

Meredith Hill Messenger

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State Releases School Assessment Results

Results from last April's state-wide assessments for grades 3-8 were released in September. Meredith Hill students, who were tested as 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders last year, showed a strong performance in reading and math when compared to students across the district and state. They scored well above the minimum state targets of 64.2% meeting standard in reading and 47.3% meeting the standard in math.

Congratulations to all of our students and teachers for the excellent work they did last year in meeting the grade level expectations set by our state! We continue to see top-notch results from our Meredith Hill students year after year. We appreciate the on-going parent support that contributes to students' results. Notice that the state's minimum standards will increase next year to 76.1% meeting standard in reading and 64.9% meeting standard in math. These targets increase every three years, with the goal of getting all students to standard in reading and math by the year 2014. We continue to set goals and modify instruction to help ALL children achieve at high standards!

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (or WASL) is part of the long-term reform efforts of our state, and is designed to show whether students are meeting new and higher standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science. The percent of students who met the standard in each of these areas in our school, our district, and our state is given below.

Students Meeting State Standard in:	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Reading			Math		
MHL 3rd Grade	NA	89%	79.8%	NA	87%	81%
Federal Way 3rd Gr.	NA	71.6%	73.5%	NA	70.1%	74.1%
WA State 3rd Grade	NA	68.3%	70.7%	NA	64.2%	69.4%

Students Meeting State Standard in:	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Reading			Math			Writing		
MHL 4th Grade	96.5%	94.0%	93.4%	71.3%	72%	77%	74.7%	62%	83.6%
Federal Way 4th Grade	84.4%	85.5%	80.2%	61.7%	65.5%	60.1%	58.6%	58.1%	56.2%
WA State 4th Grade	79.5%	81.2%	76.4%	60.8%	58.9%	57.9%	57.7%	60.4%	60.1%

Students Meeting State Standard in:	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Reading			Math			Science		
MHL 5th Grade	NA	89%	89.5%	NA	76%	78.9%	31%	53%	53.9%
Federal Way 5th Grade	NA	82.1%	75.3%	NA	57.7%	66.2%	31.9%	30.4%	31.2%
WA State 5th Grade	NA	76.3%	71.7%	NA	55.8%	59.3%	35.6%	35.7%	36.4%

Minimum state standard for 2005-07: RDG – 64.2%
Minimum state standard for 2008-10: RDG – 76.1%

MATH – 47.3%
MATH – 64.9%

Assessment continued:

Students' individual scores will be mailed to parents from the district office within the next week. A special letter from the governor and from our superintendent will be presented to each student who met the state standard in all of the subject areas tested for his grade level. A parent handbook entitled "Reaching Higher" is available upon request to any parent who wants more information about the WASL test and the state's learning standards. Don't hesitate to call me if you have questions about your child's WASL scores, or the state assessment in general.

Sincerely,
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Fifth Grade Parents Invited To Preview

A preview of the district's HIV/Aids Prevention Curriculum will be held for parents of Federal Way students in grades 5-12 on two dates: Wednesday, September 26, 2007 and Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The previews will be held in the Educational Service Center, 31405 18th Ave. South, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parents will meet in different rooms of the ESC according to grade levels so they have the opportunity to preview the materials that will be used at their child's level.

Students in grades 5 through 12 learn about HIV transmission and prevention through this curriculum, which emphasizes abstinence. The district has adopted The Great Body Shop and KNOW for this area of study. This presentation is for parents only.

The AIDS Omnibus Bill (2SSB 6221) of the State of Washington, which was passed in 1988, indicates the following:

Sec. 402 "Students shall receive such (AIDS) education at least once each school year beginning no later than fifth grade," and

Sec. 402 "No student may be required to participate in AIDS prevention education if the student's parents or guardian, having attended one of the district presentations, objects in writing to the participation."

Please call Vicki Osten at (253) 945-2126 for more information.

Good September Advice: Write Your Child's Name on Everything!

As you send your child to school with personal supplies, lunch boxes, sweaters and coats, remember this golden rule: **Write His/Her Name on Everything!** We don't want your favorite jacket, thermos or Tupperware container to end up in the Lost and Found or the local clothing bank. Items with children's names are easily returned. Please help out by identifying all of your child's belongings with ink or permanent marker.



Pay for Lunches On-Line with 'Lunch Money Now'

The easier way to make sure your child has lunch money is "Lunch Money Now"—a secure Internet credit card payment site for school. To add money to your child's account, go to <http://www.fwps.org/dept/nutrition/> and click on Lunch Money Now. You will need your student's ID number, which can be verified in our office. Parents can check how much money is left in the student's account, view prior purchases and even sign up to have an e-mail sent to them when their child's account falls below a chosen balance. A \$30 minimum purchase is required to make an on-line payment.

Volunteer Reminders

Meredith Hill volunteers, if you have not already done so in the last year or two, please fill out a Washington State Patrol Background Check form. Forms are available in the office, and are usually approved within two weeks. Having the background check is required, and allows you to assist in the classroom, during field trips and with other fun events.

Also, when you check in at the office for in-school volunteer work, please always log your time into our counter notebook, as hours are tracked by the District for various programs. As always, thank you for the time and talent you share with our children.

September Calendar

- 20– Cookie Day
PTA General Meeting
6:30
- 27– PTA Fall Fundraiser Begins

October Calendar

- 4– Cookie Day
- 5– PTA Family Fun Night
Dance 6:30-8:30
- 9– Walk Your Student to
School Day
- 11– PTA Fall Fundraiser Ends
- 12– No School
Teacher In-Service
- 15-26– PTA Sweatshirt Sale
- 18– Cookie Day
PTA Board Meeting 6:30
- 19– No School
Data Day

International Walk to School Day

On Tuesday, October 9th, Meredith Hill families are invited to participate with students around the world who will be walking to school together with their parents and teachers.

Our students will officially begin their walk at the corner of South 302nd Place and 55th Place South at 9:05 a.m. Busses will be dropping students off there and those students will join the walk to the school.

Staff members will be stationed along the walking route to ensure the safety of our students. Chalked arrows and balloons will mark the path towards school. We encourage parents and community members to walk with their students.

Dress Code Reminder

Please take a moment to review our school's dress code policy with your children. It is intended to ensure student safety and promote an atmosphere that focuses on student learning. In line with district policy, the following are NOT allowed:

- Clothing displaying obscene or sexual words, pictures or messages.
- Clothing displaying drug- or alcohol-related words, pictures or messages.
- Pajamas, slippers, halter tops or any shirt that is short enough to expose the stomach; pants that are unusually low riding and are worn low on the hips revealing undergarments; or shorts/skirts shorter than finger tip length.
- Clothing which symbolizes gang membership or displays gang-related words, symbols, messages or pictures.

Meredith Hill policy is that there are no flip-flops worn at school as outlined in the Student Handbook. Hats are to be worn only outside the building.

Latino Night

Latino Night School will start on September 25, 2006 through May 13, 2008. The school is located at Thomas Jefferson High School, 4248 S. 288th St., Federal Way, Washington. Registration and orientation will be on September 25, 2007 at 6:30 pm in the Little Theatre. To be eligible for Latino Night School you must live within the boundaries of the Federal Way Public Schools.

Latino Night School offers a variety of classes to Latino students and their families. These classes range from GED programs for young adults, high school credit, early literacy classes for 3-5 year olds, tutoring and educational activities for students ages 6-12, parenting classes for parents and infants up to age 3. Highline Community College and the Multi Service Center Literacy Department will offer classes for adults.

For further information about Latino Night School, please call (253) 945-2094 or (253) 945-2473.

New School Hours

9:20 — 3:50

Students should arrive on school campus no earlier than 9:10

La Escuela Nocturna

La Escuela Nocturna para Latinos comenzará el 25 septiembre, 2007 hasta el 13 de mayo, 2008. La escuela esta situada en la secundaria, Thomas Jefferson High School, 4248 S. 288th St., Federal Way, Washington. Registración y orientación tendrán lugar el 25 de septiembre a las 6:30 pm en el teatro, "Little Theatre". Para participar en este programa, debe vivir dentro de los límites del Distrito Escolar de Federal Way.

La Escuela Nocturna para Latinos ofrece varias clases para estudiantes latinos y sus familiares. Hay clases como el programa GED (un programa para adultos para terminar su educación secundaria), programas para estudiantes en secundaria que necesitan mas créditos para graduarse, apoyo para niños con sus tarea y actividades educativas para estudiantes de 6 a 12 años, clases para nuevos padres (infantes y niños hasta los 3 años), y mucho más. También el Departamento de Alfabetización del Centro de Multi Service y Highline Community College ofrecerán clases en inglés y otros servicios para adultos.

Para mas información sobre La Escuela Nocturna para Latinos pueden llamar al (253) 945-2094 o (253) 945-2473.

Students Encouraged To Sign Up For King County Library Card

September is "Library Card Sign-Up Month!" In a joint effort between local King County Libraries and Federal Way Public Schools, we hope to ensure that all children have a library card.

We encourage families to make regular visits to the two King County Libraries in Federal Way. They are located at 34200 1st Way S. (253-838-3668) and 848 S. 320th St. (253-839-0257). It's easy to apply for a library card if your child doesn't already have one. Library cards open up a world of books to children and adults!

SLT Searching for New Member

We are looking for a parent representative for the Meredith Hill Site Leadership Team (SLT). This group meets once a month before school to work collaboratively with staff, keep us focused on our vision, and thoughtfully make core impact decisions.

If you would be interested in serving on the SLT as a parent representative, please contact Mrs. Kelsey (253)945-3205 or email ckelsey@fwps.org.