Hello Students, Parents and Staff ~

Can it really be MARCH already?!! We are in the heart of the school year. Not only are our students showing great growth, our school team continues to work on our life-long learning goals as well.

As a school team we are working on all things MATH! We are growing our math knowledge to best support our students in their learning. As our district is in the adoption process, we know that we will be getting a lot of math training as we get our new math curriculum in the upcoming year, but for now, we want to do all we can to make sure each child is growing mathematically.

In our staff Professional Development (PD) days, we are doing a book study. The teacher leadership team reps each read a math book that they then shared with the rest of the school team in a book talk. In January, teachers selected the book that were of greatest interest to them. We worked with our amazing PTSA to purchase each teacher a book to read to support our school’s math goal. The book titles are “What’s Your Math Problem?” and “Intentional Talk.” We had one other title, but we decided it didn’t meet our needs at this time and tossed it aside.😊 In February, we started our reading and discussing our key take-aways from the current reading in small groups. We also did a whole team share-out so that we could benefit from one another’s thoughts and practices. Teachers shared what they took away from the reading and what they plan to apply in their teaching practices. We will continue this learning for the remainder of this year.

It always impresses me to see our teachers taking on new learning. We had two teachers pilot the math curriculum, including the one that is being formally adopted for our Issaquah School District. We have a few teachers that have applied to spend part of their summer learning more about this math adoption. These teachers will then come back to the school and help us implement the new math curriculum successfully. We also have several other teachers jumping into additional learning opportunities such as:

- Master’s Degrees
- STEM Learning Opportunities
- National Board Certification
- ITP (Technology Learning)

It’s exciting to see the professionalism in our teaching team! I wish you could all see this through my eyes!

Tera :o)
Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2016

Kindergarten Registration Day & Open House/Tours

Wednesday, March 2nd at 2:00 – 5:30 PM
(Drop off your paperwork, tour the school with current 5th grade students)

**Things to remember:**

- New kindergarten students must turn 5 years old by August 31, 2016.
- Families must live (or soon be living) in the Creekside attendance area.

**Things to get ready:** (You do not need to bring these for the Info Night)

- Parent identification with photo,
- the child’s birth certificate or passport
- Immunization record
- family address verification in the form of a *utility bill* (gas, water, or electric) and ONE of the following:
  - Home purchase papers or property tax statement
  - Lease/Rental agreement (original)
  - Notarized verification of proof of residence
- Students will not be registered until schools have received the required items.

**Multilingual support is available if you need help completing the forms,**

[click here](#):  [Chinese](#),  [Korean](#),  [Russian](#),  [Spanish](#),  [Vietnamese](#)

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**Interested in Volunteering, Chaperoning or Parent Play Date?**

Then you need to sign up online to complete the Washington State Patrol background check:  Begin here:

[https://issaquahvolunteers.hrmplus.net](https://issaquahvolunteers.hrmplus.net)

To read the entire volunteer agreement, please click [here](#), and follow the link to “Creekside Parent Volunteer Brochure”

We thank you for volunteering at Creekside!

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**RUNNING LATE?** PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE THROUGH THE PARKING LOOP TO DROP OFF YOUR LATE CHILD. THERE ARE STILL MANY SAFTEY PATROL STUDENTS LINGERING IN THE PARKING LOT!
Creekside PTSA 6th Annual

Cultural Fair 2016

~ Happiness Around the World ~

Friday, March 18th 5:00-7:00 PM @ MPR/GYM

☆ Foods ☆ Arts & Crafts ☆ Music ☆
☆ Cultural Performances ☆ Dance ☆
☆ History & Traditions ☆

Want to be a part of the event and share your culture?

Have a cultural performance that you or your children would like to show?

Cultural Fair is a popular school event that needs your help to be successful!

Click on the link below to register!

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4daea829a1fc1-2016

Creekside Testing Calendar

If you plan on taking a vacation, as per the Issaquah School District attendance policy, all vacations must be pre-approved by the principal. You can find a request form on our website under "report an absence" Vacations during assessment windows will not be approved. No exceptions.

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Parent Play Day (with an emphasis on Dads!)

Join your student(s) on the playground throughout the school year for Parent Play Day. Dads and other special guests are invited to join us for recess on the first Friday of each month. Visitors must first sign in at the front office to get a visitor's badge prior to joining your students outside to PLAY!

**You are more than welcome to join your child for lunch, however we ask that you bring your own so as not to overwhelm the Kitchen Staff on these Parent Play Days.** Hope to see you soon!!!

Lunch times as follows (Recess immediately follows):

- **Second Grade:** 11:20-11:40/11:40-12:00
- **Third Grade:** 11:30-11:50/11:50-12:10
- **First Grade:** 11:45-12:05/12:05-12:25
- **Fourth Grade:** 11:55-12:15/12:15-12:35
- **FDK:** 12:10-12:30/12:30-12:50
- **Fifth Grade:** 12:20-12:40/12:40-1:00

**If you have a child in AM or PM kindergarten, you may arrange a Parent Play Day with Ms. Ducoing on the dates listed below. Please email Ms. Ducoing so she knows to expect you.**

The times you are looking at are as follows:

- 10:30-10:45 AM Recess/10:45-11:15 AM Classroom *(this is for AM families)*
- 1:55-2:15 PM Recess/2:15-2:45 PM Classroom *(this is for PM families)*

**Future Parent Play Days for ALL grade levels K-5 are:**

- **March 4 /April 1 (no foolin’!)/ May 6 /June 3**

Questions? Contact Jill Ravenscraft Email: ravenscraftj@issaquah.wednet.edu Phone: (425)837-5205

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5th Grade Parents - Please mark your calendars!
Welcome Next year’s 6th graders!

Pine Lake Middle School’s registration process begins soon!

On March 14 from 9:30 to 11:05, current 5th grade students in the PLMS attendance area will attend the 5th Grade Orientation. At this school day event, PLMS administrators and counselors will provide an introduction to Pine Lake Middle School and a tour of the campus to students. On that same day, 3/14/16, PLMS will host **5th Grade Parent Night** from 6:30 to 8:15 beginning in the school’s gymnasium. Students will bring the PLMS registration documents home from their 5th grade class prior to the 5th Grade Orientation.

**If your 5th grade Creekside student will not be attending Pine Lake MS, please let Dolores know by calling (425) 837-5203.**
Read Across America Week
Celebrating Dr. Seuss

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday and Read Across America week by dressing up as some of Dr. Seuss’ most memorable books and characters. In addition to these optional themed dress up days, each class will be participating in various Dr. Seuss related reading and activities during their scheduled library class. Your family can pick and choose from these optional themed days. We can’t wait to see your fun and creative outfits!

Sincerely, Mrs. Rhodes & Mrs. Siefkes
Creekside Elementary Teacher-Librarians 😊

Monday, March 7th One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish
If fish can be blue, well so can you!
Today at school wear red or blue!
Not just students, but teachers too!

Tuesday, March 8th Fox in Socks
Silly socks on your feet just can’t be beat!
Stripes, polka dots, or swirls,
Colorful socks for all boys and girls!

Wednesday, March 9th Wacky Wednesday
Dress up as one of Dr. Seuss’s wacky characters!
You can be Thing 1 or Thing 2 or even Cindy-Lou Who!

Thursday, March 10th What Pet Should I Get?
Every pet looks like fun! So how in the world do you pick just one?
Bring your favorite small stuffed animal to school!
(The stuffed animal must be smaller than your lunchbox)

Friday, March 11th Oh, the Places You’ll Go!
“Congratulations! Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places! You’re off and away!”
Today at school, wear something that you got from your favorite place!

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
- Dr. Seuss
Adversity is a natural part of life. At some point, we all face difficulties, such as family problems, serious illness, a personal crisis, or a painful loss. Being resilient is important to dealing with adversities like these. While most parents hope that their children never face extreme adversity, successfully facing tough situations can actually foster growth and give children the skills to be more resilient in the future.

Most people have a natural tendency to adapt and bounce back from adversity. However, parents can help their children learn to face challenges successfully, whether it is the stresses of everyday life, such as academic difficulties or problems with friends, or severe adversity, such as losing a home and being displaced from normal routines for months. Following are five ways to promote resiliency in your children and help protect them from long-term ill effects of difficult experiences.

1. **Think positive!** Modeling positive attitudes and positive emotions is very important. Children need to hear parents thinking out loud positively and being determined to persist until a goal is achieved. Using a “can do” problem-solving approach to problems teaches children a sense of power and promise.

2. **Express love and gratitude!** Emotions such as love and gratitude increase resiliency. Praise should always occur much more often than criticism. Children and adolescents who are cared for, loved, and supported learn to express positive emotions to others. Positive emotions buffer kids against depression and other negative reactions to adversity.

3. **Express yourself!** Resilient people appropriately express all emotions, even negative ones. Parents who help kids become more aware of emotions, label emotions appropriately, and help children deal with upsetting events are giving them useful life skills.

4. **Get fit!** Good physical health prepares the body and mind to be more resilient. Healthy eating habits, regular exercise and adequate sleep protect kids against the stress of tough situations. Regular exercise also decreases negative emotions such as anxiety, anger and depression.

5. **Foster competency!** Making sure that children and adolescents achieve academically is great protection against adversity. Children who achieve academic success and who develop individual talents, such as playing sports, drawing, making things, playing musical instruments or playing games are much more likely to feel competent and be able to deal with the stress positively. Social competency is also important. Having friends and staying connected to friends and loved ones can increase resiliency. Social competency can even be created by helping others.

Protecting our children against all of life’s unexpected painful events is not possible. Giving them a sense of competency and the skills to face adverse circumstances can be a valuable legacy of all parents. Resiliency can be built by understanding these important foundations. The more we practice these approaches; the better able our children will be to weather whatever life brings.

Adapted from “Resiliency: Strategies for Parents and Educators” by Virginia Smith Harvey

April Stevens (Ms April)  
Creekside Guidance Counselor
MUSICAL NOTES
SAVE THESE CONCERT DATES!
Concerts start at 7pm unless specified

March 17, 2016 – 2nd Grade Concert
March 29, 2016 – Choir Concert (NEW DATE)
April 5, 2016 – 4th Grade Concert
May 3, 2016 – 1st Grade Concert
May 26, 2016 – 5th Grade Concert
June 7, 2016 – Kindergarten Concert

Mr. Tom Cady & Mr. David Johnson
For more information, please check out the Music Website

Summer school registration is now open for elementary school students.

*Elementary Summer School* is offered to *current* kindergarten through fifth graders only. The summer school program provides for both reinforcement of learned skills and remedial assistance for students who need a little extra academic support. Classes are held on weekdays from July 11 through August 5, 9 AM to 12 PM, at Issaquah Valley Elementary School. Tuition is $400 and applications are available on the District website beginning March 1.

*Summer Robotics Class* – Returning this summer is a two week Robotics Class for *current* fourth and fifth graders only. This course teaches the fundamentals of robotics using LEGO Mindstorm Kits. Due to popular demand for this class, two sessions will now be offered. *Summer Robotics Class, Session 1* runs weekdays from July 11 to July 22, *Summer Robotics Class, Session 2* runs weekdays from July 25 to August 5. Both sessions meet between 9:30-11:30, at Issaquah Valley Elementary School. Tuition for this two-week program is $250 and applications are on the District website beginning March 1. A minimum of 12 students is required for this class to proceed. You must select ONE session at time of registration.

DON’T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

King County Special Election April 26 – Register to Vote or Update Your Address
The next special election takes place on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. If you are not registered to vote in King County or have recently moved into the Issaquah School District, you may register or update your address online, by mail, or in person by March 28 at the King County Elections office in Renton or voter registration annex in Seattle. Be an informed voter; visit the King County Elections Home Page for voter guides and additional information on how to register. The Issaquah School District Capital Bond Measure is on the ballot.
VOICE Mentor Program Helping Students find their VOICE

VOICE is an in-school volunteer mentoring program helping students in ALL Issaquah schools. VOICE is powered by caring community volunteers who donate one hour a week to mentor students in a one-to-one school setting.

ONE MENTOR         ONE STUDENT       ONE HOUR

Our volunteers routinely state that they make a strong bond with their student and “get more than they give.” We strive to make the students and mentors time together meaningful and valued. Placements are made based on the mentors’ interests, location preference and time availability. Please help us recruit your neighbors, friends, relatives or colleagues to become a mentor.

For further information contact: Website: VOICEMentorProgram.org
Susan Gierke VOICE Mentor Director E-mail: VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu
Teresa Bretl VOICE Mentor Director (Skyline High feeder Zone) BretlT@issaquah.wednet.edu
Phone: 425-837-6801
VOICE is made possible by Issaquah Schools Foundation Donors
In Cooperation with the Issaquah School District

News from the Nurse

All About Growing-Up! – Family Puberty Workshop

Learn all about puberty in this fun, informative workshop. From body changes and periods to mood swings and crushes. All About Growing Up is a 2-hour workshop for parents and their 9-11 year old children. Facilitated by educator Robin Wallace-Wright of The Wright Conversations, this family-oriented workshop provides a safe, comfortable environment to learn and talk about puberty. The evening includes a short video, interactive activities, and opportunities to get all questions answered. Healthy friendships and boundary setting are also covered. Come learn how to best support and guide your child as they begin their journey towards adulthood.

Date(s): 03/09/16 (boys and parents)
03/14/16 (girls and parents)

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Cascade Ridge Library

Fee: $40/family

To register, just click on the following link:
http://www.thewrightconversations.com/cascade-ridge.html

Linda Okamoto RN, BSN, Creekside School Nurse OkamotoL@issaquah.wednet.edu
INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

From WELPA to ELPA21: A New English Language Learner (ELL) Test

What: ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Test for the 21st Century)
When: Testing Window between February 2-March 11
Who: All active ELL students Levels 1-3, all waived ELL students, and any Native American students who qualify for extra language support

What you can expect: Students will take four test sections: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. The test will be entirely online using the same test engine as Smarter Balanced. (There will also be a short paper-and-pencil Writing section for Kinder and Grade 1 students.) Each test section should take an hour or less. Creekside’s ELL teacher will proctor the test. Contact Katie Tasa 425-837-5229, or TasaK@issaquah.wednet.edu for more information.

Why: The results of this required annual state test will help teachers and parents understand how ELL students are learning English, and what other supports they need. Families will receive a score report in the mail after the test is completed.

To see a Family Guide to ELPA21 (in English and Spanish), click here: http://www.k12.wa.us/ELPA21/Timeline.aspx
To see sample test items, use Google Chrome and the following web address: http://www.elpa21.org/assessment-system/sample-items

ISF Updates

Dining for Kids on the First Wednesday of Every Month!
On the first Wednesday of every month, restaurants around the Issaquah Community will partner with the Foundation to donate a portion of their proceeds to benefit our students.

Join us during lunch or dinner for Dining for Kids on Wednesday, March 2nd at one/more of 3 locations - Big Fish in the Issaquah Highlands (984 NE Park Drive, Issaquah), Five Guys Burger & Fries (755 NW Gilman Blvd, Issaquah) and for dessert at Peaks Yogurt (755 NW Gilman Blvd Ste D, Issaquah) Yum!

Impact Scholarship — Applications Due Monday, February 29
The Issaquah Schools Foundation is once again offering its Impact Scholarship to help juniors and seniors in the Issaquah School District continue their educational journeys. This scholarship will be awarded to students who submit essays that describe how Foundation-funded programs have enriched their education. Current Issaquah Schools Foundation Student Trustees and children of ISF Board and staff may not apply.

The Impact Scholarship will be awarded in two categories. The winner of each category will receive a $1,000 scholarship for use at a post-secondary institute of learning.

Written category entries will be judged on answers to required essay questions. Presentation category entries will be judged on a 5-minute oral presentation of the written essays and will have the opportunity to tell their story at the Issaquah Schools
Foundation’s 18th Annual **Nourish Every Mind** Luncheon on Thursday, April 28th or 3rd Annual **Nourish Every Mind** Breakfast on Wednesday, May 4th.

**To view the application and apply, visit** [www.isfdn.org/for-students](http://www.isfdn.org/for-students). **Applications must be received by Monday, February 29th. For more information, call 425-391-8557.**

**Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon and Breakfast**

Save the date for two of the most inspiring events of the season—the Issaquah Schools Foundation’s **Nourish Every Mind Luncheon on Thursday, April 28 and Breakfast on Wednesday, May 4**. Both events showcase students and staff who have benefitted from Foundation investments, inspirational videos, entertainment and information on the impact private donations have on our public schools. Generous donations from Golden Apple sponsors Swedish Hospital, Microsoft and Overlake, as well as other corporate leaders, enable all guest donations to be directed to programs that elevate and enrich education for every student at every school. Included in the list of programs supported by Nourish Every Mind donations are the VOICE Mentor Program, Healthy Youth Initiative, Financial Literacy Classes, Academic Enrichment Grants, Free After-School Homework Labs, and Computer Science and Web Design Classes. Seating at the Luncheon and Breakfast is limited. Visit [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) or call 425-391-8557 today to learn more.

**State of Mind Mini-Conferences offered by the Issaquah Schools Foundation’s Healthy Youth Initiative**

Parents and students are invited to attend one, two or all three State of Mind mini-conferences focused on topics related to youth mental health. Each school mini-conference will have a different focus, including how to cope with stress, how to help friends who are struggling with depression, or how to detach from technology. Each mini-conference will also offer a core of basic classes in topics such as the impacts of drugs on the developing brain, healthy relationships, body image, and living with mental illness. Registrations for these conferences, as well as programs with a list of speakers and topics are available at [www.healthyouthinitiative.org](http://www.healthyouthinitiative.org).

Saturday, March 19, noon to 4:00 pm, Issaquah High School  
Saturday, April 2, noon to 4:00 pm, Liberty High School  
Saturday, April 23, noon to 4:00 pm, Skyline High School

**ESL Classes at Issaquah Valley Elementary**

ESL classes at IVE will be from February 8 to June 8  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Thank you to Jodi Novotny from Renton Technical College and IVE Principal Denise Waters for making this dream possible.
## March 2016

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**Coming up in April**

5 – 4th Grade Concert
6, 20 Bank Days
11-15 - Spring Break
26 – Student Council Meeting

**WHAT’S ON THE SCHOOL LUNCH MENU? Click here!**