
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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April 2006

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Nomination Notice for 3/4/5 GATE Program

Nominations for placement in the 2006-07 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 17. Please return them to Mrs. Kelsey by Friday, April 28.

The placement team will consider information from the following:

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

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

Battle Trophy Brought Home (Again!)

On March 21st, the sixth annual District Battle of the Books Competition took place in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Decatur High School. Parents, teachers, and supporters filled the performance auditorium where there 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.

In the end, and for the second year in a row, Meredith Hill's team was declared the winner. The P.E.D.S. answered 24 out of 25 questions correctly. Meredith Hill's team members were Drew C., Ean V., Paul J., and Sarah M. This team set out to win and their determination and hard work paid off. Their strategy was to know the books so well that there would be no surprises when the questions were asked. They outdistanced their competitors in both the school battle and the district battle by reading the books several times each and quizzing themselves and their teammates using the questions written by all students who competed in our local school battle.

The team members each received a medallion and a gift certificate to Borders bookstore. In addition to their individual awards, they were presented with the Battle of the Books trophy on which their names will be engraved. The trophy will remain at Meredith Hill until the 2007 Battle of the Books Championship takes place. We are very proud of these students who demonstrated what it means to Be Prepared for the Task at Hand.

Can Meredith Hill set the record again in 2007? Is it possible to win three years in row? This is the challenge that faces the students at Meredith Hill next year. For those that plan to take on the challenge, the 2007 reading list for next year's battle will be out sometime in late May or early June.

Meredith Hill Battle of the Books –
Making Reading a Varsity Sport!

Kindergarten Registration

We are ready to welcome our 2006-2007 Kindergarten students and their parents. Registration will be in the Meredith Hill office from 10:00 to 3:30 on May 1 through May 12.

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
- * Single dose of Varicella, after one year old, or documentation of having the disease (Chicken Pox).

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 again offer kindergarten parents the option of a half-day or full-day class for the coming year. This year, full-day tuition was \$210 each month, on a ten-month contract. Next year's tuition will be specified shortly. 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 18 from 6:30 to 7:30. Please plan on meeting the principal and kindergarten teachers at that time.

Volunteer Hours

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

February:	165 Hours
March:	216 hours

Research on Future Bond Issues to be Discussed

Federal Way residents are invited to attend a meeting of the newly appointed Federal Way Public Schools bond committee Tuesday, April 4th, 7 p.m., at Federal Way High School Library, 30611 16th Ave. S. The committee, chaired by Board Director Charlie Hoff, will discuss "Research on Future Bond Issues."

APRIL Calendar

- 4- Kilo Reps meet with 5th Graders
- 5- Carson to Seattle Children's Theatre
9:30-2:45
Juggling 3:20-4:00
- 6- Cookie Day
K/1st Music Concerts 2:30/7:00
- 10-14- Spring Break
- 18-May 3- WASL Testing
- 19- Juggling 3:20-4:00
- 20- PTA Board Meeting 6:30
Budget
Cookie Day
- 22- Qualifying Meet
3rd through 5th Grades 8:30 a.m.
FWHS Memorial Stadium
Regular Meet
K through 2nd Grades 2:00 p.m.
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 26- Juggling 3:20-4:00
- 28- Preschool to Point Defiance 10:00 a.m.

MAY Calendar

- 1-11- Kindergarten Registration
- 3- Last Day WASL Testing
Juggling 3:00-4:00
- 4- Cookie Day
- 6- All Athletes Championship Meet
8:30 a.m. Qualifiers Only
FWHS Memorial Stadium
- 12- Waiver Day NO SCHOOL

Planning Your Vacation Time

Planning your vacation for 2006-2007? Please take time to check the Federal Way School District website at www.fwps.org. The calendar for the 2006-2007 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.

District 'Choice Enrollment' Open April 1 through May 10

Parents and guardians who would like to have their students attend a Federal Way school that is outside their neighborhood attendance area may apply to participate in the district's Choice Enrollment Program. Applications for elementary students are available in the school office, and will be accepted from April 1 through May 10.

All applications must be submitted to the Educational Service Center (ESC), located at 31405 18th Ave. S. in Federal Way. All out-of-district applications must include a release from the home district.

Three elementary schools in the district are currently at capacity and will not be open to Choice enrollment for 2006-07. These schools include Sherwood Forest, Mark Twain, and Sunnycrest Elementaries.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is a goal of Federal Way Public Schools to provide Safe and Drug-Free Schools. I remind you of the following:

Pursuant to RCW 9.41.280, students who possess a dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used exclusively by public schools may be immediately expelled. Law enforcement and parents will be notified. Pursuant to RCW 28A.600.420, students who possess a firearm **must** be expelled without an opportunity for readmission for at least one year. This minimum one-year expulsion will also apply to students who act with malice and display an instrument that appears to be a firearm on public school property, transportation, or other facilities being used exclusively by public schools. The superintendent of the school district or educational service district may modify the expulsion of a student on a case-by-case basis.

It is important we work together to achieve this goal. We remind you and your student(s) of our Safe Schools Tipline. The Tipline -- (253) 945-7233 -- is available 24 hours a day to report anonymously any knowledge of weapons on campus or information relating to the safety of any child or the commission of a crime relating to any school or other District property.

We appreciate your partnership as together we work to make our schools as safe havens for our students.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Murphy
Superintendent