

EYE OF THE EAGLE

April 2, 2003

Mark Flotlin, Principal
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Explorer Middle School
9600 Sharon Drive
Everett, WA 98204

Message from the Principal

The war in Iraq has commanded everyone's attention this month. While the war may be an occasional topic of discussion in class, we are not watching T.V. coverage at school. The level of exposure to live war coverage on T.V. is a family decision for you to make as a parent. The focus we have taken at school is to be sensitive to one another needs during these difficult times. Some have family members in the military and some families at Explorer have relatives who are innocent civilians caught in parts of the world affected by conflict. Some of our students and their parents worry about being mistreated by people in the community who may target them because of their ethnic or religious heritage. Explorer is a peaceful, supportive center of learning in our community, and that positive influence is needed now more than ever.

The sixth graders just completed the ITBS. On April 21, the day we return from spring break, the WASL commences for 7th & 8th graders. Testing will take place every morning until May 6. We just received the 8th grade ITBS results, and they are pretty exciting! Every subtest showed a significant gain highlighted by a 13 point gain in reading. Four of the six tests were at or above the national average score of 50. Our work is far from over, but I am pleased that the effort everyone is putting in is paying off. More focused energy is still required, and the hard work continues.

Have a good spring break! Encourage your student to read during the break, and stay active. Thanks for your ongoing support.

WASL IS COMING

Seventh graders will be taking the WASL test when we return from spring break. The testing dates will be:

Week of April 21-25

Week of April 28-May 2

May 5 and 6

All testing will take place in the morning. To accommodate WASL, we will have a rotating schedule on the twelve testing dates.

You can help your child by doing the following:

- Reinforce with your student the importance of giving his/her best effort on each test.
- Make sure your student gets a full night's sleep, and a satisfactory breakfast.
- Make sure your student gets to school on time & please avoid dental appointments and other scheduling conflicts on testing dates.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we help students prepare to do their best.

Welcome 5th Grade Parents

Starting this month you will be receiving our newsletter, The Eye of the Eagle.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

State MathCounts Competition



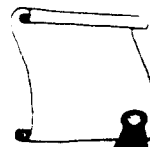
On Saturday, March 15th, four Explorer Middle School students participated in the Washington State MathCounts competition at Washington Middle School in Seattle. The team earned the trip to state by finishing in a tie for second place in the chapter competition in February. Over 50 teams and 200 students from across the state took part in the state competition and Explorer finished a very respectable 17th. Hats off to **Cullen Walsh, Jon Wells, Bill Carter and Phil Treadgold** for the outstanding effort, hard work, and mathematical know-how. A special thanks goes to the parents of the Mathletes for their support and time.

Junior Honor Society

The following students will be inducted into the Explorer MS Junior Honor Society on Monday, April 7 at 7 PM in the Explorer Commons. We hope that you will be able to join us as we honor a group of young people whose commitment to academic excellence, participation in community service, and exceptional citizenship make them a credit to Explorer as well as to parents & teachers.

Ashraf Alazadi	Anita Luong
Nina Alden	Rebecca Mark
Navdeep Aujla	Kiri McLaughlin
Sarah Bartlett	Imelda Melendrez
Nathaniel Bickley	McKenna Milici
Hannah Blakeslee	Katie Nagle
M. Bounxayavong	Amanpreet Paul
Karl Bush	Alexandria Poulos
Jamie Carter	Phillip Rambow
William Carter	Marina Ryzhova
Alyssa Davidson	Windy Sihombing
Ryan Dewey	Shay Snyder
Ranny Do	Alda Tarigan
Kurt Doten	Michelle Thomas
Sophia Fong	Charlie Tran
Alvina Garcia	Crystal Truong
Kimberlyn Grieco	Joshua Umbinetti
Ana Guitron	Tessa Weber
Mathew Lane	Jonathan Wells
Michelle Lee	Colleen White
	Fransiska Wulandari

MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The Explorer Student of the Month program identifies a particular quality or character trait to be recognized each month. Students who exemplify this quality are nominated by teachers and recognized at grade level assemblies, an ice cream party and receive a bumper sticker.

For the month of March, teachers selected students for their energy, enthusiasm and cheerfulness.

Congratulations to you and your student.

Katie Allen	Hazel Hesseln
Mohammed Al-Mezal	Carol Jia
Kaylee Baker	Mariya Kochubey
Stefani Bellafiore-Lemus	Apprilla Linder
Nathaniel Bickley	Kristen Loomis
Anthony Burghduff	Leslie Mallory
Paul Butok	Rhya Milici
Jamee Carter	Barbara Miller
Jeff Cress	Elizabeth Mitchell
Melissa Decker	Christina Neubauer
Makayla DePoe	Anastasia Petchenkina
Stefan Doerscher	Jose Ramirez
Alvina Garcia	Cassie VanDuyun
Ludia Gayvoronskiy	Oleg Vasilyev
Patrick Glass	Tanya Volosanko
Sam Gomez	Colleen White
Cody Hanks	Jordan Willis

Congratulations to Jonathan Wells who received a Regional Gold Key Award for his Science Fiction/Fantasy piece entitled, **Fate**, in the Snohomish County Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition sponsored by The Arts Council of Snohomish County and The Everett Cultural Commission.

Note: Beginning this quarter, if you have lost or need to replace your ASB card, there will be a charge of \$1.00 for each additional ASB card.

News from the classrooms!!!

What's Happening in April?

Miller Phoenix – Language Arts classes will be working on contractions and abbreviations. Reading class will be reading the classic story Swiss Family Robinson. Science will be studying the respiratory system, the endocrine system and the urinary system.

Riviera/Archer Reading: M.T.TH. Small groups developing reading skills, wacky Wednesdays and intensive phonics Fridays.

Schafte Math– Summit Geometry: will learn how to use right triangles, trigonometry and properties of circles to solve real-world problems. Level 5 Math: will continue to learn about algebra: equations, slope, y-intercept, and mathematical models. Algebra: will focus on exponential growth and decay models and begin to look at quadratic equations.

6th Grade

Black Block – LA/Reading: Rainforest Web Quest; SS – Mexico

Eunson Block– Celebrating the completion of the ITBS! Will be focusing on our writing skills as we practice FMAT, and the 6-Traits writing with different writing prompts. In reading class we will continue using Readers Workshop to read and “think about our thinking”. Our journey in social studies will take us to the countries of Latin America as we study the civilizations that flourished three centuries before the arrival of Columbus.

Greff Visual Arts – 3rd quarter we will finish bottle bugs and 4th quarter students will start with lessons on creativity and imagination.

Morrow Block – LA: writing workshop and poetry. Reading: *Bridge to Terabithia* and reading workshop. SS: Central America

Smith Block – Working on reaching personal AR goals & making posters to represent our favorite books. The posters have timelines, story maps, & much more. Reviewing capitalization, punctuation & working on personal narratives. SS focus has been on Mayas, Aztecs, & Incas. Beginning to learn about Spanish Explorers who first discovered Mexico & South America.

vonGohren Block – On a voyage to the Caribbean. In SS, will be learning about a variety of cultures in this region. Along with Geography, will be studying language, society, and government. In LA, will stay in the area and learn to use the library's resources to do reports. Each group of students will study a specific island, and then do an oral report on it. In reading, we will remain in the Caribbean as well. The book we have been reading is called *The Cay*. This book provides the students exposure to life on a deserted Caribbean Island at a young age, among other things. By the end of the month our students will have a firm grasp on this region, so feel free to give them some “pop quizzes” at home.

7th Grade

Crooks Block– In LA & in Reading, we are practicing WASL-like activities: previewing questions, reviewing vocabulary that is often found on tests, answering in the Written Response Formula, checking back over our answers and giving ample support to our responses.

Greff Visual Arts – 3rd quarter students will finish Egyptians in Action and 4th quarter students will start lessons on creativity and imagination.

Griffen Block – Doing test taking vocabulary and WASL practice.

Harpster Block– Social Studies will be studying Ancient Greece

Lasher Math – WASL prep & WASL

Treadgold Science – Activities includes weather and climate

Van Eaton Block – Continue reading *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, writing essays, WASL testing

Watt Math – Working very hard on preparing for the WASL test and have moved on to our fourth book of the year entitled *Stretching and Shrinking*.

8th Grade

Greff Visual Arts – Tessellations with M.C. Echer, Art History montage and presentations.

Gruner – In regular and honors LA/SS just finished researching and writing biographies of Revolutionary War heroes, and giving oral presentations.

Treadgold Digital Media – First complete movie productions

**NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITY/
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR - JOHN COATS**

"April Around Explorer"

ATHLETICS:

During April athletes for swimming and track will begin practicing and competing. The first competition begins with the track team taking on Alderwood MS in a home meet at Goddard Stadium on April 30. On the same day we will host Marysville in swimming at our own pool.

We're lucky enough to be having a local doctor come in on Friday morning, April 11, to perform physicals for some of our students. Physicals are good for 13 months from the time they were performed. If your student is in need of a physical for athletic eligibility and you don't have a family physician to perform it, be sure to sign up. Consent forms can be found in the student office.

Check the online school calendar for more game information.

ACTIVITIES:

Thursday, April 3 will be our WASL recognition assembly. We will be hosting Senator Aaron Reardon, a former Explorer student.

Wednesday, April 9 is our scheduled *spring picture* date. More information will be following.

Friday, April 25 we will be hosting our third All School Celebration. Come on by to join in the fun.

This spring on May 14 we'll be having our Career Day. If you're interested in joining us and sharing about your career give me a call to discuss options available.

Our Explorer clubs are up and running. We are excited to have the following offerings:

Art Club: Mrs. Greff, Wednesdays

Reading Club: Ms. Morrow, Mondays & Thursdays

Game Club: Mrs. Miller, Tuesdays

Tech/Movie Making Club: Mr. Treadgold, Mondays

Chess Club: Mrs. Munson, Wednesdays

Cooking Club: Mrs. Miller, Thursdays

Math Club: Ms. Lasher, Mondays

Jazz Club: Ms. Valdez, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Please direct questions to: Mr. John Coats

Coatsjd@mukilteo.wednet.edu

For reference check the following sources:

School Website: <http://schools.mukilteo.wednet.edu/ex/>

Athletic/Activities Line: 356-1286 - press selection 3



Ready...Set...Go! - Join Explorer's Track and Field Team!

Jumping, running, leaping ~~THROWING~~ are just some of the fun ways to keep fit in the fourth quarter sports season. All students wishing to participate need to have their physical and parent permission form signed and turned in *no later than April 23rd*. Practices are held from 3:15 to 4:40, M-F beginning *April 7th*. Seventh and eighth graders are able to compete in meets *if* they have at least ten practices. Sixth graders are welcome to attend until 4 PM as inter-mural sports participants. Information sheets and schedules will be available in the student office March 31st. Please call *Miss Crooks* with any questions at 425-356-1240 ext. 1117 or e-mail at crooksae@mukilteo.schools.edu. Hope to see you there!

FROM OUR PARENT LIAISON
"Connecting parents & School"

It's spring time! Although the weather has not cooperated, we are still looking forward to all that spring brings. As we move into the next season and our children move forward, at times it brings fears or concerns about their future.

Academics are a huge part of their self-esteem. Right now is a good time to make sure that your child is in tune with how he/she is doing in their classes. We do offer before and after school assistance. If your concern is something that needs to be brought up to a teacher, counselor or even our principal, please do not hesitate to call the school.

Sometimes the best source of information comes from direct communication with teachers. Did you know that teacher conferences are still available at the middle school level? They are by appointment only and on an "as need" basis. However, they can be done. If you have any questions on who you should talk to first or how to set up an appointment, please call me at the number listed below.

How to reach me: Lisa Zarate
Phone: (425) 356-1273
E-Mail: ZarateEX@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Thank you PTO members for your help.

Volunteers Needed in the Following Areas:

- **The English as a Second Language** classroom is in need of volunteers to help read one-on-one with students taking English during 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods. Please contact Jenny Walther, ESL coordinator, by e-mail: waltherja@mukilteo.wednet.edu
- **Mrs. Govani's Science Class**, 1st (8:20-9:20), 3rd (10:25-11:20) or 4th (11:25-12:20) periods.
- **Game Room** - During all lunches (11:25-12:55)

Contact Lisa Zarate at (425) 356-1273 if interested in volunteering

Thanks

Many, many thanks to the following volunteers who help all year to make Explorer a great place for kids. As always, volunteers are always needed & appreciated.

Libby Allen	Kelly Milici
Mary Anderson	Lynette Murri
Denise Blackwell	Dena Peterson
Barbara Brodhead	Denise Roll
Patty Burkenpas	Kristi Rush
Carolyn Carter	Kitty Schroeder
Sandy Clemetson	Terri Scown
Shauna Croft	Don Snively
Cheryl Cromees	Linda Swanson
Edith Hesseln	Paula Swisher
Diana Jones	Susie Thompson
Tracy Lane	Mary Tremayne
Cyndee Lyons	Barbi Umbinetti
Sue Mark	Kristi Wooden

"Coffee Talk"

Friday, April 25
9:00-10:00 AM
Life Skills Room



"Coffee Talk" is a time to share ideas, meet with other parents, and answer questions. Please join us and bring another Explorer parent.

E-Mail Addresses:

Please add to your e-mail list:
Jedi Bethea: BetheaJK@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Julie Mackenzie-Archer:
Mackenzie-ArcherJA@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Taigen Riggs:
RiggsTF@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Tarry Wollen:
WollenTN@mukilteo.wednet.edu