

# Meredith Hill Messenger

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Cindy Kelsey, Principal  
Mary Jane Henry, Office Manager  
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## Health Screening

Meredith Hill will be doing health screening on Tuesday, November 4. State law mandates health screening. Grades K-3 and 5 will be screened for vision and hearing. Fifth graders will also be screened for scoliosis.

A written note from the parent is required to waive any part of the state mandated screening. Rechecks will be done in the weeks following screening on any student not meeting the standards for vision or hearing. Referrals will be sent to parents if follow-up for hearing, vision or scoliosis screening is required. Please call Linda Russo RN, Meredith Hill School Nurse at 253-945-3209 if you have any questions or concerns.

Although students in Grade 4 do not participate in the state mandated screening, students may be referred to the Speech Language Pathologist for hearing screening or the School Nurse for vision screening. Parents or teachers may do this at any time during the school year for concerns of reduced visual or auditory acuity.

We appreciate parent volunteers for screening. Please call 253-945-3209 if you can volunteer a few hours. We will teach you to screen vision or hearing, no experience necessary!

Thanks for your support.

Linda Russo, School Nurse

### Inside this issue:

*Health Screening* 1  
*Veterans Day Assembly*

*Calendar* 2  
*Preschool Expanding*  
*Holiday Assistance*

*Battle of the Books* 3  
*Math Game Night*  
*Meredith Hill Concerts*

*Conference Success* 4  
*King County Library News*  
*Book Battle Titles*

*Report to Parents:* 5  
*Helping with Homework*

*Informe a los Padres* 6

## Assembly to Honor Veterans

Monday afternoon, November 10, at 3:00 p.m., Meredith Hill will be holding an assembly to honor veterans. We invite any person who is a veteran to attend this assembly so that we can express our appreciation of what you have done to protect our country and preserve our freedom. As a part of the assembly, we will have you stand and be introduced to our student body and staff. All families and veterans are invited to join us for this special recognition of the women and men who have served in our armed forces. We hope you can attend.

## November Calendar

- 4– Health Screening Day
- 5– Battle of the Books  
Discussion Groups  
Grade 3/4/5 Recesses
- 6– Cookie Day
- 7– PTA Family Dance  
5:30
- 10– Veteran’s Day Assembly  
3:00  
Alternate Recesses
- 11– No School  
Veteran’s Day
- 12– Team Time
- 13– Stack Up Competition
- 17– Math Game Night  
for Grades K, 1, 2  
6:00-7:00  
for Grades 3, 4, 5  
7:15-8:15
- 20– Cookie Day  
PTA General Meeting  
6:00
- 26– Early Dismissal  
1:50
- 27-28– No School  
Thanksgiving Holiday

## December Calendar

- 4– Cookie Day
- 8-11– PTA Holiday Shop
- 12– PTA Winterfest

## Preschool Expanding

Meredith Hill has just opened their preschool program to five more students: one spot in the morning, and four in the afternoon. Tuition is \$190 per month, and classes are held Monday through Thursday. June tuition and a registration fee must be paid at enrollment. For more information, please call the office: 253-945-3200.

## Holiday Assistance

The following agencies offer holiday assistance to families. If you feel that your family is in need of assistance this holiday season, one of these agencies may be able to help.

Salvation Army, 253-946-7933, 26419 16th Ave. S., Des Moines, WA 98198: Provides food and toys for children up to 12 years old to eligible families. Sign up by visiting the office on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm, now through December 1st. You will need photo identification for all adults in the family, social security numbers for family members, a birth certificate or medical coupon for children, and income verification.

Multi Service Center, 253-838-6810, 1200 S. 336th St., Federal Way, WA 98003: Provides food and gifts for children up to 14 years old. Sign up for an appointment November 1st– 12th at the office during food bank hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. You will need photo identification, current proof of address, and the social security numbers for the members of the family.

## Ayuda para la Navidad

Las agencias siguientes ofrecen a familias ayuda para la Navidad. Si usted piensa que su familia necesita ayuda este año, uno de estas agencias tal vez le puede ayudar.

Salvation Army, 253-946-7933, 26419 16th Ave. S., Des Moines, WA 98198: Provee comida y juguetes para niños hasta 12 años de edad a familias elegibles. Usted puede inscribirse por visitar a la oficina los lunes, los martes o los jueves 1:00-3:00 en la tarde, desde ahora hasta el 1 de Diciembre. Usted necesitará identificación con foto para los adultos en la familia, numeros de seguro social para los miembros de la familia, certificado de nacimiento o coupon medical para los ninos, y prueba de dirección.

Multi Service Center, 253-838-6810, 1200 S. 336th St., Federal Way, WA 98003: Provee comida y juguetes para niños hasta 14 años de edad. Usted puede hacer una cita empezando el 1 de Noviembre hasta el 12 de Noviembre por visitar a la oficina durante las horas del banco de comida: los lunes, los miércoles, y los viernes, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Usted necesitará identificación con foto, prueba de dirección, y los números de seguridad social para los miembros de la familia que los tienen.

## Battle of Books

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are encouraged to join this year's school and district-wide reading competition, "Battle of the Books." The rules are simple: Students read as many books as possible (or at least three) from two award-winning book lists. (See page 4 for title list.). Students try to remember important information from each book, including characters, plot, setting and something about the author.

Participants will form teams in January, and prepare to "battle" for the most knowledgeable team at Meredith Hill. The school competition will take place in March, with one team advancing to the district Battle of the Books on March 26. Team members will have a chance to consult with one another before answering each question, and the answer will be the title of one of the 19 books. The district winners bring home a championship trophy, which they keep at their school until the next year's competition. Meredith Hill was the proud recipient of the district trophy in 2005 and 2006.

Parents, please encourage your child to join this exciting reading competition. It's easy to get started. Just cut out the book list, and choose one book to get started on. Remember, students have until January to begin forming teams of four! Wouldn't it be great to bring the district trophy back to Meredith Hill this year!

## Math Game Night

Please join us for our First Annual Math Game Night on November 13th. Come have fun with your children, and build their confidence and competence in math. We are getting together to learn some more math games for fun and success! Grades K through 3 will attend 6:00-7:00 pm, and grades 4 and 5 will attend 7:15-8:15 pm.

As the math facilitator I observed that in order for children to have success in math, they must first master the "basic facts." For the younger set this means knowing all their addition and subtraction facts well. For the older set this means knowing multiplication and division facts well. Knowing these facts "well" means being able to rapidly recall the answer to any basic fact equation. Practicing these at home is essential to your child's math success and I will give you many ways to make this practice into play.

We will play some games to support your child's mastery of these facts and I will provide additional games and ideas to "master math" at home.

Rebecca McKeown

## Meredith Hill Concerts

Our fabulous Meredith Hill musicians want to celebrate their learning with you this year. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends are all invited to join in an evening performance celebrating the arts at our beautiful school. We invite you to mark your calendars now and join your child in a memorable event. (Yes, you'll want to bring your camera!)

Below is a list of performances that will be held throughout the year. It is our hope that every child will attend their performances and have the opportunity to share with their family. We want you to see how hard your child has worked, and the amazing things they can do!

Reminder notices will be sent prior to each of these events:

- *Kindergarten:* May 19, 2009
- *First and Second Grades:* March 26, 2009
- *Third and Fourth Grades:* February 26, 2009
- *Fifth Grade Steel Drums / Winterfest:* December 12, 2008
- *Fourth and Fifth Grade Honor Choir Festival Concert:*  
January—TBA
- *Fifth Grade Steel Drums and Fourth and Fifth Grade Honor Choir:* May 28, 2009
- *Steel Drum Tour (During days only):* June 2, 4, 5, 2009

## Conference Success

Meredith Hill students have tremendous support from their families. As we reflect on the recent student-led conferences, all staff are so appreciative of the time you moms and dads set aside to attend the student-led conferences and interact with your children about their learning .

The students spent a lot of time the past weeks preparing for the conferences and had been looking forward to sharing with

you. As you saw, they've set reading and math goals, reflected on their work habits, and planned how to be successful academically and socially throughout the year. The teachers wanted to present to you important testing data and student work that represents your child's current level of achievement.

As I attended the conferences, I was so impressed with the kinds of questions you asked your children and the contributions you made to goal setting

for your child. It is this kind of support — the support of families and teachers that will help the children be successful in school and throughout life. Thanks again for making the conferences so successful.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

## 2008/2009 Battle Books

*Looking for Bapu,*  
by Anjali Banerjee  
*Diary of a Fairy Godmother,*  
by Esme Raji Codell  
*Mr. Chickee's Funny Money,*  
by C. P. Curtis  
*The Road to Paris,*  
by Nikki Grimes  
*The Homework Machine,*  
by Dan Gutman  
*Tales of the Cryptids,*  
by Halls, Spears and Young  
*The World's Greatest Elephant,*  
by Ralph Helfer  
*The Beasts of Clawstone Castle,*  
by Eva Ibbotson  
*Archer's Quest,*  
by Linda Sue Park  
*Clementine,*  
by Sara Pennypacker  
*Magyk,*  
by Angie Sage  
*My Name is Sally Little Song,*  
by Brenda Woods  
*Gossamer,*  
by Lois Lowry  
*The Higher Power of Lucky,*  
by Susan Patron  
*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane,*  
by Kate DiCamillo  
*Room One: A Mystery or Two,*  
by Andrew Clements  
*Rules,*  
by Cynthia Lord  
*To Dance,*  
by Siena Cherson Siegel  
*The Year of the Dog,*  
by Grace Lin

## King County Library News

### *Battle of the Books*

Is your school participating in Federal Way's Battle of the Books? The 320th library and other King County libraries have numerous copies of the 2008-09 titles for you to check out. Ask a librarian for help in locating these titles when you visit the 320th Federal Way library!

### *Season of Stories and Songs*

Join KCLS for free programs as we celebrate the change of seasons and special family gatherings with music and stories. Find your local library's events by visiting [kcls.org](http://kcls.org). Programs include: Holiday Songs Around the World with The Miho and Diego Duo at the Federal Way Regional Library on November 26, 7 pm, and The Rain-Deer Puppet Show with Rowbes, at the 320th Federal Way Library on December 12, 11 am.

### *Ready-Set-Read!*

Students in elementary school can complete the Ready-Set-Read challenge by reading for 20 minutes, for 20 days, through April 2009. Children who bring a completed challenge form to their local KCLS library will win a free paperback prize book of their choice.