



Thompson's Telescope

A message from the principal

The 2009 WASL scores are here! I am so proud of our terrific students and talented teachers. We are thrilled to announce that Star Lake DID make Adequate Yearly Progress this year in all cells! As you remember, we did not make AYP in the Special Education cell last year. Congratulations to our classroom teachers, support staff and most importantly, our students for hitting the target.

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.

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

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.

2009 WASL	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3 rd Grade	80	73.8		
4 th Grade	64.3	48.6	51.4	
5 th Grade	84.3	66.3		41.0
Average	76.2	62.9		

Monthly Newsletter

September 2009

Star Lake Elementary

Federal Way School District

Keeping Children HOME WITH FLU

1. Keep your children home during the fever and one full day after the fever has gone! When you have the flu, you can pass it on to others when you cough and sneeze.
2. Plan ahead. Talk to family, friends and neighbors now to plan for back-up childcare if your child becomes sick or the school or childcare center closes.
3. Check to make certain your child is well before school or childcare every day.
4. Know when to talk to a health care provider. Most people with the flu can be cared for at home. Before going to a doctor or clinic, call to see if an appointment is really needed, or got the public health website for more information.

Seattle & King County Public Health

CALLING ALL WORKING PARENTS!

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 gather 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. To share your ideas you can call 253-945-2273, or send an e-mail to tmoores@fwps.org or schedule an in person appointment at a location and time most convenient for you.



UNIFORM UPDATES



Thank you for making sure your student is dressed according to the *Star Lake Uniform Dress Code*. There are a few areas on which we still need to work on. Please make sure your child does NOT wear:

- Sandals, open-toed shoes, slip-on shoes, or boots.
- Large belt buckles or colorful belts. Black, brown, or navy only please.
- Colorful socks or leggings. White, forest green or navy only (flesh tone tights are okay).
- Pants and skirts with embroidery, decorations, ties, or pockets on the side.
- Plain thin underwear white t-shirts. (These are the t-shirts purchased in a package of three or more.)
- T-shirts must be PTA spirit wear with small symbols or long-sleeved. **All other shirts must have a collar.**
- Colorful coats or sweaters in the classroom.
- Dangly earrings that could get caught at recess--small hoops or studs only.
- Large pendants on necklaces. All necklaces should be small enough to slip under your child's shirt.

Our third year of wearing uniforms is going great! If we send your child home in a borrowed uniform item, please wash and return it for others students to use.



Answers to your questions:

Is there a new color this year for shirts? Yes, we added forest green to our options for shirts this year.

My child walks to school. Can she wear rubber boots in rainy weather? Rubber soled boots can be worn to recess only, in inclement weather. Please slip a pair of tennis shoes in the backpack for classroom and P.E.

What about white t-shirts? T-shirts must be worn underneath uniform tops. The only white t-shirts allowed must have a Star Lake logo (short or long sleeves).

Can my child wear jeans to school? Yes, on Fridays only. Jeans must be the 4-pocket style that fit comfortably at your child's waist.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CRAZY HAT DAY
Friday, Sept. 25th

PICTURE DAY



Tuesday, September 29th

STAFF IN SERVICE DAY

No School

Friday, Oct. 9th

DATA DAY

No School

Friday, Oct. 16th



SPORTS DAY
Friday, Oct. 23rd

PTA BOOK FAIR

Monday-Friday
Oct. 26th – Oct. 30th



**FALL STUDENT-LED
CONFERENCES (SLCs)**

No Regular School

Thursday and Friday
October 29th and 30th

NEED SCHOOL SHOTS?

Come and get them **FREE** at the Saturday Clinic, Oct. 3rd from 9:00-1:00! Federal Way Public Health Center
33431 13th Place South
Immunizations are available for students attending Federal Way Public Schools in Kindergarten through age 18.

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

A Message from Mrs. Andersen, Star Lake's Dean of Students

Welcome back to all students and families. We are looking forward to another great year at Star Lake Elementary. If you are new to Star Lake, a SPECIAL welcome to you. I look forward to working with you and all your children this 2009- 2010 school year!

Our focus to start the new school year is on being safe, kind, and productive. Please take a moment to talk to your student about what that means at school. We are having grade level assemblies where we address students in smaller groups to really learn/review the meaning of these words. What does it look like? What should I be doing? We focus on behavior before/after school, in the hallway, at lunch, at recess, and of course classroom behavior. At Star Lake we strive for excellence in academics and behavior! We appreciate your partnering with us to make Star Lake a SAFE, KIND, AND PRODUCTIVE place for all our children.

Be Safe!
Be Kind!
Be Productive!

Back-To-School REMINDERS!



CALL ABOUT ABSENCES: 253-945-4000
Please call us every day your child is absent.
Your call saves valuable time on the phone to ensure that every absent child is safe.

ARRIVE ON TIME—NOT EARLY:

School does not start until 8:10 a.m.
Breakfast is served at 7:50 am each day.
Students should never arrive earlier than 7:50 am, since supervision is limited.
All late arrivals must check in to the office (no exceptions).



MESSAGES AT SCHOOL: We often receive requests to give students messages in class. We do not want to interrupt teaching and learning. Please discuss after school plans before your child comes to school. The office is closed from 2:35 until 2:50 so it is impossible for us to give messages to students at this time.



WRITTEN EXCUSES: If you call in your child's absence you do not need to send a written excuse when he or she returns to school. If your child is late to school, please come to the office to sign him/her in. Written excuses are required if parents don't call in the absence.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Put your child's name on ALL personal items, such as backpacks, coats, clothing items, and especially SPIRIT WEAR. We want to be able to return lost items.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE *Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act*

FWPS SpEd Dept. is required to provide parents annual notification of their FERPA rights. The parents or eligible student has a right to:

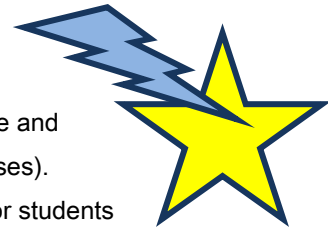
- Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.
- Request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record, except to the extent that the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- File with the US Dept. of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirement of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, US Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202-4605

A copy of this policy is available by request at Student Support Services, FWSD, 31405 18th Ave, S, Federal Way, WA 98003.

The Federal Way Public Schools #210 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the bases or race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

WELCOME TO OUR WONDERFUL NEW STAR LAKE TEAM MEMBERS



We have some amazing new staff members to welcome this year. They will bring new life and energy to our learning community with their youth, enthusiasm, and wisdom (in some cases).

CHARLIE PU'U: Charlie joins our student support team and an Intervention Specialist for students struggling in reading in grades K-2. Most recently Charlie was a member of the Brigadoon staff. Charlie really enjoys the uniforms here at Star Lake. He grew up in Hawaii where he had to wear tie everyday to school! You'll find Charlie a very positive and kind gentleman. Say "hi" if you see him.

BETTY LOPEZ: Betty Lopez is our new school psychologist. She most recently served as school psychologist for Valhalla and Adelaide Elementary Schools. Mrs. Lopez was born in Guatemala, but grew up here in Washington, And, yes she speaks fluent Spanish. Betty splits her work week between Star and Valhalla. Her office is located next to the library work room.

CELESTE HOFFMANN: Celeste is a welcomed transfer from the library at Illahee Middle School. We share Celeste with our neighbor, Totem Middle School. At Star Lake she works as an office clerk and as a library clerk. When you pop in the office, be certain to welcome Celeste.

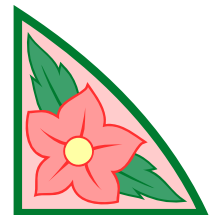
KIM MESCHTER – Welcome to Kim Meschter, our new teacher librarian. Kim is new to the world of libraries and elementary schools. Just last year, Mrs. Meschter was a high school teacher of World History and English at Decatur High School. You'll find Mrs. Meschter is "on fire" for her new job. We all appreciate her energy and enthusiasm.

NICOLA BECKMAN: Nicola has been on board at Star Lake since January 2009 as a .5 Intervention Specialist. This year Nicola is working with us all day! As you all know by now, Nicola and her husband welcomed their first baby, little Violet, this August. And, did you know that Nicola is one of two staff members who attended Star Lake as a student?

CRISTEE ELLIS: Cristee joined the "crew" in Teresa Thomas' room last year. Cristee has lots of experience working in customer service, children and with horses! She is also quite an outdoors buff. She enjoys hiking, playing on the beach and gardening.

BECKY NEWMAN: Becky also joined the "crew" in Teresa Thomas' room last year. Becky worked under Teresa Thomas in her years at Wildwood. Becky tells me that she'd rather be working with special needs kids than anywhere else. Welcome officially to Star Lake, Becky.

COACHES CORNER **WHO ARE STAR LAKE SUPPORT STAFF ?**



Two Instructional Coaches provide coaching and collaboration, professional development, data analysis and Title 1 Program Management.

Our **Intervention Specialists** (1 full time and 1 half time) provide 1-to-1 or small group instruction in reading and/or math for those students who are most at need.

The **Special Education** teacher provides intervention to students with individual education plans during the school day.

The **ELL (English Language Learner)** provides language intervention to students and supports the classroom teachers during the school day.

Our **Ameri-Corps Volunteer** provides reading and math intervention to small groups during the day and after school.