

Friday, September 9, 2011

www.lwsd.org/school/muir



John Muir News

Weekly news from John Muir Elementary and the PTSA

News From our Principal

Happy Friday! On behalf of the entire staff here at John Muir, I want to thank all of the parents and students for making this week a wonderful start to the 2011/2012 school year. It has been fun for us to reconnect with returning students and get to know our many new students. As I have visited classrooms I am pleased to see our students enthusiastically getting down to work and learning. Also this week, we have worked to establish the routines, the procedures, and the expectations that will help create a safe, well organized school which is necessary to ensure a successful year for all. Teachers have started assessing student's skill levels so we can do our best this year to meet the individual needs of each student. We are off to a great start!

Constant communication between parents and staff is essential as we work together to make this a world class school for our students. The Friday Packet will again this year be a very important way we communicate important information to families. We will also be attaching all of the flyers, announcements, etc. that have been approved by the district for distribution to our students. I ask that you spend time reviewing this information sometime every weekend. I am confident that you will find this a useful way for you to keep up-to-date with the many exciting things going on here at JME.

Please join me in welcoming new members of the John Muir team. **Ms. Marisa Gonzalez** will be serving as a Special Education teacher. **Ms. Karen Shively** is teaching English Language Learners, and **Ms. Meredith Warren** is our new Speech and Language Pathologist.

Also, I would like to encourage each and every family to show support for our children's education by joining the John Muir Elementary PTSA. The PTSA enhances and enriches the education of every student here at JME. We are grateful for everything this parent group does to support our efforts. Please join.

Finally, **Thursday, September 22** will be our **Curriculum Night**.

Continued next column

John Muir Calendar



Upcoming Events

- Sept 15 First PTSA Meeting 6:30 p.m., Library
- Sept 22 Curriculum Night 6-8 p.m.

This is a very important night for you to come hear what your child will be learning in each grade. You will be provided the information that will allow you to support your child's education during this year. Your child's teacher will be providing specific times for the grade level sessions. Please plan to attend.

Again, thank you for sending us such wonderful students to share the joy of learning with. This is going to be a great year and I want to thank you for entrusting us with your children. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, and be sure your children are reading at home every night!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff DeGallier".

Jeff DeGallier



For Your Information:

Comcast is offering families who qualify for the "Free Lunch Program" low cost Internet if they meet eligibility. The program is called, **Internet Essentials**, and it offers Internet service for \$9.99 a month and computers for \$149.99. To be eligible, children must be enrolled in the National School Lunch Program. The family cannot have an overdue account or unreturned equipment. For an application, call 855-846-8376. Spanish assistance is available.



Volunteering in the Lake Washington School District

Complete the application

Volunteers who are parents of students in the district now have the choice of applying online through Parent Access or through the standard paper application. [Online volunteer application instructions](#) are posted in the Parent Access section of this website. All other volunteers and parents who prefer a paper application should follow these instructions to complete the volunteer application:

Print out the [volunteer application packet](#) Complete all of the required information and signatures. Include your email address in order to receive notification of approval.

Thoroughly read the [volunteer handbook](#) When you sign your application, you are agreeing to the guidelines and expectations outlined in the handbook.

1. **Attach a copy of your driver's license or other legal photo identification to your application** The application requires a copy of your driver's license or other photo ID that includes your legal name, date of birth, height and weight. This helps to verify your identity in the background check process. The school can make a copy of your photo ID for you.

2. **Submit your application** Turn in your completed application to the school where you wish to volunteer or mail it to the district office at P.O. Box 97039, Redmond, WA 98073-9739.

3. Approval process

Lake Washington School District is required by law to perform background checks on all volunteer applicants through Washington State Patrol. If you provided an email address on your application, you will receive an email when your application is approved. The approval process can take up to two weeks from the time you submitted your application. Once you are approved, your name is added to the approved volunteers list, which all schools have access to. Pick up a volunteer card or badge from the school once you have been approved. The school will ask to see your photo ID before issuing the card or badge.



**Thank you for volunteering.
Volunteers are the heart of the Community!**

Volunteering Continued....

Check your approval status

Schools can check to see if your volunteer application is still current. Ask a staff member in the school office or a teacher to see if your name is on the approved volunteers list. You can also contact the volunteer office to check your approval at 425-936-1300.

When to reapply

Volunteer approval is valid for two years. After two years, you must reapply. You will receive notification that it's time to reapply when you are approaching your volunteer approval expiration.

Just a reminder that **EVERY** Wednesday school dismisses at 2:00 p.m. for all students in All Day Kindergarten through 6th grade. Students in our AM Kindergarten program go home at 10:55 a.m.

If you pick up your child, please to be at school for them no later than 2:15 p.m. as we no longer have supervision after that time.



Thank you.

2011-12 PTA Reflections Program

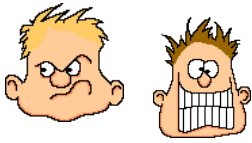
The Arts are in Play at John Muir This Fall

John Muir Elementary participates in a National PTA program to encourage creativity among students. The Reflections Program is an optional art competition for all ages of students. The theme this year is "**Diversity Means...**" During September and October, students may prepare entries at home in visual arts, photography, literature, choreography, music or film which reflect the theme. Look for entry forms and rules at school, on our school website, or on the state website

<http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections>.

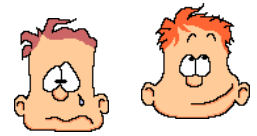


Shawn Thornsberry
PTSA Reflections Chair



Counselor's Corner

with Kathy Dryden



Are you Feeling Challenged?

- ...by your kids power struggles?
- ...on-going misbehavior?
- ...whining or attitude?
- ...by their lack of follow through?
- ...backtalk?
- ...morning or bedtime routines?
- ...or something else...?

Positive Discipline is for parents who are looking for long term parenting skills that will encourage their children to think for themselves, become more responsible and have a greater respect for themselves and others.

This seven session class is filled with non-punitive, respectful methods that will incorporate kindness and firmness into parenting, bring more joy into the home and give parents a sense of accomplishment.

Taught by:
Melanie Miller, M.Ed.
Positive Discipline Lead Trainer
LWSD School Counselor
Melanie@eastsideparenting.com
206.579.2172

"We learned so much from the classes. In addition to all the wonderful tools, we found the classes and fellow parents to be so supportive that we did not want the classes to end."
-Jeff and Dinnhe, Kirkland

Become the Parent You Want to Be with Positive Discipline

Peter Kirk Community Center
Downtown Kirkland
Wednesdays: Oct.5-Nov.16
6:30-8:30pm

...Come find some practical and respectful solutions to your daily parenting challenges.

"What a difference your class has made!!! We really do have so much more peace and love in our house now. Tonight at our family meeting my son told me he appreciated me for being so loving. It was nice for me to feel that way without reserve."

To Register: www.kirklandparks.net Search Class #33865

Cost: Kirk Res: \$125/person, 150/couples. All others \$150, 180. Includes books and hand-outs
Scholarship available

Feel free to pass on this flier to parents in your community