

Meredith Hill Messenger

Volume 13, Issue 4

December 2007



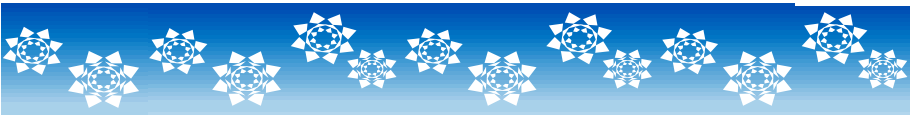
Happy Holidays

From The Staff
At Meredith Hill

Extra Clothing Needed in Health Room

Did you know that we lend clothes to our children at Meredith Hill? Accidents of various kinds happen at school and this results in kids needing a change of clothes. We are happy to help when we can, however, we need to replenish our clothing closet.

You can help by donating gently used sweatpants and undergarments to our Health Room. If your student comes home with borrowed clothing, you may wash it and return it as soon as it is convenient for you. Your support makes this program work for our kids!



Counselor Corner

Qwest Communications has created a Web site, www.incredibleinternet.com, and hired a psychologist to help parents better understand and deal with their children's online activities. The Incredible Internet site aims to help families make informed decisions about setting limits on children's access, and psychologist Linda Young is featured in three online videos about online safety and cyberbullying.

EP&O School Levy on Ballot February 19

Federal Way Public Schools will run a replacement levy February 19, 2008. This four-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O), formerly called a Maintenance and Operations Levy, will replace the current levy which will expire at the end of 2008. If the levy passes on February 19, current programs and services will be maintained and the tax rate will not increase.

What does the EP&O levy mean to our schools? The EP&O Levy provides funds for the day-to-day operations of the district's educational programs. Bridging the difference between the funding provided by the state and the cost of meeting the educational needs of our students, the EP&O levy is a key component of our success.

It enables the district to pay for teaching staff not included in state allocations, additional and expanded instructional programs, textbook purchases, athletics and activities, technology and security staff and additional transportation. The levy pays for 20% of ALL regular instruction in Federal Way schools.

What does this mean in terms of people? The levy pays for 43 teachers and 41 classified full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, including information technology, security officers, crossing guards, assessment staff and other key support staff. This funding also bridges the gap between state allocations and what the labor market demands to attract and retain quality administrators, support staff and teachers.

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★ **Thank You** ★

★ **Volunteers** ★

★ Our warmest thanks to ★

★ the many volunteers ★

★ who put in 278 hours ★

★ during the month of No- ★

★ vember, to help the stu- ★

★ dents and teachers at ★

★ Meredith Hill. Your ★

★ presence here makes ★

★ Meredith Hill an even ★

★ better place to be. ★

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- The levy also pays for:
- 17% of Special Education Services (\$5.5 million)
 - 7% of Transportation Services (\$2.3 million)
 - Slightly less than 2% of the English Language Learners program (\$.5 million.)

The school district is a good steward of the public's money. Federal Way taxpayers pay less per student than most Western Washington taxpayers. At \$1,435 per student, Federal Way Public Schools collects fewer EP&O levy dollars per student from local taxpayers than nearly all other districts in King County and around the Puget Sound area.

For more information, go to www.fwps.org/info/levy.

Please vote February 19, 2008.

December Calendar

- 6– 12 PTA Food Drive
 7– Winterfest 5:30-8:00
 Steel Drums 5:30
 11– PTA Assembly
 “Peter and the Wolf”
- 10:00: AM Preschool and AM Kind, 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades
 - 2:00: PM Preschool and PM Kind, ADK, 1st, 2nd Grades
- 13– Cookie Day
 14– Read and Lead Bookstore 9:30-11:30
 19– Holiday Assembly 3:00-3:30
 Dec. 20–January 1
 Winter Break
 NO SCHOOL

January Calendar

- 2– School Resumes
 10– Cookie Day
 21– Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
 NO SCHOOL
 24– Cookie Day
 28– End of 1st Semester

Safety Reminders

All visitors and volunteers are asked to sign in at the office prior to entering any space on campus, both classroom and playground areas. This is for your safety as well as the safety of all Meredith Hill students. Also, Washington State Law requires that any person volunteering within a public school district have a Washington State Patrol background check completed. This form is available at any school office. It takes very little time to complete and is valid for two years. We appreciate your cooperation on behalf of the safety of all our children.

Time to Dress Warmly

Please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the outdoors. Our students go out to recess in all kinds of weather, except in extreme conditions. Also, Please label ALL your child’s coats, hat, scarves, and any other attire.

Happy Holidays from Mrs. Kelsey

This is a busy time of the year for many families as preparations are made to gather with families and celebrate family traditions. Besides the fun and excitement of this season also come opportunities to spend special time with the children while they are not in school. There so many fun activities in which to engage children this time of year that are free! Bundle the kids up and go for a walk in a park noting the changes in the trees, birds, temperature, weather conditions, amount of wind. Take a look at the various kinds of leaves that you find on the ground and compare their shapes and colors. Notice the different colors and patterns of tree bark--some thick and some thin. Why the differences? Look at the birds through binoculars. Do all the birds look the same? Do they all sing the same song? Why? Why do some birds seem to prefer the water and others prefer to be on the ground or in trees. What kinds of food are they finding to eat at this time of year. If you have a thermometer, take it with you on your adventure and compare the differences in the temperature in the house, in the car, and outside. Visit another park or try a familiar or new hiking path and compare and contrast what you see and hear.

Of course, playing board games with the kids is always fun. But, you don't always have to buy a game at the store. See if you can make up your own new board game idea, design and create it with stuff at home, and then have a great time playing the game. If your family enjoys music, how about thinking about making some home-made instruments that you can play together to your favorite songs.

We certainly want the children to continue reading through the holidays. Don't stop with the reading of the book! Dress up the kids as the book’s characters, have the kids make some scenery and props, and the kids become the actors and your living room is the theatre! Serve the audience a cookie and cider and make it a special occasion that the kids plan from beginning to end.

These are the kinds of activities that my family used to do during the winter break. I have such fond memories of the time spent with my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Oh, the fun we had! I hope you have a wonderful break and a very Happy New Year! We'll see the students back at Meredith Hill on Wednesday, January 2nd!