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.

January 7, 2016

Upcoming Dates
Jan 8th Site Council Meeting, 8:00 am
Math Olympiad, 8:05 am
Jan 11th YMCA @ PM Recesses
Jan 12th Chess Club, 3:40 pm
Jan 13th Chorus, 8:00 am
Spirit Day
Jan 14th 1st Grade Concert, 6:30 pm
Jan 18th No School, Martin Luther King Day
Jan 25th No School, Teacher Professional Development Day

Kindergarten Enrollment Information Night-Feb 11th
Please spread the word among those with children who might enter kindergarten next year. This event is being reformatted to give current updates and information and to give an orientation to our school vision, programs and community; INCLUDING updates on the status of state funded full day K in Issaquah. (Will full day K be free in the Fall?) If you know families who are choosing private K vs. Newcastle K this will be an important informational meeting! Meeting begins at 6:00 pm.

National Geographic Bee Finalists
Congratulations to the following 4th and 5th grade students who have qualified during their classroom bees to compete as one of the ten finalists in Newcastle Elementary’s National Geographic Bee! Compliments to: Zach B, Maury C, Thomas D, Vincent D, Rachel H, Ethan J, Hana K, Jack P, Mirabelle W and Mia W.

The above students will share their geography knowledge during the school bee on January 21st beginning at 2:40 pm. After the school bee, our school champion will have the opportunity to take a written test in an attempt to continue on to the state bee, held on April 1, 2016. Parents are welcome to attend and support our finalists on January 21st during this fun and challenging event! Thank you to Mr. Laing for being the teacher coordinator for the Bee this year and also to the Newcastle PTSA for sponsoring this exciting event. We wish all of the contestants the best of luck! Please feel welcome to contact Stina Fluegge (stinafluegge@gmail.com) with any questions.

Principal’s Coffee Talk-January 22
You are invited to join Principal Mellish for a discussion of current events and interests. The
conversation is open and free flowing based on the interests of those attending. Current Hot Topics include:

- Changing the school start times...
- School Bond issue
- Positive Behavior Supports & Social-Emotional Learning
- The proposed new math adoption
- Our School Improvement Plan and School Achievement Data
- Renewing the Culture Fair and Culture & Diversity Committee

What else is on your mind? Come and bring topics to discuss.

Calling all Parent Volunteers!
Newcastle Elementary is looking for volunteers who can come in once a week from 11:30 to 12:45 to manage a game room (board games, cards, Legos, etc.) during lunch recesses. These activities are for students that prefer a quieter place or somewhere that they can be creative. Volunteer duties would include helping kids with game rules, managing noise levels and helping with organizing the games. The game room will take place on Tuesdays. Please contact Trent Neugebauer (neugebauert@issaquah.wednet.edu) for more information and to volunteer. Thanks!

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. Your building’s ELL teachers will proctor the test. See your school’s ELL teacher for more information about when the test will be given at your school.

**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](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](http://www.elpa21.org/assessment-system/sample-items)