E-news is an important tool to keep our parent community informed. Please call the main office at 425/837-5800 if you have any questions about our e-news.

To access the Principal's Blog with updates, messages and resources please click here. Principal Mellish's latest message, I need help, where do I go & how?, is at the end of this email as well.

October 24, 2014

P.I.E. (Parents Involved in Education) Night
We invite all Newcastle families to attend P.I.E. Night on Thursday, November 13th from 5:00-6:15 pm. Your child will share with you some of the books he/she has been reading/writing in class and reading/writing strategies that they have been practicing. We will also be sharing with you different ways to support your child’s literacy life at home as you continue to support your primary children and to set the intermediate children up for success in middle school and beyond. Click on the following link for more information, PIE Night Flyer 2014-2015. Please RSVP by November 10th at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCPIENIGHT.

All in for Kids
This is it …the Issaquah Schools Foundation’s final All in for Kids Phone-a-thon night will be Tuesday, October 28th. Please answer when our high school students call and give as generously as you can. Your gift will help raise the $490,000 needed to fund programs that directly benefit our students. If you’ve already donated, THANK YOU! Look for your name in Thank You ads in the Issaquah Press and Sammamish Review. Want to give online, now? Go to isfdn.org.

Gift-A-Book Campaign
Once again, the school library is excited about the annual Gift-A-Book campaign! If you are interested in donating a book to the Newcastle Elementary School Library in your child’s name, please look for the yellow flyer that went home via Kid Mail or click on the following link, Gift-a-Book Flyer. Our campaign runs until November 14th. If you have already signed up to donate to the library during the PTSA online registration in August we will contact your child and have them select a book.

If you have any questions, please email Therese Kosar (Theresekosar@gmail.com) or Laura Berry (berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu).

Many thanks to all who have so generously donated to the Newcastle Elementary School Library!

Holiday Gift Barn
The Holiday Gift Barn is a holiday gift program for Issaquah School District families with children
ages birth-18. Like last year, Pickering Barn will become a “department store” for families in need to do their holiday shopping. New this year: daycare will be available during shopping!

If you are in need and want to register as a shopper please click on the following Issaquah Food Bank link for more details and registration forms, http://issaquahfoodbank.org/. Information for donating items to the Holiday Shop is also available on their website.

Registration is required between November 1st-30th.

**ISD Pre-arranged Absence Form**
Reminder, if your student(s) is going to be gone from school for 3 or more days you are required to fill out and return an ISD Pre-arranged Absence Form (available on our website). The form needs to be approved by the Principal and received one week prior to the 1st day of missed school. If your form is not received a week prior then your student(s) absence will be unexcused.

**Dates to Remember**
- Oct 28th Video Club, 8:00 am
  - Chess Club, 3:40 pm
- Oct 29th Great Kids
  - Lego Club, 1:30 pm
- Oct 30th Chorus, 8:00 am

**Principal Mellish’s Blog latest message:**

**I need help, where do I go & how?**

Communication and partnership are critical to the success of our school in meeting the level of service and accomplishment to which we aspire. Though we will keep working on refining our communications, I find that in this day and age, access to information and assistance as it is needed is as or more important than the regular newsletters and bulletins. So please read 3 keys to successfully accessing help or information at Newcastle Elementary.

1. **Use our online resources.** We try to put as much critical info as possible on our website or connect pages. So our website is a great place to start. Also, be familiar with our Parent Guide to Newcastle Elementary (click here) which is loaded with helpful information. Teachers also have their own sites, so don’t forget the information there.
2. **Go to the source.** If you ever find that an issue or question is emerging, we want you to go to the source. For questions or issues with the classroom or in-class interactions, email or set up an appointment with your classroom teacher. Our teachers are there to help with academic and social issues, though they may refer you to other staff if it is appropriate. For example, the following comes from our Parent Guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who to contact...</th>
<th>When you need help with...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Holmes, Secretary/Registrar <a href="mailto:holmesl@issaquah.wednet.edu">holmesl@issaquah.wednet.edu</a></td>
<td>Absences, Enrollment, Free/Reduced Lunch, Volunteer Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Wood, Principal’s Secretary</td>
<td>Payments &amp; Fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Karen Herring, Nurse
herringk@issaquah.wednet.edu
Health plans, Medications and other health concerns

Cathy Martin, Health Room
martinc@issaquah.wednet.edu
Health Room Action slips

Richard Mellish, Principal
mellishr@issaquah.wednet.edu
Support with instructional and/or classroom issues. Please address issues with the classroom teacher first when possible.

Trent Neugebauer, Dean
neugebauert@issaquah.wednet.edu
Student discipline &/or conflict such as playground problems, harassment, intimidation or bullying

Laura Meserole, Counselor
meserolel@issaquah.wednet.edu
Social and emotional challenges, Friendship issues

3. **Approach every issue assured of our common commitment to children.** I understand as a parent how parental instincts can kick in if a situation is stressful for our children. Please be assured that we are deeply committed to the well-being and growth of each and every child. When approaching staff with a difficult issue or concern please try to approach it in the following spirit:

- **Assume we are all capable and committed** to serving your child and family. We are all on the same team.

- **Remember there are multiple perspectives to every issue.** I have often heard someone say, "I know my child is not lying...". I assume kids tell their truth. But I have also learned how every person has a different perspective on an issue that is affected by his or her point of view, emotions and assumptions or filters. When we are open to the STORY being complete only when we understand all relevant perspectives, we grow in empathy and understanding of all the dynamics in a situation. With such understanding we can find effective solutions to issues.

- **Remember the Newcastle CARES.** The values of Cooperation, Advocacy for self and others, Responsibility shared by all, Empathy toward each other, and Self-control in times of strong emotions and impulses is not just for kids, but for our entire community. When we embrace these values, partnership emerges.

So this is a very long-winded way to say, “We are here for you!”

I hope you consistently feel welcomed and embraced at Newcastle in both the times of celebration and times of challenge.

Sincerely from your principal,
Rich Mellish