



Skykomish Rockets News

June 2015

website: www.skykomish.wednet.edu

Vision statement:

- 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

As the school year begins to wind down I can't help but think about all of the wonderful friendships that I have made over the year. I have enjoyed getting to know each of our students



and have been impressed by how smart they are and how hard they work on their studies. I have also enjoyed getting to know each of our very talented and dedicated teachers and classified staff. Each one of them has demonstrated their commitment toward our students success throughout the year. I have also enjoyed working with the District's dedicated board members and have found each of them to be very focused on providing the best education for our students. Our parents and community members have faithfully supported our school throughout the school year and for that I am grateful.

This summer Skykomish School will be getting a new high tech heating system installed throughout the

building. The new system will be much more efficient and save the District thousands of dollars each year in energy costs. In order to have the system installed and ready for use next fall we will be shutting down the old heating system beginning Tuesday, June 2nd. The long range weather forecast looks favorable for shutting down the heating system, but it would be advisable for students to have a sweater with them just in case. Demolition crews will begin removing the old equipment during evening work shifts. Work crews will not be on campus during the school day. The work being done should have no impact on student learning.

Students in grades 3-8, 10 and 11th are about halfway through the state assessment called Smarter Balanced Assessment. All students will have completed the assessment by June 5th. Students have been taking this test on their laptop computers. Students have been finding the test to be very challenging. Student scores will be sent home to parents in the fall. These assessments will help the school determine what students will require

remediation to help develop their skills and bring them up to grade level.

I hope that you will be able join us at our year's end awards assembly on June 16th at 10:30am where we will celebrate the accomplishments of all of our students. I wish you a safe and restful summer and look forward to the start of the 2015 – 2016 school year.

Sincerely,
Martin Schmidt

June Events

1st – Awards Assembly
8th or 9th – Field Day
12th – Graduation
15th – All School Field Trip
16th – Last day of School
Awards Assembly 10:30

Our awards assembly for the month of May is scheduled for June 1st at 2:30. Parents are welcome to attend.

Graduation

The class of 2015 invites you to come celebrate graduation with them, Friday, June 10th at 7:00pm in the school gymnasium. Congratulations: Ashley, Hailey, Kitty, and Marissa. We are all so proud of you.

Changes for High School Students Requires Greater Responsibility

Two months ago several high school students spoke to the School Board and asked them to consider a couple of changes that would allow students to have a little more freedom and responsibility. The Board tasked me with meeting with students to learn specifically what some of the students' issues were. Four things that the students asked me to consider were: permission to use cell phones when they are not in class, permission to walk from lunch to the playground without being required to line up, the ability to sit next to whomever they choose on the bus and the possibility of having an open campus. After discussions with students, and staff I made the decision to allow students to use cell phones when not in class. One of the most important factors in my decision was the fact that I have observed our students to be some of the most mature responsible high school students that I have ever worked with. I met with students to explain to them that gaining this new freedom came with the responsibility, on their part, to not use cell phones in classrooms during class time. I am happy to report that after a month of having this new freedom our high school students have handled this with the responsibility that I expected of them. In like manner high school students were given the opportunity to

walk from lunch to the playground without having to line up as the kindergartener's do. This change has also gone smoothly. Most recently I have had conversations with bus drivers and the Board about students having the ability to sit next to whomever they choose and I am very confident that students will take on this new freedom in a responsible manner. Beginning Monday June 1st students will be able to sit on the bus with whomever they choose. I will be having a conversation with students about this new opportunity and their part in demonstrating proper bus conduct and following all school rules while on the bus. The School District will always have the right to make bus seat assignments for students who do not abide by school rules. I have no doubt that once again our students will rise to the occasion and demonstrate the very best behavior with these new found freedoms. The issue of having an open campus for high school students is still being considered by the Board and both the Board and myself welcome your comments on this issue.

Martin Schmidt

Proactive Work to Prevent
Bullying

Skykomish School Staff works proactively throughout the year to prevent all types of bullying and

harassment. There are also many students who have joined the efforts to make our school "bully free". The Intervention Team under the direction of Ms. McGrath has spent many hours promoting a "bully free" school culture. Mr. Dempsey, Ms. McGrath and Mrs. Leppanen have also work diligently with individual students and parents to promote a culture of respect. One parent recently told me that she has been getting feedback from her children telling her that our learning environment has become safer and more respectful. Other staff have expressed those same sentiments to me recently. Here at Skykomish we are all working to promote our vision of a bully free school.

Quickly addressing concerns about bullying is essential in promoting a respectful school culture. Should your child share with you a concern about bullying I would recommend that you contact our counselor, Mr. Dempsey, so that specific issues can be quickly investigated and addressed. I want all of our parents and students to know that we take every report of bullying seriously and will deal with each incident of bullying in a manner consistent with district policy and procedures. If you have any questions for concerns about our safe school environment please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Martin Schmidt

Everyone Looking Forward to the Parent Tea

Please join your student and the school as we honor our parents at the Parent Tea on Friday May 29th at 1:45pm. You will have the opportunity to do a craft with your child, hear some great student singing, have some delicious desserts and have your heart touched by a wonderful video presentation.

Bingo - Senior Fundraiser

Families and community members are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of Bingo on Friday May 29th starting at 3:15pm. The family event will end at 5:15. Pizza, soda, and goodies will be sold. \$1.00 a card buys you a chance for some wonderful prizes and a chance to support our seniors.

SUMMER MEALS

Summer meals for kids & teens being served in your community.
To find a location near you, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>
OPEN to all children, 18 and younger
NO enrollment, NO cost!

Dear Parents, Community Members, Teachers, Staff, and Students

After 39 years (over half my life!) of always striving to do my best to educate children, 17 of those years being here, I am leaving my beloved profession to embark on a new path in life. Gary and I will be traveling all over our beautiful country, capturing landscape and wildlife in photos. So, as the school bells ring in September, we will be on our way to capture the myriad of fall colors in the Midwest (and visiting the "shrine" called Lambeau Field!). That is just the first of many trips we have planned for ourselves, and, of course, were written down in an itinerary. We are nothing if not organized!

I want to thank everyone for your continued encouragement and support you have given me all these years. My greatest rewards have been in witnessing students enjoying learning and in feeling pride in all of their achievements. I wish all of you happiness and love. Live long and prosper!
Mrs. Victoria Hammons

We Create Change

For the last several months our students participated in the Me-to-We program "We Create Change". Jars were placed

in each classroom to collect change to try to raise enough money for a family in need overseas. The students raised enough money to purchase a goat to help supply a family with milk. Thank you all for your support!

MAY IS THE FINAL MONTH OF OUR READING CHALLENGES!!!

IF YOU HAVE A/R TESTS TO TAKE,
PLEASE DO SO BY FRIDAY
ALL READY-SET-READ FORMS ARE
DUE FRIDAY

REEL GRRLS

I have been corresponding with Reel Grrls about an upcoming Animation workshop to be held at the Maloney Store on June 23rd. This animation workshop will be for girls age 13-19. Immediately after, we will be meeting with Malory Graham, the woman who started Reel Grrls, to discuss the idea of doing an Oily Sky 3. Malory played an integral part in getting Oily Sky parts one and two. Please be on the lookout for the flier. For more information, please contact DeLana Slone 425-760-4154.

Pompeii Field Trip: (Kimberly McCullough)

On May 20th, our high school students went to the Pacific Science Center to view the Pompeii exhibit. The students also learned about the threat from volcanoes in the Pacific Northwest. Overall, the trip went well. This event enabled students to learn more about what happened in Pompeii and what risks there are from our own volcanoes. They learned more about the science of volcanoes as well as the history of Pompeii. The exhibit allowed the students to see 2000 year-old artifacts such as artwork and tools used during that era as well as the casts from the aftermath of the volcano. This was the last time the exhibit will be in North America for the foreseeable future.

End of year Dance / Party:

The ASB will be holding a dance / party on Friday, June 5th. This is a community event. We will be holding this event outside at the school if weather permits. Look for more details soon.

Math Practice:

Students often lose math skills over the summer. You can encourage your child to play math games on sites such as Cool Math or use apps. Khan Academy

is another useful resource for students to gain or maintain skills.

Prom:

At the end of April, our high school students joined Cascade High School in Leavenworth for prom. The students had a wonderful time and represented Skykomish well. We have been invited back for next year!

Summer Sun

Summer is just around the corner, which means all the fun outdoor activities will be in full swing! There is a concern about too much sun exposure, however, and the possibilities of UV rays leading to skin cancer. On the flip side, many people are concerned about the numerous chemicals in commercial sunblock, and the growing rate of vitamin D deficiency. Is there a middle ground between sun protection and sun benefit? After researching many scientific articles on both sides of the issue, I am more confused than when I started.

There is one thing that everyone agrees on though; getting a sunburn (slightly pink to bright red and blistering), is not helpful at all. Your body can only use sunlight to manufacture so much vitamin D, and after it has reached that point, the benefits of sun exposure are actually

reversed and vitamin D is broken down.

If you do believe in sun exposure for vitamin D production, try to make it around 5-15 minutes three times a week. This should be enough exposure to produce vitamin D, but keep in mind that fair-skinned individuals do not require as much time to produce vitamin D, so use the time range with your skin type in mind. As far as the time of day, consider that UVB (vitamin D producing light) is highest from 12pm-4pm, but UVA (increases risk for skin damage) is present throughout the day.

Some alternatives to chemical laden sun block are wearing long sleeve clothing and hats, which provide the equivalent of about 15 SPF and should be sufficient for blocking UVA light. Another option is trying natural sunblock or making it yourself. A good natural brand is Badger Organic. If you are looking for a recipe to make yourself, check out this website. <http://wellnessmama.com/2558/homemade-sunscreen/>
Joy Dumont