

October, 2009



EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15

# VIKING NEWSLETTER

Dear Meadowdale Community:

This Fall, MMS is celebrating a 14% increase in our Writing WASL score! Assessment Coordinators tell us that a 10% increase on a state exam is considered to be attainable as a goal to achieve in one year. This brings additional enthusiasm to this remarkable gain in student learning for our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders. As a staff, we believe that we are all teachers of literacy, so we celebrate these gains in student learning together. In addition, we congratulate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders for actively participating in the learning of writing skills that will support them throughout their educational and professional careers.

During the month of October, our new Gymnasium will begin to take form as the steel shape of the building goes into place. Of course, we are very excited to watch this progress, yet I understand that the construction of a new building does not necessarily match the messaging about the financial status of public schools in Washington State. Public school funding is very complex, but I will do my best to explain the projects taking place at our school and why each is different but at the same time important. Essentially, there are several pots of money, and most of the time, the money in one pot cannot be used to fund projects in another. Our voters approved a bond in 2006 to rebuild our school and Lynnwood High School. The bond dollars are required by law to be used for the construction projects voters approved, so we could not legally use that money to backfill in the areas that have been cut. Likewise, our ASB has a separate pot of money, so it's important for ASB to raise funds for clubs and activities at our school. In addition to this, we have a great Parent Club and Sports Boosters that also raise funds to support our programs, many of which have lost funding recently.

We thank you in advance for your support of our ASB, Parent Club, and Sports Boosters by donating to our upcoming and current fundraisers. Each of the following fundraisers represent the ONLY fundraiser for that group for the school year:

1. Viking Run, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – supports ASB (clubs, music, extra-curricular, dances)
2. Coffee Sale, current fundraiser– supports Sports Booster (athletics)
3. Pledge Drive, kicked off at Curriculum Night – supports Parent Club (WatchDogs, Volunteer Appreciation, Staff Appreciation, Emergency Supplies, Teacher Grants, and more)

Finally, two years ago our staff engaged in a visioning process for our new school that included not only a new structure, but a new educational program. We agreed to use the two years of the Design Phase and the two years of the Construction Phase to update our Mission Statement and develop a research-based 21<sup>st</sup> century educational program. This year, marks our 3<sup>rd</sup> year in this process and as you are well aware we have implemented some exciting changes to promote academic achievement at MMS. They are as follows: Extended Bell Schedule, Reading Advisory & Extension, Tier II and Tier III academic intervention classes, and a Privilege System. I believe that our recent gain in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Writing WASL is a result of our collective learning, collaborative teaming, intentional planning, and passionate commitment to our students.

As always, thank you for being a caring community that shares in our celebration of student success, as well as the excitement of anticipating a brand new, 21<sup>st</sup> century school that will be as impressive on the outside as the teaching and learning on the inside.

Sincerely,

Christine Avery, Principal

# OCTOBER EVENTS

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5	3:45pm, Softball at Explorer MS	16	Picture Retake Day
7	3:45pm, Softball vs. Olympic View	19	Softball at Brier Terrace MS
	3:45pm Football at Einstein MS	21	3:45pm, Football at Kellogg MS
8	Viking Run Fundraiser		3:45pm, Softball at Kellogg MS
	3:45pm, Cross Country at Voyager MS	22	3:45pm, Cross Country at Harbour Pointe MS
9	Teacher Contract Day, No School		
12	3:45pm, Softball at Brier Terrace MS	26	3:45pm, Softball vs College Place MS
14	3:45pm, Softball vs. Harbour Pointe MS	29	3:30pm, Football vs. College Place @ Edmonds Stadium.
15	3:45pm, Cross Country at Voyager MS		3:45pm, Cross Country at College Place MS
	5:30pm, Football vs. Olympic View at MHS		

## YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!!

Yearbook needs your digital photo contributions. Parents, please take pictures at music performances, sport games, and other school events. Email your best pictures to: [mcnabbr@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:mcnabbr@edmonds.wednet.edu). If you have a quantity of pictures to share, we ask that you burn them to a CD or save to a thumb drive and put in Mrs. McNabb's teacher box in the main office. Thanks so much for helping to make our yearbook memorable.

## NURSE'S NOTES

Start the day with BREAKFAST!! Your day will go better. IMPORTANT—Please stay home if you are ill. Remember to wash your hands with plenty of soap and warm water for 20 seconds to wash those germs away.

## GEOMETRY

In September we started with basic definitions. In October we will begin learning how to write various proofs, using inductive and deductive reasoning. After this introduction, we will use that information to work with parallel and perpendicular lines. We have not left algebra behind. It is incorporated into almost every lesson.

## VIKING SPORTS REPORT

Turnout for all of the MMS Fall Sports teams were fantastic!! Over 60 8th grade boys turned out for football, almost 30 7th and 8th grade girls turned out for fastpitch softball, and over 30 7th and 8th grade boys and girls turned out for cross country. All three teams played their first contests of the season during the past week, with the football team opening the season with a 38-0 victory over Brier Terrace Middle.

# 7TH GRADE SCIENCE

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We began our first unit of the year with a study of weather and water. We are learning how the sun's energy heats up the earth and how that heating changes the temperatures of land and water, which causes the weather. We are starting with global weather and moving into local weather. We will learn the cause of seasons and discuss the impact of global warming on all living things.

Thanks to everyone who came to curriculum night. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or comments about your student.

—Mrs. Stansberry

425-431-4326

<http://teacher.edmonds.wednet.edu/mms/sstansberry/index.php>

## FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Please be aware that we will do all we can to assist families that are struggling financially to meet the needs and costs of their middle school student. We have two funds that can be accessed to pay for class fees, fines, or athletic costs. We have a minimal amount of school supplies for students in need in the main office. Clothes for Kids is a program that provides clothing for our district students. Families meeting the criteria may qualify for free and/or reduced meals for the student at school. Forms are available online at Edmonds.wednet.edu, or in the main office at school.

For more information on any of these resources, or to obtain an application for Clothes for Kids, please contact our counseling office at (425) 431-4394.

# 7TH GRADE MATH

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The next unit your student will be learning is called Variables and Patterns. This unit focuses on ways to describe situations that change. In the first part of the unit, students will explore three ways of representing a changing situation: with a description in words, with a data table, and with a graph. These representations are compared to one another to elicit the strengths of each presentation.

Students learn to write symbolic expressions as a shorter, quicker way to give a summary of the relationship between two variables. After writing symbolic rules, students learn how to use graphing calculators to make tables and graphs for a given rule, which allows students to interpret and compare more data sets.

You can help your student by ensuring they have graph paper and pencils in their binder. The glossary in the back of the book not only defines the vocabulary terms used in class, but also provides an example. You can also help them by asking some of the following questions as they do their homework:

What are the variables in the problem? Which variables depend on or change in relation to others? How can the relationships of the problem be described in words? How can the relationships between variables be represented and analyzed? What does it mean when we see predictable changes in a table of data or a graph? How can we use these predictable changes to find out about other possible data?

Please continue to access the Connected Math website to view video tutorials.

—Ms. Knox

# SUPPORT THE VIKING RUN

The Viking Run is the primary ASB fundraiser for the school year. All Viking Run money goes to support student programs like clubs, sports, music, and after school events. The greater the student participation, the more money is raised for student programs.

The Viking Run is during the afternoon of October 8. Prior to that date, students need to collect pledges from family, friends and neighbors. The pledges can be “per lap” or “flat” pledges. Every little bit helps! Students will record their pledges on their Viking Run envelope (these were handed out on Monday, September 28). Following the Viking Run, students will collect their pledges, seal them in the envelope, and turn it in to Ms. Nelson – the Attendance/ASB Secretary.

Prizes will be awarded for students who run the most laps and collect the most money at each grade level. Please support MMS Students by supporting the Viking Run!

## GOT TIME? VOLUNTEER

Looking for a midday break? Be a volunteer during lunch.

1<sup>st</sup> Lunch is from 11:15 to 11:45 and

2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch is from 12:20 to 12:50

You can work both lunches or just one lunch—it’s up to you. Bring a friend so you can share the fun. Opportunities include:

**Lunch Monitor.** Your post will be by the lunch room door. You choose the day to come either weekly or biweekly. You’re main responsibility is to check student passes before they leave for the library, gym or health room. It’s the perfect opportunity to be like a fly on the wall in the lunch room and see who’s who.

**Popcorn Vendor.** Every Tuesday we need volunteers to help Stacy Linton with popcorn sales. Sports Boosters sell popcorn to raise money to pay for new equipment for our Viking Athletes.

**Renaissance Pizza Server.** As part of our Renaissance Program students can earn pizza for lunch if they improve their grades by .5. Shortly after grades are determined we need volunteers to come in and serve pizza.

**Office Help.** Answer phones during lunch when the office is understaffed due to staff being on lunch break. It’s a great way to learn who does what at our school.

**PAPERWORK:** ALL VOLUNTEERS must have a completed and cleared Washington State Patrol Background Check on file in the office prior to volunteering. Turn in all forms to our office manager, Sue Raymond for processing 2 days prior to volunteering. **All forms are online at our website under “Volunteering” or available from the school office.**

Do you have a question about volunteering at MMS? Lisa Conley can be reached by email [conleyl@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:conleyl@edmonds.wednet.edu) or leave a voice message at 425-431-1513.

# VIKING PRIVILEGE SYSTEM

2009-2010

## A Viking may earn a privilege in one of 3 ways:

1. Citizenship Award – recognized by a counselor or administrator.
2. On-a-Roll Award- improving a grade in one class by at least one letter grade at a formal grading period.
3. \*Achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher with no failing grades at a formal grading period (*\*only privilege connected to 1 HR Lunch*).

## Viking Privilege System

	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr begins 9/8/09	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr begins 11/9/09	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr begins 2/1/10	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr begins 4/16/10
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	-	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choose One: Maximum 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn (<b>yellow</b>)</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch (<b>white</b>)</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Add One or Start with One: Maximum 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch</li> <li>3. Activity Extension</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Add One or Start with One: Maximum 3</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch</li> <li>3. Activity Extension</li> <li>*4. 1 HR Lunch x 1 day per week</li> </ol>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	-	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choose One: Maximum 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn (<b>yellow</b>)</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch (<b>white</b>)</li> <li>3. Activity Extension (<b>green</b>)</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Add One or Start with One: Maximum 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch</li> <li>3. Activity Extension</li> <li>*4. 1 HR Lunch x 1 day per week (<b>black</b>)</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Add One or Start with One: Maximum 3</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free Popcorn</li> <li>2. iPod Lunch</li> <li>3. Activity Extension</li> <li>*4. 1 HR Lunch x 2 day per week</li> </ol>

### Loss of Privilege:

A student may have a privilege revoked if they:

1. Fall below the academic benchmark for earning the privilege at a formal grading period.
2. Abuse or misuse of privilege.
3. Have a discipline incident for which loss of privilege is an appropriate consequence in progressive discipline.

Free Popcorn = Weekly  
 iPod Lunch = Daily  
 Activity Extension = Monthly  
 1 HR Lunch = Weekly

# PARENT CLUB NOTES



What's different about Parent Club in middle school?

Associated Student Body—ASB leads the charge on the majority of school events.

Parent Club steps away from planning special events, so students can start learn to be leaders. Assemblies, dances, clubs and other special events—the fun social stuff—is planned by ASB and funded the Viking Run on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Parent Club is left to do clean up for the less glamorous stuff—

**Student Academic Awards** (\$3,000 alone went to Renaissance last year)

**Staff Appreciation programs** (last year we spent \$1,000 which funded an off-site event in December and an end of year lunch)

**Department Special Requests** (last year we gave \$3,000 to the music department to buy new vests for choir because the old vests were falling apart; we gave \$2,000 to supply our Emergency Shed).

**Volunteer Appreciation** (last year we spent \$400 on a tea and gift cards)

With the severe budget cuts this year the MMS Budget has been slashed. Principal Avery told staff “I am worried that departments will NOT receive a Department Budget Allocation this year.” Vice Principal Webster has already put in a request for Parent Club to fund printer ink for the staff's laser printers.

It would be great if Parent Club could raise the money to help staff through this crisis. But it takes you to act on. Your two ways to help are with:

**Magazines**—You can renew or order online @ [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com) click on “Shop Now” and enter our school number 425024427 Follow the steps to reorder and have your credit card ready. PLEASE forward this information to your family and friends.

**Pass the Hat**—If you'd rather support parent club through a direct donation, send your check made out to *MMS Parent Club* to Meadowdale Middle School, 6500 168<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Lynnwood, WA 98037 attn: Ingrid Olson, treasurer

We'll tell you how we're doing on meeting this budget crisis at our next meeting on:

**October 22 Parent Club Educational Meeting**

If you any specific questions contact, Lisa Conley @ [MMSVikings@gmail.com](mailto:MMSVikings@gmail.com)

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The month of September was a very successful start to a school year and hosting a construction site between our buildings proved not to be a problem, at all. We are lucky to have Skanska as our contractors, because they maintain a safe and orderly construction site. We appreciate your patience as we implemented new traffic patterns in our East Parking Lot. In addition, we are proud of our student performance during lunch time as their space to roam has been reduced. I would like to alert parents of students with dust allergies to consider treating their students with their allergy medication if they are showing typical allergy symptoms or having headaches while at school, because there is an increase of dust in the air due to construction.

Today, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, they are pouring the foundation of our new Gym! Currently, we are one week ahead of construction schedule and we hope that the weather continues to cooperate. In October, you will see the steel formation of our new gym be put into place. October is going to be an exciting time to watch the Gym take form and I use this time as an opportunity to remind you that you may not cross the fence and enter the construction zone or you will be in violation of the law. Please observe from a respectable distance alongside the fence that creates a clear boundary between the school site and construction site. Thank you for your cooperation.

In March, we will demolish our existing Gym and Music Building to continue building from the new Gym toward the west, near the old softball field, to complete the rest of the new construction. You may have noticed that near the Meadowdale Playfields, where our old softball field used to be, there is an area of land being prepared for construction. This will be the exact opposite end of our new building that will consist of a two-story academic wing with the top floor hosting an Art Room with a beautiful view. They are beginning to build from two opposite ends of the building. Our existing building will be demolished in the Summer of 2011 and become the new parking lot. We look forward to hosting PE in our new Gym and Locker Rooms next Fall!

If you are interested, the Edmonds School District has design plans and floor plans of our new building under the Capital Projects link.



## RIDE THE “THURSDAY BUS”

Each Thursday MMS has an additional bus run at 3:30 PM. This transportation is provided to students who make arrangements to stay after school making up missed work or getting assistance from a teacher. If your student would like to use the Thursday bus, make sure they have made arrangements in advance as they must have a note or a pass from a teacher as their “ticket”.