

Meredith Hill Messenger

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Cindy Kelsey, Principal
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Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart

This year at Meredith Hill, Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart will be celebrated together for the first time, on Monday and Tuesday, February 9th and 10th. Our students are jumping at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke.

Students will jump rope, and play basketball, to raise funds for co-sponsors American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and the American Heart Association, which funds cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs.

The average heart beats 100,000 times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life. These organizations teach students how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they can make a difference by providing important community service and having a great time at this fun-filled family event.

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- 1 Money raised by the event will go to fund potentially lifesaving research and educational and community programs. Please help our students help others. When a student asks you to be a sponsor, support Hoops for Heart or Jump Rope for Heart with whatever you can afford to give. If you would like to help more, call the American Heart Association office locally at 253- 272-7854 or call 800-242-8721.

Thank you for your support.

- 3 T.J. Navilio
Health and Fitness Teacher

- 4 **Federal Way Public Schools Face Deep Budget Cuts for Next Year**

- 5 Based on Governor Gregoire's proposed state budget, the state funding to Federal Way Public Schools in the coming school year will be a minimum of \$5 million less than what is needed to maintain current levels of service. This will require difficult reductions in the district's operating budget for the coming school year, which begins Sept. 1, 2009.

A presentation about the proposed state budget and its effect on Federal Way Public School's funding for next year will be made to parents at the January general PTA meeting, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. We hope that you will be able to attend this important meeting. Child care is provided.

<http://www.fwps.org/info/budget/>

Visitor and Volunteer Procedures

We welcome all parents to visit us at Meredith Hill. For the safety of our students and in the interest of our instructional programs, I am asking that you follow the procedures below:

1. Please schedule your visit in advance with the teacher. This way you can be sure that your visit will be meaningful.
2. Check into the office, sign the visitor's log and receive an official Meredith Hill Visitor's Badge.
3. You must indicate your **exact** location and must notify the office if you make a location change.

Guidelines for your visit while in the classroom.

1. I am asking that you enter quietly and find a location from which you can observe your child.
2. You may actively participate in classroom activities, if invited by the teacher.
3. During your visit, teachers will not be available to conference with you. If you wish to set up a time to discuss your child's academic progress, please call or email the teacher. Teachers are available in the mornings from 8:50 AM to 9:15 AM and after school from 3:50 PM to 4:20 PM. An individual conference requiring a longer time will

need to be scheduled with the classroom teacher.

4. Please do not wander the hallways and go into other classrooms.
5. Please refrain from using your cell phones and have them turned off or on vibrate.

[Our guidelines are in accordance with Board Policy 4311P]

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed in the classrooms and for general service to the school. Volunteers can teach small groups, serve on committees, or serve as key communicators between the district and Meredith Hill. There are opportunities to participate in health screenings, field trips, field day, and other activities throughout the year.

Volunteer Requirements: The law requires that each person working with children as a volunteer fill out a Washington State Patrol Criminal History and Background Check form. Once your form has cleared, you will be notified that you can volunteer. These forms are available in the office and are valid for two years.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact me.

Sincerely, Cindy Kelsey

Principal

Battle of the Books

The reading list is out and the Meredith Hill students are reading like crazy! The Battle of the Books (BoB) is a fun and exciting activity for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. A select list of 19 books outlines the reading that is necessary to participate in the Battle of the Books. Students select teams, a total of 4 students (minimum of 2), who have read the books. Team members will consult with each other to come up with answers to 20 questions posed to all the MHL teams. The competition will be held at Meredith Hill on March 19th at 2:00 to determine the Meredith Hill team who will represent our school at the district Battle of the Books later that month.

We really appreciate Mrs. Condotta, Mrs. Nesbitt, Mrs. Rojas, and Mrs. Scott who are holding literature discussions. In January, they will be working with the students to organize the teams and also meet with the teams during lunch recesses to practice answering questions from the book list in preparation for the school competition. Several copies of each of the books are provided for check out in the Meredith Hill library.

Thank you to the Meredith Hill PTA for purchasing several copies of the BoB books. We hope you encourage your 3rd, 4th, and/or 5th grade child to participate this year. (See book list on pg. 4 of newsletter)

Weather Surprises

As we learned in December, weather can often surprise us and cause disruption for schools and a great deal of confusion for parents and students.

If phone service is working, you should receive a call from Connect-Ed, our district messaging system, with updates on school closures, etc. If you are not receiving calls from this system, it means that we do not have a correct phone number for you. Please call the school (253) 45-3200 as soon as possible to provide your current phone number. You may call FWPS at (253) 945-2206 to hear updates on closures for inclement weather or late starts. These notices are also available on the FWPS website: <http://www.fwps.org> **DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL!**

Safety is the first concern. Make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather and for being outdoors. Our students go out to recess in all kinds of weather, except in extreme conditions.

LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S COATS, HATS, SCARVES, AND OTHER ATTIRE.

January Calendar

- 8- Cookie Day
- 14- Intro to Arts Program
Parents Meeting
6:30-7:30 Library
- 15- PTA Board Meeting—6:30 pm
- 19- Martin Luther King Jr.
Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- 22- Training for Accelerated Reader
Library 3:00
- 22- PTA Gen. Mtg.—6:30 pm
Cookie Day
- 23- End of First Semester
- 26- Day Between Semesters
NO SCHOOL
- 30- Training for Accelerated Reader
Library 3:00
PTA Bingo Night
6:00-8:00 pm

Listen to KIRO 97.3 FM and

KOMO AM 1000 for Emergency News

The City of Federal Way would like us to note that the list of radio stations broadcasting emergency information has changed slightly in our area.

KIRO Radio 710 AM will be changing over to all sports in January and KIRO 97.3 FM will become all news. KIRO 97.3 FM and KOMO AM 1000 should be listed as the designated emergency broadcast stations for our region starting January 1, 2009.

In addition, you can get emergency school bus information from the district website: www.fwps.org/info/bus/emergency.

February Calendar

- 5- Cookie Day
- 6- Report Cards Go Home
- 12- PTA Board Meeting - 6:00 pm
- 16-17-Midwinter Break—NO SCHOOL
- 19- Cookie Day
- 26- 3rd and 4th grade concert
- 27- District Data Day—NO SCHOOL

Accelerated Reader Program

The new Accelerated Reader Program started in January.

At the end of December, Meredith Hill students wrap up their reading activities on Reading Counts. Coming back to school in January, we will have the Accelerated Reader (AR) program ready for students to use. The software is called "Renaissance Place." Your child has received a letter that they were to share with you regarding this new program. This program has a special feature called "Home Connect" that allows you to view your child's progress. In the December newsletter, we told you that we would provide the URL for you to log in at home or library to find information about your child's activity in AR. You can view Home Connect from any computer with an Internet connection using these browsers: 1) Internet Explorer 6.02 or later; 2) Firefox 1.5 or later; or 3) Safari™ 2.0.3 or later. The URL for Home Connect is: <http://readomg.fwps.org/RenaissanceServer/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>

In Home connect, you can also 1) click e-mail setup to sign up to receive e-mails showing your child's quiz or test results and 2) click "Help" to get answers to your questions about Home Connect.

If you have questions, contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Edwards in the library.



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

HIV / AIDS Prevention Curriculum Preview

The Federal Way School District would like the opportunity to share with parents the HIV/AIDS Prevention Curriculum, which will be presented to students in grades 5 through 12. This curriculum focuses on the transmission and prevention of the disease, emphasizing abstinence. The district has adopted The Great Body Shop and KNOW for this area of study.

Curriculum used at each grade level will be presented from 6:30—7:30 on Thursday, February 19th, 2009, in different rooms at the Educational Service Center at 31405 18th Ave. S. It will be presented according to grade levels, so that you have the opportunity to preview the materials that will be at your child's level.

This presentation is for parents only.

We look forward to seeing you at the preview. If you need further information, please call Forrest Griek, Health Curriculum Coordinator for the Federal Way Public Schools. at (253) 945-5613.

Martin Luther King Assembly Scheduled

On Friday, January 16, 2009 at 9:45 a.m., Meredith Hill students and staff will be celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in an assembly.

Dr. King's accomplishments point the way for all of us; understanding, peace, equality. Students will perform poetry, drama, artwork and song. We invite family and friends to share in this event as we celebrate as a school community.

Concert Dates for the remainder of the year:

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| February 26 | 3rd and 4th Grade Concert |
| March 26 | 1st and 2nd Grade Concert |
| May 19 | Kindergarten/ Ms. Polson and Ms. Boggs Concert |
| May 28 | Honor Choir/Steel Drum Concert |
| June 2, 4, 5 | Steel Drum Tour |