



CHEETAH NEWSLETTER

Chain Lake Elementary School

360-804-3100 ~ FAX 804-3199 ~ Attendance Line 360-804-3101 ~ www.monroe.wednet.edu

Linda Martin, Principal ~ Jeanette Sobon, Guidance Specialist ~ Lisa Johnson, Secretary ~ Sherry Carswell, Ass't. Secretary

September 13, 2007

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support and positive comments as we have launched into a new school year. Teachers are focusing on helping students to learn various procedures, and we are also spending time assessing students to find their instructional levels in each subject.

We are looking forward to meeting with you to talk about the skills and subjects that your child will learn about this year. Please see the schedule below for the **Curriculum Night** that applies to your child. We hope that by staggering the evenings you will be able to attend this adults- only event, and learn about each of your children's classes.

Curriculum Nights

Grades 1, 3 and 5
Wednesday, September 19
6:30 – 7:30 pm

Grades 2, 4, and Excel
Thursday, September 20
6:30 – 7:30 pm



24- Hour Attendance Hotline
360 804 3101



Calling All Docents

“Docent” means to teach! Would you be willing to teach children about different cultures, Art, Science or Technology? To learn how you can become a docent for any of these fields, please attend one of the following informational meetings listed below. No previous experience necessary. (Docent positions available for all grade levels & schools.)

Culture Docent.....	9/18	10-11am
Art Docent.....	9/19	10-11am
Science Docent.....	9/26	10-11am
Technology Docent.....	9/28	10-11am

Docent Coordinators are needed for each school, in all 4 areas. There will be a Docent Coordinator meeting will meet at the District Office on November 6th from 10:00 - 11:30 am.

If you are unable to attend the informational meeting, contact Tess Thompson @ 360-804-2575 or thompson@monroe.wednet.edu.

Emergency Closure Forms

Attached to this newsletter is the District-wide Emergency School Closure Form. The information you provide will assist both the District and you in ensuring the safest possible situation for your child. Because communications are usually affected during an emergency or disaster, it is important that this information be on file. Please return the form within the next couple of days.

School Funding Forum Meeting

The results are in from the work done by almost 100 community members and staff who worked together to trim more than \$1 million from Monroe Public Schools' budget. The community is invited to hear the results of their work and the challenges ahead on Monday, September 17 at 7 p.m. in the Monroe Middle School Library.

School Board members and staff will be on hand to share the good news of the 2007-08 final budget as well as upcoming challenges. As is the case in just about every school district in the state, Monroe schools are faced with increasing expectations but declining resources. Growth and increasing costs of supplies and labor have caused the schools' reserves to dip dramatically. Through good stewardship, school leaders and staff lowered expenditures last year and increased revenue providing a better starting point than anticipated for this year's spending plan.

In addition, Monroe's local "learning" levy funding expires in 2008. Levy dollars primarily pay for learning (Levy = Learning) such as purchasing textbooks, supporting library collections, student activities, and salary enhancements for staff. Local taxpayers fund about 20% of the public education children receive each year in Monroe. Levies must be renewed by voters to continue, much like a magazine subscription. The last time voters were asked for this funding was in 2004.

Also on the agenda is the progress of a multi-month review of school facilities that may result in a request to voters for funding to improve and repair schools (Bonds = Building). It has been more than 10 years since voters approved funding to improve existing school buildings with new roofs, carpeting, and replacement of aging systems for heat and ventilation. During the process volunteers surveyed every public school in Monroe and prioritized more than \$100 million of suggestions for improvement. A community survey is ongoing and available on the schools' website at www.monroe.wednet.edu.

The evening will include a brief synopsis of the budget process that included a full review of the entire \$52 million general fund by teams of volunteers. The team of volunteers included parents, staff members, local officials, and residents. The 13 groups were assigned a specific section of the operating budget to review for increases in revenue and where costs could be reduced. They worked for several weeks to build a list of suggestions. Then another group of volunteers met to rank those suggestions by priority. The school board ultimately adopted several of the recommendations to balance the 2007-08 operating budget which was approved in August.

School board members will decide in October what funding measures will face voters in the spring. The School Funding Forum is a way for citizens to share their ideas and concerns. The school board also welcomes comments by email at schoolboard@monroe.wednet.edu and at its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 200 E. Fremont, in downtown Monroe.

Mentors Needed

Do you know of an adult who wants to make a difference in a child's life? A small investment of time and friendship can mean so much to a student. Mentors are caring adults who are not related to a child in our school. Willingness to be a friend and a commitment of one hour per week are the main qualifications. To find out more about this vital program, please contact our guidance specialist, Jeanette Sobon at 360 804 3103.

YMCA

The YMCA operates a before and after school child care program at Chain Lake Elementary. Families interested in this program may call the Monroe YMCA office at 360-805-1879.

Picture Envelopes

Attached to this newsletter is the school picture order envelope. If ordering pictures, your child will need this envelope with payment on picture day Friday, September 28th.

Skykomish Valley Education

Skykomish Valley Indian Education is a federally funded program founded in 1980. The focus of the program is academic support and cultural activities for Native American/Alaska Native students, preschool through high school in the Monroe and Sultan public schools. Please call Family Liaison-Coordinator Mars Miller at the Monroe Public School’s Administration Building 360-804-2554 or email millerm@monroe.wednet.edu for more information and to find out about current events. If you are new to the program, be sure to ask for a registration form.

Parents and students in the Skykomish Valley Indian Education Program are invited on Monday, Sept. 17 for a Back-to-School Lasagna Dinner and meeting at Monroe High School, 17001 Tester Road. Our welcome dinner for Monroe and Sultan public schools Native American/Alaska Native students and their families will be served from 6-6:30 PM. A special presentation and meetings will follow dinner. RSVP optional but appreciated. Please contact the Indian Education Office at 360-804-2554 (24 hour message line) or email millerm@monroe.wednet.edu.

Breakfast/Lunch Program

We feature the Kids Way Café, a menu consisting of a minimum of five entrée selections on a daily basis. Sodexo provides the food services for our district. Breakfast is served from 8:40 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Students have 15-20 minutes to eat their lunches before they go outside for a 15-minute recess.

Breakfast	\$1.25
Lunch	\$2.25
Milk	.40¢

An application for free or reduced meal prices was sent out to each family in August. All previous and new families wanting to participate in this program need to submit a completed application even if no change in income has occurred. The grace-period deadline ends Monday, October 1st. Free and Reduced Lunch Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year.

Calendar of Events

September 19

Grades 1, 3 and 5 Curriculum Night
6:30 – 7:30 pm

September 20

Grades 2, 4 and Excel Curriculum Night
6:30 – 7:30 pm

September 24

School Improvement Day
No School for students

September 28

School Pictures

October 1

Grace period for meal program ends

October 22 – 26

Parent/Teacher Conferences
12:55 dismissal
_ day kindergarten schedule
PM attends 22, 24, 26 - 8:55 am – 12:55 pm
AM attends 23 and 25 – 8:55 am – 12:55 pm

November 1

Picture Retakes

September Volunteer Opportunity

We want to give you information about a volunteer opportunity. We plan to start a one-on-one reading tutor program right away for our students who need some extra support. Briefly, it would entail an hour or more of your time a week. Training will be available September 21st at noon with Mrs. Duncan here at Chain Lake Elementary. We look forward to partnering with you.

All volunteers will need to fill out the orange volunteer packet. Please contact the office or your child’s teacher if you did not receive this year’s packet and we will be happy to send one home.

Volunteers

We welcome and encourage your participation in our school. Volunteer packets were sent home with last week's newsletter. The completion of a volunteer packet is required each year from every adult helping at our school or chaperoning a field trip. Please contact the office or your child's teacher if you did not receive a volunteer packet. Fill one out early in the year to avoid delays in the processing.

If you have any questions regarding this volunteer process, please call Mrs. Martin at 360 804 3100.