



Skykomish Rockets News

April 2015

Vision statement:

website: www.skykomish.wednet.edu

- The Skykomish School continues to focus its energy and effort to become a student-centric learning center which offers students a welcoming, comfortable, stable, safe, clean, organized environment, and a challenging, meaningful, rewarding, curriculum.
- The Skykomish School continues to strive towards healthy interpersonal relationships among all staff, students, and communities, and encourages active participation and individual responsibility among all.

Superintendent's Message

I am very happy to have recently accepted the Board of Directors' offer to continue on as Skykomish School District



Superintendent for the next three years. Last year when I came to Skykomish I quickly began to appreciate the many advantages of a small school in a rural area. If I had the chance to go back in time 30 years, I would

have wanted my two children to have attended Skykomish School. One of the things that initially impressed me the most was how up to date our school is. I saw Smart Boards in almost every classroom being used by teachers to make their lessons relevant and interesting. I observed laptops being used every day by students to do many of their assignments. Our high school students are even taking their school laptops home so that they can more efficiently do their assignments and homework.

Another thing that I highly value at Skykomish is how the small size lends itself to knowing each student's individual needs and giving each student individual attention in each class every day. Knowing our students well and providing attention to every learner is one of the reasons that Skykomish School has one of the highest graduation rates in the state.

Being connected to a small supportive community is also a big asset when it comes to bringing up healthy well rounded kids. Our students frequently take advantage of the opportunity to volunteer in the community and be the recipients of generous support from community members. An example of this was the opportunity to have our students participate in outdoor learning conducted by local Forest Service Personnel. This winter many of our students also took advantage of a weekly ski school program supported by Stevens Pass and members of the local fire department. Growing up in a small community also allows our students to learn and study in an environment that is free from so many of the negative influences that young people in urban areas are often faced with.

My vision for our district is to utilize all of the advantages of a small school district and a dedicated staff to provide a rigorous, relevant and interesting education that prepares our students for success in post high school education or a career. I look forward to the years ahead working together with students, staff, board members and the Skykomish community to give our students a quality education.

April Events

1 st	3 rd Quarter Ends
4 th	Easter Egg Hunt
6 th – 10 th	Spring Break
16 th & 17 th	Student Led Conferences
17 th	PSE Scholarship Dinner
21 st	All School Assembly 12:30
23 rd	We Day Fieldtrip
30 th	Awards Assembly

Awards Assembly

Tuesday, March 31st at 2:15 in the gym is our next awards assembly. We hope to see you here.

PSE Classified Union/Community Scholarship Dinner

On April 17th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the school's cafeteria. The classified staff will be holding their third annual Spaghetti

Dinner fundraiser to raise money for a college scholarship for the seniors.

90% of all donations will go to the qualified senior applicant (s). The remaining 10% will go to the next year's class. All monies raised goes to the scholarship fund. We hope to see you here.

D/A News

Hello! This is Jeannie from the Prevention Team. My last day was March 27th. I am very sad to be leaving. I am going to miss everyone tremendously as I move on to my new agency. I have had the most wonderful experiences working with everyone here at the school and also working with the people and parents in the community. Thank you so much for all that you have done for me. The day before my last day (the 26th), the Prevention Team held a fundraiser to be able to continue to go to the Fall Summit next year. Thank you! Jeannie

Interim Board Member Appointed

On Thursday March 5th, Bill Atkinson was appointed by the Skykomish School Board of Directors as an Interim Board Director for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year. Bill has worked tirelessly for our school and students for many years and continually goes beyond the call of duty in support of our athletes and many school programs. If it were not for Bill, many of

our students would likely not be playing on athletic teams both at Skykomish and at Sultan. This is a well-deserved honor. Congratulations, Mr. Atkinson.

Calling All Germ-Fighters!

That includes you, students, teachers and parents! The enemy germ-army is still fighting full force in many classrooms and it's time to suit-up and fight back. What is one of the best ways to kill germs and keep them from spreading to other victims? Yes, you guessed it, hand washing!

The tiny microorganisms that you can't see without a microscope (a.k.a. germs) getting a free ride on your hands have the best transportation to infect others. Just think about what you touch with your hands: mouth, nose, eyes, ears, etc. Any germs you have are transmitted by hands to doorknobs, light switches, food, everything really! Then the next person comes along, opens the door, turns the light on, or shares your food/drink. A perfect cover for germs to infect them too!

The light-speed transport for germs is through sneezing, coughing, and even breathing. The germs climb into the droplets that come out when you sneeze, cough or breathe. That is why it is vitally important to stop the droplets with an elbow, tissue or germ-fighting mask before they travel at up to 200mph to your friends, teachers and parents.

And lastly (but just as importantly!), fight the germs on their microscopic level

with vitamin-soldiers found in fruits and vegetables! End the germ-war!

Joy Dumont, School Nurse

Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team for being awarded the NW 1B Team Sportsmanship Award.



New Requirements for Athletic Eligibility

On March 25th the School Board adopted a new set of eligibility requirements for 8th - 12th graders to be eligible for after school athletics programs. The new policy will be effective beginning April 13th. The policy read as follows:

Students involved in extra-curricular activities must be passing all classes to participate in the school sponsored events or contests.

Should a student be passing 5 of 6 classes, the student will be on probation for two weeks. Within the probation period, the student can still participate in contests, but the student, parent, teacher, and

administrator will communicate to establish a "Success Plan." If the Student raises the grade to passing, the student is no longer on probation and will be eligible. If after the probation period the student is still failing a class, the student will be ineligible to participate in the next contest and will be ineligible until the student maintains all passing grades.

If passing 4 or less classes, the student is automatically ineligible for the next contest, and will remain ineligible until passing all classes. No probation period.

Pirate By Asia Rooney

Pretty, fast and powerful;
Small with a broken nose, yet strong legs
He smells like dry hay;
Warm and silky, with a tail that is rough;
His mane is scratchy when braided;
He is calming, relaxing;
Pirate, my grandparent's horse.

All School Assembly

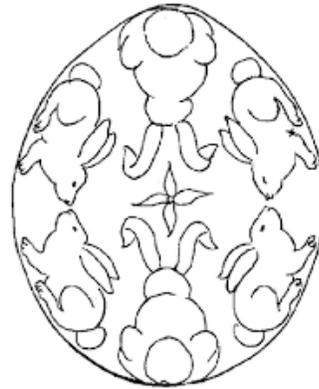
On April 21st author Patrick Flores-Scott will visit Skykomish School and speak to students. Patrick is the author of *Jumped In*. He is an award winning author having grown up here in the Pacific Northwest in a small town. Patrick will share his experiences growing up in a small town and his experiences as an author. He will also be working one-on-one with students on their writing.

Easter Festivities

Saturday, April 4th starting at noon at the park in Skykomish.

Free egg hunt, hotdogs, egg decorating table, games, games and more games.

We hope to see you there.



We Day

The students will be going to Seattle for the annual We Day celebration on April 23rd.

Student Led Conference

Teachers will be contacting parents to schedule their child's student led conference. Conference dates are April 16th and 17th. School will be released at 11:30 both days.

State Assessments

The State has adopted the Common Core learning standards. To assess these new standards the State is using the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Many of our students will be taking this assessment for the first time this year. These assessments represent a substantial change in content and expectations. There is no time limit associated with the assessments so the schedule does have the flexibility to adapt to the needs of every student.

The Smarter Balanced assessment has three components. The first part is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) that alters the students questions based on their performance on the assessment to better determine the level of ability. We are allocating two days for the CAT. The next section is an actual activity lesson that the teacher provides for the class. This lesson provides insight and information that is used on the final portion of the assessment. The last stage is the performance task (PT) that is also given two days. Students are asked to provide free-write responses to questions (short essays).

Below is a list of assessment dates by grade level.

Grade	Assessment	Dates
3 rd Grade	Smarter Balanced English Language Arts	3/26- 3/27, & 4/1-4/3
3 rd thru 8 th Grade	Smarter Balanced Math	6/1, 6/3-6/5
4 th thru 8 th Grade	Smarter Balanced English Language Arts	5/18-5/26
5 th and 8 th Grade	MSP Science	5/26, 5/27, 5/29
9 th Grade	Algebra 1 EOC	6/1, 6/2, 6/4
10 th Grade	Geometry EOC	5/12, 5/14, 5/15
10 th Grade	Smarter Balanced English Language Arts	6/1 - 6/5
10 th Grade	Biology EOC	5/18, 5/19, 5/21
11 th Grade	Smarter Balanced Math	5/18 - 5/22
11 th Grade	Smarter Balanced English Language Arts	6/1 - 6/5

If you have any questions contact Rick Dempsey at (360)677-2623 ex. 201.