
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Shutterbugs Needed

Jeri Dyberg and Gina Rodgers will be working together on the end-of-the-year slide show, and would like to begin working on it as soon as possible.

They are asking for digital photos from the community, and would like for these to be candid, and not posed pictures. (Please pass your posed pictures on to Mrs. Blanchard for the yearbook.) For now, they are looking for pictures from the first day or week of school, the Pacific Science day, and any special fall activities.

When submitting these pictures, please send them by an email attachment, on a CD, or on a memory stick. Due to time constraints, please limit your pictures to 20 OR LESS.

Send emails to: girodger@fwps.org or jdyberg@fwps.org.

Safe and Drug Free Schools

The Federal Way School District is a drug-free school district. It is the policy of the Board of Education to recognize alcohol and other drug use/abuse as a societal problem and that substance abuse and drug dependency is a disease process that may be successfully treated. The district supports abstinence from drugs, alcohol and mind-altering substances for all students so their development can reach full intellectual, emotional, social, and physical potential. The district therefore maintains a "zero tolerance" policy.

The Federal Way School District believes that the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and

mind-altering substances by students is not only illegal in most cases, but also hinders their learning and is detrimental to their health. The possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or mind altering substances by students on or adjacent to school property or at school sponsored activities is prohibited.

Students who violate this prohibition will be subject to discipline. Offenses shall be cumulative in grades kindergarten through 12.

Students will be disciplined when there is reasonable cause to believe they have violated the prohibition against possession or use of alcohol, illicit drugs or mind-altering substances. Reasonable cause shall mean specific observable facts that can be described and that indicate a particular student is in the possession of, or has used alcohol, illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, or mind-altering substances on or adjacent to school property, or at school sponsored activities. Students shall not be in possession of anabolic steroids on school premises. No student may give, dispense, or administer any medication or remedy to another student.

Discipline:

First offense for use or possession is a suspension; parent conference required; and law enforcement agencies will be contacted. The suspension may be modified if a student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Federal Way School District, and follows the assessment recommendation(s). The district requires release of the assessment information.

Second offense for use or possession may be either a long-term suspension or emergency

expulsion; parent conference required; law enforcement will be contacted; and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted. Suspension may be modified if a student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Federal Way School District, and follows the assessment recommendation (s). The district requires release of the assessment information. Third offense for use or possession will be expulsion; parent conference required; and law enforcement will be contacted.

First offense for selling and/or delivering for grades K-4 will be long-term suspension, and for grades 5-12 will result in expulsion; parent conference required; and law enforcement will be contacted. Suspension for grades K-4 may be modified if a student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Federal Way School District, and follows the assessment recommendation(s). The district requires release of the assessment information. Child Protective Services will be contacted if the parents/guardians do not follow through with the assessment recommendations.

Second offense for selling and/or delivering for grades K-4 will be expulsion; parent conference required; and law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS) will be contacted. Expulsion may be modified if the student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Federal Way School District. If the student does not complete the recommendations of the assessment, remaining expulsion days will go into effect. The district requires release of the assessment information.

Third offense for selling and/or delivering for grades K-4 will be expulsion.

Help and support for drug and alcohol issues are available in the Federal Way area. If you need additional information or resources, please contact a school counselor. The following is a partial list of agencies you can contact:

- Al-Anon and Alateen Information Svc (206) 625-0000
- Horizon Treatment Services (253) 564-3377
- Auburn Youth Resources (253) 939-2202
- King County Sexual Assault Resources (800) 825-7273
- Change to Change (formerly Crossroads) (253) 853-7954
- Kent Youth & Family Services (253) 859-0300
- Federal Way Youth & Family Services (253) 835-9975
- Lakeside Milam Recovery Center (206) 241-0890
- Child Protective Services (CPS) (253) 872-2665 (Kent)
- Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation (253) 939-4055

Additional family and individual help may be available through your medical practitioner, an employee assistance program at work, or religious organizations.

Drug and alcohol assessments are available to students in the Federal Way School District. The district has contracted with a state certified chemical dependency agency to conduct assessments on-site at the schools and to provide students and parents with information concerning the level of chemical use or non-use. Recommendations for help will also be given after the assessment.

Elementary students may receive a prevention evaluation from the state certified chemical dependency agency. Prevention evaluations identify risk factors for potential substance use as a child becomes older. These evaluations are available at the elementary schools. A parent conference occurs after the student and evaluation counselor meet.

Contact your school for an appointment and more information about the assessments/evaluations.

PTA Food Drive

The PTA is conducting a food drive from November 7 thru November 18, for our Community Food Bank. This year the bank is in special need of baby items (such as diapers and formula,) dog and cat food, as well as canned goods. Donations may be sent with your children to their classrooms. Thank you for your generosity.

Music Concert Schedule

- K/1 Concert
April 6th, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/3 Concert
March 9, 7:00 p.m.
- 4/5 Concert
May 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Honor Choir and Steel Drum Concerts
January 26 and June 6, 7:00 p.m.
- Steel Drum Concert at Winterfest
December 9

Children's Book Week

Help Meredith Hill celebrate Children's Book Week, from November 14th through the 18th, by participating in our dress-up days:

- 14th- Be a Winner - Read!
Wear sports clothing.
- 15th- Front to Back or Back to Front,
Reading is Where It's At!
Wear your clothing backwards.
- 16th- Black and White and Read All Over.
Wear black & white.
- 17th- Reading Gives You Character.
Dress as a favorite storybook character.
- 18th- Reading is the Cat's Pajamas!
Wear pajamas.

Thank you, Meredith Hill. 627 books will be donated to victims of the Katrina Hurricane.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 – Cookie Day
- 7-18– PTA Food Drive
- 10– Student Council Meeting- Election of Officers
Veteran's Day Assembly 10:00
- 11– Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
- 15 – PTA General Meeting-Election of Nominating Committee 6:30
- 17 – Cookie Day
National Book Week Assemblies
1:20 K/1/2
2:20 3/4/5
- 18 – PTA Family Bingo 5:00-8:00
- 24, 25– Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 – Cookie Day
- 9– PTA Winterfest/Steel Drum Concert 5:30 – 8:30

Keys to Walking Safety: Following Rules and Visibility

Our Northwest days are growing shorter and shorter and, especially on foggy or rainy days, it can be a tremendous challenge for a driver to see pedestrians and bike-riders along our roads. Our police departments are taking extra measures to watch for unsafe drivers in school zones, but they can't be everywhere all of the time.

In the end, it comes down to each of us making good decisions to drive safely, and to educate our children about keeping themselves safe. There are two major questions to consider before you let your child go out the door in the morning.

Can drivers see my child, even in the dark, fog and rain? Making sure your child wears light-colored clothing and adding reflective tape to backpacks or jackets are two simple steps you can take.

Is my child following basic pedestrian safety rules? In a recent e-mail, a rattled driver described a middle school-aged boy wearing dark clothing and walking in the road, instead of on the shoulder.

If your children walk to and from school or a bus stop, discuss a safe route for them to use, and insist that they stick to that same route all the time. If they are late, you will know where to look for them. Also remind your children to follow basic pedestrian safety rules:

- Use crosswalks that have a crossing guard, and follow the guard's instructions
- Cross at corners marked with crosswalks, not part way up the block
- Never cross an intersection "kitty corner"
- Wait on the curb to cross until there is no traffic
- If there are traffic signals at the corner, use the pedestrian buttons
- Walk, don't run, across the street
- Walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

"Stranger danger" is another concern for children walking without an adult. Remind your child to:

- Always walk with a buddy or in groups of students
- Use sidewalks or paths in clear sight of homes, business, cars and other people
- Never use shortcuts like trails even if others do it – stay where you can be seen
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially people and cars around you
- Don't let anyone persuade you to come near or get into a vehicle, or to leave a public area
- Don't allow a stranger to come close enough to reach you.

At Meredith Hill, we are committed to the safety of your child. If you have any concerns or questions, please call our office at (253)945-3200

Building Schools Building Community Building Our Future

A \$245 million school construction bond measure is being submitted to the voters by Federal Way Public Schools on the February 7, 2006, ballot. Extensive information is available at www.fwps.org/info/bond, but here are some basic facts to consider:

Over the course of the following six years, the bond measure will:

- Rebuild four elementary schools- Lakeland, Panther Lake, Valhalla and Sunnycrest
- Rebuild Lakota Middle School
- Rebuild Federal Way High School
- Rebuild Memorial Stadium in a more central location
- Create a 900-seat Performance Auditorium for school and community use
- Create an Environmental Studies Center
- Consolidate district-wide services including the bus yard, maintenance, the central kitchens and other support services to an easily accessible central location near the new Memorial Stadium.

In Federal Way, over 60 percent of our school buildings are 35 years old or older. Many of these schools do not appear to be in disrepair. But the things you often can't see, like roofs, furnaces, and electrical, plumbing, and ventilation systems are the most costly to replace and repair. If not replaced, maintaining these structures will require an ever-larger percentage of the operations budget. Independent consultants analyzed the structures and have indicated that rebuilding is the most cost-effective solution.

Our community's future rests with our children. To learn more about the bond, go to www.fwps.org/info/bond, call 253-945-2266 or e-mail 06bond@fwps.org.

National Children's Book Week Celebration
Dress Up Days
November 14th - 18th, 2006

14th- Be a Winner - Read! (Wear sports clothing)

15th - Front to Back or Back to Front, Reading is Where It's At! (Wear your clothing backwards)

16th - Black and White and Read All Over (Wear black & white)

17th - Reading Gives You Character (Dress as a favorite storybook character)

18th - Reading is the Cat's Pajamas! (Wear pajamas)

