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.

August 28, 2015

Upcoming Events

Aug 28th  Teacher Assignments Available in Family Access, 5:00 pm (CORRECT TIME)
Aug 31st  Meet Your Teacher, 11:45 am
          Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 5:00 pm (CORRECT TIME)
Sept 1st  1st Day of School for Grades 1st-5th
          Kindergarten Assessments (by appointment)
Sept 2nd  1st Day of School for all Kindergarten Students
Sept 7th  Labor Day, No School
Sept 16th Curriculum Night, Grades 1st-2nd, 5:30 pm
Sept 17th Picture Day
          Curriculum Night, Grades 3rd-5th, 5:30 pm
Sept 21st PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm

Top ten things to do to be ready for the start of school!

10 Take a Deep Breath! You have almost made it! You survived summer. Your children survived! And very soon we will enjoy the rhythm of school!

9 Review the Parent Guide. Click here to review the parent guide if you haven’t done so. This is loaded with important procedures, information and guidelines.

8 Start adjusting sleep time. Are your students sleeping in? Are they ready to get up early again?

7 Add key events to your calendar. See above for coming events and the school/PTSA web page has more info. But definitely plan on Meet the Teacher on Monday, Aug 31st at 11:45 and the PTSA back to school picnic following. Also mark curriculum night on your calendar (see above) as the most important event of the fall.

6 Rainy weekend activity. Book Treasure Hunt. Just a suggestion to get your child excited for nightly reading again: visit a bookstore this weekend and let your child get a good independent reader. If you can, get one fiction and one non-fiction.
Register online as a volunteer. I would love to see EVERY PARENT complete this new process so you are ready to chaperone a field trip or help out in class, even if it is just one day this year. All volunteers must complete an online application before starting volunteering. If you have students at different schools in Issaquah, you only need to fill this out once and will be asked to mark which schools you want to volunteer at. Click the link, https://issaquahvolunteers.hrmplus.net to apply to volunteer.

Review drop-off/pick-up. Click here to review car procedures and click here to get bus route information. It helps everyone if you refresh yourself on all your transportation options and procedures.

Check/add to your lunch account. Our lunch account program is now online at MySchoolBucks.com. I strongly encourage you to set up your account through this and use the low balance notification. Also, the new ISD phone app in the Apple and Google Play app stores shows your lunch balances without the need to re-log in.

Check your teacher assignment. At 5pm tonight you can log-in to Family access and see your teacher assignments. Then I know many will compare notes. A great deal of thought and planning went into these teacher assignments so remember that each year is about all of us making new friends and connections.

Plan for a great year! Probably the most important thing we do to prepare is to get into that mindset that together we will have a great year. Consider how you can be connected and involved in our school. The school and PTSA will have many opportunities for you to be involved in a way that fits your needs, skills and time. And remember, we are here to help and support your family. If you ever have a need, check out this page to see who to contact. We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Highly Capable Program Nomination Window is Now Open

Nominations of students to determine possible eligibility for the Highly Capable Program will be accepted between September 1 and the end of the business day on September 15. *Please note, all kindergarten students will be screened this fall to determine eligibility for further testing for possible selection into the Highly Capable program.*

The District’s nomination procedure may include screening procedures as allowed by state statute. Please refer to the nomination form for further information. Students may be nominated by individuals including teachers, other staff, parents, and members of the community. Individuals making a nomination must use the District provided nomination form. The following exceptions will apply:

1. Nominations will not be accepted for students who were tested for the Highly Capable Program in the previous school year.
2. Nominations for second grade students will not be accepted as testing for these students will occur mid-year.
3. Nominations for students new to the district who enroll after September 15 will be accepted for ten (10) school days from the enrollment date.
4. Students new to the district enrolling after the HCP fall testing window who meet the screening criteria will be assessed prior to the beginning of the next school year.

Issaquah Schools Foundation
Welcome Back! As we start the new year, I want to share news about a partner whose support helps improve education for our students—the Issaquah Schools Foundation.

Issaquah Schools Foundation investments make a direct impact on your child’s learning. From teacher writing workshops to hands on science curriculum, to leveled book rooms, these investments ensure that kids of all abilities have the support they need to navigate their own unique paths to success.

The Foundation needs your help to continue elevating education for your child. Please consider a contribution to this fall’s All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign. Your gift will make a difference in the resources we can make available to your child.

Take a moment to review the list below of donor-powered investments at our school. Then, give as generously as you can. Our kids are counting on you.

* Healthy Youth Initiative (formerly Issaquah Community Network)
* Highly Capable (MERLIN and SAGE) Support
* New Teacher Classroom Start-Up Funds
* Pre-K/K Summer School
* Special Services Program Support
* TransAct Subscription for ELL Department
* Voz de La Comunidad Spanish Language Magazine
* Enriching Instruction with Enhanced Visual Resources
* Enriching Instruction with Enhanced Visual Resources
* All Stations Clear!
* Elementary Writing Curriculum Support - Professional Development
* Enhancing Instruction with Updated Visual Resources
* Enriching Student Learning: Providing Engaging EBook Access
* Literacy Program support for K-5 Libraries
* Building Character and Healthy Habits Through Golf (District Wide)
* Elementary Literacy Curriculum Support - Leveled Book Rooms
* Making Music the Ukulele Way
* District Wide Visual Arts Lessons K-5
* Elementary Science Initiative - New Science Curriculum
* Making Meaning: A Picture Book’s Guide to Comprehension
* Learning Music Through Technology
* Connecting Reading & Writing
* Personal Extension through Bluegrass & Folk Arts
* Comprehensive Reading Assessment
* National Board Certification Scholarships

Newcastle Elementary currently has 6 National Board Certified teachers.
* **VOICE (Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education)**

At Newcastle Elementary, 12 students are being served by 8 mentors with 7 students on the waitlist.

For more information on the Issaquah Schools Foundation, donor powered investments and to make your *All in for Kids* donation, please visit [isfdn.org](http://isfdn.org).