
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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Happy Holidays

*From
The Staff
At
Meredith Hill*

Safety Corner

Thanks to your help and cooperation, dismissal time is much safer and is working well! Thanks to all of you! We have several simple rules that will ensure safety when you pick up your child after school.

Upper Parking Lot

- * Park cars in all the available spaces.
- * Cars can line up after all the parking spaces are full.
- * Pull forward in line as far as possible to load students.

Lower Parking Lot

- * Hold the hands of young children as you cross the driveway.
- * Do not walk between busses.
- * The parking circle in front of the school is one-way.
- * Use crosswalks before and after school.

To All

- * Be courteous to crossing guard and staff members on traffic duty! Be patient as busses leave! They get priority!



Parents We Need Your Help

In the morning, our warning bell rings at 8:48, and students should be in their classes by 8:50. We have noticed a number of parents dropping students off in the upper parking lot after the warning bell has already rung.

Parents, it would be very helpful if you could leave just a few minutes earlier in the morning and pull your vehicle up to the farthest end of the parking lot. Staff members will be there to meet your student(s) and help them out of your vehicle so that they can make it to class in time.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 5-8 – PTA Holiday Shop
- 8 – PTA Winterfest
Steel Drum Concert 2:00 & 5:30
- 13 – Cookie Day
- 19 – Winter Assembly 2:20
- Dec 20 - Jan 2– Winter Vacation

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 3– School Resumes
- 10– PTA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Cookie Day
- 14– Martin Luther King Assembly
10:00 am
- 15– NO School
Martin Luther King Holiday

Thank You Volunteers

Our warmest thanks to the many volunteers who put in 357 hours during the first two months of school, to help the students and teachers at Meredith Hill. Your presence here makes this an even better place to be. A special thank you to Kathy Miller, Evalyn Long and Michelle Hayes for helping with the Scholastic Bookfair fundraiser.

Help Wanted

Do you need to exercise and make some extra money at the same time? We have just the job for you. Federal Way Public Schools are now hiring substitute custodians! The salary is \$12.58 per hour. Most shifts are swing shift, 2:30 pm to 11:00 pm when school is in session.

If you are interested, please apply on line at <http://www.fwps.org>.

Another Reminder

Meredith Hill is required to account for EACH student EACH day. Call the office at (253) 945-3200 to report an absence or late arrival. Students arriving late to school must be accompanied by a parent who signs them in, or have a written note from the parent when they check in at the office. We appreciate a follow up note whenever a child returns from an absence. If we do not receive a call or a note, the absence will be recorded as “unexcused”.

Custody Issues

Federal Way Public Schools is not the enforcing agency for court orders between parents (i.e. divorce decrees and parenting plans). In general, the schools will not attempt to implement such orders except when presented with a certified copy of a clear “no contact at any time” type of order, or one which specifically limits a parent’s rights at school. (A certified copy may be obtained only from a court clerk and is clearly stamped and imprinted as such.) In such cases, the school will act to protect the safety of students and contact police regarding violations of court orders if, in the judgment of the school officials, the circumstances warrant such action. The school may attempt, but is not required, to notify the parent presenting the “no

contact” order should the other parent attempt to remove the child from school. The District prefers that disputes between parents regarding court orders be resolved in court, not in school.

From the Nurse: The, Oh So Common, Cold

Winter is here, and with it comes cold season. Each cold may last from one to two weeks, and may progress through various combinations of stuffy nose, runny nose, sneezing, sore or scratchy throat, cough, watery eyes, fever, and feeling tired. Cold viruses spread easily. The best prevention is GOOD HANDWASHING. You should wash your hands after blowing your nose, after using the restroom, and before preparing or eating food.

Every child with cold symptoms can't stay out of school or be sent home. But if a child is not well enough to participate in class, because of an uncontrollable cough or fatigue for example, he doesn't belong in school. A child with a temperature of 100F or greater, needs to stay home.

School district policy guidelines state that children with any of the following symptoms must be sent home:

- * Oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher.
- * Any vomiting or diarrhea at school.
- * The presence of any of the following untreated communicable diseases – head lice, scabies, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, fifth’s disease, strep throat and/or scarlet fever, pink eye, ringworm, and impetigo.

To help the office, please provide us with any changes to your child’s emergency information, as soon as possible.

Governor Proposes Postponement of Math WASL Requirement

Governor Chris Gregoire said Monday that she will propose to the Washington Legislature that students will not have to pass the math section of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to graduate from high school at least until 2011.

Students in the classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010 should either pass the WASL math test or take and pass math classes to graduate, the governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson proposed. The graduation requirements for passing the reading and writing sections of the WASL would not be affected. About half of last year's 10th graders – the class of 2008 – failed to pass the math section of the WASL. The class of 2008 was supposed to be the first required to pass the WASL in order to graduate.

“I want to let students and parents know that we are listening to their concerns and we believe this plan promotes math skills without penalizing responsible, hardworking students and teachers,” Gregoire said. She said the state has a comprehensive plan to improve math teaching and learning in its public schools. “We owe it to these students to prepare them before they graduate high school,” she said.

Sign Up for Emergency Notification

Weather surprises like those we've experienced in November can cause disruption for schools and a great deal of confusion for parents and students. There

are several ways to get information about school closures and changes: listen to the television and radio stations; sign up for email emergency notification from www.schoolreport.org; and/or sign up for email emergency notification directly from Federal Way Public schools, at www.fwps.org/info/emergencies/.

If you have computer access, the district strongly recommends that you sign up for one or both email notification services. While the broadcast media are very helpful in getting out school closure information and usually get the information right, they don't always include all the details that we need parents and students to know. For example, this week, several stations announced that secondary Student Led Conferences were cancelled, but did not include the fact that classes would be held.

Report Vandalism

The past several weekends our school has been the focus of vandalism. Several windows on the back of the school have been broken. This is a great concern, however, an even greater concern is that the windows are broken because someone is bringing a BB gun on our campus and shooting at the windows.

We appreciate when you have reported problems at the school. We ask for your continued assistance. We need your help making sure neighbors are safe and helping us keep the building from getting further damage! If you see this activity or any other vandalism occurring on the campus, please call the police. Working together, I know that we can keep the neighborhood safer and the beautiful facilities that you provide our children in top-notch condition.

If you have questions or information to share with me, please call Mrs. Kelsey at (253)945-3200.