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# MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

Volume 11, Issue 1

www.fwps.org/Meredith

September 2005

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Cindy Kelsey, Principal  
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary  
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

## Welcome, everyone, to the 2005-06 School Year at Meredith Hill!

The school year is off to a great start! Thank you for attending the Meredith Hill orientation day on September 6. The first-week jitters have passed and everyone is settling in to the routines that will bring success in school. We are so glad to have this chance to participate in your child's learning. We hope to work closely with you to make sure it is the best year possible. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us at school if there are questions we can answer or information you'd like to share.

Meredith Hill is a wonderful place for children to grow and learn. We want to maintain positive relationships and communication with parents. Right from the start, teachers establish ways to communicate daily work and events with you using folders and planners that your children take home everyday. At orientation, you were given a School Information Booklet that contains phone numbers and e-mail addresses for the Meredith Hill staff. Please communicate with your child's teacher whenever you need to. If you need help communicating with us in another language, please contact one of these district interpreters. They will deliver your message to us usually on the same day.

Spanish Interpreter	253-945-2473
Russian Interpreter	253-945-2382
Korean Interpreter	253-945-2472

A big thanks to the Meredith Hill PTA who brought us all together last Friday night for a Meet-and Greet. The time together helped us make further connections among our parents, staff, and community.

We are celebrating the great achievement of Meredith Hill students on WASL. Almost 97% of our students met standard in the Reading! In the area of writing, 75% of our students met standard, and in math, 71%. Our students worked very hard last year, as did teachers, parents, and volunteers, to achieve these results. Congratulations!

The Meredith Hill staff is excited about the school year ahead. We will measure our success by each child's accomplishments and by strong partnership with Meredith Hill families. We extend our warmest welcome to each family, and encourage you to keep in close touch throughout the school year!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

## Rainy Day Recess

Here in the Northwest, we are accustomed to many days of rain. At Meredith Hill, we feel that it is important for children to be outside during recess times, even on rainy days. Of course, when there is lightening, we will make sure students are inside and safe. Please send appropriate clothing with your child on the days that rain is forecast so that they will be comfortable and dry while outside. We do have a covered play area where the children can spend their recess time. Some of the kids who don't have rain gear choose to play out in the rain. Please discuss this option with your child. When a child makes the choice to play in the rain without rain gear, they will be choosing to spend the remainder of the day wearing wet clothing. We will not be providing a change of clothing or phone calls home for dry clothing if a student gets wet because he or she has made the choice to play in the rain.

# **Federal Way School District Confidentiality Notice— Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974: Annual Notification**

The Federal Way Public Schools #210 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all District employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and grievance procedures may be directed to the School District's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer and/or Section 504 Coordinator.

Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer:

Courtney Wood, 31405 18th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003 Tel. (253) 945-2029.

Section 504 Coordinators:

Elementary: Chuck Nykreim, 31405 18th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003 Tel. (253) 945-2082.  
Secondary: Chris Willis, 31405 18th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003 Tel. (253) 945-2084.

If you have questions, feel free to call me at the number below.

Thanks,

Deb Stenberg  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Federal Way Public Schools  
253-945-2266  
206-799-2155 (cell)

## **Annual Notification**

The Federal Way School District, Special Education Department, is required by Section 99.37 of Federal regulations titled, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), to provide parents annual notification of their FERPA rights. If parents have a primary or home language other than English, the district will effectively notify them of their rights under this Section.

The parents or eligible student has a right to:

1) Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to Student Support Services Department a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Department will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2) The right to request the amendment of the students' education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the Federal Way School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Director of Student Support Services, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their

right to hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the students education records, except to the extent that the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent;

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the district has contract to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4) The right to file with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S.  
Department of Education, 400 Maryland  
Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-4605

(5) A copy of this policy is available by request at Student Support Services, Federal Way School District, 31405 18th Ave S., Federal Way, WA 98003 or (253) 945-2080.

This notice is intended to comply with the applicable requirements on 34 CFR, part 300; 34 CFR, Part 99; and WAC 392-172-404.

## Lunchroom News

The supervisors in the lunchroom will no longer be able to heat lunches in the microwave that are brought from home. We realize that it had been quite convenient to have this option in the past. However, our lunchroom staff need to be supervising students rather than spending the majority of their time in the kitchen warming lunches in the microwave. Please send lunches with your child that will not require heating.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

15 – Cookie Day  
PTA Board Meeting 6:30  
29– Cookie Day

## OCTOBER

6– Science Center  
13– NO SCHOOL  
Waiver Day  
14– NO SCHOOL  
State Inservice  
18 – PTA Board Meeting 6:30  
20 – Cookie Day  
14– Pre-School to Pumpkin Patch  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
25– Book Fair begins  
26– End of First Quarter  
27, 28–SLC Conferences

## Welcome New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome new Meredith Hill staff:

Mrs. Elizabeth Boggs, Grades 1/2  
Ms. Erin Gillick, Grade 4  
Ms. Cynthia Rodriguez, I728/LAP/ELO  
Ms. Kat Vellos, AmeriCorps Volunteer  
Mrs. Diana Camp, Team teaching  
with Mrs. Tweedie, Grade 3  
Mrs. Meradene Moehrle, Preschool  
Paraeducator

## Public Notice—Federal Way Public Schools Student Support Services

Does your child have a mental, physical, or developmental impairment or disability that has a major impact on learning, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, working, and caring for oneself or performing manual tasks? Is there a recorded history of your youngster having such an impairment? Even if your child does not have a disability, does your youngster possess certain characteristics that would somehow cause others to treat him or her as if they did have an impairment?

If you answer yes to any of the above questions, your child may be eligible for special education, related services and/or specialized educational accommodations. The applicable regulations would be the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For further information, to refer your child for screening, or to make your youngster a focus of concern, please contact the office listed below. The

eligible age range would be from birth to 21 years.

Student Support Services  
Federal Way Public Schools  
31405 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Federal Way, WA 98003-5433  
(253) 945-2080

## International Walk to School Day— Wednesday, October 5, 2005

Meredith Hill Elementary will be joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 5, 2005. Students from Meredith Hill will be walking to school that day along with parents and teachers.

Now in its ninth year, International Walk to School Day is expected to include 3,000 schools from all 50 states. The idea is to walk to school together with a purpose — to promote health, safety, physical activity and concern for the environment. Walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in 36 countries around the world. The Wednesday event is part of a week of festivities celebrating International Walk to School Week (October 3-7, 2005).

Look for more information coming home in the next few weeks about this event. For additional information, please visit these web sites:

International Walk to School in the USA

[www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org)

International Walk to School Week

[www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org)

Partnership for a Walkable America

[www.walkableamerica.org](http://www.walkableamerica.org)