



Tukes Valley Middle School

December Newsletter

Home of the Timberwolves



20601 NE 167th Avenue
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

Phone TVMS: 360-885-6250

Diana Harris, Principal TVMS
Ryan Cowl, Assistant Principal

From the Principal...

As we move forward into the school year our staff has worked incredibly hard at implementing some of the best practices that have been learned through our recent Professional Development days (waiver days). Some of the things that were emphasized and focused on were the five non-negotiables of differentiated instruction. These include:



- **A supportive learning environment**- This lays the foundation for everything that happens in the classroom and creates a sense of community where students feel comfortable participating and taking risks. Each student is regarded with respect and high expectations.
- **Continuous Assessment**- This is on-going assessment that measures daily goals. The teacher can easily identify which students understand the concept, who is ahead and/or who is behind.
- **High-Quality Curriculum**- Teachers are looking at curriculum and determining what really matters, what students have to master in order to get to the next segment. After answering these questions themselves, teachers need to help students clarify the learning goals. Students are all working toward the same goals, but may be doing so in different ways.
- **Respectful Tasks**- Assessing for student's interests and incorporating those interests in instruction gives students a voice in their learning and shows them that the teacher is listening and respects them.
- **Flexible Grouping**- This shows that teachers can group students in several different ways during instruction besides readiness. Teachers can use whole groups, interest-based groups, mixed ability groups, partners, and individual students.



It has been critical and important for our staff to gain knowledge and new ideas in meeting the needs of all of their students. We as a staff want all of our students to perform at their highest level possible as they journey through their schooling. These training days have been pivotal in ensuring that best practices are implemented each and every day with our students.

As we move into the holiday season we want to thank all of our families for their support throughout the year. Please enjoy this quality time with friends and family. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher. In addition, if you have any other concerns please feel free to call the school administration. Have a terrific holiday!

Lost and Found

As many of you have witnessed, our lost and found collection is growing by leaps and bounds. If you are looking for a lost coat, hat, sweatshirt, etc., there is a good chance it may be part of our collection. You are encouraged to stop by and check it out. All items will be donated to a non-profit organization.



Parking Lot

Please remember to drive slowly through the parking lot and move forward as you are dropping off or picking up your student. Students can only be dropped off or picked up along the curb.



Volunteers

Please remember that you need to fill out a volunteer form, background checks must be completed, and Human Resources must have confirmation from Washington State Patrol before a volunteer can chaperone/supervise field trips or work in the building. If you have any questions, please call the Tukes Valley Middle School office.



Free and Reduced Lunch

Eligibility for free and reduced lunch status for the 2010-2011 school year expired October 20th, 2011. If you are receiving basic food benefits from DSHS or have submitted a 2011 - 2012 Household Application For Free and Reduced Price Meals and have not received notice from Battle Ground School District that your child (children) qualified for free or reduced lunches for the 2011 - 2012 school year please contact Janina Rosenkranz at the Business Office, 885-5390. If you have a question regarding a meal balance or payment please contact the Nutrition Services Office at 885-6539.



Inclement Weather

With the onset of colder weather, parents are reminded of the potential for school cancellations and/or late starts should hazardous road conditions develop. If winter weather should necessitate the announcement of a 2 ½ late start Tukes Valley Middle School will begin at 10:40 AM.

Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at school prior to 10:30 AM. Staff members are provided additional time to arrive safely, so supervision cannot be scheduled until the above mentioned times. School closure information can be accessed as early as 5:30 AM on a variety of local radio and TV stations, the district web site: <http://www.battlegroundp.org> or call the District's info line at 885-5343.



Term 2 Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home with students by December 16th. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher at any time if there are questions about school performance.



Unscheduled Early Dismissal

This is just a reminder that we need to have an updated "Unscheduled Early Dismissal Plan" for each student. Many parents completed these early this year, and we will follow those instructions unless we are advised otherwise. Please remember: students cannot call home to make arrangements on the day of the emergency. We often experience problems with our phone system when the weather is bad.

Recess Box

We ask that you remind your students to bring warm jackets to wear at recess and wear shoes that are appropriate for wet cold weather. If your student has misplaced their jacket, please have them check the lost and found carts in the lunch room. These carts are very full and all items not claimed will be donated over the Winter break.



Reminder for Middle School Students:

Food and drink items are NOT permitted out on the playground areas during recess. Except on the days the 8th grade parents are selling snacks. All eating and drinking will need to be completed in the cafeteria. If students bring food and drinks outside, the Recess Monitors may confiscate these items and throw them in the garbage.

Calling All 8th Grade Parents!

We are looking for some parents who would like to help in the fundraising and planning of our 8th grade celebration. If you would be interested in helping out, please call Dianne Cromwell at the school office at 885-6250



December 9th: Deadline for 'Aspire' Referrals

The "Aspire" program for highly capable students is targeted at academically advanced students whose needs are not always adequately met in the traditional classroom.

The identification process for entry into the district's Aspire program for highly capable students has begun. Qualifying students will enter program beginning next school year, 2012 - 2013. Parents of children in grades 2 through 7 who wish to have their youngsters tested may pick up a nomination packet in their school's office or download it from the district website.

Aspire is designed for students in grades 3 through 8 who have superior intellectual ability, as demonstrated by one or more of the multiple criteria specified by the state (WAC 392-170-040). Highly capable students have unique needs generally possessing these learning characteristics:

- Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations
- Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers
- Ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts
- Ability to learn very quickly in their area(s) of strength, able to retain information after 1 or 2 repetitions without further review
- Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus

Testing for admission to the Aspire program for 2012-2013 will be in January and February. Parents who submit the referral forms by December 9, 2011, will be notified by mail of the time and dates testing will occur at the student's home school.

Referral forms are available at the school office or on the school district's web site under the Teaching & Learning section. For more information about Aspire can be found on the district website or check with the Aspire office at 360-885-5429.



Health and Fitness

Winter is coming and the cold weather forces indoor activities for the health and fitness classes. The students had a very active November with soccer, team handball, and even a turkey trot run right before



Thanksgiving break. The focus will now shift to volleyball with emphasis on skills and rules of the game. We are hoping to have a 7 day tournament before winter break. Several fitness tests such as pushups and sit ups may also be administered before the break.

Cold and flu seasons are approaching so remember to stay active and stay healthy.

Fall Intramurals Ending, Winter Intramurals Beginning

120 students have participated in fall intramurals this year. Class offerings included: cooking club, homework club, Science Olympiad, outdoor soccer, advanced volleyball, and basketball. Intramural classes will continue through the week of December 12th. Winter intramural forms will be coming home with students on Friday January 13th and need to be returned by Friday January 20th. Intramural classes for winter will start the week of January 23rd. If you have any questions about the intramural program please contact Ryan Cowl @ 885-6250.



Mark Your Calendar!

December

- 9 Term 2 Ends
- 9 Hearing Screening Test 5 & 7 Grades
- 13 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert, 7:00 PM
- 15 Holiday Sing-A-Long,
- 19 - January 2 Winter Break

January

- 16 Martin Luther King Day, NO SCHOOL
- 19 Choir Concert, 2:15 PM
- 25 State Cut Furlough, Early Release, 11:40 AM

February

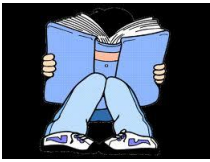
- 2-3 Semester Break, Early Release, 11:40 AM
- 3 1st Semester Ends
- 8 State Cut Furlough, Early Release, 11:40 AM
- 20 President Day, Early Release, 11:40 AM
- 29 State Cut Furlough, Early Release, 11:40 AM



5th Grade News

The year is whizzing past! Fifth graders are currently working on Explorer Reports. They have been studying the development of the New World by Europeans and analyzing the impacts of exploration on native cultures. In science, geology is coming to a close. Students will soon be taking the end of unit test on weathering, erosion, the water cycle, fossils, and soil formation. In writing fifth graders have been working hard on their narrative stories about how a fifth grader becomes famous. They will soon start working on expository writing.

During Academy, fifth graders have been learning how to set goals, be prepared for class, follow instructions, stay on task, and contribute to or join a conversation. In addition, they have been learning the value of these skills and have been role playing them in the classroom. Students have many opportunities each day to practice at home and at school. You can encourage your child to practice these social skills by asking them what they are doing to achieve their goals, helping your child to follow through with instructions at home and helping him/her to stay on task with homework.



Enjoy winter break and remember to cozy up with some good books!



You're Invited



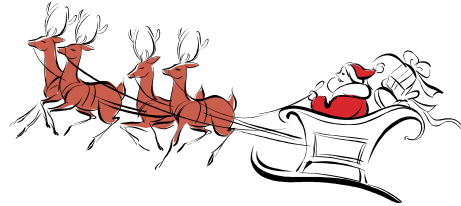
To the
3rd Annual Tukes Valley

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Thursday, December 15th, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Tukes Valley Cafeteria and Small Gym



FREE admission

Optional Donations of

Non-perishable food for the food bank appreciated



**A NOTE
TO
SCHOOL**



Student: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Will be picked up at: _____

By: _____

Will be going to: _____

Bus # _____

Was absent on: _____

Due to: _____



Have A Great Winter Break!

From the Nurse

WHOLE GRAINS: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Low-carb and no-carb diets are a thing of the past! In January 2005, the U.S. Government published new dietary guidelines and they recommend eating more "whole-grains" instead of "refined-grains."

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "WHOLE" GRAIN & "REFINED" GRAIN?

Grains are made up of 3 parts - the *bran*, the *germ*, and the *endosperm*. Whole grains have all 3 parts, whereas refined grains (found in many pastas, breads, and sugar) are made up of mostly just the endosperm.

Whole grains take longer to breakdown; therefore, the carbohydrates in them are released slowly and your body can easily regulate them. Whole grains are also higher in fiber - this makes them more filling and a great source of vitamins and minerals. Whole grains can even help prevent against constipation, certain cancers, and heart disease.

(Adapted from: www.kidshealth.org)

QUIZ

1. The average American consumes 48 gallons of soft drinks a year. True or False.
2. Guess how many teaspoons of sugar are in a 12-oz can of regular soda?



Quiz Answers

1. True - Americans consume 44 % of the total world sales of soft drinks!
2. 10 teaspoons! That's equal to 48 grams of refined sugar - the government recommends a **MAXIMUM** of 40 grams per day.

SOME WAYS TO SNEAK IN WHOLEGRAINS AND STILL HAVE TASTY MEALS:

Breakfast Ideas:

- Serve whole grain oatmeal
- Opt for cereals that list whole grain or oats as one of the first few ingredients
- Make whole grain pancakes or waffles
- Offer whole wheat English muffins or bagels instead of white toast

Lunch & Dinner Ideas:

- Switch to whole grain bread or dinner rolls
- Use whole grain corn tortillas to make tacos or fajitas
- Switch to whole grain pasta rather than traditional white pastas
- Use wild rice or brown rice instead of white rice

Snack Ideas:

- Use whole grain crackers and top with low-fat cheese
- Top low-fat yogurt with whole grain cereal
- Use whole wheat flour instead of white flour when baking cookies or muffins
- Serve popcorn rather than chips - for kids over age 4



(Adapted from: www.kidshealth.org)

OTHER NAMES FOR WHOLE GRAINS

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Brown Rice | • Quinoa | • Whole Grain Corn |
| • Buckwheat | • Sorghum | • Whole Oat or Oatmeal |
| • Cracked Wheat | • Triticale | • Whole Rye |
| • Bulgar | • Whole Barley | • Whole Wheat |
| • Graham Flour | • Whole Grain Barley | • Wild Rice |
| • Millet | • Whole Cornmeal | • Popcorn |

IMPORTANT TIP: Don't be fooled by foods that sound like they're whole grain, but are not - such as "multi-grain", "wheat flour", "enriched flour", and "degerminated cornmeal."

FROM WWW.SCHOOL-NURSING.ORG

Battle Ground School District
PO Box 200
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 13
Battle Ground, WA 98604

TUKES VALLEY MIDDLE SNOW ROUTE 2011-2012

- RT 70 Bus will travel regular route.
- RT 71 Will not travel Finn Hill. Meet bus at 222nd Ave on 189th St at 7:10 AM or 199th St on 237th Ave at 7:20 AM.
Will not travel turnaround on Erion Rd, meet bus at 199th St & 237th Ave at 7:30 AM.
Will not travel turnaround on 242nd Ave to Olson Rd, meet bus at Venersborg Church at 7:40 AM.
- RT 72 Will not travel 192nd Ave, meet bus at 219th St & 192nd Ave at 7:15 AM.
Will not travel 202nd Ave south of 219th St, meet bus at 219th St & 202nd Ave at 7:20 AM.
Will not travel SE 20th Ave, meet bus at SE 20th Ave & 219th St at 7:35 AM.
- RT 73 Will not travel 249th St to 253rd Cir, meet bus at 182nd Ave & 249th St at 7:20 AM.
Will not travel 234th St, meet bus at 182nd Ave & 234th St at 7:28 AM.
Will not travel 230th St, meet bus at 182nd Ave & 230th St at 7:30 AM.
Will not travel 167th Ave to turnaround, meet bus at 167th Ave on 219th St at 7:35 AM.
- RT 74 Will not travel Basket Flat Rd. Upper Basket Flat meet bus at 197th Ave on 279th St at 7:15 AM.
Will not travel Lucia Falls Rd, Lower Basket Flats, will ride **bus 4** at 7:20 AM. (See RT 4)
Will not travel 299th St to turnaround, meet bus at 299th St & Kelly Rd at 7:30 AM.
- RT 75 Will not travel 212th Ave, meet bus at 259th St & 212th Ave at 7:30 AM.
- RT 76 Will not travel Berry Rd, meet bus at Berry Rd on 240th Ave at 7:25 AM.
Will not travel Canyon Rd, meet bus at Canyon Rd on 232nd Ave at 7:20 AM or Osman Rd on 227th Ave at 7:38 AM.
- RT 77 Will not travel turnaround on Berlin Rd, meet bus at 244th Ave & Berlin Rd at 7:30 AM.
Will not travel 219th St to turnaround or 249th Ave, meet bus at 219th St & 242nd Ave at 7:35 AM or Venersborg Church at 7:40 AM.
Will not travel turnaround on 209th St to 262nd Ave, meet bus at Venersborg Church at 7:40 AM.