

The Falcon Spirit



Pat Cushing, Principal
September 11, 2009

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Dear Parents:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I would like to share some exciting news with you. Wednesday morning, our superintendent, Dr. Marci Larsen and our Director of Elementary Education, Annie Johnson, met with our staff. They announced that **our school, Mukilteo Elementary School, has been awarded a School of Distinction Award for 2009!**

What is this award all about? Over the past 7 years, our school has demonstrated exemplary improvement in student achievement as measured by the WASL. In fact, we are one of the 5% highest improving schools at the elementary level in the state of Washington. Additionally, Schools of Distinction demonstrate strength in all of the Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools (Sharratt, 2009). Independent research and analysis to establish the criteria and evidence for the awards was conducted by the Center for Educational Effectiveness in Redmond, WA. Washington State Phi Delta Kappan and The Center of Education Effectiveness have sponsored the awards. According to the president of Washington State Kappan, Dr. John W. Armenia, schools "are distinguished because they are putting their passion, time, and funding to work creating change and they demonstrate exceptional academic growth for a sustained period of time as a result of effective innovation."

At the 2009 Research Institute on Saturday, September 26th, there will be an awards luncheon during which we will be honored. At a later date there will be a second celebration and award presentation for our school where we will be presented with a certificate and banner. We will also be part of the research study determining what makes schools effective in sustaining growth in student achievement.

Indeed, we are thrilled to be recognized! We have worked very hard to meet the needs of ALL of our youngsters and will continue to do so because that is why we are here and it is the right thing to do. However, it is truly wonderful for our hard work to be honored in this way. We also want you, our parent community, to recognize the role that you play in helping us provide the best education possible for your children. Without your support and involvement, we couldn't possibly do this work alone. Please see this award as your award, too. Congratulations!

Thanks for the wonderful attendance at our Curriculum Night last night. We hope you left with all of your questions answered, but always feel free to get in touch with your child's teacher or myself if you have any further questions. It was really great to see so many of you here.

A very special thanks goes to Ann McManis, who once again planted the beautiful flowers in our front planters by the main office. Ann, you do such a fabulous job making us look "pretty". And you even painted the planters! Talk about going above and beyond! Thanks so very much.

Be sure to read the back of this newsletter about the **PTSA Fund Run!** We appreciate everyone taking part in some way. This funding will support many programs throughout our school year.

Also, I hope to see all of you next Thursday evening at our PTSA **Rock Back Into School Ice Cream Social.** It will be a fun event for families and a great way to start the year.

That's it for this week. Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Pat Cushing

SEPTEMBER

17 - School Pictures

17 - PTSA Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8:00

24 - EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:45

25 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workshop

30 - Wise/Ingle Field Trip to The Farm

ME PTSA 2009 FUND RUN NEWS

Thank you to the families that have already submitted ME PTSA Fund Run pledges! The 2009 Falcon Fund Run is off to a great start. Please help the PTSA continue its support of Mukilteo Elementary students by keeping those pledges coming. Extra pledge forms are in the school office and available on our website (www.meptsa.org).

Our prize for the second week is a football *signed by the Husky football team* donated by the University of Washington Huskies! This prize will be awarded to the student who brings in the highest amount in pledges *next week* (pledges must be received between Monday, September 14th and Friday, September 18th). Pledges must be received by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18th, in order to count for this exciting prize. In the event of a tie, we will hold a drawing in the school office on Monday, September 21st, giving each child 1 ticket for every \$20 brought in.

Don't forget that *all* students who return pledges next week will receive a prize at the second Fund Run Prize day on Monday, September 21st! **KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: ½ day students will receive small toy "grab bags" as their prize for bringing in pledges throughout the fund run pledge period!**

This is also the time to send the letters included in your Fund Run packets to distant family and friends. Last year, the PTSA received donations from all over the country. We will be putting up a map of the United States in the gym to show kids where donations are coming from this year--Please help us fill it in by sending or emailing those pledge letters (available at our website, www.meptsa.org)! They really work.

Finally, thank you to our growing roster of Falcon Fund Run Sponsors: **Platinum Sponsors:** Mukilteo Smiles, Harbour Pointe Orthodontics, H & L Sports, and Shawna Matthews-Windermere/Everett, Inc. **Gold Sponsors:** NexTORCH, Inc. Our PTSA depends on your community support!

ART DOCENTS NEEDED!!!

We are looking for parent volunteers to help staff our Art Docent program. You do not need to be an artist to teach! You would be teaching an art history lesson in your child's classroom once a month. Complete training, art-work, and supplies are provided. **THIS IS THE ONLY ART INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT M.E.** Without you there won't be ART at the school! It is a fun opportunity to work in the classroom. The kids LOVE the Art Docents. If you are interested please contact Jennifer Roe at jnroe@comcast.net or 407-0965 or Theresa Costanzo at tccostanzo@yahoo.com or 423-8137.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, September 17, 6:30-8:00 PM

Mark your calendars for the social next Thursday, September 17, 6:30 -8:00 pm. We will have live music, ice cream sundaes, and lots of fun!! Don't forget to turn in your RSVP forms so we have enough for everyone.



SCHOOL PICTURES Thursday, September 17

Look for the flyers that are coming home with your student today.

PLEASE:

1. **ALWAYS** sign in at the office and wear a Visitor Pass.
2. Sign out when you leave.
3. Meet your child in the lunchroom if you are eating lunch with them. (After signing in at the office and putting a nametag on.)
4. Remain **outside the main building** when picking up your child after school.

Thank you for your cooperation - we all need to work together to make our school a safe place.

