
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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To Meredith Hill Families

The children at Meredith Hill receive so much support and encouragement from moms, dads, and other family members. Thank you for being so actively engaged in the education of your child. Our recent student-led conferences were well attended and all staff appreciate the time you set aside to be with your children and share their goals for learning this school year.

The children spent a lot of time preparing and practicing for their student-led part of the conference. You could see the excitement in their eyes as they anticipated sharing with you. As you saw, the students set reading and math goals, reflected on their work habits, and planned how to be successful academically and socially throughout the year. The teachers shared important assessment data that represents your child's current level of achievement. We will continue to communicate in various ways to let you know how your child is progressing throughout the year.

Meredith Hill will be observing Veteran's Day on Thursday, November 9th at 10:30 a.m. Students associated with the Federal Way High School ROTC will be with us for the flag ceremony honoring our Veteran's. The classroom teachers will be involving students in classroom activities that are age appropriate regarding the observation of Veteran's Day. You are welcome to attend.

As the holidays approach, we wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Health Screening

Meredith Hill will be doing health screening on Tuesday, November 7. State law mandates health screening.

- Grades K-3 and 5 will be screened for hearing.
- Students in Kindergarten will be screened for vision and Grades 1-3 and 5 if they missed Orientation Day or need to be rechecked.
- Fifth graders will also be screened for scoliosis.

A written note from the parent is required to waive any part of the state mandated screening. Rechecks will be done in the weeks following screening on any student not meeting the standards for vision or hearing. Referrals will be sent to parents if follow-up for hearing, vision or scoliosis screening is required. Please call Linda Russo RN, Meredith Hill School Nurse at 253-945-3209 if you have any questions or concerns.

We appreciate parent volunteers for screening. Please call 253-945-3209 if you can volunteer a few hours. We will teach you to screen vision or hearing, no experience necessary!

Thanks for your support.

Reminder for arrival and dismissal time!

Those of you who pick up preschool or kindergarten children, please remember to park your car in a parking space in front of the school. Even though the buses may have already left school, cars that are sitting in the circle drive make it difficult and sometimes impossible for cars backing out of the parking space to leave.

All first grade through fifth grade students are to load vehicles in the upper parking lot at dismissal time. We have many staff members involved before school and at dismissal to help get children in or out of the cars in a safe and timely manner. Thanks for your cooperation and help!

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 – Cookie Day
- 2 – Read and Lead Bookstore
- 6 – Picture Retakes
- 7 – Health Screening
- 9 – Flag Ceremony 10:30 AM
- 10 – NO School – Veteran’s Day
- 15 – PTA General Meeting 6:30 PM
Cookie Day
- 17 – Preschool Fieldtrip to Police Station
- 23-24– Thanksgiving Holiday-No School

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 5-8 – PTA Holiday Shop
- 6 – Cookie Day
- 8 – PTA Winterfest
Steel Drum Concert 2:00 & 7:00

Holiday Help Available

There are many community resources available for families who need assistance this upcoming holiday season. With many families experiencing recent unemployment, this can be a difficult time.

There is help available! If you would like more information about these resources, please call Mrs. Patty EagleCruz, Meredith Hill school counselor at (253)945-3208. This information is kept confidential.

Emergency Closures

Arrangements have been made with the radio and TV stations listed below to broadcast information about any school closures or late starts due to snow/ice or other emergency conditions. These announcements will begin at 5:30 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR THIS INFORMATION. The

school staff gets info from the news stations the same time as you.

If the Federal Way School District is NOT mentioned during the news broadcast, it means that school will be open with buses operating on as normal a schedule as possible. This means that even though buses will begin their routes on time, road and traffic conditions could cause them to be late to their stops. Please be patient. We would rather the students be late than to have accidents.

You can also find out on the web at:
<http://www.schoolreport.org/>

School closures are announced on the following stations:

Television: KOMO TV Channel 4
KING TV, Channel 5
KIRO TV, Channel 7
KSTW TV, Channel 22
NW Cable News, Channel 35

Radio: KIRO 710 AM
KOMO 1000 AM
KVI 580 AM
KLAY 1180 AM
KPLU 88.5 FM

Free Community Resource

The Multi-Service Center has a clothing bank available for families in need of clothing assistance. The Multi-Service Center Food and Clothing Bank is located at 1200 S. 336th St. in Federal Way.

The hours of their Clothing Bank are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM.

Food and holiday assistance are also available at the Multi-Service Center. The phone number is 253- 838-6810.

