ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

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Leslie Lederman, Principal

Sunny Hills Site Council

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Administration

SIP--Our SIP has been finalized and we continue to work on monitoring the progress of our students. Students will be formally assessed during 2nd trimester during a window of March-April. After the assessment, teachers will analyze their data and we will assess student growth.

Sunny Hills Rebuild--Our timeline has officially been move up a year. That means that our current 3rd graders will be the first 5th grade class in our new building. We are scheduled to move in the Fall of 2016. Signs of construction may be seen as early as May as the team prepares the property for this huge undertaking. The Rebuild committee will now add more meeting dates to its timeline in order to have students and staff ready for a year of construction during the 2015-16 school year. All ideas for managing this phase are welcome.

Run, Hide, Fight--Officer Hall presented to our PTA at the January General Membership Meeting. There were several parents in attendance. If any family has a question or concern they would like to express, please contact Leslie Lederman.

PBSES--The District has launched a new commitment to supporting all of our students but especially those at risk for social emotional reasons. Beginning next year, all elementary schools will have a .5 Behavior Specialist on staff. These support personnel will be overseen by a Behavior Specialist Administrator. As a district, we will implement strategies from Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) coupled with work around Social Emotional needs under a program we call Positive Behavior and Social Emotional Support (PBSES).

Bullying Prevention—In January, we held an assembly to reinforce our Culture of Kindness. The Taproot Theatre presented a play to share with students the Three R's related to bullying and explained to students the need to be an ally. This powerful message was reinforced through our morning announcements, through Student Council messages and the lessons taught in the classroom by our counselor about making responsible choices when faced with conflict with their peers.

PTA

- December & January Programs:
  - Dine with Sunny Hills at the Ram - guessing we made around $600
  - Great turn out for Family Bingo Night
  - Elected our Nominating Committee - Shelby Morton, Cami Blumenthal, Mary-Kate Anderson - they are looking for the Executives for next year's PTA

    - Had Run, Hide or Fight Training at January General Membership Meeting (thanks Leslie and Officer Hall!)
- Programs happening now/soon
    - buying Scholastic books for newer/newer to SH/newer to a grade teachers
    - Eager Reader - 01/09-2/26
    - Golden Acorn, Outstanding Advocate and Outstanding Educator awards "season" - nomination forms are available by the visitor sign in sheet
    - After School Movie on 2/11
    - Science Fair on 3/5
    - Barnes and Noble Book Fair on 3/7
    - General Membership Meeting on 3/19 - elect new Executives for next year's PTA
    - Gearing up for Walk-a-Thon

Kindergarten

In kindergarten, we are really taking off in our reading and are very thankful to the PTA for sponsoring RAZ.Kids for all of our students. We introduced this site to parents over conferences and now the children have access hundreds of "Just Right" books from home specifically to meet their early developmental reading needs.

We are beginning our Unit 3: How To Books

In math we are continuing to work on a variety of concepts such as measurement, using shape templates, attribute blocks, and addition and subtraction number sentences with the introduction of using tally marks. We also are doing our Mid-Year Assessments

In Reading comprehension, are learning all about using wondering and visualization to better understand a text. They are learning to use schema and inference as they visualize and wonder what is happening in the story. Students continue to work with their "Turn and Talk" partners to discuss the stories that they listen to and are now learning to give their partners think time, we call this "Think, pair, share."

We had a great Winter Concert, Nancy Stewart that was sponsored by the Pta. We will also have a glass artist come this month to make family giftsJ--again thanks to the PTA!

1st

First grade is working hard on their non-fiction books!! Students are applying various text features to their writing and using mentor texts to gather more information about their topic. Our next unit will be on opinion writing.

Students just started a new reading strategy called wondering. **Wondering** is a strategy that good readers use to construct understanding. In this unit, the students build this understanding through teacher modeling, wondering on their own during a read aloud, and independent reading. Students will continue to use sequence of events to recall a story, along with visualization and wondering to help them understand and enjoy a story.

Students will also begin Magnets and Motion. Students will enjoy exploring with different materials and observing how they move in a workshop next week! Students will learn about gravity, push and pull, along with attract and repel. This will be a great introduction to our unit. Students also have the opportunity to build their own toys in the Toymaker Workshop also next week.

2nd

2nd grade survived the Stanford and is looking forward to having two "normal" weeks with our kiddos. We have begun studying geometry in math; describing both 2D and 3D shapes by their attributes. We are focusing on non-fiction concepts in reading, writing, and science. Students are learning how to use text features to assist their comprehension when reading informational texts. We are currently discussing using our "schemas" in preparation for determining the main idea and supporting details. We have combined our learning in writing and science by conducting force and motion experiments then writing lab reports about them.

3rd Grade

Third graders have become geologist this past month. They have been exploring rocks and minerals and have been digging for fossils during a Science to Go lab. Students have been performing mineral tests just like real geologists!

Third graders are also working on writing persuasive speeches. They have found issues at school, home and in the world that they feel passionate about and are working on writing lots of reasons and examples of why we should listen to them!

4th Grade

This month 4th grade students are busy! In social studies, they are finishing up the Regions of Washington State, and in the next week 4th graders will be studying states of matter. In math, we will finish Unit 6 work on Division strategies and Measures of Angles. We will be moving on to learning about place value and adding and subtracting of decimals. In Reading Literacy, we are continuing to analyze text structures and make inferences in fiction and narrative nonfiction. Two 4th grade teachers (Ulrich & Przybylski) are hosting their WA Festival at the end of Feb and Burkholder & Foryan will host WA Festival at the end of March. All grades are finishing Unit 2, personal essays, and move into informational writing.

5th Grade

5th graders have been very busy! We have just wrapped up our informational writing unit and are now onto our argument unit. Students are writing letters about whether or not we should serve chocolate milk in schools. When finished with this paper, they have the opportunity to showcase their research in the form of a debate. In math we just finished up a unit on fractions, decimals, and percent's, and are moving into organizing data. We are studying Early English Settlements in social studies and looking at story elements in reading. They have just finished Stanford and are in the middle of rehearsing for the 5th grade musical, The Princess and the Pea.

Library

K-5

- Internet Safety
- Book talks featuring just right books

K-2

- How to find information in the library
- Review how the library is organized
- Nonfiction vs. fiction
- Caldecott award winner
-

3

- Databases vs. internet searching
- Digital Citizenship
- Caldecott winner

4-5

- Cyberbullying awareness and prevention.
- Digital passport through common sense media topic covered: searching online, citing online sources
- Digital Citizenship

PE

We have been working on Seahawks related football activities.. To celebrate our Hawks going to the Super Bowl! We have been working on our components of fitness and understand what they are and how we can improve them. We will be working on understanding the different food groups. What our bodies need for nutrients. What calories mean and what happens if we eat too much or too little. Students will be play nutrition Nascar. Nutrition Nascar is a group activity where students race to get nutrients to fill their bodies, then turn the cards into their correct food category and then burn off the calories they eat by exercising!!! We will also be discussing what flexibility means and be doing a little yoga! For Valentine's Day we will be doing a lot of cardio respiratory endurance. We will be working on our jump rope skills.

Overload PE

The following link has pictures of activities taking place in PE.

http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/sunny/staff/crothers_pe/default.aspx

We are also focusing on teaching kids healthy eating and lifestyle habits. We have been playing games with pretend food and talking about how high-calorie foods require more exercise to "get rid of" and that low-calorie foods make our bodies "smile😄" and we can eat as much of them as we want! (Carrots, apples, etc.)

Music

5th Grade is in their last weeks of preparation for the musical.

4th Grade Classes are preparing for TWO separate Washington State Festival performances, one at the end of February and one at the end of March.

3rd and 2nd Grade are working on rhythm reading/counting using standard notation. They are writing short (grade level appropriate) percussion ensemble pieces.

1st Grade is constantly working on matching pitch, using hand signs (Sol-Feggio) while singing. First grade will begin working on their spring concert music after our February break.

Ambassadors participated in the Issaquah High School "Choir Bash" for the first time in several years. The kids had a great time. Ambassadors are preparing music for their upcoming concerts in March & April. They are singing popular music and some 'traditional' choir music that uses Latin text.

Overload Music

Kindergarten students are creating motions that go with the songs for their concert. They are also working on keeping a steady beat, practicing echoing, and recognizing high and low sounds.

1st graders are working in groups on reading different rhythms together. They are learning more complex music games.

ELL

Level 1 students (K and 1st) are working on sight words using nonfiction texts along with being able to make sense of the text while reading. With Level 2 first graders, I am using GLAD strategies like big books and picture file cards to support their science unit on magnets. With level 2 and 3 kindergarten students, we just finished reading and doing work with *The Mitten*, which is what they were focusing on in class. We talked about sequencing and order. With second grade, I am using GLAD strategies to support their unit on motion. Third graders are working on vocabulary, word work and rocks and minerals. In 4th grade, I just finished supporting their unit on the regions of Washington, using picture file cards, a mini pictorial and a book about the state of Washington. Next, I will be using many different GLAD strategies to support their unit on matter. With fifth grade, we have been reading about and discussing vocabulary and concepts related to exploration and conquest- the Americas after Christopher Columbus.

The WELPA testing window runs from February 2- March 13. We will be doing WELPA testing at Sunny Hills February 5-February 13.

EA

EA's participated in Stanford Proctoring Training for the testing happening last week and this week as well as