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Sherwood Forest Celebrates State Test Results

Results from last April's state-wide assessments for grades 3-8 have arrived, and Sherwood Forest 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.

Applause is also in order for last year's 3rd and 5th grade classes (now 4th and 6th graders) for reading and math scores which beat state averages by more than 10%. 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!

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		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
SHF 3rd Grade	83.2%	81.8%	88.7	84.2%	75.6%	80.6
Federal Way 3rd Grade	73.7%	71.1%	72.6	74.4%	71.0%	70.2
WA State 3rd Grade	70.9%	70.4%	71.3	69.6%	68.3%	66.3

Students Meeting State Standard in:	READING			MATH			WRITING		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
SHF 4th Grade	90.8%	77.5%	77.9	62.2%	68.6%	54.1	52.1%	59.8%	42.9
Federal Way 4th Grade	80.6%	77.4%	73.9	60.3%	59.5%	55.8	56.2%	57.9%	54.4
WA State 4th Grade	76.6%	72.3%	73.5	58.1%	53.4%	52.3	60.2%	62.1%	60.3

Students Meeting State Standard in:	READING			MATH			SCIENCE		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
SHF 5th Grade	77.8%	85.6%	85.1	66.7%	73.2%	79.3	23.9%	31.3%	29.9
Federal Way 5th Grade	75.4%	79.8%	79.1	66.2%	69.0%	71.2	31.3%	40.2%	36.0
WA State 5th Grade	71.9%	75.3%	73.9	59.5%	61.0%	61.9	36.5%	42.9%	44.9

Minimum state standard for 05-07: **RDG – 64.2%**
Minimum state standard for 08-10: **RDG – 76.1%**

MATH – 47.3%
MATH – 64.9%

Parents can request an appointment to view their child's individual WASL test by calling the District Assessment Office at 253-945-2004. Students' individual scores were mailed 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,

Sherwood Forest Welcomes Seven New Staff Members

This fall, Sherwood Forest is pleased to welcome seven new staff members. Four new classroom teachers have joined our staff this year: **Ms. Kael Coffey** is our afternoon kindergarten teacher, and returns to SHF after serving as a guest teacher in kindergarten last year. **Ms. Therese Pense** is a 4th grade teacher who comes to us from Sequoyah Middle School and Mark Twain Elementary, and **Mr. Chris Lezcano** is a 4th grade teacher who completed his student teaching at SHF in 2nd grade last year. We are also delighted to welcome **Mrs. Susan Skahan** from Olympic View Elementary, who is our new special ed. teacher for grades 3-5.

We are proud to welcome two new faces in the front office. **Ms. Linda Pellicci** takes over this year as our Office Manager, and right by her side is our new Data Secretary, **Mrs. Cathy Hale**. Our new school nurse is **Mrs. Marj Frohlich**, who serves Sherwood Forest all day on Wednesdays and on Friday afternoons.

We extend our warmest welcome to these new staff members!

Hats Off to Campus Cleaners!

The annual Sherwood Forest Campus Clean-up Day was held on August 27th. We had a hard-working crew of volunteers who very quickly and efficiently prepared our campus for the first day of school. Thank you to the following parents, students and staff who worked so hard to make our campus beautiful once again: Debbi, Mackenna and Lorrin M., Emily, Aaron, Benjamin and Ian R., Noel and Genesis R., Ryan and Lauren A., Sam, Whitney and Caden H., Keri, Mallory and Makenna P., Carrie, Makayla and Abby N., Iranie Antoine, Karin and Annika P., YMCA - Nicole Jones, Jen Hartle, Sean, Jeni, Anthony, Andrew, Emily, Emma, Eric, Ian, David and Rebecca, Aryn, Noha and Spencer W., April, Emily, Sophie and Calli O., Bill Ocbina, Viktor Vlas, Bill and Barb Bergman.

PTA Cookie Dough Fund- Raiser

***Tuesday, Sept. 15 through
Monday, Sept. 28***

Remind Students :

- **Sell only to family & friends.**
- **Collect money at time of sale.**
- **Return money & envelope to school on Mon., Sept. 28**
- **Parents will pick up cookie dough on Wed. Oct. 28 from 3:20 – 4:00.**
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Thanks for your support!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SHF will assess all of our students on the DIBELS reading fluency test on Wed., October 7 and Thurs., Oct. 8. If you can assist on one or both of these days please leave a message with Sherry Lowe at 253-945-3861. Lunch and training will be provided!

School Communication Plan: Easy as 1-2-3!

Our school has an excellent plan for staying in close touch with parents throughout the year. It's our school-wide communication plan, and it's as easy as 1-2-3!

1) The Student's Part: Every Thursday the Sherwood Forest "Communication Folder" goes home with all students, grades K-5. It contains student work and important announcements from the school. Students are asked to take the folder home, request a parent signature, and return the folder to school the next day.

In addition, students in grades 2-5 each received a Sherwood Forest Planner, with a calendar for each week of the school year. Students are asked to record each assignment on their calendar. Teachers distributed these planners during the first week of school. These go home on a daily basis, and help parents track which assignments were completed at school and which ones need to be finished for homework. They also record upcoming school and classroom events.

2) The Teacher's Part: Teachers will check the weekly Communication Folder and Student Planners for any notes or messages sent from home. They also publish their e-mail address and phone numbers (note the list attached to this newsletter), and make every effort to respond in a timely manner to any messages from parents. For students in grades 2-5, teachers will allow time each day for recording assignments in the student planner.

3) The Parent's Part: Parents are asked to look for the weekly Communication Folder every Thursday, and return it to school the next day with a parent signature. Parents of students in grades 2-5 are asked to check their children's school planners every evening, Monday through Thursday. Be sure to compliment your children for recording assignments and bringing these home, and also provide a signature if the teacher requests one.

Also, please find a place to save the list of staff phone numbers and e-mail addresses which is provided in this newsletter. We hope you will not hesitate to contact your child's teacher whenever you have a question or have information to share.

Our communication plan is definitely a team effort! It teaches organization skills that will benefit your students throughout their lives, and also keeps parents well informed. Your support is greatly appreciated!

School Leadership Team Seeks Parent Members

Sherwood Forest's School Leadership Team (SLT) has two openings for parent members this year. The first meeting for this year is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25 from 7:30-8:30 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. Meeting dates and times are determined each year by the members. If you would be interested in serving on the SLT, please complete and return the form below by Monday, Sept. 21, or e-mail Mrs. Bergman at bbergman@fwps.org.

Sherwood Forest School Leadership Team Application

(Please return by Monday, Sept. 21)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

1. Would you be able to attend 4 or 5 meetings a year before school? _____

2. Why do you want to be a member of the Sherwood Forest SLT? _____

3. What topics would you like the SLT to discuss in order to help parents and teachers improve the learning of Sherwood Forest students?

Free Immunization Clinic Scheduled for Oct. 3

Does your child need immunizations for school? The Public Health Department, in cooperation with Federal Way Public Schools, will hold a Saturday Immunization Clinic on Oct. 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Federal Way Public Health Center, 33431 13th Place South, Federal Way. For more information, call 206-296-8410.

Calling All Parents

Can You Help SHF 'Go Green'?

There are two ways that parents can help SHF "go green" this year, and reduce the paper that comes home with students. First, we will distribute school bulletins with only the youngest child in the family. That means only your youngest child at Sherwood Forest should have a copy of this newsletter to share with you!

Second, if you'd like, you can request that printed information be sent to you via e-mail instead of paper copies. If you complete the form below, we will e-mail school bulletins and newsletters to you, instead of sending a paper copy with your youngest child. It's up to you. Please select the communication method that works best for you and your family.

To Request School Information On-line, Please Complete the Following:

qYes, we prefer to receive school information on-line rather than paper copies.

Youngest SHF Student's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent's e-mail address/es: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____