



# goodTIMES

West Mercer PTA Newsletter

PTA #2.9.35

February 2009

Volume 22, Issue 5

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## A Walk-Through by Rich Mellish, Principal

My favorite part of this job is getting into the classrooms. Sometimes it is for longer formal classroom observations. Sometimes I do a series of classroom check-ins. And sometimes I do a *walk-through*. This is when I walk through most of the classrooms and see most of the students to take the temperature of the school and to get a feel for what is happening at that moment. Here are a few moments from recent walk-throughs.

Entering a kindergarten class the most of the kids are journal writing. Some are forming full sentences with near-accurate spelling while others are stringing together their best approximation of words. Each one can read to me what he or she wrote, with pride. Already they identify themselves as writers.

A first grade class is doing math games. The groups appear to be working at different levels. They are all smiling, intermixed with thoughtful grimaces, as they have to add numbers and strategize at the same time. Some games are quiet; others are rowdy.

Another class is working on spelling lists. The students are trying to get straight words that end in *-er* and *-or*. Good luck, I still get that wrong on occasion!

The third grade is preparing for a culture fair (it was supposed to be done in December, but snow pushed it to January). Students are proud of their presentation boards about their country. Currency, recipes, articles, flags and more adorn their work.

Another class is dimly lit with students in corners, under desks or lying on the floor engrossed in books, listening to read-alongs on tape, writing, listening to peers read and more. It is reminiscent of a library, but a chart on the wall shows what each student is working on. Students take turns going to the teacher to discuss what reading strategies they are practicing.

Each classroom has its own activity. Sometimes it is structured with the teacher in the front facilitating a discussion on minerals, or fractions, or the latest short story. Sometimes the students are in groups, working on a cooperative activity. Sometimes students are independently working on a skill or product.

Yet every time I walk into a class the students are engaged. The teachers are challenging students to think and do. Of course I see kids getting silly or needing redirection. I see teachers reminding students of rules or expectations – or gently getting them back to the point of an activity. But I consistently see work being done with a great attitude from students and staff. They are working together at school.

This is what makes my job a joy. This is the reason that as we move forward with our school and district vision, we will be building on success, commitment, good intent, expertise and hard work – throughout our school.

# From our PTA President

Dear West Mercer Families,

February is a wonderful month for my family- birthdays for two kids, Valentines for everyone, hopes of skiing, and often a preview of the spring weather to come. My wish for you this month is for you to enjoy the love in your family. In honor of Valentine's Day and all our kids.

## Love Is...

*by Greg Scelsa*

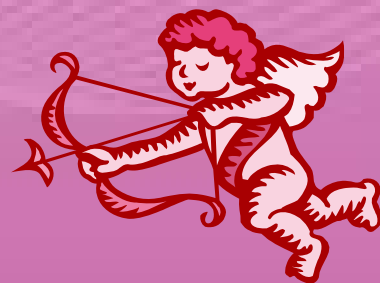
Love is...a tender feeling,  
Love is...a way of being,  
Love is...just showing someone you care.  
Love is...helping with the dishes,  
Love is...feeding your pet fishes,  
Love is...just giving from your heart.  
Love is so very simple,  
It's not a mystery,  
When you treat those around you  
The very same way  
You want them to treat you.  
Love is...your baby sister,  
Love is...playing with her,  
Love is...holding her when she cries.  
Love is...sharing your candy,  
Love is...being all that you can be.  
Love is lending a helping hand  
When someone needs you.  
Love is... L-O-V-E  
Love is... For you and me.  
Oh! Love is the greatest thing in the world!



Sincerely,

Diane Johnson,

*Mom of: Luke- Grade 2, WM, Bella – Grade 4, WM,  
Blake – Freshman, MIHS, Cole – Junior, MIHS*



# Thank You

## The PTA says “Thank You!” for your generous contributions!

Thanks to the many generous donations to the PTA during our fall membership drive, we have raised \$118,000 this school year. In addition to sponsoring all of our terrific enrichment programs (like field trips, assemblies, Artists-in-Residence, class parties, library books, and MUCH more), we have completed our first round of staff grants. This fall, we awarded \$12,600 in grants to teachers and staff members to purchase materials to enhance their teaching. A few of the highlights include:

- Flip video camera (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- Padded Floor Mats to replace the decrepit existing PE mats
- iPod Shuffles to listen to books on tape (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- 2 Document Cameras (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Classroom visit from Woodland Park Zoo’s Soar program (including an eagle visit!) (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Speech Therapy Materials (Speech Therapy)
- Digital Camera for the classroom (Kindergarten)
- School Musical (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- And much more!



2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Mr. Rob Darling’s class are enjoying listening to books on their new iPod Shuffles

The PTA is currently evaluating our second round of grant requests from staff members and we’ll have more award news to report next month. **Thank you again and again for your support of the WM PTA.**



Kindergarten Teacher Sabrina Hetland has been using the new digital camera the PTA purchased for her class



Lynn Lawrence appreciates the PAWS key chains the PTA purchased for the office!



First grade teacher Claire Beckert has been using her new classroom reading rug!



Drummers in Mrs. Ann Palmason’s Drum Group are playing the two new Xylophones the PTA purchased

# THE HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL

## 2009 WM School Musical

Are you ready for a frightfully fun time as neighborhood kids visit the House on Haunted Hill? How about a visit with Frankenstein, his six brides and their Batty children? Are you dying to meet a bumbling Dracula and the Mummy Mommy? Is it science you like? Join the Mad Scientist, Boris, Einstein, Winestein and Feinsteins as they entertain visitors from their neighborhood! You can dance and sing to the original score, "The Monster Boogie."



The musical is open to all students in grades 4 and 5. Auditions will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6pm – 7:30pm, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals will run after school from April 6<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, with evening performances on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Interested students are invited to attend an **Audition Workshop** on any one of these three

**dates: Monday, 2/23 2:15 – 3:15pm, Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> 7:15 – 8:15 pm, or Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2:15 – 3:15pm.**

Full details and registration forms are available on the school website at: [www.misd.k12.wa.us/schools/wm/](http://www.misd.k12.wa.us/schools/wm/).

For questions, contact Kathy Gersch [kmmgersch@aol.com](mailto:kmmgersch@aol.com), Diane Johnson [dianejohnson5@comcast.net](mailto:dianejohnson5@comcast.net), or Kathy Reitingner [reitingners4@comcast.net](mailto:reitingners4@comcast.net)



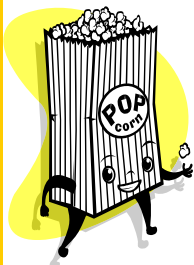
### DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS TO SHARE?



We have a great PTA Bulletin board and would appreciate it if you could share any photos you have of your kids during the year. These will be included on our internal PTA Bulletin Board. Please email photos to Nan Burton Studer at [nanburton@yahoo.com](mailto:nanburton@yahoo.com).

### POPCORN FRIDAY!

The next Popcorn Friday is February 20th. Don't forget your \$0.25! Interested in volunteering for future Popcorn Fridays? Contact Karen Upson at [kjanemcnally@hotmail.com](mailto:kjanemcnally@hotmail.com) for information.



Important DATE!

### PTA GENERAL MEETING featuring Principal Mellish and Dr. Gary Plano

MONDAY, FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Featuring guest speakers Principal Rich Mellish at 7:20 PM and MISD Superintendent Dr. Gary Plano at 7:45PM. They will each be speaking on the state of the union in our school and our district. A question and answer period will follow the meeting.

But wait, there is more..... To make your lives easier, the PTA will offer a **FREE PIZZA DINNER** to all WM families at 6:00pm (Sahara Pizza – either cheese or pepperoni) and we will provide **FREE CHILDCARE** for your children starting at 6:30pm. The childcare will be provided by the MI Boys and Girls Club and will be held in the multi-purpose room. Please RSVP your dinner and childcare headcount to Jessica Newman [Jessica@newmanlaw.com](mailto:Jessica@newmanlaw.com).



### Principal's Coffee

Please join other West Mercer parents for coffee and casual conversation with Principal Rich Mellish. We will be meeting at 9:30 on the scheduled Friday mornings in the staff lounge. Here is the coffee schedule for the remainder of 2009:

**February 6, March 6, April 10, May 1, June 5**

*Please join us for these relaxed and informative get-togethers with the Principal.*

### FOR THE WEST MERCER SCIENCE FAIR

March 4th,  
5:30-7:30pm at  
West Mercer Elementary

**Fun, entertainment, food, and  
science, science, science!**



Come and explore the excitement of chemical reactions from atoms to fireballs with Pacific Science Center's Radical Reactions show! View the 6 foot working model of a Rolls Royce Trent 1000 jet engine! Browse student exhibits and support our kids' curiosity and love of science!

Visit [www.misciencefair.org](http://www.misciencefair.org) for more information.

# West Mercer Math Carnival

Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> / 5:30 – 8:00

The West Mercer Elementary School Math Carnival presents a wonderful opportunity to excite students about math through games, software, DVDs and other activities. For one day, the multi-purpose room becomes a celebration of math! Students visit the carnival with their grades during the day and return with their families for an evening of math games both old and new.

Come and be a part of this event! We can use whatever time you have to give to: generate ideas on how to make the carnival an even better experience, purchase new games, help with logistics and volunteer as game leaders during the event. Contact Carla Hunt at [musseit@yahoo.com](mailto:musseit@yahoo.com) to volunteer.

## DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Acclaimed Parenting Expert

Alfie Kohn discusses...

### *The Homework Myth*

March 3, 2009 @ 7pm

MIHS Performing Arts Center

**\$10 Tickets available at Island Books\***



We're all familiar with the downside of homework: frustration, exhaustion and nagging. But we assume it's worth it because homework promotes higher achievement and responsibility, right? Maybe not so right. World-renowned education and parenting expert Alfie Kohn discusses ***The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing***, his stunning exploration of how homework fails our children, why it's widely accepted, and what we can do to rescue our children's motivation and love of learning.

Kohn is the author of ten previous books including *Punished by Rewards*, *The Schools Our Children Deserve*, and *Unconditional Parenting*. He has been featured on hundreds of TV and radio shows, including Oprah and Today, and profiled in numerous publications, including *Time* and *The Washington Post*. He works with educators and parents across the country and speaks regularly at national conferences. For more information: [www.alfiekohn.org](http://www.alfiekohn.org).

**Jointly sponsored by Parent Map Pathway Lecture Series and the Parent Education Committee of Mercer Island schools and St. Monica.**

\*A limited number of \$10 tickets are available for purchase by Mercer Island parents at Island Books. Parent Map tickets can be purchased online for \$18 at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or at the door for \$25.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## *Fine Arts Showcase*

MISD's fabulous two evening celebration of K-12 student visual art, music, drama and dance will take place at Mercer Island High School on

**March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**



**MARCH 24 & 25, 2009 at MIHS**

Don't miss the most uplifting show in town! This annual array of our K-12 students' performance and visual artistry never fails to wow all comers.

**Provide essential support for fine arts education with your donation for admission. Look for detailed program and admission information in a flyer to be mailed late February or visit [www.mifineartsed.org](http://www.mifineartsed.org).**

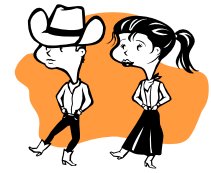
## PTA PARENT COALITION

Parents of children with **special education** and **learning differences** now have a PTA parent coalition just for them; it meets the first Sunday of every month. This Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:30-5 p.m., there will be a lively forum with Pat Turner, Director, Student Services. For contact information and more:

<http://miparentsonspcedlearningdiff.wikispaces.com/>



# The WM Hoe Down!



## Announcing the March to March BAND Uniform Campaign

Our MIHS band uniforms were purchased in 1979 (making them 30 years old). They are wool (terrible in the rain), the maroon runs on the white, the zippers are broken (we used 3 rolls of duct tape on the kids during the homecoming parade to keep their pants up), the style is terrible for marching (the bellbottoms are definitely not a fashion statement)...and desperately need to be replaced.

The urgency for replacing the uniforms is NOW. The band is growing to 300+ students next year—rather than paying for 30 new uniforms to match the current ones that are old, irreparable and uncomfortable, we have launched a campaign to replace them all. It is a bit of a daunting challenge, as we need to raise \$157K by March 1st to have the uniforms ordered in time for the 2009 marching season.

Learn more at our website [www.mihband.com](http://www.mihband.com)

The 300 member MIHS Band is an shining example of our outstanding music programs and school district, consistently receiving high national recognition and performance invitations, ie; the 2007 Rose Parade and a candidate for 2009 Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies in Washington, DC. Our band uniforms should reflect that quality. Today's preschool, elementary and middle school students will benefit from this effort, and we are counting on your support.



To donate, please download the donation form at:

[http://www.mihband.com/Images/Quick\\_Donation\\_Form.doc](http://www.mihband.com/Images/Quick_Donation_Form.doc)



## 2009 All Elementary School Lacrosse Registration

Registration for Spring Lacrosse Grades 1st - 4th is NOW OPEN at:

[www.mercerislandlacrosse.com](http://www.mercerislandlacrosse.com)

Information Meeting and Equipment Swap on Wednesday January 21st at 7:00PM at Islander Middle School.

Practices for the 2009 Elementary School Lacrosse Season begin Thursday 3/19/09.

Games begin Sunday 3/22/09 thru Sunday 5/17/09. No game on Sunday 3/28/09.

# West Mercer Gets Top Honors in Reflections Contest!



**Wow!! We knew our WM students were talented and special and they did exceptionally well in this year's Reflections contest!**

For the Mercer Island elementary divisions, **WM won 33 out of 46** awards across four categories with five out of eight 1<sup>st</sup> place awards advancing to the State-wide competition! This is the best we have ever done.

Thank you to the teachers who assigned the literature portion in class or for homework as it really paid off with WM sweeping the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Literature awards.

WM also swept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Musical Composition and Photography categories (grades 3-5) in addition to many Honorable Mentions in Literature, Photography, and Visual Arts.

***Congratulations!***

**The Island-wide Reflections Award Ceremony will be at MIHS, Wed, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

...where all of the award-winning entries will be displayed and the students will be recognized.

We also have three students reading their 1<sup>st</sup> place stories or performing their 1<sup>st</sup> place music that night. We will display these entries at WM when they are returned to us.

The annual Reflections contest is held every year with the MI PTA Council judging all island-wide entries in six categories in various grade divisions from grades K-12. First place winners advance to the State-wide competition with the possibility of advancing to the National competition. Look for entry forms and rules next fall for the Dec. deadline. For more information and to see examples of last year's winning entries, check out <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflect.htm>.

Congratulations to the fabulous West Mercer students (over 90 of them across all grades) who participated by contributing so many creative works of art and literature.

Here is a list of this year's award winners  
(Some of these came from in-class assignments):

**K Canares:**

Sarah Fredrickson – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Musical Composition, Honorable Mention Visual Arts

**Gr. 1 Burrill:**

Ashley Joseph – 1<sup>st</sup> place Literature  
Bridger Bourke – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Literature  
Randall Schulz – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Literature  
Michael Wong – Honorable Mention Literature  
Alexander Vollegraaf – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Visual Arts  
Sophia Ristuben – Honorable Mention Visual Arts

**Gr. 1 Beckert:**

Ellie Gottesman – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Photography

**Gr. 2 Calvo/Pearson:**

Christian Avilez – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Photography

**Gr. 2 Williams:**

Elizabeth Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Musical Composition, Honorable Mention Literature, Honorable Mention Visual Arts

**Gr. 3 Sandstrom:**

Ali Dickstein – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Literature

**Gr. 3 DiPrima:**

Zoe Sheill – 1<sup>st</sup> place Visual Arts  
Mackenzie Caputo – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Visual Arts  
Alex Glass – Honorable Mention Photography  
Zack Gottesman – Honorable Mention Photography

**Gr. 4 Baxter:**

Trent Nielsen – 1<sup>st</sup> place Literature  
Emily Greaves – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Literature

**Gr. 4/5 Headlee:**

Bryan Zhao – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Musical Composition, Honorable Mention Literature  
Katherine Seely – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Photography, Honorable Mention Photography  
Elizabeth Bernstein – Honorable Mention Literature  
Amanda Wall – Honorable Mention Literature

**Gr. 5 Bourke:**

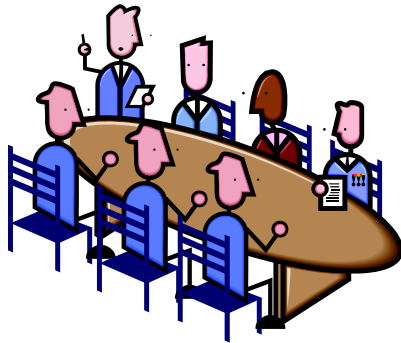
Natalie Godby – 1<sup>st</sup> place Photography  
Joshua Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Photography, Honorable Mention Visual Arts  
Danny Col-Spector – 1<sup>st</sup> place Musical Composition  
Madeline Zeldes – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Musical Composition  
Trent Hoffman – Honorable Mention Photography  
Vienna Weber – Honorable Mention Visual Arts

# PAC

## (Parent Advisory Committee)

What is PAC?? PAC is an acronym for Parent Advisory Committee. The PAC is an advisory body to West Mercer Elementary School's Principal that meets monthly throughout the school year. The PAC seeks to assist the Principal in incorporating West Mercer's beliefs, mission statement and goals into school programs. This year's PAC activities have included conducting the parent volunteer training for the school, aiding in the transition of our new principal, as well as considering other instructional and community issues.

Each parent on PAC represents a grade level constituency and provides input to Rich Mellish from the perspective of that grade level while serving as a channel of communication. The group's mission is evolving as the group was originally "Site Council", a parent and teacher group. However, with budget cuts, in 2007-2008 the group became PAC. We invite and hope parents will contact a PAC member to express a point of view or share concerns that parents would like voiced. Here are the PAC members and who they represent:



Rich Mellish

Diane Johnson

Adair Dingle

Parents

Emily Thompson

Stowe Sprague

Vicki Goldfarb

Lisa Kittilsby

Kari Scanlan

Chris Oaks

Carol Gullstad

Kathy Bauman

Principal

PTA President

School Board representative

Kindergarten

First Grade

Second Grade

Third Grade

Grade four

Grade five

At Large

E2

## Art is so Fun!!!

By An Tootill

According to some students in Mrs. Laird's classroom, art is fun! It's just like recess!! Except that after an art project, we have a result we can hang on the wall. Also no running, shouting, balls or brushes or pastels flying through the air. Creativity and imagination make the time fly but aside from that, exactly like recess.

I have been impressed with how focused and involved the students have been during art. In third grade the art projects have moved away from do-it-like-this processes and toward understanding and interpretation through doing. We look at works by Rousseau, Matisse and Gauguin to inform our projects. In January the halls were hung with 2-color collages. The artist whose work we looked at? Georgia O'Keefe. The collages were an experiment in positive and negative space.

Drawing and painting and wonderment are fun, you don't need to "know" how to do it. It's fun to be a parent in class and watch the process happen. It's fun to see your child's work up in the hallways. You can join in the fun, art projects usually once a month and last about an hour. To participate in third grade, contact An Tootill, [an.tootill@gmail.com](mailto:an.tootill@gmail.com), or for any other grade, Allison Yoshida, [agpettit@comcast.net](mailto:agpettit@comcast.net).



## 5TH GRADE PARENT PEER GROUP

**Important  
DATE!**

**Attention all 5th Grade parents:** Please save the date for our next 5th Grade Parent Peer Group (PPG) meeting.

**Monday, February 23rd at 7pm in the West Mercer Library.**

### ***What's the Purpose of the Parent Peer Group?***

The primary purpose is to build a broad-based grade-level parent group who know each other and can be supportive and communicate effectively when issues arise. This will help us support our kids as they move through IMS and eventually MIHS.

In addition, the Parent Peer Group will be a forum for talking with and learning from other parents. We are navigating this parenting path together – let's support each other!

### ***What will we talk about?***

We will brainstorm as a group to determine which issues (both successes and concerns) that people want to talk about and then prioritize and discuss the top issues. This is the place to find out what's really going on when kid's say "But Mom and Dad, EVERYONE is doing it!!" and to reflect on what

kind of norms we as a parent community want to uphold.

### ***Why Participate in the PPG?***

The Parent Peer Group is an investment, giving us the opportunity to build parent relationships and community now so that as our kids grow and the issues become more complex, we have established a way of talking about issues that matter. So, when it's time to talk about dating, driving and parties – we'll be ready!

In addition, parents of older students tell us that kid's friendship groups broaden and change as they move through middle school – so this is a chance for us to meet and talk with other parents we might not currently cross paths with and broaden our own community in the process.

The meeting will be facilitated by Sue Bennett, a fellow Mercer Island parent and professional facilitator.

### ***Questions?***

WM 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PPG Coordinators:

Judy Chase [judy@msn.com](mailto:judy@msn.com)

Kris McBurney [mommymcb@msn.com](mailto:mommymcb@msn.com)

Tammy Federman [tammyfed@comcast.net](mailto:tammyfed@comcast.net)



## ATTENTION ALL 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS:

***Please watch for the "Class of 2016" sweatshirt order form coming home with your child on January 30th!***

The front of the sweatshirts will have the names of all fifth graders from MI's three elementary schools along with their graduation year. It has been a tradition to have friends and teachers autograph them on the back. We will also wear them for our class photo on Monday, April 27. The cost of \$30 will cover the sweatshirt, yearbook, dvd and class year end party. Scholarships are available and requests can be made to Laura Falsgraff, counselor @ West Mercer. Orders must be placed by **February 12th**. You can also look for the form on our web site after next week. Any questions please contact Carmen Scalzo @ 206-230-8945.

# BULLYING AND HURTFUL BEHAVIOR—*In Person and In Cyberspace*

By Ivy Suzuki-Jaecks and Stowe Sprague, Vice President, Mercer Island PTA Legislation/Advocacy

**“Bullying” is similar to “pornography” in that many parents think they would recognize it if they see it. According to Washington law, however, bullying is succinctly defined; bullying must have all four of these traits: the behavior is 1) targeted, 2) repeated, 3) done with malicious intent, and 4) there’s a perceived imbalance of power.**

There are many other incidents of aggressive or hurtful behavior that may have one to three of these traits but fall short of being qualified as bullying. Loosely applying the “bully label” may actually compound the problem, and carry lasting stigmatization. No child should be hurt, and all deserve a healthy environment at school. Administrators and teachers address all types of hurtful behavior, a commitment which requires careful investigation and understanding of what can be a murky situation of failures to communicate, he said/she said, evolving friendship contexts, and mistaken intentions. Parent involvement is key: you can help your children understand the incident and intent, and better yet, take steps to prevent it. The PTA parent coalition on bullying/hurtful behaviors is dedicated to sharing tips, and building bridges between kids, administrators and par-

ents (<http://mi-parentsonbullying.wikispaces.com/>)

Like pornography, bullying has morphed to the Internet and via cell phones. Cyberbullying is sending mean, hurtful or threatening messages or images about another person via email or via texting on cell phones. It could also be posting sensitive, private information about another person on a site like Facebook. Another form may be intentionally excluding someone from an online group. Unique to the Internet, a person can also assume someone else’s identity and post damaging messages. Unlike playground bullying, cyberbullying can be done anonymously so it is difficult to trace, and can occur at any time of day. Messages and images can be distributed quickly to a very wide audience and are often impossible to take back or retrieve. More information from the Anti-Defamation League is found on the PTA parent coalition site.

***An eye-opening parent education seminar addressing kids socializing in cyberspace, plus cyberbullying and misuse of personal electronics at school, will be on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. at Islander Middle School.***

Washington State faces an unprecedented deficit over the next year. With just over 40% of its general budget now devoted to education, plus the class size reduction voter initiative I-728, education spending will undoubtedly face cuts, particularly I-728 which funds class size reduction with 17 teachers. Loss of I-728 will also reduce the amount Mercer Islanders can ask for in school levies. There are ways that you as concerned parents can influence legislators to avoid deep damaging cuts.

## **Focus Day Rally of PTA parents on February 26th**

A couple hours of your time midday in Olympia.

Email [stowesprague@hotmail.com](mailto:stowesprague@hotmail.com) about joining a carpool.

Email your 41<sup>st</sup> District legislators:

[Jarrett.Fred@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jarrett.Fred@leg.wa.gov);

[Maxwell.Marcie@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Maxwell.Marcie@leg.wa.gov);

[Clibborn.Judy@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Clibborn.Judy@leg.wa.gov)

# Getting To Know You...



Have you met **Sabrina Hetland**,  
our new Kindergarten teacher?

## *Where were you born and raised?*

Colorado Springs, CO

## *When/why did you decide to be a teacher?*

I decided my junior year of college

## *What were your previous teaching positions?*

- \* Taught first/2nd grade at Pullman Christian in Pullman, WA.
- \* Long term teacher at Palouse Elem. in Palouse, WA for 3rd and
- \* student taught in kindergarten at Sunnyside Elem in Pullman, WA

## *Outside interests/hobbies:*

I love cooking, reading, exercise, card making, sewing, photography, painting, watching movies with my hubby.

## *Tell us about your family/pets:*

I have a husband Tim (married for 3 years) and no pets at the moment.

## *If you had an endless supply of one food what would it be and why?*

It would be either chocolate or cheese because I love, love, love them. I would eat those over anything else.

## *Favorite subject when you were a student?*

My favorite subject was art/music.

## *Most recently read book followed by favorite book?*

The book I just finished was The Night Villa and I love Agatha Christie books and The Secret Life of Bees.

## *What famous person would you like to spend an hour with and what would you talk about?*

I would love to spend time with Jane Goodall and her monkeys. I would want to ask her how she got the inspiration to do what she does and what is it like to live with monkeys.

## *Favorite Holiday & Why?*

I love Christmas because there is always so much love in the air and people are kind during this time. I love the snow and all of the decorations.

## *Ultimate dream vacation (money not a factor):*

My ultimate dream vacation would be to back pack through Europe and see all of the famous sites. There is so much history and I would love to see it all.

## *If you could change one thing in the world...what would it be?*

I would create a peaceful and safe place to live.



# Thank You

- \* My class loved the Hoe Down! We had so much fun dancing during PE and Music times. It was the perfect thing for back to school. We were well represented at the evening event. Everyone had a great time. Thanks PTA for sponsoring this event! Ya Haw! - Mrs. Burrill
- \* Thank you to all who participated in the Hoe Down. A special thanks to all who volunteered and to all the families who patiently waited while we had more pizza delivered. This years Hoe Down was our largest turn-out ever and a great success! A special thank you to Becky Costello, Jennifer Sidney and ALL of the volunteers that helped at Hoe Down!
- \* A huge thank you to Katherine Batalov for all of her great work as Chess Club Chair this year!! She did a fabulous job of making sure we had outstanding coaches who work well with the students and teach them so much each Monday. Her Chess Club newsletters have been fun and informative. Katherine has a busy life with a brand new baby and upcoming adventures in Russia so we wish her the very best and we'll miss her. Thanks for everything!
- \* Thank you to Kim Chen and Anne Emanuels for their work chairing and promoting the Reflections contest this year and organizing the record-number of fabulous WM entries! We are proud of all the talented WM students who did phenomenally well in the all-island contest taking home 33 out of 46 awards! Several entries will advance to the State-level competition. Keep it up and great job WM!!
- \* Thanks to Carmen Scalzo, Christina Poore and the wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents who are busy planning and working on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade sweatshirts, class gift and end-of-the-year activities. They help make these students' final year at WM a special one and we appreciate it.
- \* Thanks to Jim Shannon and his volunteers for keeping the hillside cleaned up and looking good. Our students benefit from incorporating some of the Islandwood themes into this project. Thanks to Jim for all of his efforts.
- \* Thank you to Sheila Renae Talley, MI Boys & Girls Club, and Anne Emanuels for the scavenger hunts and extra fun activities on some Friday recesses throughout the year. The students look forward to these and it gives them additional productive and exciting things to do during those recesses.
- \* Thank you to Karen Upson and her crew of volunteers for providing Popcorn Fridays for the students. They love it!
- \* Thank you to all of ladies doing Absentee Alert.... Elizabeth Andrews, Carol James, Kelly Stewart, Jennifer Smith, Lisa Silver, Carla Hunt, Karen Upson, Jennifer Muscatel, Christina Poore, & Eileen O'Shea
- \* Thank you to Sheri Robertson for helping the Student Council with the Winter Coat Drive.
- \* A BIG thank you to Theresa Magnussen, Sheri Robertson, and Cynthia Winiski for helping make and deliver 300+ hot cocoas to the winners of the Winter Coat Drive.
- \* A very special thank you to David Baxter and Ann Palmason for directing a terrific Talent Show!



## Shopping Online?



If you are going to be shopping online, please start at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), [www.onecause.com](http://www.onecause.com) (formerly Schoolpop), [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), or [www.upromise.com](http://www.upromise.com) first and make sure you have designated West Mercer Elementary as your school to support. There are a large variety of merchants to choose from. We can earn up to 9% of your purchases at some of the merchants.



### Box Tops and Campbell's Labels

*Do you want to dunk Mr. Mellish or Mr. Alin at the Fiesta Carnival in the spring?*

If so, send in your Box Tops and Campbell's Labels. If we reach our goals (double last year's earnings) they will each sit in the dunk tank. Watch the wall by the gym in November for details and updates.



## Become Involved! Join PTA!

Are you new to West Mercer? Did you miss the fall PTA membership drive? Do you need a PTA school directory? There is still time to join the West Mercer Elementary School PTA.

The PTA Membership Form is on the school website at <http://www.misd.k12.wa.us/schools/wm/wmpta/pta%20membership%20form.pdf>

Simply print the Membership Form and fill it out, then drop the completed form and check at the school office. You will receive one free PTA school directory per paid membership.

If you have any questions please contact me at: (206) 275-2577 or [mac\\_sue@msn.com](mailto:mac_sue@msn.com). Suzanne Lusnia, PTA Membership Chair

### IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

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## February 2009



2nd	7pm	WM PTA General Meeting
6th	9:30am	WM Principal Coffee
11th	7pm	Reflections Celebration & Awards
12th	—	Kindergarten Registration Deadline
13th-16th	NO SCHOOL	President's Weekend
17th	3:30pm	WM PAC
18th	5:30-	WM Math Carnival
23rd	7pm	5th Grade Parent Peer Group
26th	—	PTA Focus Day Rally



## March 2009



3rd	7pm	Speaker Alfie Kohn, "The Homework Myth"
4th	6pm	WM Science Fair
6th	9:30am	Principal's Coffee
8th	—	Daylight Savings Time starts

### PTA BOARD

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