

---

---

# MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

Volume 12, Issue 7

www.fwps.org/Meredith

March 2007

---

---

Cindy Kelsey, Principal  
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager

Jane Arthur, Secretary  
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

## Fifth Graders Perform on Broadway!

On Friday March 30, the fifth graders will be playing steel drums at a Teacher's Convention in Tacoma! Over 1700 teachers from around the state will hear the beautiful melodies and harmonies filtering through the lofty convention center. This is their first full performance of the season—we're honored to share it with educators.

If you'd like to hear their fabulous playing, come on down to the convention center on Broadway Street at noon. (Yep...they're playing on BROADWAY!) See you there!

## Parent Night at Meredith Hill

Last month, we held a math workshop for parents and it was a great success! This month, we invite you to attend an hour-long reading workshop on Monday, March 12th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Two separate workshops will be presented during the evening, so you will need to choose which one you want to attend. In the workshop for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, we will have some WASL like reading questions for you to try as well as ways to keep your child reading and enjoying it! At the workshop for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade, special guest presenter, Judy Hassen, will suggest activities you can do at home to encourage reading growth. Don't miss it! Day care and refreshments will be provided. I hope you will plan to join us on March 12th.

## March Calendar

- 7– Cookie Day
- 8– Music Concert Grades 2 and 3  
Dress Rehearsal 2:20 pm  
Performance 7:00 pm
- 12– Parent Night Reading Workshop  
7:00- 8:00
- 15– 4th Grade Field Trip to  
State Capitol 9:00 am
- 16– Snow Make-up Day  
SCHOOL IN SESSION  
PTA Talent Showcase 2:15
- 21– Cookie Day  
PTA General Meeting 6:30 pm
- 28– Grading Period ends  
Progress Reports go home
- 29– 30 Conferences  
NO SCHOOL

## April Calendar

- 4– Cookie Day
- 5– Music Concert Grades 4 and 5  
Dress Rehearsal 2:00 pm  
Performance 7:00 pm
- 9– 13 – Spring Break NO SCHOOL
- 18– Cookie Day  
PTA Board Meeting 6:30 pm

## Conferences

March means it is conference and progress report time. Teachers will be scheduling individual conferences on March 29th or 30th. A conference form letter will be sent home shortly, and you are asked to return it to the teacher as soon as possible. There is no school for students on the 29th or 30th of March.

## 2007-2008 Choice Applications

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:

Secondary Open Application Period  
February 5, 2007 – March 9, 2007  
Elementary Open Application Period  
March 21, 2007– May 10, 2007

***All applications must be submitted to the ESC. All Out of District applications must include a release from the home district.***

Applications are available in the school office, and should be sent or delivered to Paula Curtis at the Federal Way Public Schools Educational Service Center (ESC), 31405 18th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003. For more information call or e-mail Paula Curtis at 253-945-2013 or [pcurtis@fwps.org](mailto:pcurtis@fwps.org).

## Meredith Hill's Battle of the Books

On March 2, 2007, a fun and friendly literature contest took place at Meredith Hill. Students from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes formed teams and read and studied 17 books. They focused their studies on the authors, settings, characters, plots, and themes of these books in an attempt to earn the right to represent Meredith Hill at the District Battle of the Books where they will compete against teams from every elementary school in Federal Way. Last year's Meredith Hill team swept the competition at the District Battle to become the reigning champs. We hope to

retain our title and bring home the trophy for the 3rd year in a row.

This year's winning team was made up of Ean VanBramer, Jess Nyland, Hayden Bauer, and Drew Camp. They will represent our school on Tuesday, March 20, at Decatur High School. Everyone is welcome to attend and show support for Meredith Hill at this celebration of literacy. The doors open at 6:30 pm with the Battle beginning promptly at 7:00. Hope to see you there.

## Meredith Hill Track

I would like to welcome all students to join the track team this year! I am looking forward to a fun filled track season enjoying the fresh air and getting some healthy exercise! Track practices will begin March 12<sup>th</sup> and will be after school Monday and Wednesdays from 3:20 pm to 4 pm. The practice meet will be March 31<sup>st</sup>. Check your child's backpack for the information packets. Included will be the necessary forms that must be turned in before your child can stay after school for practice. Any questions or concerns please email me, Sandi Yula, at [syula@fwps.org](mailto:syula@fwps.org). See you soon!

## Read Across America Day

Friday, March 2nd was Read Across America Day at Meredith Hill. We celebrated in a variety of ways. Throughout the week, we conducted a daily trivia contest to see who knew some of the details in Dr. Seuss' books. On Friday, the whole school celebrated by wearing their finest Cat-in-the-Hat hats. In addition, volunteer readers went to many classrooms to share their favorite Dr. Seuss storybooks.

## WASL Scheduled for April and May

You've heard the phrase, "Testing, 1, 2, 3"? That could be the theme at Meredith Hill and at schools across the district during the months of April and May. The table below shows the state tests that are planned for grades 3, 4, and 5. These assessments will be used—along with classroom assignments, observations and tests—to help teachers measure student progress toward meeting state and district standards, and to determine students' readiness for promotion to the next grade.

WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning)	Who will take the test?	When & how long is this test?
Reading & Math	3rd Grade	The tests are not timed, however, each sub-test must be completed within one school day.
Reading, Math, & Writing	4th Grade	
Reading, Math, & Science	5th Grade	Tests will be scheduled between April 17 and May 3.

### How can I help my child prepare for these tests?

For any testing situation at school, parents can encourage students to stay calm and do their best. A good night's rest and a hearty breakfast provide energy and alertness. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Meredith Hill will be scheduled to take the WASL between April 17th and May 3rd. If possible, try not to schedule any appointments or trips that would take students out of school during testing times.

The good news is, your work in helping your child meet grade level reading and math expectations is an on-going effort, and we encourage you to keep it up. Parents offer this support all year long by: (1) setting aside a 20-30 min. reading time with their children each day; (2) helping students practice skills in reading and math; (3) reviewing completed or corrected homework with their child; and (4) keeping in touch with the teacher regarding their child's progress.

### When will I know the results of these tests?

Results will be sent to parents in early September 2007. Parents will receive individual results for each of the subject areas tested.

If you have specific questions about these tests, you can call your child's teacher or me. As you review March's progress reports, we encourage you to celebrate with your children the progress you see in their learning. It is also an important time to collaborate with teachers and school staff on ways to increase success if students continue to struggle. Let us continue our work together to help ALL children achieve their highest potential!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Kelsey, Principal