

# MEREDITH HILL Messenger

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## Student-Led Conferences Scheduled October 30-31

Elementary students across the district are preparing for two special days at the end of this month when they will tell parents about their performance in reading and math, and share goals they plan to achieve this year. These Student-Led Conferences will take place on October 30-31, and no regular classes are scheduled on these days.

### What is the student's role?

We believe that allowing students to talk to parents about their learning will give them a stronger sense of ownership and pride, and a greater understanding of how they can continue and improve their achievement. The student's job at conference time will be to explain some of the standards and goals they are working on, and to show examples of their current level of performance. With the support of teacher and parents, they will also set goals for future improvement.

### What is the parent's role?

One of the most important things a parent can do is attend the conference! This gives a strong message about the importance parents place on their child's learning. During the conference, parents are encouraged to listen, to compliment and talk with their child about his/her work, and to identify ways they can help their child reach his/her goals.

### What is the teacher's role?

Teachers have spent the first month of school getting to know the strengths and needs of each child. They have helped their students understand the standards and goals they are working on. By conference time, teachers will help children select work samples which show their level of performance in these areas. They will assist students in setting goals for the remainder of the year. Prior to the conferences, teachers will also provide opportunities for students to practice their part in the conference in order to put them more at ease.

### What is the timeline and schedule?

Conference schedules will come home the week of October 15th. We will do our best to schedule conferences back-to-back for families with more than one child.

In order to give students full attention during the conference, we request that brothers and sisters do not attend. School-age children are invited to participate in activities that the school will have available in the lunchroom while you are in their sibling's conference.

We look forward to this time when students can show off their learning, and identify goals which they and their teachers have set for the remaining months of the year. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for some very special conversations with your children on October 30 and 31!

Sincerely, Cindy Kelsey, Principal

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### October Calendar

- 5- PTA Family Fun Night  
Dance 5:30-7:30
- 9- Walk to School Day
- 12- Teacher In-Service  
NO SCHOOL
- 15- Picture Retakes
- 18- Cookie Day
- 19- Data Day  
NO SCHOOL
- 25- Globe Trotter  
Assembly 10:00-10:45
- 29- Book Fair Hours  
10:00- 10:15  
2:20- 3:30
- 30-31- Student-Led  
Conferences  
Book Fair Open

### November Calendar

- 1- Cookie Day
- 12- Veteran’s Day Holiday  
NO SCHOOL
- 15- Cookie Day  
Internal Action Walk  
PTA General Meeting  
6:30

### Teachers Plan Training on Two October Fridays

There will be no school for students on two Fridays this month, October 12 and October 19, while teachers meet for training and planning. On October 12, teachers across the district will spend a half-day learning about the new science kit their students will use this year, and a half-day in training on math curriculum. The following Friday, October 19, is “Data Day” across the district. Teachers will examine results of state, district and classroom assessments to plan follow-up and instruction for their students.

### Those Blue Slips Can Be Avoided

Absences: To avoid additional attendance paperwork when your student is *absent*, please send a note to the office explaining the circumstances, either by email to jarthur@fwps.org, or with your student when he/she returns—even though you may have already called the office personnel to alert them.

We always ask for written/ email excuses to attach to phone messages about absences.

Tardies: When you are not able to check your student into school when he/she is *tardy*, please either call the office ahead of time at 253-945-3200, or send the child with a note explaining the circumstances.

You don’t really need those blue slips. Thanks for your help cutting down on paperwork.

### Scholastic Book Fair October 29, 30, 31

Would you encourage your child’s love of reading if you could? Of course. What’s more—you can! Scholastic Book Fairs comes to our school on October 29th, to share exciting books and educational learning products with our young readers. Parents and teachers will find plenty of items to interest them too.

Fair hours on Monday October 29th will be 10:00-11:15 and 2:20-3:30. The Fair will also be open during conferences on October 30th and 31st. Everyone is welcome.

When you visit the Fair, look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can help build your child’s classroom library. The Book Fair helps promote learning while raising money for our library. Our goal for this year’s fair is to provide additional titles to our Reading Counts program. Please note that there is an 8.9% tax on all purchases.

### Upcoming Concert Dates: Be Ready!

- Kindergarten & Rucker-1..... May 29
- Grades 1/2..... March 11
- Grades 3/4..... February 12
- Honor Choir/Steel Drum..... January 22  
May 20
- Steel Drum at T.J. High School..... March 4
- Steel Drum Tours..... May 30  
June 5 and 6

## News From the Nurse, Mrs. Russo, R.N.



### International Walk to School Day

Time: 9:05 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, October 9

Where: Corner of S. 302nd Pl. and 55th Pl. S.

Meredith Hill Elementary will be joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 9th. Students from Meredith Hill will be walking to school that day along with parents and teachers.

Busses will be dropping students off and they will join us in the walk to the school. Staff members will be stationed along the walking route to ensure the safety of our students as they walk.

We encourage parents and community members to walk with their students. We will start on our journey towards Meredith Hill at 9:05 a.m.

Did you know these interesting facts about food allergies?

- It is estimated between 2-2.5% of the population has food allergies.
- Eight foods account for 90% of all allergic reactions. They are peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, wheat, and soy.
- There is no cure for food allergies. Avoidance of the offending food is the only way to avoid an allergic reaction.
- Planning and communication are key for avoiding and treating reactions.

A food allergy involves the interaction between a food—the gastrointestinal system—and the immune system. A reaction may occur within minutes to two hours after contact with the offending food. There is no way to predict how quickly a reaction will develop or how quickly a reaction will develop or how severe a reaction may become. If a reaction occurs, the key is to recognize the symptoms, and react quickly.

At school, we have a number of students with food allergies—to peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, and soy. The reactions are varied—from mild to life-threatening. The responsibility for our students with food allergies must be shared. Parents: Notify the school of your child's allergies; contact the nurse to develop a treatment plan and bring medications to school; provide "safe" foods for your child; educate your child in the self management of their food allergy; involve yourself in planning and helping at special events.

School Nurse: Develop a treatment plan with the parents and review the plan with the parents and review the plan and medications with staff; participate in classroom teaching regarding food allergies if indicated; follow-up on continued needs or if a reaction occurs.

Teacher/Paraeducator: Review the treatment plan and medications with the school nurse; review classroom activities involving food; consider using non-food items for incentives or rewards; create class awareness of food allergies in the class newsletter or a student/parent/ school nurse presentation if appropriate. Be sure the information is readily accessible to guest teachers.

Student: Don't trade or accept food from others; don't eat any food with unknown ingredients—even if you think it's safe, it's still not worth taking chances; notify an adult immediately after eating something that might contain the offending food; wash your hands with soap and water before and after eating.

Food-allergic kids need all of us working together to help keep them safe. Thanks for your help.