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[www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org)  
[schools.fwps.org/shf/home.htm](http://schools.fwps.org/shf/home.htm)

**Federal Way Public Schools**  
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## Daily Reading Makes ‘Stars’ out of Students

With our school-wide Accelerated Reader program, we expect reading skills and reading enjoyment to reach the STARS this year—Sherwood’s Top Accelerated Readers, that is! “STARS” is the theme for our independent reading program, and students are already well on their journey! In the Accelerated Reader “STARS” Program, students earn points by reading books at their level and taking a short quiz on the computer. Points are totaled monthly, and determine the number of beads that students are able to add to their personal AR necklace. Necklaces are proudly displayed in each classroom, and are worn on special days at school.

Goals for the year have been set for each grade level, and students who meet or exceed their goal will win a medal in June.

**Kindergarten – 10 points**

**3rd Grade – 60 points**

**1st Grade – 20 points**

**4th Grade – 80 points**

**2nd Grade – 40 points**

**5th Grade – 100 points**

A reward even better than beads and medals is the skills students will gain through daily reading! Did you know that if your child reads 30 minutes a day, he or she is likely to score in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of students across the nation on standardized reading tests? Imagine that! You can boost your child’s reading skills and performance by simply asking him to read every day! And with our school’s AR program, there are more than 120,000 titles that students can choose from! Remember to visit [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com) to help your child find a “just right” book!

The following chart shows the importance of time spent reading and the relationship to percentile ranking on standardized reading assessments:

Independent Reading Minutes Per Day	Words Read Per Year	Percentile Rank on Standardized Tests
67.3	4,733,000	98 <sup>th</sup>
33.4	2,357,000	90 <sup>th</sup>
16.9	1,168,000	70 <sup>th</sup>
9.2	601,000	50 <sup>th</sup>
4.3	251,000	30 <sup>th</sup>
1.0	51,000	10 <sup>th</sup>
0.0	0	2 <sup>nd</sup>

That is why we feel so passionate about our AR STARS program here at Sherwood Forest. We ask every student to read a minimum of 20 minutes (K-1) or 25 minutes (gr. 2-5) every night for five nights during the week. It is one of the most important homework activities which students can complete, and we need your support to make it happen. We hope that the parents of all 515 of our students are encouraging them to read on a regular basis. You can help by choosing a time each night for your child to read, by reading with or to your child, and by showing an interest in the books he chooses. If he makes more than five mistakes on any single page, you can ask his teacher to help him select “just right books” that are closer to his independent reading level. (It’s no fun to read and get frustrated by the difficult words, and that choppy reading does not allow comprehension skills to grow!)

In addition, we want to say thank you to the many parent volunteers who come to school every month to record AR minutes and award beads to students. They also award prizes to classrooms that meet monthly goals. Hats off to our PTA for your support of this vitally important program!

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I know that all parents want their children to excel. By making time for reading, you can boost your child's performance dramatically! Remember that nightly reading can include someone reading to your child, your child reading aloud, your child reading with a partner, or your child reading silently. Re-reading all or part of the book is a good strategy for building fluency, and for remembering story details for the AR test.

Our next AR bead day is November 25, and students must complete their AR tests by November 24 if they want the points to count for November. Please make sure that reading is part of your child's regular routine. Your efforts will make a difference for the rest of your child's life!

Sincerely,  
Barbara Bergman, Principal

***Don't Miss the  
Nov. 12 PTA Meeting  
~6:30 p.m. in the gym!***

## ***District Website Offers Valuable Parent Resources***

Have you checked our school district website recently? It's full of useful information! Log on to Sherwood Forest's page at <http://schools.fwps.org/shf/home.htm> where you will find: •our school calendar and latest newsletter articles; •emergency school closure information; •bus schedules; •our school's telephone directory; •a full list of recommended children's websites; •Washington State Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) and Performance Expectations (PEs), and more!

With Lunch Money Now you can check your Federal Way Schools meal card balance, and even add money to your account. To access this service, go to <http://www.computersdi.com/lmnfwy/Main.htm>.

## **November 10 Assembly To Feature Music & History of U.S. Navy**

Mr. Reynolds has chosen "The United States Navy" as the theme for this year's Veteran's Day Assembly, which will take place next Tuesday, November 10, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the school gym. The program will include 10 student speakers, a PowerPoint presentation, school-led songs, performances by the Honor Choir, and two book reviews for follow-up reading. Students will learn about the origins of the Navy, Navy ships, notable sailors, and the Navy SEALs (named because they can operate on the SEa, Air, and Land). Parents are invited to join us for the 2:00 p.m. assembly.

## **School Leadership Team Seeks Parent Member**

Sherwood Forest's School Leadership Team (SLT) is seeking one additional parent member. The next meeting for this year is scheduled for Friday, November 13 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the school library. The SLT is made up of five parents and five staff members who oversee the school's Learning Plan and Parent Involvement Policy. Meetings are held four to five times a year, usually before school. If you would be interested in serving on our SLT or would like more information, please call the school office at 253-945-3801. Together we make an awesome team for Sherwood Forest's children!

## ***Student Council Leads SHF in National Penny Harvest***

Do you have any spare change? Sherwood Forest students might ask you to donate it as part of the "Penny Harvest," which takes place from now until December 1. SHF is one of over 900 schools nationwide that will begin scouring their homes and neighborhoods for idle pennies as part of this service-learning project.

Student Council members distributed a cloth collection sack to each classroom, as well as family brochures for every student to take home. Their goal is to fill every sack to the 30-pound line by December 1, which adds up to 50 dollars. Each class will identify causes they care about, and Student Council will use this information to determine what organizations receive the money we collect.

"Through the process of gathering pennies, making grants and taking action, students learn teamwork, critical thinking and democratic decision-making skills," says Kylie Gursky, Program Coordinator for Seattle and King County. "The Penny Harvest also encourages a caring culture and a sense of belonging." According to Gursky, last year students in 54 schools in the Seattle Metro area collected \$64,354.02, made grants to 82 different community-based organizations, and completed 14 service projects.