



HOOF BEAT

Martha Lake Mustangs

September 2009
Volume 17, Issue 1

Martha Lake Elementary
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The History of a Country School

Martha Lake Elementary was a brand new school, opening its doors for the first time in the fall of 1953. On September 30 of that year, 33 parents met in the gym and formed the school's first PTA. They set their annual budget at \$148.00 and their dues at \$1.00 for individuals and \$1.50 for couples. Their dues more than covered that budget. That evening they set in motion an association that exists today.

At their first board meeting, the number one topic of concern was transportation safety and bussing issues for their children—an issue they took to the school district with passion. One of their earliest contributions was assisting in the acquisition of a Tachistoscope for the library. They achieved many things which I intend to share throughout the year in our newsletter. At the end of their first year they documented their achievements in a binder, simply titled, *The History of a Country School*.

Continued on page 2...

A Message from Principal Jeanne Moore

I was delighted to see the students' smiling faces at Meet the Teacher. It reminded me why we are working so hard to meet the impacts of the changes to our school. I am asking our school community to be patient as we work through the changes we have had to make in our arrival and dismissal procedures. We know that a great deal more students will be arriving by car, or walking and riding bicycles than in past years. I have been consulting with a county traffic engineer to make the traffic flow on Larch Way and in the ML parking lot as efficient as possible given the large volume of cars. I understand the No Left Turns (only during arrival and dismissal times) will be inconvenient for families, but at this time we think they are necessary. After the first couple of weeks we will determine if revisions are needed to our plan. Please share our handouts with all family members who may drive your students to school.

A new class is formed!

The next change we will address is the reconfiguring of some classes to accommodate an additional classroom and new teacher to help relieve overcrowded classes – as a result of a high enrollment at ML. This is a difficult process as it requires some students to move to another class after the year begins.

However, we must all keep in mind that the purpose is to build balanced classes with a student-teacher ratio that is more effective for student learning. I will soon be communicating with some teachers and families about changes in enrollment in their classes. My goal is to assign students to their new classrooms by the third week of school so that parents can meet their students' teachers at Curriculum Night.

Continued on page 2...

Washington State
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Continued from cover, Mrs. Moore's message...

Please attend Curriculum Night!

Grades 4-6 have Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm, and grades K-3 on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30pm. I ask that every family consider having at least one adult attend, as teachers work very hard to provide parents with essential grade-level and classroom information for the whole year.

Volunteer Work Day on Saturday, Sept. 19!

For more than 12 years our school has had a special contract with Edmonds School District to eliminate the spraying of pesticides and herbicides to control weeds. This requires parent volunteers to meet one Saturday a month to work on the premises around the school to control weed growth. Families bring work gloves, garden tools, weed eaters, wheel barrows and a willingness to do some physical labor to maintain our beautiful school campus. As you can see when you visit there is much work to do, and it will be necessary for many volunteers to join us in the work. We are at a point that we will have to re-consider our contract with the district if we can no longer guarantee weed control through volunteerism. Mr. Rob Knudson has graciously agreed to lead the volunteer effort, but must have considerable help to do the work. Please join us from 9:00-1:00 on Saturday, Sept. 19!

Support our Jog-a-Thon/PTA Fundraiser on Sept. 30!

Today you will receive a pledge envelope in your Take-Home-Tuesday envelope. Our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is hoping to consolidate our fundraising efforts to support students and teachers into one Jog-a-thon scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30. We hope every student will be able to acquire a minimum of \$40.00 of pledges to run or walk laps around the school field on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Please see the Jog-a-thon information for other prizes students may win. This is a fundraiser that is both practical for parents and healthy for our kids. Every student who participates will be given a water bottle with the ML Mustang logo! Each student will receive a school T-shirt for obtaining \$40.00 of pledges. Parents and relatives are invited to come cheer for their student!

I wish all of us a great school year!

Mrs. Moore

Continued from cover, History of a Country School...

As I welcome back parents, teachers, students and staff to our 56th year, I am excited for what lies before us. We face many of the same challenges our first PTA faced. I know that we will carry on what they started so many years ago. We will meet our challenges and succeed. Our first PTA General meeting will be September 17. And in the same spirit as the PTA class of 1953, to promote attendance there will be a popcorn party for the class who has the most parents at the meeting.

Dues won't sustain our budget as they did in 1953. We have a new fundraiser with our Jog-a-Thon Wednesday, September 30, that we hope will raise enough to cover our budget and reduce the energy and resources spent on multiple fundraisers.

Friday, October 2, will be our PTA BBQ and Mini-Auction. We will have bouncy houses as well as a visit from our local fire department and sheriff. It will be a fun-filled evening.

The new board and our e-mails are listed in the newsletter. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have (and the first person to e-mail me with the definition of a Tachistoscope will win a Mustang T-Shirt!).

Go Mustangs!

Bob Gregg
PTA President



Treasurer's Corner

I'm back! Susan Simpson, that is, for another 2 year term as your Treasurer for the Martha Lake Elementary Parent/Teacher Association. I served you last in 2005-2007. As treasurer, I handle all things related to money, banking, taxes and insurance for the PTA.

When you buy something that is PTA related, please make the check out to: *MLE PTA*. If you purchase something for a PTA function and need reimbursement, attach your receipt to a reimbursement form (found in the staff work room, or by emailing me) and place it in my box in the staff work room. I will try to write you a check within a week and mail it to you.

Feel free to email me at JLWSRS@aol.com about treasury-related issues.

I am also looking for a replacement to "shadow" me next year, as my son, John Henry Ward, will be moving on to middle school in 2011 and my term will be up. It's a fun job that requires a little bookkeeping knowledge. We use Quickbooks for accounting. You get to know a lot of folks, because everybody loves the banker!

TTFN,

Susan

PS- You can find me in the library Tues/Thurs. mornings, too.



Martha Lake Jog-a-Thon

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

This year the PTA has decided to hold one large (and fun!) fundraiser, the Jog-a-Thon. We still need several volunteers to help us on the day of the event. Please contact Shane Hazard at shazard@comcast.net if you can help. Look for your student's donation envelop coming home on September 15. Every student will receive a sports bottle with the Martha Lake logo, and there are several wonderful prizes!

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

\$40 raised wins a Mustang T-shirt (please specify which size on the donation form)

\$100 raised wins a \$20.00 movie gift-certificate

\$250 raised wins an MP3 player

Grand Prize: Top fundraising Mustang will win a night at the Great Wolf Lodge!

For each grade level, the student who runs the most laps wins a prize

Back-to-School BBQ and Mini-Auction

Friday, October 2 — 5:30 pm

Mark your calendars for the event of the season! Our BBQ this year will include great food, bouncy houses, a mini-auction with great items, prizes for PTA members, and announcements of the Jog-a-Thon winners. Each person who signs up for the PTA will receive a ticket for a free hot dog or piece of pizza, and an entry into our prize drawings.

FUN! FUN! FUN!



**Parents' Right To Know
About Teacher Qualifications**
(NCLB [Section 1111(6) (A) ESEA])
September 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Martha Lake School we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal rules related to teacher qualifications as defined in No Child Left Behind (NCLB). These rules allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements of the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled.

Please contact me at 425-431-7765, or Mooreje@edmonds.wednet.edu if you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Moore
Principal

Special Ed PTSA General Meeting

Date: Wednesday September 23, 2009
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Location: ESD Admin Building Room 102
S20420 68th Ave. W.
Lynnwood, Washington 98036

Please join us for a back-to-school social and have a chance to meet the candidates for the Edmonds School Board!

Boxtops, Campbell's Labels, and TerraCycle!

Dear Parents,

As a part of our PTA fundraising, Martha Lake participates in three different company supported collection programs.

The first is **Box Tops for Education**. With this program you can earn cash for our school every time you shop for groceries. You will find small Box Tops on hundreds of products you probably already purchase. Each Box Top is worth \$.10 to our school. We collect the small label that looks like this:



The second is **Campbell's Labels for Education**. This program allows the school to earn points to use towards ordering classroom supplies and playground equipment through the Campbell's product catalog. For this collection program we gather the UPC code with the little Labels for Education logo next to it (please note we do not want the whole label). This is what we collect:



We will be sending home collection envelopes for Box Tops and Campbell's codes on a regular basis. There will be end-of-year prizes for the top collecting students and monthly prizes for the top collecting classroom.

The third and newest collection program is through a company called **TerraCycle**. For this program we collect empty **juice packets** (not boxes) such as Capri Sun. With this program the packets must be empty and the straws removed and disposed of. This is a wonderful program because each pouch earns \$.02 for the school as well as keeping these pouches out of landfills. TerraCycle turns the packets into new retail products. A collection point will be set up at the school where kids can deposit these daily.

Your participation in these programs is much appreciated as it raises valuable funds for Martha Lake. When we all work together, the points and money really add up. During the 08-09 school year we were able to collect \$1368 and over 16,000 points. With participation from more families we are looking forward to even greater earnings this year.

If you have any questions about these programs please contact Christie Morgan at Christie.brian@verizon.net.

Thank you!

Christie Morgan

Martha Lake Elementary

September/October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	14 Entertainment Book Sale Begins	15 Vision and Hearing Screening Jog-a-thon pledge packets go home	16	17 PTA General Meeting, 7:00 pm, Library	18	19 PTA grounds work party 9:00-1:00
	September					
20	21 Begin Reflections Program	22 Curriculum Night, Intermediate, 6:30 pm	23	24 Curriculum Night, Primary, 6:30 pm	25 No School, Learning Improvement Day	26
	Book Fair					
27	28 ELL Night, 6:30 pm	29	30 Jog-a-Thon! (Pledge packets due)	1	2 Student Council Elections Back-to-School BBQ, 5:30 pm	3
				October		
4	5	6	7	8	9 No School, Professional Development Day	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16 Individual Picture Day	17 PTA grounds work party 9:00-1:00

Entertainment Book Sale

The 2010 Entertainment books will be sent home with your child on September 15. If you do not want your book, it must be returned to school. Each book costs \$20.00, and is loaded with thousands of dollars in savings. They make great gifts for your friends and family!

Here are just a few examples of your savings: free pizza at Alfy's, \$20.00 off at Safeway, free admission to the Woodland Park Zoo, \$24.00 off at Funtasia, AMC and Regal discounted movie tickets, free Dairy Queen ice cream cone, \$14.00 off at Café Neo, free bowling and skating at Lynnwood Bowl and Skate, and much, much more!