

Mustang Messages



September 8, 2009



Dates to Remember

September

- 8th Goodies with Grandparents 3:00 in the Gym
K, 1st & 2nd Gr. Open House
Report Card Presentation 6:00-6:30 in Gym
In Classrooms 6:30-7:15
- 9th ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
- 11th Spirit Day
Sock Hop 6:30-8:30 PM in the Gym
- 14th 3rd & 4th Gr. Open House
Report Card Presentation 6:00-6:45 in Gym
In Classrooms 6:45-7:30
- 15th 5th & 6th Gr. Open House
Report Card Presentation 6:00-6:45 in Gym
In Classrooms 6:45-7:30
- 16th VIP Luncheon for K-2nd Grades 11:40 in Library
- 17th PTA Meeting 7:00 PM in the Library
- 18th ASB Popcorn Sale
Hearing Re-screening Gr. K, 1, 2, 3 & 5
- 22nd First day of Autumn
- 23rd ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
- 25th Spirit Day
Character Counts Students of Character
Recog. & Ice Cream Party
- 28th Principal's Coffee 8:30 AM in the Library
- 30th VIP Luncheon for 3-6th Grades 11:40 in Library

October

- 1-2nd Vision Screening Gr. K, 1,2,3 & 5
- 2nd ASB Popcorn Sale
- 5th Innisbrook Kick-off Assembly 2:00 PM in Gym
- 5-19th Innisbrook Fundraiser
- 6th German American Heritage Day
- 7th VIP Luncheon for K-2nd Grades 11:40 in Library
- 8th Indian Trail Taco Time Night 5:00-7:00 PM
- 9th Curriculum Planning Day—NO SCHOOL
- 14th ASB Meeting 12:05 in Rm. 108
PTA Skate Night 6:30-8:30 PM at Pattison's
- 15th PTA Meeting 7:00 PM in the Library
- 16th Spirit Day

Principal's Note

Dear Indian Trail Families,

Wow! It's hard to believe we've already been in school for eight days and it's only early September. We've had a very smooth start to our school year. I want to thank you for sending us such respectful, hard-working, capable children. Our staff feels very fortunate to work with such great young people. As our third week of school gets underway, I am excited to see the high level of student engagement present in Indian Trail's classrooms. Our teachers are continually working to increase the effectiveness of their instructional practices and to align their lessons to the Washington State learning standards and our district's curriculum guides. In this issue of the Mustang Messages you will find our WASL data from May 2009. We made some strong gains in a few areas, but know that we still have much work to do to get all students to standard.

This year elementary teachers across our school district will be using a different report card to report student progress to parents and students. All students in kindergarten through sixth grades will now be graded using a 4-point grading scale. No longer will students in 4th through 6th grades receive letter grades in each academic area. I will be giving a 30-minute parent presentation about the new report card before each Open House session in September. I hope you can join me during one of these sessions to find out more about the new report card and to get your questions answered.

The dates for Open House are as follows:

September 8th: Mrs. Kusel (AM and PM Kindergarten)
Mrs. Ryan Walls and
Mrs. Zambryski (1st Grade)
Mrs. Ferguson and
Mrs. Overbay (2nd Grade)

September 14th: Mrs. Spencer (2nd and 3rd Combination)
Mr. Hall and Mrs. Melnick (3rd Grade)
Mrs. Golden and Mrs. Kight (4th Grade)

September 15th: Mrs. Chittum and Mr. Hatcher (5th Grade)
Mr. Bachman and Mrs. Moen (6th Grade)

*REMEMBER TO RETURN
FORMS FROM THE FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL PACKETS**

Open House begins in the gym at 6:00 p.m. for the parent session on the new report card. After the approximately 30-minute session, teachers will then meet with parents in our classrooms to share information about their specific classrooms. I look forward to seeing each of you at one of our Open House sessions.

I want to encourage each of you to be involved at our school this year. You are always welcome in our classrooms, and we would love to have you volunteer to help around the school or at one of our many school functions. Please communicate regularly with your child's teacher, either by phone, email, or by written notes. Research shows that when parents and schools work closely together, students perform at higher levels, they are more likely to enjoy school, and they are more likely to get involved in school activities. It is our goal to continually improve the methods and avenues we use to communicate with parents. Please don't hesitate to ask questions and/or give us feedback about how we are doing.

I continue to be impressed with the high levels of parent support and involvement at Indian Trail. We have the best volunteers and PTA in the district. Thank you for helping us support your kids with such enthusiasm and positive energy.

Thank you for sending us such amazing young people to learn with each day.

Sincerely,

Paul Gannon – Principal
paulg@spokaneschools.org
 354-3100
 "Believe It and You'll See It!"

WASL RESULTS

We have received our results for the May 2009 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Our 3rd-6th grade students took various assessments last spring. The results are listed below.

	Reading		Writing		Math		Science	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
3rd Gr.	88	86	Not Tested	Not Tested	80	84	Not Tested	Not Tested
4th Gr.	84	73	71	61	71	63	Not Tested	Not Tested
5th Gr.	74	84	Not Tested	Not Tested	71	86	54	56
6th Gr.	75	69	Not Tested	Not Tested	72	59	Not Tested	Not Tested

September Principal's Family Math Challenge Problem

A Caterpillar's Travels

A caterpillar wants to climb to the top of a 100 foot tree to eat the juiciest leaves. He creeps 8 ft up a tree during the daytime. After all the labor he does throughout the day, he stops to rest a while... but falls asleep!! The next morning he wakes up and discovers that he has slipped down 5 ft while sleeping.

If this happens every day, how many days will the caterpillar take to reach the top of a 100 foot tree? (Note: Once he gets to the top to eat the juiciest leaves, he is done climbing and won't slip down the tree any more.)

Directions for the Principal's Family Math Challenge Problem:

- 1) To submit an answer to the Principal's Challenge Problem, write your child's name, your name, and the teacher's name on the top of a piece of paper.
- 2) Responses must include a written explanation using words, numbers, and/or pictures so that Mr. Gannon can look through your answer and make sense of it.
- 3) Drop off your responses in the Indian Trail Office by Friday, September 25th.
- 4) Have fun solving this problem with your child! Parental help is encouraged.
- 5) Winning responses will receive a small prize from Mr. Gannon.

Annual Asbestos Notification

Indian Trail Elementary does contain asbestos building materials. The Spokane School District maintains this asbestos in place. The materials in our school are inspected every three years and surveyed every six months according to AHERA Regulations. AHERA Regulations require the Spokane School District to provide an asbestos management plan to all staff, students, and community members. This plan can be found in the Head Custodian's office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Spokane School District Asbestos Management Planner at 354-7171.

ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

Please remember to call our attendance hotline at 354-3134 to report your child's absence. If we do not hear from a parent, we will be calling to confirm the student's absence.



Principal's Coffee

One of Mr. Gannon's goals as the principal of Indian Trail Elementary is to increase opportunities for two-way communication between home and school. One way of doing this is to hold monthly "Principal's Coffee" sessions. The goal of these coffees is to provide a time for parents/guardians to visit with the principal about school related matters. Participants will set the agenda items for discussion and Mr. Gannon will be there to answer questions and provide information. The format of these meetings is intended to be a round table discussion where open and honest dialogue is encouraged. Light breakfast snacks and coffee will be provided.



The dates for this year's Principal's Coffee sessions can be found in the parent calendar that came home with every student on the first day of school. The first one will take place on Monday, September 28th, at 8:30 a.m. in the Indian Trail library. Mr. Gannon looks forward to having the opportunity to answer your questions.

Yearbook Pictures Needed!

If you take pictures of any special event this year (1st day of school, Sock Hop, parties, etc.) and would like to see them in the yearbook, would you please get them to me right after the event takes place? I think this will be easier than having you dig through your pictures at the end of the school year!! There are several different ways to send me your pictures: You can e-mail them as an attachment to me at mjvandine@live.com, you can put them on a disk or give me the actual picture(s). If you would like your pictures back, please put your child's name and teacher on the back of each picture and I will return them to you. There is a box in the workroom marked "Yearbook" where you can turn in any pictures you'd like me to use. Thank you for your help!

PARENT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Dear Parents,

When reporting reasons for student absences, it is very helpful when parents are specific about the type of illness that caused their child's absence from school. This is very important this year as we approach influenza season. Schools are required to make note of communicable diseases daily and a confidential report is submitted to Spokane Regional Health District weekly. Examples of specific communicable diseases would include such conditions as: respiratory influenza, "stomach flu", chicken pox, pertussis (whooping cough), strep throat, fifth's disease, "common cold", hepatitis, impetigo, mononucleosis, ringworm, etc. Thank you for your support.

VIP Luncheons

Our first VIP Luncheon for the 2009-2010 school year is quickly approaching. It will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 11:40 a.m. in the library. Once per month, each teacher will select one student from their classroom to receive the VIP award. The office will call the parents of each VIP student the week prior to the luncheon, so that arrangements can be made to attend this special event. Parents are then asked to either bring a special lunch with them or purchase a school lunch to eat with their child. If a parent can't attend, the VIP student may choose to bring one friend to the luncheon. VIP students may also invite their sibling(s). The library is small, so space is limited for additional guests.



Mr. Gannon is looking forward to sharing these special moments with our awesome Indian Trail VIP 's. Be sure to watch for the names of our VIP recipients in future newsletters. Make sure you drop by the front entrance to the school to see our magnificent Indian Trail VIP bulletin board coming in late September.

SICK KIDS? PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME

Swine flu remains a concern around the world, particularly as students return to school. Our district continues regular communications with the Spokane Regional Health District in preparation for a potential H1N1 influenza (swine flu) pandemic. Please help prevent the spread of viruses by washing your hands often and coughing into your sleeve, and teaching your children to do so as well. If children are sick, please keep them at home. Find out more at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ or by calling (800)CDC-INFO.

eScrip CARD for Yoke's

Help our school earn money when you shop at Yoke's! Hand your eScrip card to the cashier at checkout and for every dollar you spend, Yoke's will contribute up to 5% to our school. If you don't have an eScrip card contact Lara Cardoza at 290-5878 or laracardoza@gmail.com.



2009-2010 MEAL PRICE INCREASES

MEAL PRICES			
	Elementary	Middle & High Schools	Adult
Paid Lunch	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.75	(w/o milk) \$ 2.80
Reduced Lunch	.40	.40	
Paid Breakfast	1.30	1.50	(w/milk) \$ 2.00
Reduced Breakfast	.00	.00	
White/Choc. Milk	.60	.60	.60

The Nutrition Services continues to help keep classroom budget dollars in the classroom. The school board requires that revenue generating programs like Nutrition Services cover all the direct and indirect program expenses. This small increase in meal prices helps to ensure that our district continues to run a cost effective break even program.

BAND AND STRINGS INFORMATION FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

Grade 5 and 6 students have an opportunity to join band or strings. All 5th grade students will learn to play an instrument this year. More information has been sent home with your child. We are hoping that 6th grade instrumental students will continue on their instrument this year. Please contact Ellen Johnson-Warner, strings teacher or Mr. Meredith, band teacher, if you have any questions about band or orchestra classes.

STUDENT MESSAGES

We need your help in reducing class time interruptions. Please try to work out any after school arrangements with your student(s) before they leave home in the morning. We can't interrupt learning time to give students messages and teachers can't always check their voice mail and email before school is out, so students may not get the message that you call in. If it is a real emergency we will get the message to the student, but if it is not an emergency, we can't guarantee the student will get the message before school is out.

Thank you for your help!

CHARACTER COUNTS AGAIN THIS YEAR

Our school will once again emphasize the Six Pillars of Character through the CHARACTER COUNTS program of the international Josephson Institute of Ethics. Core ethical values are taught through character education activities to promote good moral character. Each theme is equally important, but they build on one another. Every year we rotate the topics so they are stressed in different months, after always starting with Respect and Responsibility. All school staff continues to try and "walk the talk" and "do as we say".

RESPECT teaches to treat others with respect, be tolerant of differences, use good manners, be considerate of the feelings of others, don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone, and to deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements. Respect this year will be during the months of September and October.

RESPONSIBILITY emphasizes doing what you are supposed to do, persevere, always do your best, use self-control, be self-disciplined, think before you act to consider the consequences, and be accountable for your choices. November and December will be our months for Responsibility.

CARING is about being kind, being compassionate and *showing* you care, expressing gratitude, forgiving others, and helping people in need. January will stress Caring.

FAIRNESS stresses playing by the rules, taking turns and sharing, being open-minded, listening to others, not taking advantage of others, and not blaming others carelessly. Fairness is during the month of February.

TRUSTWORTHINESS teaches about being honest, not deceiving, cheating, or stealing, being reliable and doing what you say you will do, having the courage to do the right things, building a good reputation, and being loyal by standing by your family and friends. March and April will focus on Trustworthiness.

CITIZENSHIP is about doing your share to make your school and community better, cooperating, staying informed and voting, being a good neighbor, obeying laws and rules, respecting authority, and protecting our environment. Citizenship is during May. In June we summarize all these ideas.

We look forward to families also emphasizing these ideals in their homes. We're going to have another great school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Betts, Counselor

PTA NEWS

Please come and join us on September 17, 2009 for our first PTA meeting. There is free babysitting in the gym at every meeting.