

# STAR GAZER GAZETTE

Monthly Newsletter  
**November 2007**  
 Star Lake Elementary  
 Federal Way School District

## COLLABORATIVE WORKERS

*These students earned ten slips for sharing, showing empathy and respect, listening actively, demonstrating flexibility, encouraging, helping, and getting along with others.*

Tegan Aden  
 Natheal Amine  
 Shana Arius  
 Logan Arntzen  
 Natalie Barnes  
 Christian Betancourth  
 Matthew Bosley  
 Esmerelda Bran  
 Hunter Burget  
 Gabrielle Clements  
 Olivia Clements  
 Angelica Colin  
 Joshua Conboy  
 Grant Crosby  
 Matthew Cundiff  
 Kenny Cutler  
 Hersi Dahir  
 Nathan Downing  
 Kamden Erickson  
 Areisy Estrada  
 Andrew Fernandez  
 Daniel Fernandez  
 Maya Frame  
 Cheelcea Gonzales  
 Natalie Hall  
 Annalisa Hand  
 Joel Haugland  
 Marlene Hernandez  
 Betsenia Herrera  
 Oliva Herrera  
 Adriana Huerta  
 Jysani Hutson  
 Jeffrey Janson  
 Dalton Jaycox  
 Gianna Kastanis  
 GianCarlo Lainez  
 Olivia Larkin  
 Sara Lewis  
 Andres Levya  
 Marina Marchant  
 Ezia Martinez  
 Leigha McLean



## LATE ARRIVALS

School starts at **8:50 a.m.** Our parent compact states that *parents will ensure that their children arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day.* We count on you to support our efforts to begin learning right on time.

What happens when a student arrives late?

- The teacher or other students have to explain the daily schedule and the DO NOW assignment.
- Instruction for other students is disrupted, by late arriving students.
- The student's homework and planner do not get checked. The teacher has to find time during the day to do this.
- The office staff has to stop their work to sign-in late arriving students. Late breakfast arrangements have to be made

for some students.

- The child misses the introduction to the school day and instruction for the Daily 5.
- Students have to be monitored as they use the hallways to get to their classes.

Late arrivals have become an issue for our school this year. We have many students arriving late every day. When children arrive at 9:10 a.m. (which is the average late arrival time) they miss 20 minutes of instruction. If they are late every day (which is common), they miss 1.6 hours of school each week, 32 hours a month, and 288 hours a year. Over time this becomes an incredible loss of learning.

Parents are not always aware of how much time their children lose when they are frequently late. I am bringing this to your attention because I know you want what is best for your child.

We understand that there are often emergencies or dentist appointments. However, most of our late arrivals are due to sleeping in, loitering on the way to school, or watching TV.

Things run so much more smoothly, when children arrive on time—ready to learn. We know you will make this a priority in your home, so we can all start the day with a smile.

## SAFETY FIRST

Everything is going well with our new ALL-SCHOOL Safety Plan. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe and secure at all times. Cars are driving carefully and slowly through our crosswalks and parking lots; parents are using the designated pick-up and drop-off areas. Our Safety Patrol students are also making a significant difference. Thank you everyone.

Austin Miller  
 Elizabeth Mungai  
 Orlando Naranjo  
 William Nickols  
 Carlos Orduno  
 Favour Orji  
 Leora Ortiz-DeAnaya  
 Taylee Ortiz-DeAnaya  
 Trevor Owens  
 Louie Papadimas  
 Renia Papdimas  
 Landon Pauls

Niko Pena  
 Tony Peneda  
 Paulo Pinto-Ramirez  
 Daniella Potoae  
 Gracie Quiroz  
 Jose Rodriguez  
 Aaron Siva  
 Blair Snyder  
 Amani Tirhi  
 Damaris Unat  
 Nallely Valdovinas  
 Julia Walker

Zachary Wall  
 Michelle Wertz  
 Rachael Wilson  
 Tiffany Xayavong  
 Uriel Yanez



**Eagle Pride**

## LOCKDOWN UPDATES



We sent a letter home regarding the LOCKDOWN that occurred right at the beginning of school last Monday. Here are some important updates you need to know:

- o **LARGE RED SIGNS** will be placed in all exterior windows when the school is in lockdown.
- o This means there will be no **ENTRY** into or **EXIT** from the school, until the lockdown is cleared by FW Security.
- o If you are in the **PROCESS** of bringing your child to school or picking him/her up after school, you will be turned away at the driveways, by security or police. The best thing to do is to take your child home or leave the school grounds immediately. This allows emergency vehicles to access the building if needed.
- o Please do not **CALL** the school during a lockdown. This ties up the phone lines and prevents us from communicating with police or security officers.
- o The staff will be **trained** on new FWPD procedures regarding two different kinds of lockdowns this month. Although our school is in Kent, we follow the safety procedures set forth by the district.
- o Our school just completed a detailed **Emergency Preparedness Plan. 300** photographs were taken of the building both inside and out. Procedures have being developed by the local departments including fire, police, security, and state safety officers to protect our students in case of a crisis.
- o Our **primary goal** is to keep your children safe and secure at all times.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### A Message from Star Lake's Counselor: Katie Runions

#### BACK TO SCHOOL

I am happy to be back from maternity leave and with my Star Lake family! This year, I will be at Star Lake on Mondays, Tuesdays, and every other Wednesday. Here is a reminder of some of the services I provide to our students and families:

- Counseling Groups (Social Skills, Anger Control, Family Stress)
- Conflict Mediation
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Student Jobs Program
- Community Agency Referrals

If you would like information regarding any of the above services, please contact me at (253) 945-4008.

#### HOLIDAY HELP

Each year during this time, community organizations contact me to offer help for our families during the holidays. If your family could benefit from receiving a gift for your Star Lake child, please call me or send a note with the following information:

- Child's name, age, and gender
- Gift ideas (under \$25 please)
- Clothing/shoe size

Your decision to participate will remain confidential and any information provided will be released only with your permission. Participants will need to make arrangements to pick up gifts from school. Please contact me at (253) 945-4008 no later than Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ARCHIVES

#### *Updates from Mrs. Gjersee, Student Achievement Facilitator*

*Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make reading with your child a positive experience.*

1. **Choose a quiet time:** Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. 15–20 minutes is usually long enough.
2. **Maintain the flow:** If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to sound them out letter by letter.
3. **Be positive:** If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say, "No, that is wrong," but instead say "Let's read it together," and point to the words as you say them. Boos your child's confidence with constant praise even for the smallest achievement.
4. **Success is the key:** Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words can quickly turn a child off to reading.
5. **Talk about the books:** There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, characters, how they think the story will end, his or her favorite part. You will then be able to see how well your child understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

## STAR LAKE ELEMENTARY PARENT TO PARENT

PARENT TO PARENT is an open forum organized by and for Star Lake parents to discuss topics & issues that concern our children and our school.

Please join us **November 20, 2007, 6:30pm** in the Star Lake Library. The topic of discussion will be *School Safety: How can we help?*

If you have any questions or are interested in helping plan future forums, please let us know.

Kathy Haugland 253-859-9385 <a href="mailto:khaugland@comcast.net">khaugland@comcast.net</a>	Sharon Seymour 253-850-9860 <a href="mailto:2seymours@comcast.net">2seymours@comcast.net</a>	Teresa Barnes 253-520-3338 <a href="mailto:stbarnes@juno.com">stbarnes@juno.com</a>
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### STAR LAKE EAGLE LEADERS

*A Note from our Deans About Student Leadership  
Shannan Painter & Mindy Thompson*

This month our student leaders are actively working in our school community, as they learn public speaking skills as presenters at our Veteran's Day Assembly. Eagle Leaders are a representative group. Two students from each intermediate classroom (3-5) are elected (or selected) to serve as Star Lake Eagle Leaders. Their job is to think of ways to improve our school, share information, lead service projects, vote on schoolwide issues, and collect input and ideas from their classmates. They partner with a primary buddy class as well. Representatives attend Eagle Leader Meetings where they learn skills for the workplace. They learn about Civic Duty, how to run a meeting, and how to present information. They keep a notebook of minutes, agendas, and current issues and practice skills such as planning, follow-through, and meeting deadlines. In addition, Eagle Leaders work with community service projects in our school. Examples are New Student Tours, All-School Clean-up Days, Spirit Days, Assembly Leadership, and special events. In the coming months, they will learn more about leadership skills from visiting the Student Council at Totem MS. They will learn additional skills from Key Club Members from TJHS. The advisors for the team are Shannan Painter and Mindy Thompson.

### CONTACT NUMBERS

We are anxious to provide support for your students in all areas: academic, physical, social, and emotional. Please feel free to contact us regarding concerns, questions, or to provide input.

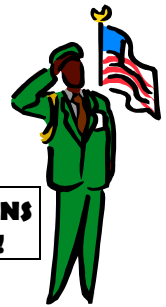
<b>OFFICE STAFF</b> (Kim Savage, Teresa Sain, Elisabeth Cole)	<b>253-945-4000</b>
<b>DEAN OF STUDENTS</b> (Shannan Painter)	<b>253-945-4047</b>
<b>ELL COORDINATOR</b> (Mindy Thompson)	<b>253-945-4005</b>
<b>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FACILITATOR</b> (Holly Gjersee)	<b>253-945-4044</b>
<b>NURSES</b> (Deborah Bellinghausen, Cheryl Stub erg)	<b>253-945-4009</b>
<b>PRINCIPAL</b> (Judy Lemmel)	<b>253-945-4007</b>
<b>COUNSELOR</b> (Katie Runions)	<b>253-945-4008</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

Friday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:40 a.m.

**ALL VETERANS  
WELCOME!**



### VETERAN'S DAY

**No School**

Monday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>

### 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade LAP READING

**No School**

Tuesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

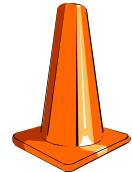
**6:30 p.m.**



### PARENT-TO-PARENT MTG.

**School Safety**

Tuesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m.



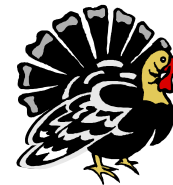
### THANKSGIVING

Early Dismissal  
1:20 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

**No School**

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>



### PTA MEETING

7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>

Join PTA  
\$10.00



### MATH MANIA Family Night

6:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

### SPRIT DAY

Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>  
**TBD**



## Parents Invited to Attend Four District Workshops

The Student Support Services Department of Federal Way Public Schools is offering a series of *Parent Education Workshops* this school year. The classes are free of charge, and a schedule of topics and dates is listed below:

### Person-Centered Planning

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 7 - 8 p.m.

### Approaching Difficult Conversations

Saturday, January 26, 2008, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Effective Advocacy for Students

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 7 - 8 p.m.

### Helping Your Child Transition to the Next Grade or School (For parents of children of any age)

Thursday, March 20, 2008, 7 - 8 p.m.

All programs will be held in the FWPS Educational Services Center Board Room, 31405-18th Avenue South, Federal Way. For more information, contact [Sharon-Boedecker@fwps.org](mailto:Sharon-Boedecker@fwps.org) or call 253-945-2000.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES BULLETIN

Attached to this newsletter you will find the FWPS 2007-2008 Emergency Procedures Bulletin. This bulletin provides **vital** information you will need to know in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. It also gives you the information you will need if schools are closed or 2 hours late because of inclement weather. Please keep this bulletin in a place for easy reference.

You may also access this information on the district's website [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org). Go to "Programs and Services," choose "Transportation," click on "Public Schools Emergency Communication System," choose "School District," then click on "Federal Way" to receive the current message.

## SLT MEMBERS NEEDED

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**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM @ STAR LAKE**

The SLT is a team of parents, teachers, and administrators that meets quarterly to oversee the school's *Parent Involvement Policy* and *School Improvement Plan*. Meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays every other month. We currently have two open positions. If you are interested in serving, please call Mrs. Lemmel @ 253-945-4007 to leave your name and number.

## MLK Celebration Committee Announces Student Contest

Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit posters, essays or poetry for Federal Way's annual Martin Luther King Community Celebration. Entries should incorporate this year's theme: **"Triumph...in a World of Possibilities."**



Winning entries will be incorporated into the Martin Luther King Community Celebration on January 21, 2008, with winning entries featured during the program. The contest, sponsored by the Federal Way Diversity Commission, is open to public school and home-school students living within the boundaries of the Federal Way School District. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate these contests into their classroom activities to promote the study of King's life and work.

Entries may be submitted in three categories, with prizes awarded for each grade category: First prize, \$100; Second prize, \$50; Third prize, \$25.

**Grades K-5: Poster Contest**

**Grades 3-5: Essay Contest**

**Grades 6-8: Poster and Essay Contests**

**Grades 9-12: Poster, Essay, and Poetry Contests**

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Dec. 14, 2007.

There is no cost to enter. Entries may be hand-delivered to Federal Way City Hall, 33325 8th Ave. S., or mailed to: Martin Luther King Committee, City of Federal Way, P.O. Box 9718, Federal Way, WA 98063-9718. Entry forms and detailed instructions may be picked up at Federal Way's public libraries. The information may also be downloaded at [www.cityoffederalway.com/diversity](http://www.cityoffederalway.com/diversity).