



The

Cougar Connection

Park Place Middle School

September, 2009

1408 W Main St, Monroe, WA 98272

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On September 9, we welcomed 150 members of the high school graduating class of 2016 to Park Place Middle School. Our sixth grade teachers took advantage of this day to orient our students to the educational expectations that will be in place at the middle school level, as well as tour the campus, meet staff members who will be part of their lives over the next three years and get a jump start on the new school year. Our sixth graders appear to be excited about the new year, meeting new people, the varied curriculum, and, of course, the number and variety of selections in the lunchroom!

I encourage you to attend our Curriculum Night/Open House on Thursday, October 1. The evening will begin with a short meeting in the PPM gym at 6:30 PM. You will then have the opportunity to follow your student's schedule, spend a few minutes in each of your child's classrooms, hear classroom expectations and procedures directly from the teacher, and experience the learning environment first hand. Parents will have the opportunity to meet individually with the classroom teachers during parent conference week, October 22 through 26. A special notice will come home with your student inviting you to participate in this important part of your child's education.

As part of our school's learning improvement plan, we have added a daily advisory period to our schedule. During this 20 minute "home room", your child's third period teacher will focus on activities with the goal of having each student take responsibility for his or her learning. The sixth grade curriculum will focus on organizational skills, managing complex tasks, and use of the school provided agenda/planner. The seventh graders will have similar goals, but will use a program titled "Why Try?" that uses music and metaphors to help focus students. The eighth graders will be using a book titled Success for Teens, as well as district resources to begin planning for high school and beyond. At all levels, advisors will work with students to focus on using the agenda to track completed assignments, and refer to "Family Access" to track progress in all classes. We are establishing a weekly recognition for all students with all assignments completed.

Our learning improvement plan this year includes using the advisory period to work with students on tracking and completing assignments. Not only will one more adult get to know each child, with the goal of having each student have an adult at school who cares about his or her progress, we also hope that this extra attention will help our students focus on learning, and in turn we will see continued improvement in our state test scores.

I look forward to meeting you at our curriculum night on the October 1!

Curriculum Night Oct. 1, 6:30-8:20pm

Principal
JoAnn Carbonetti

Assistant Principal
Joel Garrison

Main Office
360.804.4300

Counseling Office
360.804.4303

Health Room
360.804.4332

24 hour Attendance
Line
360.804.4301

Transportation Delay
Info
360.804.2951

Emergency Closure Info
360.804.2950

Toll Free Line
800.282.7818

Website address
www.monroe.wednet.edu

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones and other telecommunication devices to school. Cell phones are to be turned off during class times and headphones are not allowed. The district will not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of these devices while on school property.
- All students received an agenda planning guide the first day of school to help track homework assignments and other activities. Replacements will cost \$5.
- Park Place Middle School is a closed campus. Students must remain on school grounds once they arrive unless contact is made with the parent or guardian. Supervision is not provided before 7:30am.
- School safety for all students and staff is a prime concern at Park Place Middle School. **All visitors** to our school are **required to sign in at the main office** and receive a visitor sticker. Any person(s) on campus without the required clearance will be asked to return to the main office immediately.
- Students playing school-owned instruments will need to pay a user's fee to help with maintenance and upkeep of these instruments. The fee is \$75 (\$100 for tubas) and must be paid before the instrument is issued.
- A phone is available for student use in the main office.
- For your convenience, you may call ahead to schedule an early dismissal for your student.
- Parents with students absent three or more days may request homework through the counseling office at 360 804-4303.
- When dropping off or picking your child up at school, please do so in the circle drive near the main office to avoid interfering with school buses and other traffic. Please **do not** use the east or west parking lots.
- Breakfast is available in the cafeteria beginning at 7:30am for \$1.50. Snack items are available to purchase during morning break. Energy drinks are not allowed at PPMS. Students on reduced lunch will now receive breakfast free. Lunch accounts may be paid on-line at www.monroe.wednet.edu and clicking on school lunches, regular priced lunch is \$2.75.
- Would you like to be involved in decisions that directly affect your child's education? The first PTSA meeting for all interested parents will be held on **October 20 at 7:00pm** in the library. Please join us!
- Please inform the school office of any **changes in your address, phone numbers, or emergency contacts.**
 - If your student needs to ride a different bus or get off somewhere other than his/her normal stop, please send a note. Students are not allowed to be dropped off or ride another bus without prior office clearance. Bus passes must be done before school, during lunch or at break. Time does not allow us to process passes after school.
 - Athletic information and school directions can be found on the MSD website at www.monroe.wednet.edu. There are no activity buses this year due to budget cuts.

Please be aware that school begins at 7:50am and students are considered tardy if they arrive after 7:50. Late students should check in at the office. If students are not involved in after school activities, they should leave the school grounds after dismissal time.

CALENDAR

Sept. 29 Magazine Drive/cookie dough kickoff
Oct. 1 CURRICULUM NIGHT, 6:30pm
Oct. 5 Bus Ridership Week
Oct. 9 MHS Homecoming
Oct. 12 SID-no school for students
Oct. 12 School Board Mtg, 7:00pm
Oct. 13 Picture Retakes
Oct. 14 Fundraiser turn in day
Oct. 20 PTSA meeting, 7pm
October 26-30 Parent Conferences

COUGAR CONNECTION ON EMAIL

To save time, money and trees the Cougar Connection will only be available on the MSD website at www.monroe.wednet.edu . Paper copies will be available in the office.

The final copy of the 2009-10 school year calendar is now available on the same website.

• SAVE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Park Place Middle School will once again participate in our annual fundraiser magazine, music, book sale. We discourage door-to-door solicitation.
- We will be sending home, for your review, an exciting list of more than 1,000 nationally known magazine, music and book titles, and new this year, cookie dough sale
- Please start thinking about the magazines you will renew. Your satisfaction and delivery are guaranteed by QSP.
- The sale begins Sept 29.
- Volunteers are needed September 30 and October 14.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are welcome at all schools and in all grades. **Volunteers are needed to help with the magazine drive on September 30 and October 14**, please call the main office at 360 804-4300 if you would be able to help. Many thanks to Kim Aikins and Diana Virello for helping on school picture day.

2008-09 FREE/REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS EXPIRING SOON

If your family received free or reduced meals last year you have a grace period to submit a 2009-10 application. A new application must be received by October 21 if you wish to re-apply. This year the reduced priced student's breakfast has changed to free. Applications are available on the Monroe School District website, in the school office or by calling (360) 804-2590.

Yearbooks are on sale now for \$25 through the month of September. Order now before the price increases.

SMILEMOBILE

Does your child need dental care?

The Washington Dental Service Foundation SmileMobile is coming to Monroe November 9-24. The SmileMobile, a fully equipped mobile dental clinic, will be at Valley General Hospital. The SmileMobile provides dental care to children with limited family income and accepts medical coupons and sliding fee scale based on family income. Call Monica at 360 794-1411 to schedule an appointment.

Necesita Su Hijo Cuidado Dental?

El SmileMobile Viene Pronto a Monroe Desde el dia 9 de noviembre hasta el dia 25 de noviembre El SmileMobile, una clinica dental bien equipada y mobil estara en el Valley General Hospital. Ofrece cuidado dental para ninos de familias con ingresos limitados, aceptamos cupones medicos y pagos basados en el ingreso familiar. Para hacer una cita, por favor llame: Monica 360 794-1411.

MINORITY ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

The Minority Achievers Program sponsored by the Monroe Family YMCA is aimed at students of color and immigrant students to motivate and support them to achieve their educational and career goals. MAP will be starting at Monroe Middle School and Park Place Middle School in October and will run afterschool 2 days a week. This program is free for all students and will provide snacks, homework help, career oriented activities and field trips. For more information or to become a tutor or mentor please contact Minta Buse at 425 293-4205 or Emily Coleman at 425 356-7299.



Literacy Opens Doors



Strong Readers & Writers Achieve Bright Futures

In keeping with the School Board's goal to increase academic rigor of educational programs, a district-wide Learning Improvement Plan has been drafted and is ready for your review and comment.

Families may review the plan online at www.monroe.wednet.edu and send comments before October 2nd by email to Opening_Doors@monroe.wednet.edu or by US mail to the Superintendent's Office, 200 East Fremont, Monroe WA 98272.

The plan outlines this year's focus on Literacy as well as improving math skills. As the logo above suggests, literacy sets the stage for all future learning. Whether it is social studies, science or math, all learning is predicated on strong reading and writing skills.

Divided into goals for elementary-age students (grades K-5) and secondary-age students (grades 6-12), the plan describes action steps to improve student success and how that advancement will be measured. This draft has been reviewed by school board members and each school's Building Leadership Team composed of teachers and administrators. After our community has reviewed and commented on the proposal, it will be revised and presented again to the School Board for action.

Our young people are always better served with families and schools working together. To help your family start a Literacy conversation, try using the tips printed each month in the school wall calendar. It is by working together that all of Monroe's youth will be successful learners ready to take on the next step in life after high school whether that is further education or entering the work force.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in helping/volunteering in your child's class/school? If so, there are exciting opportunities to help in the "docent" program. This is a district wide program that allows parents, grandparents, college students, etc. to volunteer in any of the following areas; art, science, technology and culture. You do not need any previous experience, only the willingness to learn and to teach. If you or anyone you know are interested please contact Tess Thompson at 360-804-2575 or thompson@monroe.wednet.edu to find out how you can become a docent. The following dates are provided for learning more about the docent programs. If you're interested in Technology please contact Tess Thompson directly at the number listed above.

Sept: (All Meetings will be held at the District Administration office located at 200 E. Fremont St.)
Tues 29th 10:30 am -12 pm Docent Coordinator Information Meeting (New & Returning Coordinators)

Oct: (All Meetings will be held at the District Administration office located at 200 E. Fremont St.)
Wed. 7th 10:30 am -12 pm & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm Docent Information Meeting for Returning Docents
Wed. 14th 10:30 am -12 pm & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm Docent Training *Art
Wed. 21st 10:30 am -12 pm & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm Docent Training *Science
Thurs. 22nd 10:30 am -12 pm & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm Docent Training *Culture

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES

While we encourage middle level students to attend games with their families, but please do not expect the event staff at the home football games to act in your place in supervising



your child. Many parents are dropping students at the game, however, middle and elementary level students ***must be accompanied by an adult***. Students are asked to sit in the stands, and root for the home team. Playing tag, general horseplay and just hanging out in the entry areas will not be allowed.

Children not following appropriate game night expectations will be asked to leave. We are proud of the Monroe High Team, and want to support them throughout the season. Home football games are great family entertainment for a Friday night in the fall. Go Bearcats!

ESCUELA ABIERTA

La escuela Park Place les invita para que venga a la escuela este jueves el 1 de Octubre de las 6:30 PM hasta las 8:20 PM, para que puedan conocer a los maestros de sus estudiantes y visitar a los salones de clases. Los padres pasaran 10 minutos en cada salón de clase y así tendrán la oportunidad de experimentar el horario de los estudiantes.

Las conferencias individuales se llevaran a cabo del octubre, se les enviara más información en la próxima carta de noticias.

Study Club Schedule

Before School Time: 7:00 – 7:45am

Day	Room	Teacher
Tuesdays & Thursdays	C3/C4	Mrs. Berg

After School Time: 2:30-3:20 pm

<u>Day</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Monday	C-6	Mrs. Taylor
Tuesday	C-3/4	Mrs. Berg
Thursday	C-5	Mr. Winderbaum

- Study Club is intended as a place to get help with homework, make up missing assignments, tests, or get extra help in any of your classes. Everyone is welcome!
- Students can come on any scheduled day and stay all or part of the time.
- On days with no school or an early dismissal, there will be no Study Club.
- **Students must arrange their own transportation, no buses are provided.**

El club de Estudiar

La hora antes de la escuela: 7:00 – 7:45am

Día	Salón	Maestra
Martes y Jueves	C3/C4	Mrs. Berg

La hora después de la escuela: 2:30-3:20 PM

<u>Día</u>	<u>Salón</u>	<u>Maestro</u>
Lunes	C-6	Mrs. Taylor
Martes	C-3/C4	Mrs. Berg
Jueves	C-5	Mr. Winderbaum

- El club de estudiar es un lugar donde puedes obtener ayuda con tu tarea, terminar el trabajo que te falta o tener ayuda adicional en cualquier de tus clases. ¡Bienvenidos a todos!
- Los alumnos pueden asistir en cualquier día programada y quedarse todo o parte del tiempo.
- Días cuando no hay escuela o cuando salimos temprano, no hay el club de estudiar.
- **Los alumnos tienen que arreglar transportación, no hay autobuses escolares disponibles.**

With just a few days into the new school year we are already hearing of influenza-like illness in our community. In order to take the best precautions to keep our community healthy we are asking for your help.

Below you will find tips about how to remain healthy and when it is recommended a child stay home from school. In addition, we are asking for your help if your child does become ill. Many families are familiar with using the Attendance Hotline. In addition to recording your child's name on this 24-hour voicemail system, please offer some of the symptoms he/she may be experiencing.

For example:

Susie Smith is home sick today. She has a fever and a sore throat.

OR

Jimmy Jones is throwing up today but does not have a fever so he won't be at school.

H1N1 is primarily a respiratory illness so symptoms of a fever or chills plus cough or sore throat are important to know as school staff work with county Health District officials. The Health District requires schools to alert them when 10 percent or more of students in a school are ill. It is critical that the type of symptoms be part of that report so Health District officials have accurate information.

Current thinking is that it is unlikely schools will close but it is a possibility if the number of those becoming ill in our community grows too large. It is still too early to determine what the severity of a H1N1 might be this fall. Local health officials report the H1N1 vaccine should be available in late October.

While no one wants school to be closed it is important to have a plan should your child or you become ill.

Consider these potential decisions:

Who can care for my sick child if I must go to work?

This may be a great time to get to know your neighbors who may also be worrying about "what ifs".

Who can care for my child if I become ill?

In our role as caregivers we sometimes forget we too are vulnerable. This influenza seems to impact persons up to age 24 and those who are pregnant or have health issues.

Who will care for my child should schools close?

Remember if schools close it is likely other areas where children gather will also be impacted by that decision, i.e. daycare facilities, clubs.

The most important precautions families can take remain:

Wash your hands – use warm water and soap and continue to scrub through two choruses of the Happy Birthday song

Cover your cough – encourage family members to use the inside of the elbow to help limit the spread of germs when coughing or sneezing

Stay home when sick - Centers for Disease Control (CDC) staff recommend those sick with this illness to stay home for 24 hours after the fever subsides (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).

In deciding when to keep your child at home, answer these two questions:

1. Does your child have fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or chills?
2. Does your child have a sore throat, cough, or other flu-like symptoms?

If you answered "yes" to both questions, keep your child at home as recommended as these are symptoms of influenza. If you answered "yes" to only one of the questions above, or if your child appears ill with other symptoms, keep your child at home at least one day to observe and until fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Please call your child's school nurse if you have more questions.

Sky Valley Community Schools Classes “JUST FOR KIDS”

For information on all classes and on how to register, visit www.monroe.wednet.edu and click on the community schools tab. Or you can call the community schools office at 360 804 2570 or email johnstonk@monroe.wednet.edu.

JUST FOR KIDS & TEENS

Beginning Piano for Children: Young students will learn rhythm, listening skills, and play immediately with both hands. This class is designed for students from 2nd to 6th grade. Student required to purchase *Alfred's Group Piano Course, Level 1* after the 1st class.

9 Mondays
October 5-November 30
4:00-4:45 PM
MHS Music Room
Registration \$60
Geer

Young Ladies and Gentlemen: Children rarely beg for the opportunity to attend a class on manners, and yet it is the key to building positive friendships and strong self-esteem. This fun hands-on workshop teaches boys and girls, ages 6-11, telephone etiquette, basic table manners, introductions, personal care and posture. Each student receives a ‘goodie bag’ to take home. Don’t be surprised when they come out asking for more! *This class is offered during the day on MSD’s School Improvement Day.*

Monday
October 12
9:00-12:00 PM
PPM D4
Registration \$35
Final Touch School

Preteen Style: Girls, ages 9-11, will discover how to develop their own style and not just follow the crowd. True style and confidence shines from the inside out and enables you to be a leader. Learn valuable communication skills, party manners, ways to develop great friendships, maintain a positive attitude, and tips on posture, clothing and nutrition. Experience the steps to great skin as you give yourself a facial! *This class is offered during the day on MSD’s School Improvement Day.*

Monday
October 12
1:00-5:00 PM
PPM D4
Registration \$45
Final Touch School

Babysitting Basics: Learn the how-tos’ of babysitting – everything from the proper way to hold a child to what to do in an emergency. Topics include: infant and toddler care, play ideas, behavior management, age characteristics, emergency procedures, finding sitting jobs and working with parents. *This class is for grades 5, 6, 7, 8.*

4 Tuesdays
October 20-November 10
3:45-5:45
PPM C5
Registration \$35
Campfire USA

Kids are Cooking: Kids will get hands-on cooking experience by preparing a variety of foods.

6 Mondays
October 19-November 23
6:30-8:00 PM
PPM D4
Registration \$35
Weber

Headsprout Online Reading Program #1 & #2: Headsprout is designed especially for K-2 students (some preschoolers could be ready as well). This is a fun, online interactive class with “ready-to-read” printed stories (Each class consist of 40 stories and class #2 is a continuation of the first Headsprout class). To view and sample activities, visit <http://www.headsprout.com/school/samples.cfm>. Registration is \$85/class. *Please include parent name, student name/grade level and E-mail address on registration form.*

The Learning Odyssey: The Odyssey program is an interactive online curriculum for K-8. Subjects for most grade levels include math, language arts, science and social studies and the program can be customized for each content area The activities are interactive, self-paced, challenging and engaging. To view and sample activities, visit <http://www.compasslearning.com/sampleactivities.aspx>. Registration is \$75 for one year. *Please include parent name, student nam grade level and E-mail address on registration form.*

OTHER CLASSES FOR TEENS... SEE ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, COOKING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER HOBBIES SECTION OF THE FLYER.