

# Meredith Hill Messenger

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## Wrapping Up a Successful School Year

The end of the school year will be here before we know it. Students' sights are focused on June 22, our last day of school for grades K-5 and the beginning of summer vacation. Behind the scenes, teachers and other staff are already working busily on plans to open the next school year on September 4. Following is information that will update you on plans for the end of this year and the start of the next!

*Last day of School:* Friday, June 22 is the last day of school for students in grades 1-5 as well as our all-day kindergarten. Meredith Hill students will be dismissed at 11:10 am, and no lunches will be served that day. We will hold an awards assembly June 22 at 9:15, which you are welcome to attend. Preschool class will end June 21 and our half-day kindergarten classes will end on Thursday, June 21 as well. Reminders for parents prior to the last day include: (1) Make sure students have returned all library and school books, as they will not receive their report card until these are turned in or fines are paid. (2) Check the Lost and Found in the hallway by the gym for any missing clothing items. We send left-behind items to the clothing bank soon after the last day of school. (3) If your child has any medications at school, make sure they are picked up by the last day. We must discard all medications at the end of the year.

*Your plans for next year:* Thank you to each family who returned information for next year. This helps us make accurate plans for next year's classrooms. If you did not return this form and find that you will be moving from our service area, please give us a call at 253-945-3200 as soon as possible. It is also fine to leave a message at this number over the summer, but we won't receive it until office staff returns in August.

*Next year's school hours:* Meredith Hill will be on the "late start" schedule next year. The school day begins at 9:20 am and ends at 3:50 pm. Half-day kindergarten classes and preschool classes run from 9:20 to 12:05 for the morning session and from 1:05 to 3:50 for the afternoon session.

*Next year's calendar:* Attached to this newsletter you will find a copy of the 2007-2008 calendar. Please put this in a safe place for your reference. You will note that Tuesday, September 4, 2007 is the first day of school for students in grades K-5. This will be an "Orientation Day" for both students and parents at Meredith Hill. Assigned times for each family will be mailed to you in August.

*Next year's class assignments:* Class lists will be posted on August 31 at 4:00 pm on the office window. (See page 2: Wrapping Up continued.)

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## Wrapping Up (continued)

*Farewells:* We want to express congratulations and farewell to our 5th grade classes as they move on to middle school, and especially to those families who have no younger students remaining at Meredith Hill. Please remember to come back to visit so that we can keep up with your successes! To the parents and families of 5th grade students, thank you for the dedication and volunteerism you have shared with all students over the years! You are welcome to come back and volunteer and support our school anytime! Best wishes go to the students and families who will be moving to a new school next year. We will miss you!

We say thank you and farewell to three Meredith Hill staff who will be leaving us at the end of the school year. We appreciate your years of service and the many ways you have touched the lives of Meredith Hill children. Best wishes to Mrs. Rodriguez who will be moving to Saghalie Middle School where she will be a Dean of Students. Mrs. Poltz has been serving as a one-on-one assistant in the kindergarten class and her student is moving to another school in the district. And, best wishes to Mrs. Baldgya who will be moving to Arizona to join her husband who is already enjoying his new job.

*Summer office hours:* Our office will be open through June 28, and will open again by the week of August 13. If you need to reach the office for any reason after the school year is out, please call the principal's message phone at 253-945-3205. I'll be checking my messages throughout the summer. Thank you, parents, for working closely alongside us this year. A strong partnership between home and school is a key to students' high achievement and learning success. Be safe and have an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

## From the Nurse: Field Day Reminders

Field Day has been changed to June 20. Please prepare your child ahead of time for a safe and fun day, taking the following into consideration:

- See that your child wears appropriate shoes for playing outdoors during field day activities.
- If your child has an inhaler at school, please remind him/her to come to the health room to use it before participating in field activities, especially if asthma is a concern.

If the day is expected to be especially warm and sunny:

- Apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school.
- Have your child bring a hat to wear outside.
- Send a water bottle to school and encourage your child to drink plenty of water.

Thanks for helping us keep all students happy, healthy, and safe!

## SLT Seeking New Member

The School Leadership Team (SLT) at Meredith Hill provides a forum to make recommendations to the principal, staff and parents for the betterment of Meredith Hill Elementary School. The SLT is composed of twelve members, half from the staff and half from the Meredith Hill community. Members are asked to commit to a two-year term.

We are looking for one more community/PTA member for a 2007-2009 term. For more information, please call the school office.

## Pre-School and All-Day Kindergarten Positions Available

Meredith Hill Elementary has a few remaining positions available in both the PM Pre-School and the All-Day Kindergarten programs for the 2007-2008 school year.

Pre-School enrollment requires a \$25 registration fee, and \$180 prepayment for June 2008 tuition. ADK enrollment requires a \$230 prepayment for June 2008 as well.

All new students should bring birth certificates, and immunization records when they enroll. Proof of residency is required for all students, except those entering pre-school.

## School Supplies Needed

Every fall we have students who have need of school supplies. If you are able, when you shop for your student's school supplies for next year, consider buying a little extra to donate to the school. Unfortunately it is the more expensive school supplies we run short on. We particularly need: new backpacks that appeal to girls, dry erase markers, 2 inch 3 ring binders, folders with horizontal pockets, scissors, colored pencils, pink erasers, water color paints, post it notes, zip lock bags, school boxes, and kleenex. Bring your donations to the school office when you can. Every little bit helps. If your student needs help with school supplies in the fall, you can leave a confidential voice mail for Mrs. EagleCruz at 253-945-3208. Thank you so much!

## June Calendar

- 5– 3rd Grade Field Trip  
Seattle Science Center  
9:15-3:00
- 7– Steel Drum Tour
- 8– Steel Drum Tour  
Portfolio Night 3:30-5:30  
PTA Auction/Art Walk
- 11– Safety Patrol Celebration  
9:15-3:00
- 13– Ice Cream Day
- 14– Steel Drum Tour
- 15– Steel Drum Tour
- 20– Field Day  
AM: Grades K/1/2  
PM: Grades 3/4/5
- 21– Last Day Preschool and  
1/2 Day Kindergarten  
5th Gr. Celebration
- 22– Last Day ADK-5  
All-School Assembly  
9:15  
11:10 Dismissal

## “Summer Bridge” Program Planned

Federal Way School District will offer an elementary summer school program called “Summer Bridge.” This summer learning opportunity is provided at no charge for a limited number of students who need assistance in reading and/or math in order to achieve grade level expectations. Teachers will recommend 20 students from grades K-2 and 20 students from grades 3-5 to attend summer school.

The program for Meredith Hill students will take place at Camelot Elementary from June 26 through August 2. Classes are scheduled in the mornings from 8:00 to 11:45 am., Monday through Thursday. There will be no classes on Fridays. Students who normally ride the bus will continue to receive bus transportation. Students who normally walk or are driven to school will need to go to their home school, Meredith Hill, where a bus will pick them up and drop them off.

Your child’s teacher has sent home registration materials for those students who will be involved in the Summer Bridge program. If you have questions, ask your child’s teacher or call Mrs. Kelsey.

## Summer Vocabulary Strategies from the Speech-Language Pathologist

Summer is approaching, and I’d like to take this opportunity to share with you some fun summer strategies that you can use to help your child(ren) increase their vocabulary knowledge. Learning new vocabulary requires meaningful experiences, and of course one of the best ways to strengthen vocabulary skills is to read. For young children, talking with them about the pictures in a book is very meaningful. For older children, reading presents an opportunity to learn vocabulary from the context of the stories. Just talking with your children about the world around you is another great way to facilitate vocabulary growth. Whether you’re driving in the car, visiting a special vacation place, grocery shopping or cooking dinner, take time to talk to your children. Engage them in conversation about the world around you, and you might be surprised to see how much they learn from listening to you.

Have a wonderful summer! Bethany Sillanpaa



**FEDERAL WAY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE  
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT of 1974**

**ANNUAL NOTIFICATION**

The Federal Way School District, Special Education Department, is required by Section 99.37 of Federal regulations titled, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), to provide parents annual notification of their FERPA rights. If parents have a primary or home language other than English, the District will effectively notify them of their rights under this Section.

The parents or eligible student has a right to:

- (1) Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to Student Support Services Department a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Department will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the Federal Way School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. The parents or eligible students should write the Co-Director of Student Support Services, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained

in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the district has contract to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on a official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- (4) The right to file with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-4605

- (5) A copy of this policy is available by request at Student Support Services, Federal Way School District, 31405 18th Ave South, Federal Way, WA 98003 or 253-945-2080.

This notice is intended to comply with the applicable requirements on 34 CFR, Part 300; 34 CFR, Part 99; and WAC 392-172-404.