



Skykomish Rockets News

January 2016 website: www.skykomish.wednet.edu

Superintendents' Message

Winter has definitely arrived in the Skykomish Valley. Everything is so beautiful with a new layer of snow. I really enjoy this time of year. I'm looking forward to going skiing with the students on the first Ski School outing on the evening of January 29th.



During the next several months the School District will be working on a process of strategic planning. At a recent school board meeting the Board gave direction to proceed with strategic planning in three areas: student achievement, facilities and communications. Three committees have been formed, one for each of the three areas of focus. Committee members include, board members, the superintendent, staff, students, parents and community members. We value the input from all stakeholders and are happy to add additional members to the committees. If you have an interest in serving on one of the three committees, please contact me. Mr. Dempsey will be leading the Communications Committee, Mrs. McCullough will be leading the Facilities Committee and I will be leading the Student Achievement Committee. The first strategic planning meetings will be on January 8th at 3 pm. We are hoping to have a rough draft of a 3 year strategic plan go to the Board of Directors for review by the end of April.

The Student Achievement Committee will be focused on strategies that will help our students have high levels of student achievement and be prepared for post high school education. The Facilities Committee will be considering various possibilities for school renovations and beautification. The Communication Committee will focus their discussions on strategies that could be employed to enhance communication within the school / District and with the community. We look forward to seeing how the Strategic Plan will guide and direct the District over the next several years.

I wish all of our students, their families, our staff and our community a safe and prosperous New Year.
Sincerely,
Martin Schmidt

Upcoming Events

- 6 - Basketball away 4:30
- 6 - P.T.S.O. Meeting 4:30
- 11 - Basketball Home 6:00
- 12 - Ski Swap 5:30
- 14 - Basketball Home 4:00
- 18 - No School
- 19 - Basketball Home 5:00
- 20 - Basketball away 4:00
- 27 - Basketball home 6:00
- 27 - School Board Meeting 6:30
- 29 - 1st Semester Ends ER 11:30

Geography Bee

The Geography Bee has been rescheduled for this Friday, January 8th at 12:45. Parents are welcome to attend.

Reading and Math Support

The **After School Program** meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 2:45 – 4:00 pm. The program is free and available for all students in grades K – 12 and provides snack, help with homework, and extra activities to help students with reading and math. The after school program is funded by the Title I, Part A program. Please contact Cindy in the Skykomish school office for a permission slip to participate in the after school program.

Skykomish School District participates in both the Title I, Part A and Learning Assistance Program (LAP, offering services for our students during the school day, in the after school program, and in our summer school.

Our Title I and LAP programs focus primarily on grades K-4, providing assistance to those students in higher grades needing reading and math support. Paraeducators are partially funded by both Title I and LAP programs. Skykomish also uses the Lexia Core 5 online reading program, Renaissance Learning for both reading and math support, and the DIBELS reading and math program.

Title I, Part A is a federal program that serves the unique needs of children, kindergarten to grade 12, who struggle to learn. Title I programs and services provide customized instruction and curricula that helps these students meet academic standards and take an active, engaged interest in what they learn and can do. As the oldest and largest federal education program, Title I programs build equity of opportunity for children whose struggles often keep them on the academic sidelines.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP) serves eligible students who need academic support for reading, writing and math, or who need readiness skills to learn

these core subjects. With special emphasis on reading literacy in the early grades, schools use their state LAP funds to deliver supplemental services that give these students the strong start they need for academic success.

For further information regarding our Title I, Part A and LAP programs, please contact Marcia Dempsey, Title I/LAP Director, any time at mdempsey@skykomish.wednet.edu. During school hours, Mrs. Dempsey can be reached at 360-677-2623, ext. 221.

CALENDAR CHANGE

Due to school being cancelled on December 18th, there will be three (3) changes to the calendar:

1. There will be school March 14th
2. January 28th school will be dismissed at 2:45
3. January 29th school will be dismissed at 11:30

**SKI SWAP!!!
NEXT TUESDAY
JANUARY 12TH, 5:30
BUS BARN**

Fall Spirit Week Winners

Seniors, freshmen, 7th grade, and 2nd grade

Door Decoration Winners

Winner: Mrs. McEachern

Pre-School: Cutest

Mrs. Walker: Snowiest

Mr. Robinson: Most Holiday-Esque

Ms. Diaz: Most Exciting

Ms. Alexander: Most Original

Mrs. McCullough: Most mathematical

Mrs. Dempsey: Best Looking

Mr. Dempsey: Most Collegiate

Mr. Grider: Funniest

Kitchen: Most Unique

Bus Route Changes for Heavy Snow Accumulation Days

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

Index/Gold Bar: On days of heavy snow, parents are responsible for providing transportation to the Baring bus stop located behind the Baring Post Office. The school will send out an alert to let you know when this becomes necessary.

North Baring: If the snow is so heavy that the bus cannot cross the tracks, parents will need to provide transportation to the bus stop located behind the Baring Post Office.

Thanks,
Chad Musser

REINDEER

In a recent conversation about reindeer, the following discussion was recorded. You may notice that the topic loosely wanders around the topic of reindeer. Dylan shared that

reindeer are only special when they have the ability to fly. Additionally, if they happen to have cool names, they are extra special. An example of a cool reindeer name would be Drake or Thad. Kimberly commented that reindeer frolic through the wintery forest. Hezykyah pointed out that they don't have red noses. Anthony noted that reindeer are also known as caribou. Reindeer like to listen to punk rock, according to Kyrah. Isaac says they watch "Scream Queens" in their spare time. Ariel said that reindeer like to play in the snow. Just like girls around the world, reindeer also believe Ryan Gosling is the most attractive man on the planet, Rio chimed in. Kyrah argued that Ryan Reynolds is the most attractive man, not Ryan Gosling. But they digressed.

Back on the topic of reindeer, Kimberly asked if there was such a thing as a chicken reindeer. Dylan informed us that the adult male reindeer ranges in weight from 350 – 400 lbs. Hezykyah was happy to announce that reindeer are fat. According to Anthony, reindeer like the cold and it is a wonder that we don't have them in Skykomish. Kimberly noted that she had seen deer in Index, so reindeer could be close by. Rio shared, with a quiet smile, that reindeer are beautiful. Kyrah wanted you to know that the reindeer don't really care about this newsletter. They are too busy at the North Pole helping Santa Claus.

Reading Challenge News

With December being a short school month, it historically has been the month where we usually have the least participation for the Ready Set Read reading challenge. We did, however, have three star students that rose to the occasion by reading 20 minutes 20 times and turning in their forms on time. Congratulations to Austin, Bella, Mason and

Brendan! Keep up the good work. Forms for January's challenge are due on Monday, February 1st.

Ski Program

With all of the new snow on the mountain, students are chomping at the bit to get up to the pass and play. Be on the lookout this week for details on this year's ski program that will begin on Friday, January 29th. Attached to the information sheet will be a permission slip that will need to be signed and returned by January 15th in order for your child to ride up to Stevens Pass with the school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call DeLana Slone at 425-760-4154.

A DOG NAMED SPOT By Bella and Madeline

My friend and I have a make-believe black and white dog named Spot. He is a Dalmatian. He has a black spot all around his right eye. He also has spots on his back and legs. He is nine years old.

Our dog has a chewy bone that he always brings with him everywhere he goes, even when he goes to his food bowl to eat. His

favorite foods are mini bones and popcorn. My friend and I bought the chewy bone for Spot at the pet store.

Our sweet dog loves snow. Spot really likes the water inside snow and the way it melts on his tongue. He likes to roll over in the snow. Spot likes the cold, which is why he loves snow!

Spot has dog friends named Loki and Abby. He likes to play around and run in the snow in the winter with his friends. Spot is a good friend and cuddles Loki and Abby when they are afraid. When Spot cuddles his friends, they are very warm.

We love Spot so much because he is an animal and he is kind to his friends. Spot is also brave and respectful. We love him!



Discrimination

The Skykomish School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination may be directed to: Martin Schmidt- mschmidt@skykomish.wednet.edu - Superintendent, Title IX Officer and Civil Rights Coordinator 360 677-2623 x 101; Dan Bubar-dbubar@skykomish.wednet.edu- Athletic Director 360 677-2623 x223; Karen McEachern- kmceachern@skykomish.wednet.edu- 504 Coordinator 360 677-2623 x 232. District Office 105 6th St North Skykomish, WA 98288