

Meredith Hill Messenger

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April 2008

Cindy Kelsey, Principal
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager
Jane Arthur, Secretary
Lynette Edwards, Office Clerk

Welcome New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome the following new staff members to Meredith Hill:

- Mrs. Donita Polson lives in the community, and her children are Meredith Hill alumni. She has been teaching second grade while Mrs. Johnson has been on maternity leave.
- Mrs. Laurie Christensen is teaching first grade while Mrs. McCann is caring for her new baby.
- Colleen Bruin is a new para-educator in the kindergarten program. Mrs. Bruin is the parent of a fourth grade student, and of two alumni. Before coming to Meredith Hill, Mrs. Bruin had been working at Rainier View Elementary.

Track Coach Urgently Needed

Meredith Hill Elementary is still looking within the school community for a coach/coordinator, with current First Aid and CPR certification, to lead its 2008 track program. Practices would begin immediately and continue through the middle of May, with meets scheduled on Saturdays at Federal Way High School Memorial Stadium. We need one part-time volunteer to assist the coach, and there is a stipend available for the position of coach. If you are interested, please contact the Meredith Hill office at (253) 945-3200.

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GATE Program Update

The window for nominating your student in Grades 2, 3 and 4 for the GATE program at Meredith Hill Elementary will begin the week of April 14. Nomination forms will be available in the main office from April 14 to May 1. All forms must be returned to the office by Friday, May 2, 2008.

The placement team made up of the principal, staff members, GATE teacher, and counselor, will consider information from the following:

- Student test scores (state and district)
- Student portfolio (classroom work samples, etc.)
- DASI (Developmentally Accelerated Skills Inventory)
- Parent, teacher, community member nominations.

Parents will be notified by Mrs. Kelsey regarding final placement in the GATE class by May 23, 2008.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held May 1– May 15, 2008. Your child must be five years old on or by August 31, 2008 to attend the 2008/2009 Kindergarten school year. To register your child, just come to the school office between 8:00 am-4:00 pm. The best time to register is 10:00 am-2:00 pm, due to before– and after-school traffic in the parking lot, and the high level of activity in the school office. Please bring the child you are registering with you. Things to bring with you: birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and

emergency contact phone numbers. Kindergarten students without proof of age, and all children not fully immunized may not attend school until those requirements have been met. This is a Washington state law. If you are interested in the all-day kindergarten class, all forms must be completely filled out and a \$230.00 deposit, representing the June 2009 tuition payment, is required before we can put your child into the all-day kindergarten class. There are only 15 available spaces for the all day kindergarten class, and it may fill up quickly.

ECEAP Program

ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and Head Start are now accepting applications for the 2008/2009 school year. Both ECEAP and Head Start are free preschool programs for low income families. Priority is given to children who will be four years old prior to September 1st, 2008. Eligibility for these programs is based on family income and child's age. If you have any questions or would like to request an application, call Nancy Baker at 253-945-5716, or the Information Line at 253-945-2379.

Insect Bites and Stings at Home and at School

Children will come in contact with insects that bite or sting them. Many will experience a local reaction to the sting including pain, itching and swelling to the sting site. It's important to make sure the stinger is removed; an embedded stinger still contains venom. If you see the stinger, do not pinch it but lightly brush it away from the direction of insertion to remove. Clean the bite or sting with warm water and soap, and apply ice to reduce itching or swelling.

A serious, generalized reaction, called anaphylaxis, with the following symptoms requires a call to 911: Itching or swelling at other than the sting site, for example the eyes, face, or tongue; hives or skin rash; wheezing, difficulty breathing or swallowing; vomiting; or if you've had a life-threatening reaction in the past. These are signs of a dangerous allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). If you have a known bee sting allergy, it is recommended you have an EpiPen at school so

treatment can begin quickly and as directed by your health care provider.

As always, prevention is the best treatment. Use unscented soaps, deodorants, lotions, or hair products. Use insect repellent on clothing and exposed parts of the body. Wear shoes. Wear light colored clothing and light smooth fabrics. Avoid flowerbeds, bushes, hedges and tall grass, garbage areas - places where stinging insects gather.

District Choice Enrollment Open April 1 through April 30

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. Applications for elementary students are available in the school office, and will be accepted from April 1 through April 30.

All applications must be submitted to the Educational Service Center (ESC), located at 31405 18th Ave. S. in Federal Way. All out-of-district applications must include a release from the home district.

Thanks to WASL Coaches

After Spring Break, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be involved in WASL testing. The Meredith Hill community has been instrumental again this year providing additional support to our 4th grade students as they prepare for the test. We appreciate the time and effort of all the parent coaches. Our thanks to: Mrs. Cindy Amato, Mrs. Tami Moore, Mrs. Dixie Thacker, Mrs. Amy Chung, Mrs. Tonya Condotta, Mrs. Darla Sprossig, Mrs. Debra Dickson, Mrs. Roxanne Bonholzer, Mrs. DeNae McGee, Mrs. Michelle Hayes, Mrs. Darby Bolster, Mrs. Linda DeVange, Mrs. Caludette Elliott, Mrs. Krista Tester, Mrs. Lori Argyle, Mrs. Tina Angell, Mrs. Michelle Bowman, Mrs. Jeanne Lunde, Mrs. Carly Rose-Fufa, Mrs. Krissy Lentz, Mrs. Rebecca McKeown, Mrs. Cindy Kelsey, Mrs. Karen Foster, Mrs. Patty EagleCruz, Mr. Joe Henry, Mrs. Lynette Edwards, and Ms. Cindy Flanagan.

April Calendar

1-4– Spring Break continues
 1– Choice Enrollment Begins
 7-May 16
 25 Mile Club
 During recesses
 10– Cookie Day
 15-24th WASL Testing
 24– Cookie Day
 30– First Grade to Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
 9:30-2:30 pm

May Calendar

1-15– Kindergarten Registration
 8– Cookie Day
 9– District Data Day
 NO SCHOOL
 16– PTA Auction
 20– Honor Choir/SD Concert
 22– Cookie Day
 PTA General Meeting
 6:30 pm
 29– Kindergarten Concert

25 Mile Club

Meredith Hill Elementary students will have the opportunity to participate in the Second Annual Meredith Hill 25 Mile Walking Club during lunch recess for six weeks in April and May. Please contact Mr. Navilio if you can be a regular volunteer at one of the three recesses. Adding to the fun will be small rewards given as students achieve their milestones. Also, there will be at least one theme day each week.

And the Winners Are ...

Da Bombest Mighty Book Dudes: David Jaquish, Blake Null, Maddy Nesbitt, Bogdan Tudos, and alternate Taura Vastakas.

Meredith Hill's Battle of the Books was held on March 18th. We had an incredible group of students who participated. Besides our winners, the following students participated this year:

The American Monkeys: Sara Coates, Halli McGraw, Mary Fullmer and Samantha Callan.

The KJAAs: Jack Kerby, Ashlee Donovan, Amy Donovan and Drew Bracken.

Fearless Readers: Victor Sanchez, Calen Randall, Trevor Deaver and Diego Rojas.

Super Readers: Curtis Condotta, Jacob Swanson, Connor Lack and Eric Johnston.

The Dolphins: Sierra Silva, Savanna Watkins, Yulia Boyko and Ramina Zagoryanu.

The T.I.G.S. Stars: Gabrielle Chung, Taura Vastakas, Ian Lam and Dylon Gregory.

The Wild Readers: Isabella Lowe, Alina Barylsky and Gurjot Kang.

The DIBBs: Bailey Draeger, Isabelle McLarty, Danielle Poltz and Brianna Mathews.

Master Readers: Samantha Shoemaker, Channing Blevens and Jared Dempsey.

Super Sonic Readers: Meleah McKnight, Danielle Lam, Hazel Phillips and Keely Velasquez.

Monkeys on Mars: Adam Agostino, Yun Moon, Spencer Bowman and Austin Calhoun.

The Reading Army: Hunter Placek and Michael Slettevold.

The Reading J.A.M.S: Allie Herrick, Jacob Ward, Shelby Garman and Makaylie Risch.

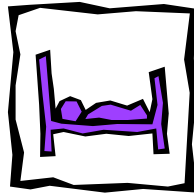
The Book Buddies: Wurishmeen Khan, Razma Yousufi and Laine Hendrix.

The Happy Bookworms: Nicole Gossler, Meghan Miller, Michaela Swiney and Krystal Pryor.

WASL TESTING SCHEDULE

All 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be involved in Washington's Assessment of Student Learning from April 15th-April 24th. The students and teachers are in the final stages preparing to take the WASL.

A good nights sleep, a hearty breakfast and an encouraging word from you each day will be a great support to your child as they go through this assessment process.



STOP THE CHOKING GAME BEFORE IT HITS CLOSE TO HOME

The choking game is a misunderstood activity causing death and suffering for thousands of families worldwide. It often begins with normal, 'good' kids choking themselves or each other to get high without the risk of getting caught with drugs or alcohol. It ends with thousands of them dying or suffering permanent brain damage each year.

Federal Way has had several instances of children participating in these activities. Most people have no idea how dangerous the Choking Game is until it hits close to home— but an organization called GASP is working to make everyone aware of the danger our children may be putting themselves in.

Set up by families of Choking Game victims, GASP is a global nonprofit campaign that fights this “game” with the most powerful weapon at our disposal: education. GASP's [website](http://www.gaspinfo.com/) has a wealth of information, including physical signs to look for, tips for intervening, and statistics. Go to <http://www.gaspinfo.com/> or contact the school counselor or school nurse for more information.