

Meredith Hill Messenger

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

Meredith Hill Celebrates State Test Results

Results from last April's state-wide assessments for grades 3-8 have arrived, and Meredith Hill has much to celebrate! WASL scores (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) were released just before the start of school, and last year's 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders showed a strong performance in most areas when compared to students across the district and state. When scores for all three grade levels were averaged together, they met the state's minimum targets of 76.1% of students meeting standard in reading and 64.9% in math. These targets increased last year as part of the federal mandate to have *all* students meeting standard by the year 2014.

Congratulations to all of our students and teachers for the excellent work they did last year in meeting the grade level expectations set by our state! These targets increase every three years, with the goal of getting all students to standard in reading and math by the year 2014. We continue to set goals and modify instruction to help ALL children achieve at high standards!

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This is the last year that Washington will take the WASL in its current form. The state test for grades 3-8 and high school will be replaced this year with the "Measure of Student Progress," or MSP. State assessments are part of the long-term reform efforts of our state, and are designed to show whether students are meeting new and higher standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science. The percent of students who met the standard in each of these areas in our school, our district, and our state is given below.

	Students Meeting-State Standard in:	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
	3rd Grade	82%	79%	NA	NA
	4 th Grade	84%	65%	70%	NA
	5 th Grade	84%	79%	NA	65%

Minimum state standard for 08-10: RDG – 76.1% MATH – 64.9%

Parents can request an appointment to view their child's individual WASL test by calling the District Assessment Office at 253-945-3205. Students' individual scores have been delivered to parents earlier this month. Don't hesitate to call me if you have questions about your child's WASL scores, or the state assessments in general. More information on the new assessment (MSP) will be made available as schools receive it.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. Kelsey, Principal

AmeriCorps Warmly Welcomed at Meredith Hill

Dear Meredith Hill Staff,

I would like to thank the many teachers and staff who have introduced themselves to me during my first week at MHL. I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received and I would like to return the favor by introducing myself.

My name is Megan Pahl and I will be serving my second year as an AmeriCorps member. I grew up just outside of Minneapolis and had been living there until a few weeks ago. I graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in 2008 with a B.A. in English. Last year I served in a Minneapolis K-8 public school as a Service-Learning/Volunteer Coordinator. I also had the opportunity to lead after school classes and be a mentor and tutor for students in various grades. I am excited to take the skills I learned last year and build on them to better serve MHL students and staff.

I've heard great things about this school and I feel very fortunate to be here. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help out. I will be available Monday thru Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Fridays I will be out of the building continuing my training with AmeriCorps. In addition, I will be gone the week of October 26th for SERVES (a state-wide training).

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to working with all of you at some point this year.

Sincerely,
Megan Pahl

Free Immunizations

Come and get your free school shots at the Federal Way Public Health Center ,33431 13th Place South., on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 to 1:00 .

Primary immunizations will be available for students attending Federal Way Public Schools, from Kindergarten through age 18. Student must come accompanied by one of the parents or legal guardians in order for the child to receive immunizations. It is requested that you bring your child's immunization records with you to the clinic.

Available immunizations include: MMR, IPV, DtaP, Varicella, Td,Hep B, and Tdap. No flu or HPV vaccine will be available.

Book Fair Oct. 26 - 30

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 26th, to share exciting books and educational learning products with our young readers. Parents and teachers will find plenty of items to interest them too. The fair is open Monday the 26th through Friday the 30th.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday , our hours will be 9:00-3:30. On Thursday the 29th, there will be extended hours 9:00-7:30.

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 us promote learning while raising money for our library. Our goal for this year's fair is to provide additional titles to support our Accelerated Reader program. When you make your purchases, please note that there is a 9.5 % tax on all purchases.

FWSD Requests Parents' Input

The Federal Way School District's Family Partnership Office would like to hear ideas from parents and staff about simple ways parents can support their student's learning at home.

The department would like to father the best ideas and tips to share with parents who want to support their children's academic success, but whose work schedules do not allow them to participate in school meetings, committees or activities.

Welcome New Staff

My name is *Renee King* and I'm very excited about being at Meredith Hill. Last year I taught the third grade at Camelot Elementary and I'm looking forward to teaching the first grade. I really enjoy teaching reading and I'm always looking for new ways to challenge myself as a teacher and my students as learners. Something that is very important to me is creating an environment where students feel safe, successful, and understand that it's okay to not always have the right answer.

When I'm not in the classroom I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and dogs Roxie Michelle and Ziggy Stardust. Over the summer my family and I spend most of our time at our beach house hiking, reading, and relaxing. I'm excited about this year and all the wonderful first graders, great staff and community here at Meredith Hill I get to share it with.

My name is *Tracy Dunnam*, and I am so excited to be working with the fabulous staff and families at Meredith Hill this year! After almost twenty years in human resources, and several years volunteering in my son's classroom, I "got smart" and decided to follow my heart to teach and work with children. Most recently, I taught sixth graders at Horizon Elementary in Kent and worked as a substitute teacher for K-8 in several school districts.

My husband and I will celebrate our twentieth anniversary in the spring. We have a thirteen year old son, Evan, who is an eighth grader at Cedar Heights Middle School in Covington.

We love to travel, especially to sunny beaches. Our house is full of pets - two cats and two dogs that we love to take to dog parks. We are also avid readers and can never have too many books.

I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. Thank you for welcoming me into your wonderful learning community.

My name is *Iris Gordon*: I live in Federal Way with my husband. I have two grown children, a son and a daughter, and both attended Federal Way schools.

I worked for FWSD for seventeen years as a paraeducator. Later, I was a receptionist for two years, but I missed the children so much that I had to come back to the District to work with them again.

I enjoy reading, quilting, and doing cross-stitch. I love gardening, and being a grandma. I have a pet cat.

Hello, my name is *Stephanie McPhail*. I'm the new .5 instructional coach at Meredith Hill. Over the last nine years, I have taught in both private and public school settings. Most recently, I taught Kindergarten at Van Asselt Elementary School in Seattle where over 22 languages are spoken and most students are on free or reduced lunch. While I was there, I became a nationally board certified teacher in English as a New Language. During some evenings and weekends, I will also be facilitating educators who are pursuing national or professional certification through SPU and

UW. In addition, I will be teaching a few MA and BA courses at CityU around the areas of literacy, assessment, working with ELL students, and brain development.

I'm excited to be joining such a wonderful learning community and look forward to meeting all of you.

My name is *Debbie Snyder*. I have been with the Federal Way School District for 10 years. My positions included Special Education Para and also school Technology Leader.

My love of the outdoors has led me into fishing, camping, hiking and cross-country skiing. I just recently took up fly-fishing and hope to fish Yellowstone Rivers next year.

Besides the outdoors, I also love to travel. With the aid of my stepson and his Piper Cub airplane, I have flown all over the interior Mountain Ranges in Alaska.

I also had the wonderful experience of being a Personal Care Provider for a young lady with a severe head injury. She was a part of our family for 5 short full years. I think I learned much more from her than she did me.

I have been married to the same wonderful man for almost 25 years. Fortunately, he enjoys the same love of the outdoors as I do.

Volunteer Reminders

Meredith Hill volunteers, if you have not done so in the last year or two, please fill out a Washington State Patrol Background Check form. Forms are available in the office, and are usually approved within two weeks. Having the background check is required, and allows you to assist in the classroom, during field trips and with other fun events.

Also, when you check in at the office for in-school volunteer work, please always log your time into our counter notebook, as hours are tracked by the District for various programs. As always, thank you for the time and talent you share with our children.

September Calendar

- 22– Curriculum Night,
Grades 3&4 and
Carson 6:30-7:30
- 24– Cookie Day
Reptile Man Assembly
2:15
PTA General Meeting
6:30
- 28– 5th Grade Curriculum
Night 6:30 – 7:30

October Calendar

- 3– Free Immunization
Clinic
FW Public Health Ctr.
9:00-1:00
- 9– No School
Teacher Inservice
- 16– No School
District Data Day
- 22– Cookie Day
PTA Board Meeting 6:15
PTA General Meeting 7:00
- 26-30–Book Fair
Hours 9:30 – 3:30
- 28– PTA Assembly
“Brothers from
Different Mothers”
- 29– Thursday Book Fair
Extended Hours
9:30 – 7:30
- 29, 30–Student Led
Conferences
Progress Reports
go home

Curriculum Nights

Our teachers will be holding curriculum nights this fall from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm in the teachers’ classrooms. This will give you a chance to meet your student’s teacher. They will go over the instructional schedule and curriculum that will be taught through the year.

This is a time for you to come *without* your child and spend time in the classroom. Babysitting will be available in the school cafeteria, and also a Spanish translator will be available. Please join us.

Third and Fourth Grades plus Carson: Tuesday, Sept. 22
Fifth Grade: Monday, Sept. 28

Dress Code Reminder

Please take a moment to review our school’s dress code policy with your children. It is intended to ensure student safety and promote an atmosphere that focuses on student learning. In line with district policy, the following are NOT allowed:

- Clothing displaying obscene or sexual words, pictures or messages or clothing displaying drug– or alcohol-related words, pictures or messages.
- Pajamas, slippers, halter tops or any shirt that is short enough to expose the stomach; pants that are unusually low riding and are worn low on the hips revealing undergarments; or shorts/skirts shorter than finger tip length.
- Clothing which symbolizes gang membership or displays gang-related words, symbols, messages or pictures.

Meredith Hill policy is that there are no flip-flops worn at school as outlined in the Student Handbook. Hats are to be worn only outside the building.

EagleCruz “Earmail”

Mrs. EagleCruz, Meredith Hill counselor, is available to meet with students at the request of students, staff, or parents to discuss student concerns.

A **student** can complete an “Earmail” note and place it in the box in front of the counselor’s office, to request a meeting. They can fill out a request before or after school, or during a recess time. Mrs. EagleCruz usually meets with students at recess, as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to try to work out their concerns first, using Kelso’s choices. Mrs. EagleCruz is available to talk with parents also. Her voice mail/phone number is 253 945 3208.

Library Volunteers Needed

The library will need volunteers on: Friday, October 23rd to help set up the Book Fair, during the week of the book fair to help people select their books, and on Monday, November 2nd to take down the Book Fair. We also need a coordinator for the "One For Books" donations program. This is an amazing program. For every dollar that Meredith Hill collects a book will be donated to an underprivileged child. What a great way to support our library and put a book into the hands of a child in need.

Free Programs at the FW Library in October

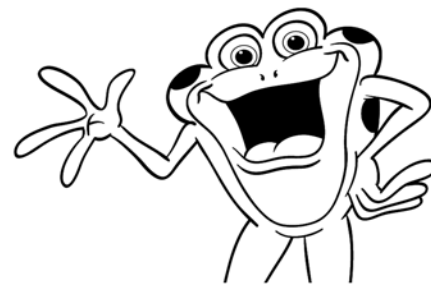
There are many wonderful programs ongoing at the Federal Way 320th Library in the month of October, for children and families. Check out the information below for a partial listing, or contact the library at 253-839-0257, or at www.kcls.org for more information.

Wonderful Ones Story Times features rhymes, bounces, songs, puppets and stories for children 12 to 24 months with an adult, on Thursdays and Fridays in October at 10:15 AM.

Toddler Story Times includes stories, songs, puppets, finger plays and fun for children 2 to 3 with an adult, on Thursdays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 10:15 AM.

Fantastic Fridays Story Times will entertain the whole family, from age 2 on up, with great stories, funny songs and much more. Be there on October 2, 16, 23, or 30, at 11:00 AM.

Spanish Story Time, or Hora de Cuentos, will be held at 6:30 PM on October 6, 13, 20, and 27. Cuentos, juegos y canciones para niños en español.



Kelso’s Choices

Kelso’s choices is a conflict management program taught to Meredith Hill students in first through third grade by our counselor, Mrs. Patty EagleCruz. Fourth and fifth grade students are reminded and expected to use Kelso’s choices also. This program teaches students how to solve small problems using these nine choices: Go to another game, Share and take turns, Talk it out, Walk away, Ignore it, Tell them to stop, Apologize, Make a deal, or Wait and cool off.

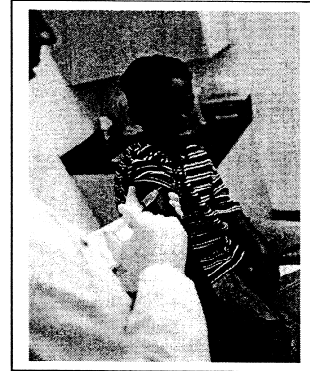
When a student has a small problem, the students have been taught to try to use at least two of Kelso’s choices before going to an adult for help. The student’s are taught to go to a trusted adult if the problem is “Big” (scary, dangerous, someone could get hurt). The primary students have a chance to practice solving small problems through role plays. They also practice going to an adult for big problems. Kelso reminds the students that “you’re strong enough and smart enough to make good choices!”

Mrs. EagleCruz
Counselor

NECESITA VACUNAS?

Vacunas GRATUITAS
El día Sabado, 3 de Octubre 9:00 – 1:00

El Centro de Salud Pública
33431 13th Place South



Vacunas disponibles para los niños de edad escolar que residen en el Distrito Escolar de Federal Way desde el kindergarten hasta el Doceavo grado.

- ✓ **Es muy importante que los estudiantes vengan acompañados con uno de sus padres o su representante legal para que puedan recibir las vacunas**
- ✓ **También deben de traer consigo, la cartilla de vacunas.**

Las Vacunas disponibles incluyen:

MMR (Sarampión, Paperas y Rubeola)

IPV (Polio inyectable)

DtaP (Difteria, Tetanos y Tosferina)

Tdap (Tetanos, Difteria y Tosferina)

Hep B (Hepatitis B)

Td (Tétano)

Varicela (Viruela)

Este evento es una combinación de la asociación del Departamento de Salud Pública de Seattle y Condado de King y del Distrito Escolar de Federal Way. El evento es posible gracias en parte a una donación del Group Health Foundation

