



The

Cougar Connection

Park Place Middle School
1408 W Main St, Monroe, WA 98272

October, 2009

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Assistant Principal
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Health Room
360.804.4332

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Line**
360.804.4301

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was a pleasant surprise to greet so many parents at our curriculum night last week, despite the rainy evening. Based on input from last year's curriculum night, we shortened passing time and added a little extra time in each classroom. I visited several classrooms during the evening, and enjoyed the interactions between parents and teachers. The next opportunity to meet teachers to individually discuss your child's progress will be during conference week. Park Place staff has decided to schedule our conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 27 and 28, from 12:30-3:30 and again from 4:30-7:30 on each of these days. These will be "drop in" meetings in our commons. Each teacher will be seated at a table, parents can come in and look around to see which of your child's teachers are available, meet for 5-10 minutes, then move on to a different teacher. The evening sessions get pretty busy, there is much less waiting in the afternoons, an advantage for the folks who can get here in the afternoon.

I am again looking for "a few good people" to help us out at Park Place by participating on our Learning Improvement Team. The time commitment includes two to three meetings with the building leadership team to monitor our progress on our Learning Improvement Plan. If this is an area of interest, please call Barb Armstrong, our school secretary, leave a message, and I will get back to you with specific meeting dates. Last year we met late in the afternoon, around 5 PM. We are open to meeting earlier or later, depending on team membership. The teaching staff will continue to work on the plan during our October 12 School Improvement Day. The emphasis on this SID will be on improving our skills in using technology to improve communication between home and school.

Please note the calendar within this issue for upcoming activities, including next week's PTSA meeting and the PTSA sponsored all school social coming up after school on October 23rd.

Parent Conferences October 26-30
Dismissal at 11:50 each day

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones and other telecommunication devices to school. The district will not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of these devices while on school property. These are not to be used during class time.
- 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.
- For your convenience, you may call ahead to schedule an early dismissal for your student.
- Parents with a student absent three days or more may request homework through the counseling office at 360 804-4303.
- Please inform the school office of any **changes in your address, phone numbers, or emergency contacts.**
- Athletic information and school directions can be found on the MSD website at www.monroe.wednet.edu.
- 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.

Keeping Students Healthy

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. 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. 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.

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?

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the PPMS Commons during conference week. Students may go to the Book Fair with their block class during the morning and parents can shop for books on Tuesday, Oct. 27th and Wednesday, Oct. 28th, from 12:30 to 3:30 and 4:30 to 7:30. All profits go to our school library.



BEFORE SCHOOL CHOIR BEGINS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

Any 6th, 7th, 8th boy or girl interested in joining the before school choir may sign up in the office. Choir will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-7:45 am in the drama room. Students will participate in the high school choir concerts and other fun activities.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences will be held **October 26 through October 30**. School will be dismissed all week **at 11:50am**. Actual parent conferences will be held October 27 and 28 from 12:30-3:30pm and again at 4:30-7:30pm. No appointment is necessary. Sack lunches will be available for students to buy in the cafeteria. More information will be coming home soon.

Conferencias entre padres y maestros

La escuela ofrecerá conferencias entre padres y maestros el 27 y 28 de octubre desde las 12:30 a las 3:30 y de las 4:30 a las 7:30. Tendremos intérpretes disponibles. La escuela terminará temprano a las 11.50 AM, del 26 al 30 de octubre. Los estudiantes pueden comprar bolsas de almuerzo. Le enviaremos más información a la casa pronto.

The next edition of the Cougar Connection will be sent to your email Oct. 21.

PICTURE RE-TAKES WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 13. Students must return previously purchased picture packets.

BOEING AFTER-SCHOOL SCIENCE ENRICHMENT

Boeing employees are available to conduct six lessons after school each week Nov. 3 through Dec. 8 from 2:30-3:30pm. Students will work with Boeing engineers to find out how to solve PBS Design Squad “On the Moon” challenges. The Boeing Math and Science in Action Program was designed by local teachers to help promote science and math “hands-on” learning experiences. The classes provide fun and engaging activities that can help struggling students and reinforce math and science concepts. Registration forms are available in the main office.

CALENDAR

Oct. 5 Bus Ridership Week

Oct. 9 MHS Homecoming

Oct. 12 School Improvement Day-no school for students

Oct. 13 Picture Retakes

Oct. 14 Fundraiser turn in day-volunteers needed

Oct. 16 Progress reports send home with students

Oct. 20 PTSA meeting, 7pm

Oct. 23 PTSA all school social, 2:30-4:30

October 26-30 Parent Conferences



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to Dixie Bender, Bret Cooley, Mary Craig, Michele Nagy, Lissa Nelson, Jon Nofziger, Terri Oliva, Tina Paul, Connie Sue Soules and Diana Virello for volunteering their time to our students and school. **Volunteers are also needed to help with the Magazine Drive Fundraiser turn in day on October 14.** Please call the main office at 360 804-4300 if you would be able to help.

GREENTHUMBS CLUB

Students are you interested in growing flowers and vegetables? Do you enjoy crafting fun projects for the holidays? PPMS is lucky enough to have a greenhouse so students can work on holiday greenery, Valentine bouquets and a spring plant sale in May. The object of the club is to create an interest in all aspects of horticulture, and we hope to include flower arranging and preparing projects to enter in the Evergreen State Fair.

The Club will meet twice a month throughout the fall and winter. Meetings will be held every other Wednesday beginning October 7 in E1. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Strom at 360 804-4388.

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. All students who have not turned in a new application for the 2009-10 school year will be changed to PAID status effective October 22, 2009. This year the reduced priced student's breakfast has changed to free. Applications are available in the school office, online, or by calling (360) 804-2590.

NEW SPORTS SEASON BEGINS SOON

Girls volleyball and boys basketball practices begin November 4. Students must be cleared to participate prior to this date. Information is available in the main office.



Please Ride the Bus!

Monroe Public Schools' bus drivers are counting noses next week. This process determines state funding for the entire school year and lasts all week (Monday, October 5 - Friday, October 9). The state does contribute about half of our annual \$2.9 million budget. The remaining dollars are paid through your tax dollars as part of the local school levy. We appreciate your support of our schools and hope your child will be able to ride the bus this week to help keep local taxpayer costs low.

¡Por Favor Tome Autobus!

Los chóferes de los autobuses de las Escuelas Públicas de Monroe van a contar a los pasajeros esta semana. Este proceso determina los fondos económicos del estado por el resto del año escolar y estará en vigor la semana del lunes 5 de octubre al viernes 9 de octubre.

Mientras que el estado no pague el 100% del costo total de la transportación, si contribuye con la mitad del presupuesto de \$2.9 millones anuales. El resto del dinero se es pagado por medio de los impuestos como parte de la recaudación para las escuelas. Apreciamos el apoyo que les brinda a las escuelas y esperamos que su hijo(a) pueda tomar el autobús escolar esta semana para así ayudar a mantener bajos los impuestos de los contribuyentes locales.

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 día 9 de noviembre hasta el día 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.

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. **HOMEcomings IS OCTOBER 9.** Go Bearcats!

Sky Valley Community Schools Classes “JUST FOR KIDS”

For information 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.

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 PPM D4
October 12 Registration \$35
9:00-12:00 PM 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 PPM D4
October 12 Registration \$45
1:00-5:00 PM 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 PPM C5
October 20-November 10 Registration \$35
3:45-5:45 Campfire USA