16– Waiver Day
NO SCHOOL
- 19– Kindergarten Round-Up 6:30
Juggling 3:50-4:30
- 24– Science Fair 5:30-6:30
PTA Board Meeting 6:30
Approve Budget
- 26– Cookie Day
Juggling 3:50-4:30
- 27– Steel Drum Performance
All 5th Graders
Seattle Center 11:00-3:30
- 30– Holiday
NO SCHOOL
- 31– Snow Make-Up Day
NO SCHOOL

Volunteer Hours

We thank our wonderful volunteers who have so generously given of their time and talent.
February: 189 Hours

Scholastic Book Fair Results

The Scholastic Book Fair held at the beginning of March was a great success. The library would like to thank all those who attended and supported this annual Spring event. The proceeds of the sale will be used to purchase more books and equipment to benefit all patrons of our Meredith Hill library community.