



The

Cougar Connection

Park Place Middle School

October, 2009

1408 W Main St, Monroe, WA 98272

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope you will be able to attend parent conferences next week. We will have “drop in” conferences scheduled on two of the days of conference week, Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28th. Teachers will be at individual tables in our cafeteria from 12:30 until 3:30 PM, then again in the evening from 4:30 until 7:30 PM. Plan to get here at least 30 minutes before the scheduled end of the session to give you time to meet with all of your child’s teachers before 4:30 or 7:30, so teachers will get a dinner break, or, for the evening session, get home at a reasonable hour to be ready to teach the next day. Your student should have come home with a form on which you indicated which session you might be attending. We are asking the first half of the alphabet to come on Tuesday, and the second half to come on Wednesday. If your family schedule limits you to the opposite day, you may come on the date and time that best fits your schedule. This will be the only scheduled opportunity to meet individually with your child’s teachers this school year. The early afternoon session is much less busy, with little waiting.

If students want extra help before and/or after school, or just need a quiet place to study, study club is available, with teachers who can give assistance. Study club is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays before school (7:00-7:45 AM) with Mrs. Berg in room C-4. Help is available after school (2:30-3:20) on Mondays in Room C-6, Mrs. Taylor’s room, on Tuesdays in C-4, Mrs. Berg’s room, and on Thursdays in Room C-5, Mr. Winderbaum’s room. Students must provide their own transportation. The schedule is posted in all classrooms and in the main office window.

Another resource available to our students and families is the computer lab we share with Everett Community College. Room A-4 is open Monday through Thursdays from 3 until 5:30 PM for our students and community members to use and is supervised by EVCC staff members. Students and community members can access this resource to work on school assignments or internet research.

Parents please ask to see your child’s agenda/planner. Assignments should be written in the calendar portion of the agenda book. When arranged with teachers, it can also be used as a communication tool between parent and school. Encourage your child to use this tool to plan ahead, and keep track of short and long range assignments. This resource is provided by the school as part of our effort to assist students in learning this valuable skill. If the agenda is lost, the student may purchase a replacement for \$5 in the main office. Beginning this week, we will randomly call two students to the office after announcements for “agenda checks”. Those who have been using their agenda daily will receive a small prize.

Principal
JoAnn Carbonetti
Principal

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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Parent Conferences Oct. 27 & 28

Dismissal all week at 11:50am

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences will be held **October 27 and October 28**. School will be dismissed the **week of October 26-30 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. 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.

PARENT CONFERENCES October 27 & 28

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 PM y de las 4:30 a las 7:30 PM. Tendremos intérpretes disponibles. No es necesario hacer una cita. Los reuniones será de tipo “ir a ver” en la cafetería. Cada maestro estará sentado en una mesa, los padres pueden venir y buscar a quien de los maestros de su niño esta disponible, juntarse 5-10 minutos y después cambiarse de otro maestro. Hay mucha gente en las juntas tardes, las conferencias mas tempranas ofrezcan mas tranquilidad y menos fila de espera.

La escuela terminará temprano a las 11.50 AM, la semana del 26 al 30 de octubre. Los estudiantes pueden comprar bolsas de almuerzo.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the PPMS Commons during conference week, Oct. 26th to Oct. 30th. Students may go to the Book Fair with their block class during the morning and parents can shop for books on Tuesday, Oct. 27 and Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 12:30 to 3:30 and 4:30 to 7:30. All profits go to our school library.



NEW SPORTS SEASON BEGINNING SOON

Turnouts for boys basketball and girls volleyball will start Wednesday, November 4. If you are interested in turning out and have not participated in Park Place fall sports, please make sure to pick up an athletic packet in the main office, A sports physical, ASB card and a \$40 “pay to play” fee are also required.

CHOIR BEGINS OCTOBER 20

Any student interested in joining the “*In Harmony*” before school choir is welcome! Students will meet with Mrs. Johnson every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-7:45 am in the drama room. There will be three major performances this year, December 9, February 25 and one in the spring with the date to be announced. Enrollment is limited to sign up now!



PTSA SPONSORED SOCIAL

PTSA will be sponsoring an all school social for our students on October 23 from 2:30-4:00pm. The cost is \$3 per student and the theme is orange and black.



Return your ballot by Nov. 3rd

Children often learn more by what adults do rather than by what adults say. Taking time to make your voice heard by voting in national, state and local elections is critical to setting a strong example for our younger generation. Voting is one way United States citizens make a difference in their lives and the lives of others

Hearing and joining conversations about the effects a ballot issue may have on your family is a way for young people to know actions do make a difference in our community and the nation. It is also a great way to build vocabulary and practice strategic listening skills that will help your child in school and as a voter later in life.

Remember voting in Snohomish County has changed. Now all voters receive ballots in the U.S. Mail 20 days prior to the election date. Voters mark these ballots with regular ink pens, enclose the ballot in a special envelope and sign the envelope before mailing the ballot back to the Snohomish County Auditor's Office. Voters must supply their own postage. To save the cost of a stamp, ballots may be dropped off at collection sites. The nearest site to Monroe is the Snohomish Public Library, 311 Maple Avenue.

CALENDAR

- October 20 Before school choir begins
- Oct. 23 All school social, 2:30-4:00
- Oct. 26-30 11:50 dismissal for students
- Oct. 26 Food Drive Begins
- Nov. 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 2 School Board Meeting, 7pm at MMS
- Nov. 24 Food Drive Ends

The next edition of the Cougar Connection will be sent to your email and posted on our website on November 4.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers bring time and labor to our school to ensure students have a fantastic place to learn, grow, and have fun. We appreciate every thing they do, volunteers are always welcome! On any given day you will find them in classrooms working with students, making copies, organizing and running school events, serving on PTSA, assisting with pictures, health room screenings, and much more! This month we extend thanks to Dixie Bender, Lissa Nelson, Mary Craig and Diana Virello for helping with vision and hearing screening.

Spending many, many hours helping with our fundraiser were Jolynn Garrison, Holly Nottingham and Diana Virello. Thank you so much for donating your time in to our students and staff.

HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY IN MONROE!

October brings our annual food drive to help the local food bank and struggling families. The food drive runs October 26 through November 24. Donations of food and money are needed as the food bank shelves are nearly empty. Students are asked to bring non-perishable food to **first** period classes. Holiday foods will be appreciated.



A list of recommended food is included. You can also send in checks written to the **Sky Valley Food Bank**. The food bank is able to purchase food in bulk and **cash donations** allow the food bank to purchase food at approximately **three times the amount over retail**.

Recommended Foods

Canned vegetables and fruits
Peanut butter and jelly
Canned meats and tuna
Boxed or canned potatoes
Pasta and rice
Stew, soups and chili
Canned tomatoes
Pork and beans/ baked beans
Diapers and baby wipes
Cranberries, oranges
Canned yams
Stuffing mixes
Olives, pickles
Pancake mix

Oatmeal and Cereals
Packaged dinners
Sugar and flour
Soups and Top Ramen
Tomato paste/sauce
Baking and pancake mix
Paper products
Baby food and formula
Pasta and rice
Marshmallows
Corn/flour tortillas
Canned pumpkin/pie filling
Turkey and hams
Any other holiday foods

BABYSITTING CLASS OFFERED

It's not too late to sign up for the BABYSITTING BASICS class through Sky Valley Community Schools.

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

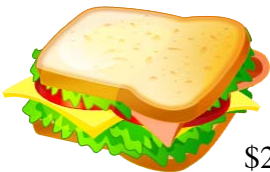
October 20-November 10

Registration \$35

3:45-5:45

Campfire USA

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.



Free and Reduced Lunch Deadline Approaches

If you were receiving Free or Reduced lunch benefits last year, you must reapply each fall. The deadline for turning in a 2009~2010 Free and Reduced Lunch Application is **October 21, 2009**. If a new application has not been received by the deadline, your student will be charged \$2.50 for his or her lunch.

COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Got a question or a comment you would like to discuss with the principal? Come sit back, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee with the principal on November 18 at 9:15am in the Park Place Middle drama room. The goal of this meeting is to give folks a chance to ask questions, learn about our school activities, progress toward our goals and offer suggestions to improve both communication and participation for the parents of our students. Hope to see you then!

FEVER FREE FOR A DAY

Remember that anyone sick with a temperature of 100 degrees or more must be fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) before returning to normal routines, like attending school or after school activities. We understand that additional time at home may be a hardship for families, but it is necessary to help keep our school healthy. Please call the Health Room at 360-804-4332 if you have any questions.



SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTING YOUR INPUT

Community members are encouraged to join the Monroe School Board on Monday, November 2, to offer advice on the next steps for improvements to Monroe Public Schools' facilities. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the library at Monroe Middle School, 351 Short Columbia Street, in downtown Monroe.

The evening will begin with an overview of the suggestions made in June by the Capital Facility Plan Committee. The committee's report is online at www.monroe.wednet.edu. The committee was tasked with charting a long range plan for facilities needs with its primary focus on middle schools where two out of the three campuses are more than 30 years old and in need of modernization. "These were buildings built in different time for a different purpose," said John Mannix, Monroe schools' assistant superintendent for operations. "With the current breathing room in enrollment, this is a perfect time to review the needs of our older schools."

The committee's plan calls for utilizing two of the three middle level locations, Park Place and Hidden River middle schools, for the current enrollment and determining a new purpose for the oldest campus, Monroe Middle School. Modernization of Park Place and expansion of Hidden River are recommended to accomplish that plan. Committee volunteers also suggested other projects including improvements to elementary schools and completing the last three athletic fields on the Monroe High School campus.

After the overview, attendees will be asked to share their priorities and concerns through small group activities with the cumulative results shared at the end of the evening. School Board members will use this input as they grapple with decisions about next steps. Board members could choose to proceed on some or all of the committee's recommendations. Timing of the projects is also a consideration. Even if voters approved funding in 2010 and an aggressive project timeline, no changes to current schools or school attendance assignments could be in place before the fall of 2013.

Of course, the important work is not only the learning that takes place inside public school walls but how well students learn is also influenced by the environment. Monroe Public Schools staff members provide regular ongoing maintenance of school buildings but more substantial work is primarily funded through voter-approved measures such as the \$4.7 million Capital Projects Levy in 2008. These funds are targeted for urgent needs in roofing and systems for heating and ventilation. Heating projects were completed this summer and plans are underway for roofing work in the summer of 2010. The levy also included funds to restore the track surface at Bearcat Stadium that was nearing the end of its useful life. The track work is also complete.