



Halloween Activities

On Friday, October 30, classes will be celebrating Halloween in a variety of different ways. All primary grades and some intermediate classes will participate in the traditional costume parade that we do outside.* The parade will begin at 1:45 p.m. and will be followed by celebrations in the classrooms. Teachers will be working with parent volunteers on planning the classroom activities and treats. Teachers will also be notifying students and parents of the specific plans for their particular classroom.

The following are some guidelines about costumes:

☀ Costumes need to be appropriate for school. They should not depict violent or gory characters. This is intended to be a fun time for all ages, and our youngest students are 5 years old. We don't want to frighten anyone. Favorite storybook characters, animals or sport/career outfits are fine.

☀ Due to state and district policy concerning no weapons or look alikes on school property, children may **NOT** bring toy weapons, guns, or knives as part of their costumes.

☀ Children should **NOT** wear costumes, masks, or make-up to school. They will have an opportunity to change into their costumes prior to the parade. **(Kindergarten students may wear their costumes to school.)**

We appreciate your support of appropriate costumes for a fun, yet safe afternoon. If you are in doubt about the appropriateness of a particular costume it is always better to check with your child's teacher ahead of time to avoid disappointment on the day of the parade.

Some families are uncomfortable with cultural Halloween celebrations and we honor and respect their wishes at Woodridge. October 30, is intended to be a normal school day until the time the celebrations begin in the afternoon. At that time, there will be alternate planned activities in Room 103 for those children who do not celebrate Halloween. Please let your child's teacher know ahead of time if you'd like alternative activities for your child.

If you have any questions about our Halloween plans, please contact your child's teacher.

* In the event of inclement weather, we'll parade in the hallway downstairs.



Brian Melody	Principal	354-4600
Attendance		354-4606

October 16, 2009

Upcoming Events

October

Oct. 23	ASB Character Counts Day RESPECT (Yellow)	
Oct. 27	Site Council	3:15 pm
Oct. 27	PTSO Skate Night	

November

Nov. 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends	
Nov. 3	Individual Pictures	
Nov. 3	PTSO Family Portrait Night	
Nov. 4	PTSO Meeting	7:00 pm
Nov. 5	PTSO Family Portrait Night	
Nov. 7	Whitworth Writing Rally	
Nov. 10	4th Grades to Spokane Symphony	
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	No School
Nov. 13	Read to Succeed Ends	
Nov. 16	American Heritage Week	
Nov. 17	Scholastic Book Fair Begins	
Nov. 19-25	Conference Week	1:00 Dismissal
Nov. 20	ASB Character Counts Day	
Nov. 23	Individual Picture Re-Takes	
Nov. 24	Hearing Screening Gr. K, 1, 2, 3, & 5	
Nov. 25	Hearing Screening Continues	
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Week-end	No School



Brrrrr! Bundle up!

As temperatures tumble, be sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather:

- * Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Trapped air between the layers will insulate. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent and hooded.
- * Wear a hat. Forty percent of body heat can be lost from the head.
- * Wear mittens. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves to keep hands warm.
- * Use a scarf to cover the mouth to protect lungs from extreme cold. This is especially important for children who have a respiratory condition such as asthma.

Terren Roloff
Community Relations Director
354-7338

Spokane Public Schools, where "Excellence for Everyone" is more than a motto; it's our goal.



Music for the Mind

You know music can make kids laugh, dance, and be happy, but did you know it can also help them with math, reading, and other skills?

♪ Encourage your children to sing and clap along to their favorite music. This helps them pick up on rhythms and patterns . . . important concepts in math and reading.

♪ Play classical music while your children do their homework. This type of music can stimulate parts of the brain that help kids understand math.

♪ Listen carefully to lyrics together. Suggest that your child try to remember the words and sing them later. Learning songs by heart can strengthen their attention and memory skills.

♪ Put on fun and bouncy music when your child is brainstorming ideas for school assignments. Music encourages creativity, so you may find your children thinking in new and different ways.



Student Absences

The Washington State Becca Bill mandates documentation of student absences. When your child is ill, he/she should be kept home. Please remember to call the school attendance line at 354-4606 by 9:00 a.m. if your child is ill and going to be absent or has an appointment and will be tardy. It is necessary for us to know when each child is absent, therefore daily phone calls are made to find out the specific reason for unexcused absences. If a child has more than two unexcused absences in a month, the Washington State Becca Bill requires us to schedule a conference regarding the absences. Your call to the school office is extremely important and assures you and the school of your child's safety.

25th Annual Whitworth Writing Rally

November 7, 2009
Session 1 8:15 a.m.
Session 2 10:45 a.m.
Whitworth University

Please save the date for you and your child to attend the 25th Annual Whitworth Writing Rally. There is a \$17 registration fee for each child that includes all materials and a souvenir t-shirt. The registration form and more information is available at www.thewritingrally.org or by calling 777-4409.

Your Bond Dollars and Technology

Thanks to Spokane voters' passage of the 2003 and 2009 bonds, every school has received upgrades to school facilities, technology and security systems. Recently, every school received a new office printer/copier/scanner, which is not only quicker, but cuts per-copy costs by 35 percent. Woodridge also received four desktop computers, seven laptop computers and three digital cameras, with more to come over the next six years. Thank you, Spokane!



Woodridge Site Council

We have three parents interested and willing to represent K-3 parents on the Woodridge Site Council. This is a two year term that will begin with the October 27 meeting. We asked each candidate to respond to the prompt "What will you bring to the Woodridge Site Council?" Please see their responses below, tear off the ballot at the bottom of the page, and send back to school by next Wednesday, October 21. Special thank you to Deanna Hanley, Tom Scott, and Dennis Wilson for stepping forward on behalf of Woodridge children and our school.

Deanna Hanley

Hello, my name is Deanna Hanley, and my son Finnegan is a first grader in Mrs. Cate's class at Woodridge Elementary. I am asking to be the representative for parents of primary students at Woodridge for the Site Council. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of Woodridge and be more involved in my son's school experience. As a mom, I bring organization, and genuine interest in helping create the best learning environment for kids. As a working parent, I bring management, communication skills, and community project experience. Since I am new to the school system, I also offer a fresh perspective for the council. Finn is my first child that has entered into District 81, and his younger brother Shea will be following him in 3 years. I look forward to interacting with the parents, teachers, and children of Woodridge! Go Titans! Deanna Hanley

Tom C. Scott

I believe my parenting experiences and professional endeavors could provide the Site Council with new and fresh insights. I have worked for engineering firms, as a structural firefighter, a registered nurse, within the information technology arena, and with several non-profit organizations over the years. These experiences have helped me gather and analyze information along with helping organizations successfully undertake new initiatives and develop effective approaches for successfully resolving problems. Though I am unfamiliar with the physical plant at Woodridge, and any problems it may be presenting, with two daughters attending Woodridge I would be particularly interested in helping Woodridge develop a stronger agenda for helping students respect their peers and to help Woodridge develop stronger technology capabilities.

Dennis Wilson

As a member of the Woodridge community I would like to be the primary parent representative for the Site Council this year. I believe Woodridge Elementary school is an outstanding school and want to contribute to enhancing student performance, safety for our children and positive change. I can contribute through innovative thinking, listening and objective evaluation of the issues that come before the Site Council.

I am currently in a leadership position at Eastern Washington University as the Director of Student Financial Services with a current budget of \$894,000 that I manage. I have been employed in higher education for over 25 years including 14 years of consulting. This included consulting multiple colleges, universities and research institutes throughout the United States, Canada and the United Arab Emirates which resulted in efficiencies in practices and technology

Site Council Ballot



- Deanna Hanley
- Tom Scott
- Dennis Wilson

Please Check One and Return by Wednesday, October 21