

Friday, October 28, 2011

www.lwsd.org/school/muir



John Muir News

Weekly news from John Muir Elementary and the PTSA



News From our Sixth Grade

This year our district purchased netbooks (small laptop computers) for its elementary schools. John Muir received 14 carts, each with 16 laptop computers, to share among its classrooms. Unlike a computer lab, netbooks allow students full time access to a computer throughout the day. Like most grade levels at John Muir, sixth grade will be very busy utilizing this great learning tool throughout the year.



In language arts, students will be able to use netbooks to respond to literature, search databases for book titles within their reading ranges, and complete every step of the writing process, from prewriting and researching topics to drafting and publishing.

In math, students will be using netbooks to graph probability and practice various skills such as fractions, geometry, and pre-algebra. There are also web-based programs for mastering computation, which keep students motivated while learning.

In science, sixth graders have already been regularly accessing the Foss website which has numerous activities and databases to help students understand topics like cells, animal adaptations, and geology. Students will also be participating in a 4-month long project called *Mystery Class* in which they combine their math, science, and research skills in order to find 10 real mystery locations around the world—something which is much more manageable with full-time Internet access.

Besides using the netbooks for enhancing student learning in the core content areas, we will also use them to produce comics about life skills and Photostory projects about our experiences hatching salmon eggs and end-of-the-year memories from Camp Orkila.

This year's students are very inquisitive and netbooks will allow them to instantly seek answers to the questions they have—especially those that even stump their teachers. We'll also focus on helping our tech-driven students become aware of their digital footprints and how to be technologically responsible when using such devices. The netbooks will be a great opportunity not only for teaching students how to use specific hardware and software, but also how to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways while having fun.

The Sixth Grade Team
Kim Alvarado and Sylvia Ledesma

John Muir Calendar



- Oct 28 Movie Night, 7pm, gym
- Oct 31 Halloween
- Nov 1 4th grade fieldtrip

Upcoming Events

- Nov 7-10 Turkey Trot
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day, No School
- Nov 17 Picture Make up Day

Hi JME Community!

We wanted to update you on PTSA fundraising for this year. We know there are many different ways families support John Muir. Some like to purchase items (i.e. Catalog Sale). Some like to give cash (i.e. Pass the Hat). Some like to pledge (i.e. Read A Thon). Some like an experience (i.e. movie nights, Mariners game). Some have corporate matching through an employer.

We try hard to make fundraising as simple and productive as possible so we can focus our efforts on events and programs for our children.

We thank everyone for the success of the September catalog fundraiser – earning more than \$6,000 for JME and 6th grade outdoor education. Look for the delivery of those items in mid-November!

You'll see information coming soon about our Read A Thon during the first week of November. Whether your family collects pledges or not, all students will participate in this fun and motivating week where **READING** is the focus!

As always, if you have questions about PTSA, please contact us any time. And thanks again for all your support!

Lynette Apley and Rita Izhaky
PTSA Co-Presidents

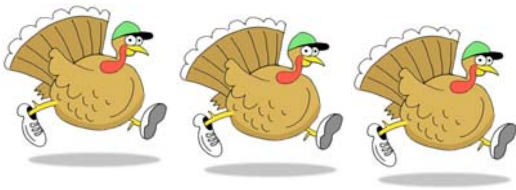


FYI



Making a donation to PTSA with a Microsoft Corporate Match? Please note our PTSA address is listed as 2003 65th Avenue W., Tacoma, WA 98466-6215. We've submitted a request to have that changed, but for now, YES that's the PTSA to choose on the Microsoft Corporate Match website. Thank you

Our Annual Turkey Trot Starts November 7th



The Turkey Trot will begin on November 7th and run through Thursday, November 10th. All Muir students will "trot" around the playground either during afternoon recess or PE and Music time. A turkey will be awarded to the top boy and girl trotters from each class. This is a great opportunity for students to keep physically active while also having fun and a chance to win a frozen turkey for their family.

Please dress in comfortable clothes and shoes each day for jogging.

MOVIE NIGHT TONIGHT!!

Friday, October 28th



7 p.m. Gym

Spooky Buddies

Suggested donation: \$5 per student
Includes 1 popcorn and 1 bottled water
Adults are FREE & Required!

Popcorn, candy and cupcakes
will be sold.

CASH only



ONE MILLION PAGES ...just imagine.

492,608
and counting!

John Muir Kids LOVE to Read!

JME School Zone Safety

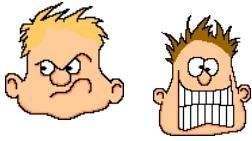
A safe place for children to play online and learn about traffic safety is from Otto the Auto. Otto the Auto is an interactive website for elementary age children to participate in activities where they learn about traffic safety. Each love-able character walks you through a fun activity:

- ◆ Create and color a story with Otto the Auto in the Garage
- ◆ Learn how to cross the street safely with Dakota the AAA School Safety Patroller
- ◆ Travel back in time to learn about helmet safety with Billy in the Helmet Hangout
- ◆ Work with Zoe to dress students for the best visibility in the Store
- ◆ And much, much more!

Go to ottoclub.org/aaawa to play today

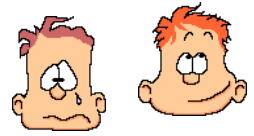
Provided by AAA Washington





Counselor's Corner

with Kathy Dryden



Teaching people to do the right thing.....even when no one is looking.

The Compasses and Maps of Parenting

SOUND DISCIPLINE Contributed by Melanie Miller, M.Ed.

I had the recent opportunity to take my daughter and her friends orienteering. Orienteering is where you use a map, compass and your powers of observation to navigate through a course of pre-set checkpoints. It's a great way to explore the outdoors, discover new hikes and learn some map and compass skills. At each checkpoint, you study your map, set your compass and begin the trek to next check point, watching for landmarks along the way. As we moved along the trail, I thought about my own parenting and what might be my parenting compass; the words, or phrases that keep me moving in the direction that I want to move in as a parent. I decided that I have a few parenting compasses. My compasses are:

- *parenting with respect; having respect for myself, my child and the situation and,*
- *parenting with love instead of fear.*

In order to follow my compass (my parent direction), I need a strong map complete with parenting tools, concepts and language that can help me to continue moving in the direction that is important to me.

Because my children are entering the teen years, I began to think more about my parenting compass and how it is being challenged as I move into the next phase of parenting. With the on-set of teen years, my map is looking a little faded, the landmarks have changed. Some trails have been removed and some new ones are being added. The new ones are scary, I haven't been down this path before and sometimes I feel alone, frustrated and confused. I also worry that I'm unraveling the relationship with my children that I have worked so hard to develop.

In order to update my parenting map I registered for a teleconference on "understanding the adolescent brain" and read a recent National Geographic article on "Beautiful Teenage Brains." Having gained some knowledge by learning from others, some new landmarks are coming into view that I can now clearly recognize. I can now look back at the confusing behavior of my son and see that his brain and his body are doing the best he can as he transitions from childhood to adulthood. I can now see my part as I veered away from my compass, making my own messy, ill prepared trails. The best part is, I now can recognize those teenage landmarks. The awareness and acceptance of these new landmarks gives me room to breathe and room to contemplate the next trail.

As I stand at this check point of parent and child transition, I will position my compass, get out my, latest in technology, GPS system, look ahead at the upcoming landmarks and take the time to keep learning what I can about this next phase of parenthood and teenage years. If you're at a transition stage in your parenting, I hope you'll take the time to read a helpful article, or parenting book. Take a parenting class or talk to a professional who can support you through yet another new and challenging trail of parenting.

Cascade Orienteering Club, www.cascadeoc.org

Feeling Felt; Understanding the Adolescent Brain and Building Connection; Teleconference with Cheryl Erwin, LMFT; www.positivediscipline.org (The recording of this conference can be downloaded.)

The New Science of the Teenage Brain, National Geographic, Oct. 2011, Vol. 220, No. 4, pp. 36-59.

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