

Columbia Elementary School Newsletter

10520 Harbour Pointe Blvd. Mukilteo, WA 98275
November 2009

Principal Wendy Eidbo
Dean of Students Marc Davis



Dates to Remember

- November 5
Gift Wrap Pick-up
- November 10-20,
Columbia Food Drive
- November 11
No School
Veterans Day
- November 12 7-8pm,
Family Math Night,
Gym
- November 18
6:15-7:30pm
Mukilteo PTSA Council
Meeting
- November 25,
12:45pm, **Early
Dismissal, No
preschool**
- November 26 & 27,
No School



24 Message Line
(425) 710-4498
Option 1 for
absence reporting

Principal's Letter

Dear Families,

I am reminded each November, about the countless blessings and freedoms we enjoy in this great country of ours. All of our children enjoy the benefits of an education that will prepare them for any profession they choose.

Although we enjoy a great life, we must remember that it comes with a price. People have worked very hard to make life better for us. Our parents worked diligently every day. Veterans have sacrificed much for our freedom. It is my hope that our children will grow up with a great respect for the efforts of those around them.

At our Veterans' Day Assembly on November 6th, I spoke to students about the word duty. Perhaps this word is outdated to some. Others may think it synonymous with burden. Our Veterans took their duties seriously and did their best to protect our country. Our parents take their duties to provide for their families very seriously. I hope to bring awareness of this sense of duty to our students.

The paramount duty of our children is that they work hard in school to learn all they can. Together, we can teach our children that it is an honorable duty to our families, our community and our country to be the best we can be. This is the difficult work before us. Gratefully, we have many models who have paved the way.

Thank you to our Veterans. Thank you to our parents. Thank you to those who mentor us every day.

Sincerely,

Wendy Eidbo

Message from the Dean

Greetings!

I would like to review one of the most challenging issues Columbia faces on a daily basis, the parking lot.

Every day, our two parking lots serve a several full-size and small buses, 150-200 parent drivers, 90 staff members and dozens of pedestrians. I'm happy to report that each dismissal—one at 2:30 and one at 3:30—only takes about 10-12 minutes. In each of those short dismissal windows, we send about half of our 675 students home!

In order to speed things up just a little more, I'd like to ask parent drivers the following:

1. Please yield to buses. They service many other schools. Let's help them on their way.
2. When picking up students, please pull all the way forward along the pickup line, to allow the cars behind you to pull up to the curb as well.
3. Make **only** right-hand turns out of the parking lots. Turning left takes more time, and slows down everyone's exit.
4. Do not exit your vehicle once in the pickup line nor while on the street. We will escort your child to your vehicle.
5. Carpool! Even though it's not always possible, it reduces the amount of cars waiting in the lot.
6. Continue to drive safely and courteously. We appreciate your patience and alertness.

We're always on the lookout for ideas and any concerns. If you ever need to report any concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 425-356-6685 X2006, or email me at davisme@mukilteo.wednet.edu

With gratitude,

Marc Davis

Upcoming Events

- December 2 & 3rd
Hearing/Vision Screening
- December 3, 7pm
PTA Meeting, Library
Free daycare available
- December 4, 9:30am
Confident Cougar Assembly
in Gym for K-2 @ 9:30am,
grades 3-5 @ 10:15am
12:45pm, **Early Dismissal,**
No preschool
- December 5, 9-12pm
5th Grade Pancake
Breakfast Camp Orkila
Fundraiser & PTA
Holiday Shop
- December 10, 7pm
Holiday Concert, 5th grade
and Choir will be
performing
- December 11, 9:30am
Holiday Sing-a-long
Assembly in Gym
- December 17, 9:30-1:30pm
2nd grade to Seattle
Children's Theater
- December 16
Report cards go home
- Dec 21-Jan1, 2010 Winter
Break, **No school**

Math Expressions

Families of K-4 students, you now have online access to your student's math workbook pages! You can even print out the homework pages! Follow these simple steps: go to:

www.thinkcentral.com

Choose: **Mathematics**

Choose: **Math Expressions**

Using drop down menu choose: **Washington**

Using the drop down menu choose: **Mukilteo School District**

Using the drop down menu choose: **Columbia Elementary**

Type correct username

(refer to grade level list below).

Type password: **cougars**

(all lower case, no spaces).

Once inside, click on the Library. The grade

level book will appear. Click on the book,

then Vol. 1.

We established the accounts as follows:

User name by grade (all lower case, no spaces)

K - k

3 - **3rdgrade**

1 - **1stgrade**

4 - **4thgrade**

2 - **2ndgrade**

All students use password: **cougars** (all lower case, no spaces).

Columbia Food Drive

From November 10-20th, Columbia will host its annual Food Drive for the Mukilteo Food Bank! Please help us help those in need during the holiday season by donating canned and non-perishable foods. Each classroom will have a donation box for contributions, and please be sure to check expiration dates on dry goods before sending them with your child. Thank you so much for your support!

Family Math Night

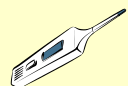
On Thursday, November 12th, from 7-8pm in the Gym, we will host our annual Columbia Family Math Night! All Columbia families and friends are invited to participate in many fun, educational math activities & games. For example, students and guests will create 3-D geometric shapes with food, challenge one another to calculation competitions, and read math picture books! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Mr. Davis at davisme@mukilteo.wednet.edu. See you there!



Lost & Found

It's spilling over! Have you wondered where the coats, sweatshirts, umbrellas, glasses, watches, bracelets, backpacks and shirts are residing that belong to your child? They are probably living here at Columbia!

Please encourage your child to check the lost and found. Small personal items are kept in office. All items will be donated to a local charity on Friday, November 13th.



Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds Nurse Therese Bovee-McKelvey

What are Mukilteo schools doing to help prevent the spread of the flu?

The Mukilteo School District is monitoring the flu trends in schools and is taking precautions to help students and staff stay well. School nurses and school district leaders are in close communications with the Snohomish Health District, the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for accurate and updated information about the flu. The following precautions and safeguards are used in our schools to protect students and staff:

_ Custodians regularly clean schools with anti-viral cleaning solutions.

_ Schools and school nurses monitor absentee rates due to illness and symptoms of illness.

_ Students and staff are educated about hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

_ Universal precautions are used in health rooms.

_ Students who are ill at school are sent to the health room to be assessed by the school nurse and first-aid-trained staff. Students who have a fever of 100 degrees or higher are sent home. Students with a cough or sore throat are closely monitored for increasing symptoms or fever.

Efforts are made to separate ill students waiting to go home from non-sick students who are visiting the health room for other reasons. Parents and students are informed by newsletter, Flyer and website postings of guidelines for keeping sick students at home.

Information resources are made available to students, staff and families.

Where can I get more information about the flu?

The latest information about the H1N1 flu is available on a special website for Snohomish County a resident that is at www.snocoflu.com. Additional information and links to other sites are available on the school district's website at www.mukilteo.wednet.edu.

We're on the Web!

www.mukilteo.wednet.edu

Click on "Our Schools" and
choose "Columbia"