
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

Volume 12, Issue 2

www.fwps.org/Meredith

October 2006

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Martin Luther King Celebration Plans

The city's Martin Luther King Day Celebration Committee is accepting entries for its annual student contest program. The contests are open to Federal Way Public School students and Home School students living within the boundaries of the FWPS system. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate these contests into their classroom activities to assist in the study of King's life and work. This year's contest theme is: "Generation of Hope - Reach Back, Move Forward."

In their entries, students should address the question, "As a 'Generation of Hope', what lessons, values, opportunities or ideas from history can you use to shape your future and the future of our community?"

The contest areas are:

- High School: Poster, Poetry, & Essay
- Middle School: Poster & Essay
- Elementary School (Grades K-5): Poster
- Elementary School (Grades 3 -5): Essay

All winning entries will be incorporated into the MLK Celebration; first place entries will be featured during the program. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is held the third Monday in January to honor his memory and leadership, and to celebrate Federal Way's diverse ethnic and cultural community. This year's event will be held on January 15, 2007. Entries must be turned in or postmarked by December 8, 2006. The entry form will be available on the City of Federal Way's website. <http://www.cityoffederalway.com>.

What Every Parent Wants to Know

Parents are invited to join the Family Partnership Advocate at the district's parent-led orientation session called; "What Every Parent Wants to Know." This session may be helpful for parents looking for ways to help their student succeed in school. The first orientation of several that will be offered throughout the year, will be held on October 30, 2006 at the EX3 Teen Center from 6:00p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Food and childcare will be provided.

Parents from any school in the district are welcome to attend and can also volunteer to become an orientation session leader for their school or their neighborhood. The orientation meetings will be co-facilitated by parent leaders and the district's Family Partnership Advocate with grade-level support ideas for Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Parents will have a chance to connect with other parents, find out about district and community-based resources and come away with specific ways they can promote their student's success in school. To schedule or find out about an orientation session in your area, please contact Trise Moore at 253-945-2273.

Music Concert Dates

K/1: May 10
2/3: March 8
4/5: April 5

Honor Choir and Steel Drums Performances:

Dec. 8th (Winterfest)
Jan 23
May 31

We will hold dress rehearsal concerts at approximately 2:00 the day of the concert. Night concerts will be held at 7:00 p.m.



Student-Led Conferences Scheduled October 26-27

Elementary students across the district are preparing for two special days at the end of this month when they will tell parents about their performance in reading and math, and share goals they plan to achieve this year. These Student-Led Conferences will take place on October 26-27, and no regular classes are scheduled on these days.

What is the student's role?

We believe that allowing students to talk to parents about their learning will give them a stronger sense of ownership and pride, and a greater understanding of how they can continue and improve their achievement. The student's job at conference time will be to explain some of the standards and goals they are working on, and to show examples of their current level of performance. With the support of teacher and parents, they will also set goals for future improvement.

What is the parent's role?

One of the most important things a parent can do is attend the conference! This gives a strong message about the importance parents place on their child's learning. During the conference, parents are encouraged to listen, to compliment and talk with their child about his/her work, and to identify ways they can help their child reach his/her goals.

What is the teacher's role?

Teachers have spent the first month of school getting to know the strengths and needs of each child. They have helped their students understand the standards and goals they are working on. By conference time, teachers will help children select work samples which show their level of performance in these areas. They will assist students in setting goals for the remainder of the year. Prior to the conferences, teachers will also provide opportunities for students to practice their part in the conference in order to put them more at ease.

What is the timeline and schedule?

Conference schedules will come home the week of October 16th. We will do our best to schedule conferences back-to-back for families with more than one student.

In order to give students full attention during the conference, we request that brothers and sisters do not attend. School-age children are invited to participate in activities that the school will have available in the lunchroom while you are in their sibling's conference.

We look forward to this time when students can show off their learning, and identify goals which they and their teachers have set for the remaining months of the year. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for some very special conversations with your children on October 26 and 27!

Sincerely, Cindy Kelsey, Principal



Oct 31st at Meredith Hill

This year, Halloween is again falling on a day when school is in session. We know that October 31st is a highly anticipated day for many children as they plan for their evening adventures. The Meredith Hill staff acknowledges children's excitement as well as the need to have a meaningful day of learning on October 31st.

We want to inform you well ahead of time how Meredith Hill will be handling this day. The dress code will be the same as every other day at our school—in other words, no costumes, masks, hair color, or makeup. Each teacher will decide whether or not their classroom will be involved in a low-key celebration at the end of the school day Monday. The teacher will also determine, if they choose to have a celebration, what that celebration will involve and what the focus will be. If you have any questions, you can talk to your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Kelsey.

Welcome AmeriCorps

Hello Meredith Hill,

I hope everyone's year has started out well. My name is Chloé Engelbrecht, the new AmeriCorps member for the year 2006-2007. I would like to share a few things about myself.

I was born in Seattle, however, a week later moved to India where I lived for six years. After that I moved to Hong Kong where I

lived from 1991-1996. After that I moved to Hanoi, Vietnam where I attended 6th-9th grade at a French School. I am bilingual in French (my mother is from Belgium and taught me to speak French at an early age) and I know a little bit of Spanish. I then moved to St. Louis and graduated as a Junior and moved to Seattle, where I attended Shoreline Community College and received my AA and went on to PLU where I graduated with a degree in Education.

I joined the AmeriCorps in order to help serve the children and help them succeed in life. I know that I can make a difference in the lives of children by being at Meredith Hill and supporting their learning. Education is important and I believe that every student deserves to have an education. I want to help them achieve that goal.

For all those I have met, I want to thank you for being kind and welcoming. I also thank you for letting me come and observe the classrooms. I am willing to learn ways in order to help the students succeed. Once again thank you for welcoming me into your school.

Sincerely, Chloé Engelbrecht

Safety on the Stairs

The Safety Patrol would like to remind students who live within walking distance of our northern playfield, to use the stairs in back of school when going home. For safety reasons, students and parents are not allowed to walk up the hillside instead of using the stairs. The correct exit procedure is to walk down the lower stairs to the playground area, proceed behind the ball field, and then turn up the big stairs. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

See You at Our Book Fair!

Would you encourage your child's love of reading if you could? Of course. What's more—you can! Scholastic Book Fairs comes to our school on October 23rd, to share exciting books and educational learning products with our young readers. Parents and teachers will find plenty of items to interest them too. The Fair is open each day from 9:00 – 3:30.

We're extending our hours during conferences on October 26th. The fair will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

When you visit the Fair, look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can help build your child's classroom library.

The Book Fair helps us promote learning while raising money for our library. Our goal for this year's fair is to provide additional titles to our Reading Counts program. Please note that there is an 8.8% tax on all purchases.

Don't miss out on the Scholastic Book Fair, October 23th – October 26th. Call (253) 945-3220 for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

- 2-12– PTA Food Drive
- 4– Cookie Day
- 6– PTA Family Fun Night 5:30 – 7:30
PTA Fall Fundraiser ends
- 12 – Read and Lead Bookstore
9:15-11:15
- 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

NOVEMBER

- 2 – Cookie Day
- 10 – NO School – Veteran's Day
- 15 – PTA General Meeting 6:30
Cookie Day
- 23-24– Thanksgiving Holiday-No School

Safe & 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 recommendations(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 recommendations(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
- Auburn Youth Resources (253) 939-2202
825-7273
- A Chance to Change (formerly Crossroads) (253) 853-7954
- Federal Way Youth & Family Services (253) 835-9975
- Child Protective Services (CPS) (253) 872-2665 (Kent)
- Horizon Treatment Services (253) 564-3377
- King County Sexual Assault Resources (800)
- Kent Youth & Family Services (253) 859-0300
- Lakeside Milam Recovery Center (253) 942-8686
- Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation (253) 661-0261

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