



September 2011

Dear Families,

Our first week of school was outstanding! It was clear that students felt safe, happy and ready to meet learning goals set before them by teachers. Thank you parents, for doing your part in preparing our Polar Bears for a great school year.

We are looking forward to our open house October 6th, where family members and friends are invited to join students to visit our school.

Most of you know that Glacier Park is known for the fine drama program we have! Glacier Park will have a total of three major drama opportunities this year. Look for more information to follow in this newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering at Glacier Park and haven't volunteered here before, please attend our volunteer training immediately following our first PTSA General Meeting on September 22nd. If you are unable to make it at that time, please stop by our school office anytime between 8:00-3:00, Monday-Friday to fill out background check paperwork and view the two required videos. Due to the nature of the videos, children may not accompany you at this time. You must complete our district required volunteer training before you will be allowed to volunteer in our school or chaperone on field trips.

While this particular newsletter was posted on September 12th, we will be posting parent newsletters on our website the first day of each month. We are committed to recycling and to reducing the amount of paper used, so please plan to read our newsletter online.

A link to student handbook can be found on the main page of our school website. Please read through it with your child and sign and return the signature page. This lets us know that you and your child understand our school rules and policies regarding behaviors and discipline as well as our no tolerance policy on weapons/dangerous items.

Our school scores from the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) were recently released and our kids did fabulous. Our scores in all four areas (reading, writing, math, science) are among the top in the state of Washington. A few weeks ago, The Seattle Times listed the top elementary schools in our state in accordance to the math and reading scores in grades 3-5. Out of 1013 elementary schools, Glacier Park was ranked #46. We were also the only school in the top 50 with more than 700 students. Our continued success at Glacier Park is a tribute to our outstanding teachers, students and supportive parents.

When talking with your child about school, please make it a point to ask him/her about the "learning goals" for each subject area. Dr. Robert Marzano, recognized across the United States and world for his research involving "Best Instructional Practices", has found that clearly conveying "learning goals" and measuring student progress to the goals increases learning by 27%. In response to Dr. Marzano's research, Glacier Park teachers are making it a practice to clearly convey, revisit and check for understanding of the learning goals in mathematics. Since this is a new practice, teachers will begin to consistently add the best practice to other subject areas as well. During the first week of school, I have asked at least 100 students "what was your learning goal today in math?" and "did you meet the learning goal?" Remarkably, students have been able to articulate learning goals at an increasingly higher level. When your child comes home, give them the "what was your learning goal" challenge!

Warm Regards,
Chris Thomas
Principal

Upcoming Events

September 14th

- **PTSA Board Meeting**
9:30-11:00
- **Elementary Band Night**
@ LWES Gym B
4:30-7:00

September 22nd

- **PTSA General Meeting & Volunteer Training**
GP Gym @ 6:00

September 23rd

- **Early Release @ 1:10**
PM Kind. Attends
No AM Kindergarten

OPEN HOUSE: WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH FROM 5:30-7:00.



A Note From the Music Department:

Mr. O'Connell and Ms. Hinami announce the dates of the music concerts for this year:

Kindergarten:	Friday, June 8th
Grade 1:	Thursday, May 10 th
Grade 2:	Thursday, April 19 th
Grade 3:	Thursday, March 15 th
Grade 4:	Thursday, February 16 th
Grade 5:	Wednesday, November 10 th at our Veteran's Day Assemblies
5 th Grade Band	January 24 th & May 22 nd
Honor Choir	December 20 th & May 18 th



In addition to regular music classes, fifth graders may also take **Band** before school during the "zero hour" period beginning the week of September 20th. **5th grade Band Instrument Information Night** is Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at Lake Wilderness Gym B from 4:30-7:00pm. Band begins the week of September 19th. The instruments for fifth grade Band members are: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone & Baritone. We will be using the Accent on Achievement Band Method book #1. **Band Instrument Information Night is Thursday, September 16th at RCES Gym, 4:30-7:00 PM.** Band directors will be there to answer questions, and students will receive assistance in deciding which instrument to select for the year. **Honor Choir** is open to 4th and 5th graders at Glacier Park, and will meet as a before school "zero hour" class on Tuesday mornings from 8:00-9:00am in the GPES gym. Registration forms will be distributed in their general music classes the week of September 12th, and will need to be turned in by Friday, September 23rd. Honor Choir will begin on Tuesday, September 27th. Enrollment will be limited to 70 students.

A Message from the Nurse

Please do not send your child to school with the following symptoms:

- Temperature over 100 degrees
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat or severe cough
- Thick greenish yellow mucus from the nose.



In consideration of others, we will not be able to allow your child to return to school until they have been free of these symptoms for 24 hours. **Nurse Terry will be doing Health Screening** October 18th, 19th & 20th. If you would like to volunteer to help with vision or hearing screening, please call our school office @425-413-3700.

An Important Notice Regarding Safe Arrival:

Please call our Safe Arrival Line @ 425-413-3795 anytime your child will be late or absent from school. You may leave a message at this number 24 hours a day, so feel free to make the call the evening before if you know your child will not be at school. As a part of our Safe Arrival Program, our office will make every effort to contact you if your child is not at school and we have not received a call from you.



Picking Students Up Early

The end of the school day is a very busy time for teachers, students, and our office staff! We often experience a high volume of parents requesting students to be released between 3:30 and 3:40, causing disruptions to classroom routines and increased demand on an already very busy office staff.

Therefore, unless you have an emergency, we ask you to avoid taking your child out of school between 3:30 and 3:40. Thank you for your support on diminishing this concern and maximizing the learning time for all of our students.

BUS/WALKING/PICK UP PASSES

Anytime a student is going home from school a different than what is normal for them, we MUST receive a note or phone call from a parent. If we have not heard from you, your child will be sent home their normal way.

Thank you!

Student Safety Notice:

We request that Glacier Park parents arriving to drop off or pick up students always park in our parking lot. Do not enter or park in our bus lane.

All children who have been picked up by parents remain with their parents and under no circumstances walk into the bus lane.

Thank you for helping us keep Glacier Park completely safe for our students!

Special News from our Social Worker:



Is your child in need of internet access and a computer at home?

If your family qualifies for the free lunch program, you may also qualify for discounted internet (\$9.95 per month) and a computer (\$150). Please call 1-855-846-8376 or visit www.internetessentials.com



Welcome back to school! Here are a few tips for a successful start to reading at home!

1. At the beginning of this year, establish an at-home reading routine from the start. Take time to sit down with your child and figure out when and where they will read each day and who will monitor their reading. Research shows that at every age level, reading more pages at both school and home each day was associated with higher reading scores.
2. Help your child pick a “just right” book. Students have been learning how to do this in class. A “just right” book is a book that the student can independently read most of the words, with the exception of a few. Ask your child to explain to you how to pick a “just right” book and then practice the process with a book at home.
3. At home reading should be fun! Let your child have a choice, as long as it’s “just right.” Let them read the popular “series” books and kid friendly magazines. Most adult readers prefer reading that is less demanding and kids are no different. Make reading enjoyable by finding high interest books at your child’s level, and they will be more motivated to read!
4. Find time to read to your child. Children really enjoy this time! Books that children want to read, but find too difficult to read independently, make a great read aloud at home.

Have a great year and let me know if you need support for your reader this year!
Aimee Powley, GPES Reading Specialist

A note from the Health & Fitness Department:

P.E. is starting the year off on the right foot! We are working with our groups to develop an understanding of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Our activities have centered around teambuilding and cooperation. We have also taken care of the “nitty gritty” such as how to be safe in the gym, respecting the equipment and one another; so we can all enjoy our 30 minutes of active time. The primary students have focused on safety in the gym, speed, personal space “bubble space,” and locomotor movement. We look forward to a fun and active year!

~Mr. Deutschman, Ms. Sloan, Ms. Gronowick

Exciting drama opportunities for Glacier Park Students in Grades 2-5!!!!



Missoula Children's Theater will present the following productions this year:

October 17th-22nd “Cinderella”

December 5th-10th “Jungle Book”

January 30th - February 4th “Secret Garden”

Watch for information in our October Newsletter on how YOU can participate!

“Fall”
Into Action At The
Emergency
Preparedness Fair
2011

Are you ready for a disaster?

*Do you have a disaster kit for your home and car?
Emergencies can happen at any time to anyone. Now is the time
to prepare.*



*Attend the Emergency Preparedness Fair
Saturday October 8th
Rock Creek Elementary School
9:00am – 2:00pm*

*There will be:
preparedness demonstrations*

- *Informational displays*
- *Emergency Preparedness classes*
- *Hourly drawings with plenty to give-away*
- *First Aid kits & disaster supply starter kits*
- *Bread making*
- *Mama Passarelli & The Soup Ladies*
- *Emergency Response Vehicles*
- *And so much more*

The Maple Valley Food Bank will be at the fair and will accept non perishable food items. Please support your community and stop by their booth.



Sponsored by:

The ECC and City of Maple Valley, Tahoma School District, King County Sheriffs Office, Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety, the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints and Puget Sound Energy.

Stuff the Bus!



Help Us Stuff the Bus for Maple Valley Food Bank

SATURDAY, October 1st

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maple Valley QFC at Wilderness Village

Donations are for the Maple Valley Food Bank

Tahoma Classified Employees from
Public School Employees of Washington/SEIU local 1948
want to give back to community families and the organizations that serve them!!

Help us Stuff the BUS!!!

- Canned & Packaged Food
- Personal Hygiene & Household Cleaning Supplies
- Christmas Gifts for Kids
- School Supplies
- Cash donation gladly accepted

For more information call Barbara Roessler at 425-457-9292
