



VIKING NEWSLETTER

November, 2009

Dear Meadowdale Community:

During this month of *giving Thanks* I would like to acknowledge the excellence in education that exists at MMS. To begin, I am thankful for our community of parents that are actively involved in their middle school student's academic life during these critical pre-adolescent years. I am grateful for our Parent Club that provides volunteers to support our learning community at MMS. In addition, I am particularly excited about the upcoming launch of the WATCH DOG program that will bring dads as volunteers into our school day.

Next, I am thankful for our students at MMS. We have a delightful group of learners that are not only excited to learn, but polite and respectful, too. I am so proud of our ASB student leaders that have shown maturity and responsibility as they have performed their roles this year. I am also proud of our students participating in our Tier II and Tier III coursework, because they are making significant gains in their learning. I absolutely love being in the classrooms and watching all of our students learn, because they collaborate, problem-solve, use creativity, and critically think every day to prepare for their future in the 21st century.

Finally, I am proud and grateful for our staff at MMS. The Viking Staff is focused on student learning and practice being lifelong learners by actively engaging in professional learning communities. Our staff observes one another teach, give constructive feedback to their peers, target their instruction to maximize student learning on the grade level expectations for their course, share samples of student work to calibrate their grading practices and better understand how they can promote more student learning in their own classroom. The Viking Team is pretty special – thank YOU.

Principal's *giving THANKS* List:

Parent Club – thank you for making The Viking Run a big success!

Lisa Conley – thank you for everything you do for us in the Main Office & our parent community.

ASB Officers – thank you for being our future leaders of America.

Students – thank you for caring about your education and working hard every day.

Teachers – thank you for focusing on student learning and maintaining a high morale during construction, as well as being resistant to many NEW initiatives this year.

Tier II & III Teachers & Students – thank you for making our new academic interventions a big success this year!

Club Advisors and student participants – thank you for creating the opportunity for pro-social activities this year.

Librarian – thank you for being the heart of our school.

Office Staff – thank you for working together to better serve our students and parents.

Custodians – thank you for keeping our school clean and safe during construction & the rainy season.

Honors Teachers & Students – thank you for engaging in rigorous curriculum!

Department Chairs – thank you for being Instructional Leaders this year.

Reading Committee – thank you for developing and providing professional development to our teachers!

Food Service Staff – thank you for being flexible with our new schedule this year.

Counselors – thank you for developing a strong team this year!

Specialists – thank you for increasing our brain power as a staff.

Classified Staff – thank you for making the difference in the life of a child every day.

I am humbled and proud to be the Instructional Leader of this school. It is an honor to serve this community.

Sincerely,

Christine Avery, Principal



NOVEMBER EVENTS

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------|--|
| 3 | 3:15pm, Cross Country League Championship@ Shoreline Stadium. | 5 | End of First Quarter |
| | 6:30pm, Fall Music Concert for 7th Grade Band and Orchestra, Gym | | 7:00pm, International Baccalaureate Mtg. @ Edmonds-Woodway High School |
| | 7:30pm, Fall Music Concert for all Choirs and 8th Grade Band and Orchestra, Gym | 6 | Non Student Day |
| 4 | Winter Sports Season One Begins | 11 | Veteran's Day, No School |
| | 9:30am, Veteran's Day Assembly | 18 | 7:00pm, Quadrant Parent Meeting with Nick Brossoit, MMS Commons |
| | | 26, 27 | Thanksgiving Break, No School |

EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED PROGRAMS

This program is for students who take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT6) and are identified as “gifted or highly capable”. The pace of the instruction is designed to meet the needs of students who learn very quickly and can process information at much higher and more abstract levels. For more information go to district website edmonds.wednet.edu – Parents – Other Educational Resources, Highly Capable Programs and Services, and click on any of the three programs listed below. Same information on the web site will be handed out at parent meetings.

Challenge Gifted Program – Grades 1-6

Gifted Middle School Program – Grades 7-8

International Baccalaureate – Grades 9-12

Grades K-7 Parent (only) meeting – Nov. 3, 6:00-7:00pm, Terrace Park Elementary

Grade 8 Parent/Student meeting – Nov. 5, 7:00-8:00pm, Edmonds-Woodway High, Great Hall

Grades K-5 Challenge Test – December 5 – *Referral due November 23*

Grades 6-7 Gifted Middle Test – January 9 – *Referral due December 18*

Grade 8 IB Test – December 12 – *Referral due November 30*

Call or email Nancy Gilbertson 425-431-7157, GilbertsonN@edmonds.wednet.edu for more information on gifted testing.

Nancy Gilbertson

K-12 Hi-Cap Specialist

Edmonds School District



LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I am looking forward to meeting and working with you and your student(s) whether it is in the library doing research, finding a book or enjoying a family event night such as Bingo; it will be a great year!!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The library is a very busy place and I can use a lot of help. Here are some of the jobs I need volunteers for:

Checking out books during Extension on Mondays from 11:50-12:20

Bingo Night coordinators/helpers

Reading Celebration coordinators/helpers

Book Fair coordinators/helpers

Coins for Kids fundraiser coordinators/helpers

If any of these jobs sound interesting to you, please call or email me at 425-431-4310 or mond@edmonds.wednet.edu.

LIBRARY WEBSITE

Visit the library website for tons of resources to help you and your student(s). You can find forms for Reading Advisory, a link to our catalog, and lots of other information to help your student(s) have a successful school year. To get to the library page, click on the *Library* link from the school website or go to <http://teacher.edmonds.wednet.edu/mms/mmondo/index.php>.

HELP OUR LIBRARY WITH BOOK DONATIONS

Due to budget cuts, I am not able to purchase as many fiction books this year, so I'm looking for donations of the following popular young adult reads. I will take these books brand new or in slightly used condition. Thank you for your support.

Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, & Breaking Dawn by Stephenie Meyer

The Hunger Games and Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

The Van Alen Legacy by Melissa De La Cruz

City of Bones, City of Ashes, and City of Glass by Casandra Clare

The Demon King by Cinda Williams Chima

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

The Chronicles of Vladimir Todd by Heather Brewer

Need by Carrie Jones

The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan

The Silver Kiss by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

Keeping the Moon & Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen



PARENT CLUB NOTES

What great parents and staff we have at Meadowdale Middle School!! “You guys rock!!” We’ve got several folks working behind the scenes bringing to life the following projects and activities.

Pave the Way to Excellence One Brick at a Time Soon you can buy a brick with an inscription to be included in the new building. More details will be coming to you soon. If you want to be one of the first to purchase one contact Catherine Ott at cottr@comcast.net.

Barnes & Noble Night In early December we will be holding an event at Barnes & Noble in Lynnwood to support our library’s effort to get more books into the hands of our students. More details will be coming to you soon.

Empty Bowls for Hunger Awareness In early December the Art Club and MHS’s Chef’s school will be serving soup in one of a kind bowls to raise funds for local food banks. For more information contact Amanda Wood at wooda@edmonds.wednet.edu.

Boxtops for Education MMS has reactivated its Boxtops for Education account, so you now have a place to send your Boxtops. Send them to the office attention: Kim Hayes.

Watch Dog Dads This successful program will be coming soon to the halls of MMS.

Grant Writing Guin Joyce and Kristin Sewell are working together to get grants for new fitness equipment for our new gym, which opens the fall of 2010. If you know of any grants available for fitness, contact Ms. Joyce at joyceg@edmonds.wednet.edu.

Levy Team February 9 voters will decide to renew our Maintenance & Operations Levy. This levy would replace the existing levy which directly funds classrooms and support programs. For more information contact Mdeprojects@yahoo.com.

Watch for more about these exciting programs in your biweekly Viking Notes. Remember to come to our next meeting which is open to all the schools in the Northwest Quadrant of ESD. Dr. Nick Brossoit will be our presenter. Join us: [Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm in our Library](#)

If you have any specific questions contact, Lisa Conley @ conleyl@edmonds.wednet.edu

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AT EDMONDS -WOODWAY HIGH SCHOOL

The parent and student meeting for 8th graders interested in applying for the 2010-2011 IB program is Thursday, November 5, from 7:00-8:00pm in the Great Hall at Edmonds-Woodway High School. EWHS will be closed to transfers next year, meaning students wishing to apply to the IB program must either live in the EWHS service area or have been identified as Gifted. Current 8th graders who have not been identified as gifted, can still attend the IB meeting and take the gifted/highly capable test. For more information about IB and other high school programs, see the Highly Capable page on the district website.

REPLACEMENT SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OPERATION LEVY

Please remember to vote February 9, 2010. This is not a new tax and is an important current funding source that allows our classrooms to operate every day, funding teachers and support staff, as well as textbooks. Please take a few moments to download <http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/electioninfo/10levynews.pdf> or read through <http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/electioninfo/default.cfm> for more factual information.



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR STUDENT IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Please call Mrs. Nelson in the attendance office at (425) 431-4302 each day prior to 8:30am to report your student's absence. In addition, your student should bring a written excuse to the attendance window upon returning to school. For some extended or chronic absences, a written excuse from a medical practitioner may be required.

GET CAUGHT UP WITH SCHOOL WORK AFTER AN ABSENCE

For students who miss school due to illness, our main concern is they rest and regain their health; as they begin to feel better, it is a good idea to have a plan for making up missed school work. Some suggestions are:

Phone a Friend: Call a buddy from the same class and ask about classwork or homework that was missed while absent.

Check teachers' SWIFT sites: Many teachers update school planner information on their SWIFT site or may have links to documents given in class.

Make an appointment with teachers: Upon returning to school, students should initiate a conversation with each teacher about what work was missed while absent. This can often be done during extension time, and students can request a pass to visit their teachers during extension. Some teachers may also be available for an appointment before school, or during study club on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm.

Homework Requests: On the third consecutive day of absence, parents may telephone or email the attendance office to request homework from teachers. Please allow teachers 24 hours to respond to the homework request. Homework may either be emailed to the parent or the parent may pick up homework from the attendance office. Families are asked to understand that homework requests cannot be accommodated for the first two day of absences. After any length of absence, students are responsible for checking with their teachers about outstanding assignments. Mrs. Nelson, the attendance secretary, can be reached at (425) 431-4302 or at nelsonkar@edmonds.wednet.edu.

IF YOUR STUDENT HAS A PLANNED EXTENDED ABSENCE

If a student has a planned extended absence, such as a vacation or medical procedure, please alert the attendance office prior to the absence. If you'd like to request homework prior to the absence, please contact the attendance office 3 days before the planned absence. Teachers will work to accommodate the request, but remember that students are still expected to check with teachers upon their return, and use extension and study club to get caught up with assignments.





VIKING SPORTS – SEASON 2

Boys’ Basketball and Girls’ Volleyball

Season 2 of Viking Athletics begins on Wednesday, November 4. Boys’ Basketball is coached by Mike Kendrick and Mark Schneider. There will be 2 teams, one for 7th graders and one for 8th graders. Girls’ Volleyball is coached by John Steiner and Maria Mondo. There will also be 2 teams for volleyball, one for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. Cuts for both sports will be made following practice on November 18.

To try out, students will need to have all paperwork submitted prior to practice. The paperwork includes:

- A single sport clearance form (for ALL athletes)
- A physical (good for 2 years if one has already been submitted for another sport) -A parent permission form (good for one year if one has already been submitted for another sport).

Students who make the team will have to purchase an ASB card (\$15) and pay the Edmonds School District participation fee (\$40). Waivers for these fees are available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

If you have any questions or concerns about Viking Athletics, please contact Assistant Principal Joe Webster at (425) 431-7709.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEASON 1 SPORTS TEAMS

For the 4th year in a row, the Viking Football team posted an unbeaten record of 6-0. The team played through a tough schedule, defeating Olympic View 8-0 with a late touchdown and getting past a tough College Place team that only had 2 losses. Congratulations to the players and coaches for all of their hard work and dedication. This was the first year of our combined 7/8 grade team and several 7th graders stepped up and made major contributions.

Viking Softball also posted an impressive final record of 7 wins and 2 losses. This was the first year of our combined 7/8 grade team and several 7th graders stepped up and made major contributions.

The XC team wraps up its season with the League Championship meet at Shoreline Stadium on Tuesday, November 3. Outstanding runners on this year’s squad included: 7th Grade Girls: Amelia Ball/Taylor Monroe-Jones, 7th Grade Boys: Alexander Nguyenle, 8th Grade Girls: Julianna Falk/Shea Keating, 8th Grade Boys: Chikodi Ezeokeke.

Thank you to all of the coaches, volunteers and parents who helped with such a successful fall season! Our student-athletes appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to their success on and off the field.



CLUBS AT MMS

Clubs are starting at MMS during the month of November. Any student may participate in a club. Clubs will meet bi-monthly on Thursdays after school, and there is a bus at 3:30 to transport students home. Some of the clubs this year will include:

- Ping Pong Club – Mr. Laven
- Hackesack Club – Mr. Howard
- Guitar Club – Ms. Van Kempen
- Art Club – Ms. Wood
- Math Club – Mr. McCardle, Ms. Phillips
- Cooking Club (nominal fee required)- Ms. Joyce
- Creative Writing Club – Mr. Arnot
- Chess Club – Mr. Pirie
- Community Service Club – Ms. Conley, Mr. Webster

To start a club, students simply need to find a staff member as an advisor and apply to ASB. Students interested in starting a club should see Mr. Webster for details.

Watch for individual club meeting dates to be posted on our web site soon.

All students must have an ASB card to participate in a club.

VIKING RUN – OVER \$11,000 RAISED FOR MMS STUDENTS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in, volunteered for, or donated to the 2009 Viking Run! MMS students and staff raised over \$11,000 for our ASB. ASB funds are used for a wide variety of Cultural, Athletic, Recreational and Social events at MMS. Money raised will be spent by our students, for our students. It will pay for:

- Dances and social events
- Budgets for clubs
- Budgets for sports equipment and uniforms
- Field trips
- Music events
- Other student related activities that make the middle school experience fun for our students!

Special recognition goes to our top classrooms – Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Laven, and Mr. Howard. Top individuals were Chris Flynn, Amanda Tomchick and Atty McLellan. A BIG THANKS to Lisa Conley and parent club for providing volunteers and support for the event and for our students. Way to go Vikings!





TELEPHONE AND ON-LINE HARASSMENT

As students enter middle school, many begin using cell phones and communicating with friends on-line for the first time. This can be a difficult time for students as they navigate the social pressures that come with new friendships and conflicts associated with pre-adolescence. Many students and parents are aware that harassment is considered a serious offense by Meadowdale Middle School and the Edmonds School District. However, the use of cell phones and other electronic devices to inflict emotional injury on others is also considered a crime by the State of Washington. Please discuss the responsibilities that come with the use of cell phones and on-line messaging with your student. Below is the text of the laws pertaining to these types of acts.

Telephone Harassment-RCW 9.61.230

(1) Every person who, with intent to harass, intimidate, torment or embarrass any other person, shall make a telephone call to such other person:

(a) Using any lewd, lascivious, profane, indecent, or obscene words or language, or suggesting the commission of any lewd or lascivious act; or

(b) Anonymously or repeatedly or at an extremely inconvenient hour, whether or not conversation ensues; or

(c) Threatening to inflict injury on the person or property of the person called or any member of his or her family or household;

is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The person is guilty of a class C felony punishable according to chapter [9A.20](#) RCW if either of the following applies:

(a) That person has previously been convicted of any crime of harassment, as defined in RCW [9A.46.060](#), with the same victim or member of the victim's family or household or any person specifically named in a no-contact or no-harassment order in this or any other state; or

(b) That person harasses another person under subsection (1)(c) of this section by threatening to kill the person threatened or any other person.

Cyberstalking- RCW 9.61.260

(1) A person is guilty of cyberstalking if he or she, with intent to harass, intimidate, torment, or embarrass any other person, and under circumstances not constituting telephone harassment, makes an electronic communication to such other person or a third party:

(a) Using any lewd, lascivious, indecent, or obscene words, images, or language, or suggesting the commission of any lewd or lascivious act;

(b) Anonymously or repeatedly whether or not conversation occurs; or

(c) Threatening to inflict injury on the person or property of the person called or any member of his or her family or household.

(2) Cyberstalking is a gross misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Cyberstalking is a class C felony if either of the following applies:

(a) The perpetrator has previously been convicted of the crime of harassment, as defined in RCW [9A.46.060](#), with the same victim or a member of the victim's family or household or any person specifically named in a no-contact order or no-harassment order in this or any other state; or

(b) The perpetrator engages in the behavior prohibited under subsection (1)(c) of this section by threatening to kill the person threatened or any other person.

(4) Any offense committed under this section may be deemed to have been committed either at the place from which the communication was made or at the place where the communication was received.

(5) For purposes of this section, "electronic communication" means the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. "Electronic communication" includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.



MRS. STANSBERRY'S 7TH GRADE SCIENCE

I had a great trip to South Africa learning about science education there and sharing about science education here. If you would like to see some pictures and stories of what we did, you can visit the blog of our delegation leader at <http://keeleysouthafrica.blogspot.com/> (I have shared my pictures with students in class.)

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 have looked at how the angle of light effects temperature and how the type of surface effects how much heat energy is absorbed. We will be learning about ocean and air currents and how all this put together causes weather.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH

The Center for Talented Youth (CTY) through Johns Hopkins University conducts national and international talent searches to identify, assess, and recognize outstanding academic talent.

If your son or daughter is gifted academically, then you may want to consider your student to participate in the annual CTY Talent Search. The nominations are based on any of the following criteria:

- Achievement at the 95th percentile or higher or one or more areas of a nationally normed standardized test
- Achievement at advanced levels on state tests designated as scoring in categories such as advanced proficiency, distinguished, honors, or gifted

Demonstration of superior academic performance

(The above criterion was extracted from this website: www.cty.jhu.edu).

To find more specific information about CTY and the application process at Johns Hopkins University, it is recommended that you access the above web address.

YOU CAN'T AFFORD COLLEGE? THINK AGAIN!

Your 7th or 8th grader may be eligible for a four-year College Bound Scholarship! If your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch or your family meets other income requirements, your student may be eligible. The amount of the College Bound Scholarship is based on tuition at public college rates not covered by other state financial aid PLUS \$500 each year for books!

Contact your school counselor for more information or apply online: www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound

Don't delay! Students must apply by June 30 of their 8th grade year!



THANKSGIVING FAMILY FUN

Westgate Chapel, located at 22901 Edmonds Way will be hosting a **FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009**. They are providing a safe place, with an abundance of activities that will make this day a special memory for the entire family!

The seatings will be at 11:00am, 1:30pm, and 3:30 pm. They will offer complimentary transportation, which can be arranged by calling (425) 775-2776, extension 236. The first 150 children at the 11:00am seating will have a chance to win a new Nintendo Wii System, second remote, and game. At all three seatings, Toys R Us \$50 gift certificates and door prizes will be given away to adults and children. The featured entertainment is comic and award winning ventriloquist Mark Thompson. His family oriented program will captivate the attention of every age group.

All of these events are free!

- Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
- Family Entertainment
- Nintendo Wii System
- \$50 Toys R Us Gift Certificate drawings
- Adult and Children's Prizes
- Framed Family Photos
- Children's Crafts, Games, & Gifts
- Food & Clothing Bank
- Transportation



GEOMETRY

We have spent the month of October working through the rigors of two column proofs and will apply those for the rest of the year. In November we will explore parallel and perpendicular lines and the angles that go along with them. Slopes of lines are revisited which leads to writing and graphing equations of lines. We will continue our exploration of theorems with proving perpendicular lines. Next we will begin working on congruent triangles.

7TH GRADE MATH

Your 7th grade math student is studying a unit called Variables and Patterns, which is an introduction to Algebra. This unit focuses on ways to describe situations that change. In the first part of the unit, students explore ways of representing a changing situation in data tables and graphs. 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 student to interpret and compare more data sets.

Please explore the CMP Parent Web Site at <http://PHSchool.com/cmp2parents>.

Mrs. Fain and Miss Knox



MMS YEARBOOK

MMS Yearbook invites YOU to be a photographer-at-large!! Please send your best digital pictures to our Yearbook Student Editors via mcnabbr@edmonds.wednet.edu. We are especially hoping to receive Music Department Performance pictures and Sport pictures. Thanks!

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING PRESENTATIONS

During the first few months of school, our counseling department visits each classroom to provide students with information on whom their counselors are, what services are provided, and how students can access their counselor as the need arises. A power point presentation on harassment/bullying is used to disseminate information to the students on what harassment is, what to do if this happens to them individually, and how, when, where, and to whom to report harassment of any kind. When reports are made, this helps the victim of bullying and may help other potential victims as well. Students are encouraged to stand strong and keep the atmosphere at MMS a safe, healthy and fun place.

