

EXPLORER

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal

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TESTING IS COMING: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD.

“Eighth graders will take the ITBS test in January.”

As parents, we want our children to do well in school, especially when it comes to tests. Here are some helpful ideas that may serve as a guide or support at home.

Find out what your child's teacher is doing to incorporate the state academic standards into his or her classroom instruction.

Expect all school work to be done. Keep track of your child's assignments and regularly look at his or her agenda to see what is due.

Find out how you and the teacher can

help your child overcome any areas of weaknesses that were discovered in tests and assignments.

Study results from the state tests (WASL, ITBS). Be sure to ask teachers about scores that may indicate a special talent or a skill deficiency. Use this to make sure your child is learning the right skills and knowledge.

Some assessments allow students to utilize sources, so encourage your child to look up words in reference books such as the dictionary and thesaurus.

Remember: You're

the most important influence on your child. The state standards and tests give you important tools to help you ensure your child gets the best education possible.

These tips come from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the agency that oversees K-12 education in Washington State.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Students of the Month</i>	2
<i>Family Fun Night</i>	2
<i>Book Fair</i>	2
<i>Athletics/Activities</i>	3
<i>Weather Conditions</i>	3
<i>Snack Program</i>	4

**PTO Meeting
January 20
6:30-7:30 PM**

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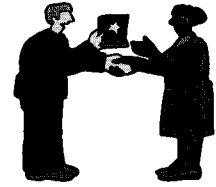
PRINCIPAL'S NOTE: NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS AND GOAL SETTING

In November, your student set academic goals for the '03-'04 school year. This month, it's a good time to revisit those goals with your student. They say the longest journey begins with a single step. Great improvement is made through

daily self discipline. Insist that your student spend regularly scheduled time at home doing schoolwork. Have your student show you the math problem currently being studied along with strategies to solve it. Expect your student to read, read,

read every day. Ask your student to describe main characters and predict what will happen next. Establishing good daily work habits will help your son or daughter make great academic strides in 2004. Have a great New Year!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The November/December students of the month were recognized for their empathy, kindness and compassion. Congratulations to the following students:

Nicole Campbell	Ruben Carbajal	Ruslan Dovgalyuk
Lizette Estrada	Tremaine Frazier	Damian Guzman
Desirae Hafer	Kaysha Heck	Jorge Hernandez-Ceja
Rosemary Irwin	Pavel Kazakov	Jared Keibler
Jackie Khem	Kati Kunkel	Rose Ann Lara
Tram Le	Amber McCloud	Jose Medina-Mendoza
Jansen Mettao	Jess Nicholson	Cristeena Quattrucci
Anne Rae	Veronica Sedano	Blake Slayton
Sara Strauss	Nataliya Tarasuk	Don Tiongco
Trevor Umbinetti		

*"Family Night is a
time to stop in and
see what great things
are going on every
day at Explorer."*

FAMILY NIGHT: FEB. 3 5:30-7:00 PM

Spend a fun evening at Explorer: See and hear student performances. Enjoy open gym and pool, games and displays.

Get Ready for 2008

Current middle school students will have a

new set of state graduation requirements. Learn more about these requirements, how they will affect your student and how you can be ready.

A presentation with question and answer session to follow will be presented during

Family Fun Night.

Bite of Explorer

Taste what your child has for hot lunch. Full service hot lunch will be served for under \$3.00.

Watch for flyer!

BOOK FAIR JAN. 29-FEB. 3



The book fair will be open for classes to come through during the day, as well as during student lunch times. Please visit Tuesday evening dur-

ing Family Fun Night, February 3.

PTO members will receive a 10% discount! If you have signed up to help during the book fair, we will contact

you right after winter break. If you haven't signed up, but would like to help, please contact Barbi Umbinetti at 425-355-1535.

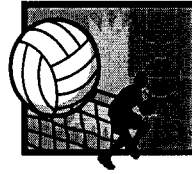
EXPLORER ATHLETICS

We're in the middle of our second season sports with Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball and Boys' and Girls' Club Soccer. Volleyball and basketball games will be played Mondays and Wednesdays through January 26.

Eligibility concerns: if your student received a physical last year, check when it was performed as they are only good for 13 months. Some doctors have a long wait

and expect early scheduling for physicals. So get a call in soon to make sure you have an appointment set. Third season sports, Girls' Basketball and Boys' Wrestling begins Monday, February 2

If you have severe financial and or time conflicts that interfere in your child getting the proper eligibility requirements, please contact Lisa Zarate, Parent Liaison or me, John Coats,

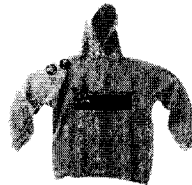


Athletic Director. We can point you in the direction of many resources here and in the community to clear the path for your student to participate.

EXPLORER ACTIVITIES

We've started a new program for students in the morning. Throughout winter we'll be providing a morning open gym. From 7:10 until 8:10 the gym will be open for students to come in and participate in different activities put on by our Intramural coordinators.

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day we will have a professional entertainer come in to provide a program on the life of Dr. King. We hope to see you there on 1/20/04 at 8:30 AM in the gym.



The new Explorer Activity Sweatshirt See Susan in the book-keeper's office for order forms.

\$30 with name and logo.

WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS CAUSE CHANGES IN SCHOOL SCHEDULES

When severe weather strikes, there are several things you can do to find out whether there is limited bus transportation, schools are starting late, or that schools are closed.

Listen to local radio and television stations. Radio and TV stations will list late start or closures by school district, not by city. Remember, even though Explorer is in the city of Everett, we're in the Mukilteo School District.

Check the school report website to access information at: www.schoolreport.org.

NO LATE ACTIVITY BUS serving the Explorer service area

Please schedule rides for your participating athletes

For Game Times and Locations go to Explorer's Website and click on "calendars"

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

or

call our activity line at 425-356-1286

AFTER SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

"This free snack program is offered to all students staying after school for academic or club activities"

In December, Explorer Middle School learned that they became eligible for an after school snack program. The aim of this federally funded program is to provide a small amount of food to any and all students who attend Explorer, and who participate in an educational or enrichment program that occurs immediately following the school day. Simply put, this means that any student, regardless of need, when they attend an after school activity that has been identified as educa-

tional or is enriching in its scope, is supervised by a staff member, and is a non-sports related activity, will get a small amount of food and some juice. We here at Explorer are excited to have this program begin because we believe it is just one more way to enhance after school clubs and educational opportunities, and we hope it will encourage students to participate more with the after school activities we have here at Explorer!

