

STEWART ELEMENTARY

PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

DECEMBER 2011

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Stewart Stars Parents:

As we head into the holiday season, I just wanted to say thank you for sending us such wonderful children each day! We truly feel fortunate to have the opportunity to teach your children and to partner with you to provide the best learning opportunities for them. It was especially encouraging to read your children's report cards and to see the progress they are making in the classroom as well.

We have an exciting new program I would like to tell you about at Stewart Elementary School. Our "Star Reader Program" is new to us this school year, and is designed to encourage *all children* to read. To earn "Star Reader Points," children must participate in their grade level appropriate expectations. If they earn appropriate points for the month, they can choose from a variety of small prizes as an incentive at the end of the month. In addition, their name is placed in a drawing for a larger prize at the monthly "Terrific Kids" Assembly. This is just one way we are encouraging our students to read. A huge thank you to Stewart PTA and Margie Bellmer, our lead chair person for this important program. We also continue to constantly expand our "Accelerated Reader" Program, both in book titles and tests and encourage your children to take advantage of this great opportunity as well!

Your child may have informed you of a change in our morning line up (as students come into the gym). Students still come into the gym in the morning, but they now are invited participate in some exercises as they are awaiting the bell. Our Occupational Therapist, Julie Anderson, has been leading us in some great exercises to get us ready for learning! Please see the article in this newsletter titled, "Brain Gym" for more information. This has been a really fun and valuable addition to our morning routine.

Finally, we invite each of you to enjoy a great day of crafting. Our annual **PTA Holiday Event** will take place this **Saturday, December 3rd** from **11-2 p.m.** in the **Stewart Gymnasium**. We hope you can join us. Children will have the opportunity to make low cost craft projects, and listen to our Stewart Chorus perform. All children are to come accompanied by an adult. We are looking forward to a wonderful family day. Enjoy your precious time with your loved ones this Winter Break, and if you should ever have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to give me a call at 253-841-8743.

Respectfully,

Anne Hoban

Principal





PLUS Points

PLUS POINTS

Topic: Reading Aloud

In late October it was publicized that children newborn to 2 years of age should not watch or listen to TV, Videos or other visual media/programs. Young children benefit greatly from an organized, calm and auditory stimulating environment. This kind of environment creates the most benefit in preparing our children for listening and learning new words/vocabulary. It has been found (through research) that a child's ability to listen and know a large number of words can determine their success in school. With this in mind giving children of all ages a time and place for a quiet time to read and be read to is very important! "It's not the toys in the house that make the difference in children's lives; it's the words in their heads. The least expensive thing we give a child outside of a hug turns out to be the most valuable: words." By limiting the amount of time children watch TV or play video games will encourage reading, playing outside, and board games with family, creativity and improved attending skills. Books contain a greater variety of words/vocabulary than television. Go to the public library as a family or as special activity with your child. Check out books to read, books on tape/CD's work great too!

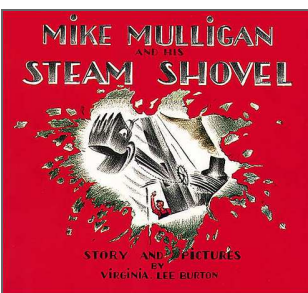


"Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way."

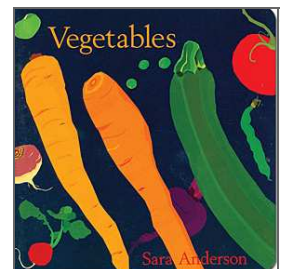
_ Orville Prescott

Suggested readings: (for elementary age groups)

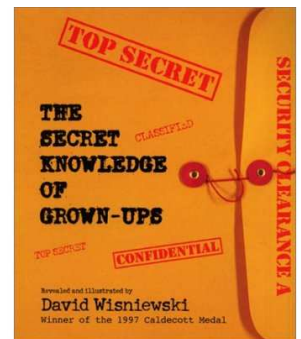
***Early Years:** Fruit, Vegetables, Colors and Numbers by Sara Anderson (local author); Aunt Minnie McGranahan by Mary Prigger; Baby Brains by Simon James



***Middle Years:** Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Burton; Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein by Don Brown; A Day at the Market by Sara Anderson (this book is about Pike Place Market in Seattle.)



***Older Years:** The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups by David Wisniewski; Daniel X by James Patterson, A Blue-Eyed Daisy by Cynthia Rylant



Happy reading aloud!

Sheryl Piskel, PLUS Program Coordinator

*Reference: The Read Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease

Counselor's Corner...Holiday Food Resources

If you are in need of food and meals for the holidays, the following resources are available.

ST FRANCIS HOUSE

Free meals will be served at the Armory (622 4th Ave. SE) on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. with service of meals at 2:00 p.m. on both days.

In addition, Armory meals are served Mondays-Fridays at 6:00 p.m. Service ends at 6:20 p.m. so it is important to arrive promptly.

ALL SAINTS

Provides food delivery, usually same day if you call in the morning. Call between 10-12 or 1-3.

Phone: 848-2000

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

2nd Annual Holiday Party

Thursday, December 15th from 5PM to 7PM

at Mountain View Community Center

3505 122nd East, Edgewood, WA 98372

Join us at Mountain View Community Center for a fun, free Holiday Party!

We've planned a scrumptious meal, delicious desserts, live entertainment and a fun sing-a-long. Children will receive a free holiday picture and small gift.

For more information, call or check out our website or stop by

Phone: 253-826-4329 Email: charmainejm@mtviewcc.org



**Sponsored by: Arrow Lumber & Hardware Company
& Mountain View Community Center**

This event is not sponsored or endorsed by the Puyallup School District

Nurse's Notes...



Parents, does your child need dental care? If you do not have dental insurance and are interested in free dental care for your child, please call me regarding and opportunity coming up on December 9th. You may also email me at shortds@puyallup.k12.wa.us

Darlene Short, R.N.

School Nurse for Maplewood, Stewart & Walker High School

From the Indian Education Program...

Families please join us for the
**Indian Education Program's
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting**

on Wednesday, December 7, 2011

from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

at Stewart Elementary

426 4th Avenue NE Puyallup

Meetings are open to families and supervised activities are available for youth. Meetings are potluck, so please bring a favorite dish to share.



What is this "Brain Gym"

Ms. Hoban mentioned?

Brain Gym is a series of simple movements that we can use with the students in short period of time. We have added some of these activities, which use both sides of the brain, to the morning routine on Monday, Thursday and Friday. These movements can get your child's brain and body ready to learn. Some teachers are using it at different times during the school day or prior to certain subjects such as reading, writing, and math. Since the students have been introduced to Brain Gym activities, they seem to love it, request it and even teach it to others. Some of the activities are calming while others are alerting. The calming activities can be used if the student's have extra energy and need to calm down. The alerting activities can help them "wake up" after the bus ride or if they have been sitting for too long.

If you have any questions please feel free to catch me on one of the "Brain gym" mornings or e-mail me at andersja@puyallup.k12.wa.us

Julie Anderson (Miss Julie),



Karshner Museum

Family Day

Saturday December 3, 2011

10:00am ~ 2:00pm

December's Topic

Social Entrepreneur/Free Trade

Everyone in the community is invited to Family Day, a lively open house coordinated by the Friends of the Museum. Each Family Day (the first Saturday of each month, except Summertime), concentrates on a new topic and intriguing activities. Activities such as "hands-on" interactive crafts, games, storytellers and exhibits are offered to coincide with the Family Day topic.

\$3/person or \$10/family

309 4th St. NE (2 blocks east of

McDonalds) 253.841.8748

Sponsored by "Friends of Karshner Museum"



Recess Reminders

from the playground..



As the weather gets colder, please be sure that your student is dressed appropriately for recess.

Some other important reminders are:

We are a "Hands Off" school

We are "Zero Tolerance" for bullying

No snacks, candy or water bottles are allowed on the playground

No sharing of hats or coats, please

No toys from home including footballs, basketballs, action figures or any other toy

It is very important that parents do not come on to the playground without checking in at the office, first and having on the proper badge.

*"A person is a person,
No matter how small."*

Dr. Seuss

Mrs. Strabel & Mrs. Timme



BeadforLife
ERADICATING POVERTY
ONE BEAD AT A TIME®

Please join us for a bead Party! Help eradicate poverty and enjoy the beauty of these recycled paper beads, made by women in Uganda!

**When: Thursday,
December 15, 2011**

from 4 to 8PM

Where: Karshner Museum

Hosted by:

Friends of the Museum

RSVP: 841-8748

Harassment Policy:

The Puyallup School District has an anti-discrimination policy (Policy 3211) and a policy covering harassment, intimidation and bullying (Policy 3207). The policies were revised and adopted by our Board of Directors in August of 2003 as a means of providing the safest and most optimum learning environment for all students. Copies of these policies are available on the District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us or by calling the Office of Diversity Affairs at 253-840-8966.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: The Puyallup School District is in the process of reviewing its activities, services and programs to identify and eliminate any barriers to full participation by all otherwise qualified persons regardless of any disability. If you are aware, or become aware, of any such barriers to access or to communication associated with any of the school district's programs, services or activities, please notify the Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504 compliance person for the Puyallup School District: Lorraine Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 302 Second Street SE, Puyallup, WA 98372 (253)841-8764

Non-Discrimination Statement: The Puyallup School District provides equal opportunities in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status or disability in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and any applicable Washington State laws against discrimination. For specific information, please contact: Lorraine Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 302 Second Street SE, Puyallup, WA 98372. (253)841-8764

Telecommunications Relay Service: For persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, all staff members may be contacted through the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at the following telephone numbers: Tele-Braille: (800)833-6385 Voice: (800)833-6348 TTY: (800)833-6388

ADA Accommodations: The Puyallup School District provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. We invite any person with special needs to contact the ADA/504 coordinator at least seventy two (72) hours before scheduled meetings, training or events to discuss any special accommodations that may be necessary. Please contact: Amie Brandmire, Director of Employee Relations, 302 Second Street SE, Puyallup, WA 98372. (253)841-8645