
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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September 2006

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary
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State Releases WASL Results for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade

Results from last April's state-wide test were released in September. Meredith Hill students, in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades last year, showed a strong performance in all three subject areas when compared to students in the district and state. For the second year in a row, our 4th graders scored higher in reading than any of the 23 elementary schools in our district. The 3rd grade reading and math scores were the highest in the district. 5th grade scores are all very high. Congratulations to our students and teachers for the excellent work they did last year in meeting the grade level expectations set by our state! We continue to set goals and modify instruction to help ALL children achieve at high standards!

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is part of the long-term reform efforts of our state, and is designed to show whether students are meeting new and higher standards in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. The percent of 4th grade students who met the standard in each of these areas is given below.

Students Meeting State Standard In:	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Meredith Hill 4th Grade	81%	97%	94%	60%	75%	62%	64%	71%	72%
Federal Way 4th Grade	81%	84%	86%	59%	59%	58%	62%	62%	66%
WA State 4th Grade	74%	80%	81%	56%	58%	60%	60%	61%	59%

Below are the percentages of 3rd grade and 5th grade students who met the standard in each of the areas:

Students Meeting State Standard In:	2006	2006	SCIENCE		
			2004	2005	2006
Meredith Hill 3rd Grade	89%	87%			
Federal Way 3rd Grade	72%	70%			
WA State 3rd Grade	68%	64%			
Meredith Hill 5th Grade	89%	76%	35%	31%	53%
Federal Way 5th Grade	82%	58%	24%	30%	30%
WA State 5th Grade	76%	56%	28%	36%	36%

Students' individual scores will be sent home with students as soon as they are available. A special letter from the governor and from our superintendent will be presented to each student who met the state standard in all three of the areas tested.

A parent handbook entitled "Reaching Higher" is available upon request to any parent who wants more information about the WASL test and the state's learning standards.

Sincerely, Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Childfind Screening

Parents: Does your child need help to learn? How can you tell? Childfind screening can help! The Federal Way school District provides free screening for young people from birth to age 21 who are not enrolled in school and who may need special education services.

The Federal Way School District defines special needs as having concerns with hearing, vision, speech/language, health, learning, developmental delays, coordination, social adaptive development, behavior management, mental retardation, birth defects, orthopedic or spinal problems, autism or other disabilities. The School District believes that the earlier intervention programs can be started, the greater the chance of minimizing any future delays and possible failures.

If you have concerns/questions about your child having any of these conditions, you are encouraged to contact the school district, (253) 945-2093, for children 3-21 or Community Health Access programs, (206) 284-0331 for children 0-3.

No person will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or handicap. If parents have a primary or home language other than English, the district will effectively notify them of their in their native language.



Update: Horizontal Traverse Climbing Wall

Parents/Guardians:

I want to personally thank all the families that came out to support our "Garage Sale/Car Wash" Fundraiser which we conducted this summer on two separate dates to help raise money for a climbing wall. We had overwhelming support for our first day in July and the Federal Way Mirror ran a front-page article, which I've included in this newsletter. The total dollar amount raised from the two days was just over \$2300. With the help of our PTA, parents, community, teachers, students and many other volunteers we have should have our climbing wall installed by early 2007. We are in conversations with the district for approval of the installation of our new climbing wall and removal of the bleachers. The only location in our gym where an 8 x 40 wall would perfectly fit required us to have the district remove our bleachers. Thank you again for your commitment to Health & Fitness and your child's education at Meredith Hill Elementary.

Special Thanks to Committee Members: Kathy Miller, Michelle Hayes, Sandi Yula and Janet Harrington.

Thanks also to the Volunteers for the Garage Sale/Car Wash: Michelle and Max Hayes, Sandi Yula and Connor and Curtis, The Amato's, The Nesbitt's, The Thacker's, The Friedman's, The Harrington's, The Gettis's, The Shoemaker's, The Bear's, The Camps, The Mills', The Traxel's, The Silva's, Mr. Bert Nelson, Mrs. MaryJane Henry, Ms. Jennifer Brown, Mrs. Cindy Kelsey, Ms. Linda Brown, and Mrs. Debra McGraw.

I'd also like to give a big thanks to current and former Meredith Hill Students who stopped by and helped wash cars on both days.

Sincerely,
T.J. Navilio
tnavilio@fwps.org (253) 945-3221
<http://www.fwps.org/meredith>

Meredith Hill Climbing Wall Inches Closer

*By Margo Horner
mhorner@fedwaymirror.com or (253) 925-5565*

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July 12, 2006*

Students at Meredith Hill Elementary School have climbed enough monkey bars. Now they've got their eyes on a climbing wall, and they're not giving up until they've raised enough money to get it.

Nearly 40 people from 18 families volunteered at a car wash and garage sale Saturday to raise funds for the wall. The group raised \$1,500, almost half of its goal. Parents, students, teachers, staff members and even the principal arrived first thing in the morning dressed in shorts and T-shirts, ready to work.

"This is kind of a cool thing because they've been out of school for a couple weeks and we're getting them all back together," said health and fitness teacher T.J. Navilio. "The commitment level from the community and PTA members is strong," Navilio said. "I had moms here at 6:30 this morning," he said. That's more than Navilio could say for himself. He slept through his alarm that

morning, he admitted. A few of the moms were still teasing him about it at noon Saturday.

There is a strong sense of community in the neighborhood that Meredith Hill draws its students from, Navilio said. It's all housing, no apartments and the turnover rate for teachers at the school is low. Parents are incredibly active in the school, Navilio explained as he stood dripping wet with a hose in his hand.

Those parents are equally appreciative of the teachers. The two groups couldn't quit congratulating each other on their support. "This is a great school community," said Kathy Miller, a PTA member. "We've had a lot of teachers today helping. Every time we do a fundraiser or a family event, the staff is really involved with it."

Besides being a fun activity, the climbing wall will help build muscular strength, teach kids to work as a team and build trust, Navilio said.

The wall will be used in health and fitness classes as well as after-school programs such as the Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls. During hours when there is no supervision, the wall will be covered and locked. Because the wall will be no more than 10 feet high and surrounded by matting, it won't be dangerous, Navilio said. Kids will climb across the wall rather than up it.

The total cost for the wall is \$6,000 if the school can find parents to help install it. Through various fundraisers, the school has raised \$4,100 so far, Miller said. The PTA hopes to raise the rest of the money at another car wash and garage sale on Aug. 5 at

the school. "Then we can get it in this year. That is our really big goal," Miller said.

Dixie Thacker and her sons Gabe, 12, and Jacob, 7, probably won't mind spending another summer Saturday washing cars. "That's all it took to get them down here is to talk about the climbing wall," Thacker said. "You talk about the climbing wall and they will do anything to help out."

Strep Throat

There have been cases of strep throat identified in Mr. Nelson's, Mrs. Friedman's, Mrs. Rushton's, and Ms. McCann's classrooms. Here is the information we send out to parents.

Signs and symptoms include sore throat, fever, and large inflamed tonsils with/without white streaks, and tender nodes in the neck. Additional symptoms may include headache, nausea, or vomiting. Cough, hoarseness, loss of voice, and stuffy nose are uncharacteristic of streptococcal infection.

Strep throat may have complications if left untreated. Scarlet fever is a strep throat infection with a rash that usually first appears on the neck and then spreads. The rash resembles sunburn with goose bumps. If you suspect your child has strep throat, call your Health Care Provider to determine whether a throat culture is needed. Whenever your provider prescribes an antibiotic for your child it is important to take the entire prescription, even though your child is feeling better.

Please contact the school and day care provider if your child has a positive throat culture for strep. Children should not return

to school until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and their temperature has returned to normal.

Linda Russo RN, MN
Meredith Hill Elementary School Nurse

Pay for Lunches On-Line with 'Lunch Money Now'

The easiest way to make sure your child has lunch money is "Lunch Money Now"—a secure Internet credit card payment site for school. To add money to your child's account, go to <http://www.fwps.org/dept/nutrition/> and click on Lunch Money Now. Parents can check how much money is left in the student's account, view prior purchases and even sign up to have an e-mail sent to them when their child's account falls below a chosen balance. A \$30 minimum purchase is required to make an on-line payment.

Local Theater Presents 'Little Red Riding Hood'

Federal Way's Knutzen Family Theatre presents Thistle Theatre's production of "Little Red Riding Hood" on Saturday, September 16 at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased on-line at www.brownpapertickets.com. The Knutzen Family Theatre is located at 3200 SW Dash Point Road in Federal Way. For more information, go to www.kftevents.com or call 253-835-2020.

FWSD Confidentiality Notice—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974: 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.

Fifth Grade Parents Invited To Preview Aids Curriculum

A preview of the district's HIV/Aids Prevention Curriculum will be held for parents of Federal Way students in grades 5-12 on two dates: Wednesday, October 4, 2006 and Wednesday, January 31, 2007. The previews will be held in the Educational Service Center, 31405 18th Ave. South, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parents will meet in different rooms of the ESC according to grade levels so they have the opportunity to preview the materials that will be used at their child's level.

Students in grades 5 through 12 learn about HIV transmission and prevention through this curriculum, which emphasizes abstinence. The district has adopted The Great Body Shop and KNOW for this area of study. This presentation is for parents only.

The AIDS Omnibus Bill (2SSB 6221) of the State of Washington, which was passed in 1988, indicates the following:

- Sec. 402 "Students shall receive such (AIDS) education at least once each school year beginning no later than fifth grade," and
- Sec. 402 "No student may be required to participate in AIDS prevention education if the student's parents or guardian, having attended one of the district presentations, objects in writing to the participation."

Please call Vicki Osten at (253) 945-2126 for more information.

Dress Code Reminder

Please take a moment to review our school's dress code policy with your children. It is intended to ensure student safety and promote an atmosphere that focuses on student learning. In line with district policy, the following are not allowed:

- clothing displaying obscene or sexual words, pictures or messages.
- clothing displaying drug- or alcohol-related words, pictures or messages.
- pajamas, slippers, halter tops or any shirt that is short enough to expose the stomach; pants that are unusually low riding and are worn low on the hips revealing under garments; or shorts/skirts shorter than finger tip length.
- clothing which symbolizes gang membership or displays gang-related words, symbols, messages or pictures.

Meredith Hill policy is that there are no flip-flops worn at school as outlined in the Student Handbook. Hats are to be worn only outside the building.

Good September Advice: Write Child's Name On EVERYTHING!

As you send your child to school with personal supplies, lunch boxes, sweaters and coats, remember this golden rule: WRITE HIS/HER NAME ON EVERYTHING! We don't want your favorite jacket, thermos or Tupperware container to end up in the Lost and Found or the local clothing bank. Items with children's names are easily returned. Please help out by identifying all of your child's belongings with ink or permanent marker.

Scholastic Book Fair Right Around the Corner

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held October 23rd through October 27th, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. There will be special evening hours on October 26th from 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Every student will visit the fair, and we hope you'll also stop by to see the complete selection of books for every member of the family. The week before the fair there will be an order form coming home listing just a few of the many books that will be available at the fair.

Children can make their purchases with cash or checks made out to Meredith Hill Elementary. Adults can also pay by credit card. Please include 8.8% tax with all purchases. Money raised from the book fair is used to improve and expand our library resources.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 20 – Cookie Day
PTA General Meeting 6:30
- 25-Oct. 6– PTA Fall Fundraiser
- 25– Picture Retakes
- 27– Seattle Science Center
Rock and Roll Van
Assembly 9:00

OCTOBER

- 2-12– PTA Food Drive
- 4– Cookie Day
- 6– PTA Family Fun Night 5:30 – 7:30
PTA Fall Fundraiser ends
- 13– NO SCHOOL
State Inservice
- 16-20– PTA Sweatshirt Sale
- 18 – Cookie Day
PTA Board Meeting 6:30
- 20– NO SCHOOL
Waiver Day
- 23-27– Book Fair
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 26– Book Fair Special Hours
9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 26-27– NO SCHOOL
Student/Teacher Conferences

