



# Methow Valley Elementary School

## September Newsletter - 2011



### Upcoming Dates

## Welcome Back

Band Rental Meeting (see page 2)	Monday, Sept. 12th 6:00
6th Grade campout meeting	Monday, Sept. 12th 7:00
Association of Parents and Teachers	Thursday, Sept. 15th 5:00
6th Grade Campout	Tue-Thu. Sept. 20th-22nd
No School - Professional Day	Friday, Sept. 23rd
Picture Day	Tuesday, Sept. 27th
Open House	Tuesday, Sept. 27th 6:00-7:30

### Letter from the Principal

*Welcome back! We are all energized for the new school year. The teachers have worked hard this summer to improve their craft with writing workshops, internships at science symposiums, learning new strategies to help struggling readers, math workshops and learning to implement technology into their classrooms. The list goes on and on. Fortunately, the staff has also been recharging their compassion batteries by travelling, sailing, backpacking, cycling and fishing. This list also goes on and on! We are honored that you trust us with your precious children. We pledge to put forth our best efforts to challenge and support every student.*

*We spent some time as a group before school started to look back at some of our past efforts while envisioning how we can do even more to become a world-class school. We honored the past as we prepare our students for the future. As a school, we focused on the language we use with children and the impact it has on student learning. We read sections from the book "The Power of Our Words" and looked for ways to put this information into our daily teaching.*

*The teachers and support staff here at Methow Valley Elementary have the attitude and commitment to continuously improve. Isn't that what we want from our kids as well? Once again, welcome back. It's going to be a great year!*

**How was your first day? We would like to hear stories from the first day of school. Please email your comments to Dr. Patrick at [bpatrick@methow.org](mailto:bpatrick@methow.org)**

# *Public School Funding Alliance*

## *Expanding Horizons for Every Student*

Cub Club, Spanish classes, individual counseling for kids facing challenges, Suzuki violin, and hundreds of books – these are among the enriching opportunities for Methow Valley Elementary students supported by Public School Funding Alliance (PSFA).

PSFA is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 to enhance education for Methow Valley public school students. PSFA returns community donations to the public schools, funding more than \$450,000 in educational programs and materials over the past eight years. Donations to PSFA double the amount of money available for academic enrichment in our school district.

PSFA-funded programs reach more than 500 students every year, from kindergarten through graduation. PSFA grants expand opportunities in science, art, languages, literature, math, music, and outdoor education with field trips, academic programs and new materials.

**Our annual fundraising campaign is underway.**

**Please consider donating to Public School Funding Alliance  
to support Methow Valley students!!**

Applications for funding are available online at [www.methowvalleypsfa.org](http://www.methowvalleypsfa.org). We encourage teachers, staff, students, and community members to apply. The deadline for our fall application review is October 1, 2011.

For more information, to contribute or to get involved, check out our website at [www.methowvalleypsfa.org](http://www.methowvalleypsfa.org).

## **3rd & 4th Grade Violin**

Welcome back to another great year at Methow Valley Elementary School! I would like all of you to be aware of a special opportunity available to your child in the 3rd or 4th grade: String instrument classes at MVE during the school day! (This year your student will not be asked to decide between violin and recess!) Registration ends Sept. 11.

For 3rd Graders\*: Through a grant from the Public School Funding Alliance, a class in Suzuki Violin is offered for free, on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays during activity time. Mastering tiny steps one at a time, by listening and by rote, students learn correct posture and technique to perform several short pieces with proficiency by the end of the year. There may be a fee for rental of the instrument, about \$20 per month. Some violins are available through Pipestone School of Music.

For 4th Graders\*: On Tuesdays and Thursdays during activity time, students who have had at least one year on a string instrument are invited to join our string orchestra class. Students can choose between violin, viola or cello. Focus and goal for the year is to learn to read music notation with some fluency. This class is offered through Pipestone School of Music, and there is a monthly tuition of \$25.

To register, and for more information, call Pam Hunt: 997-9344, or email: [tamarackquartet@hotmail.com](mailto:tamarackquartet@hotmail.com).

\*4th grade students who would like to take the beginning Suzuki violin class with the 3rd graders are also welcome.



## **ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

Are you interested in spending time in your school helping our children and their teachers complete art, reading, science, and language projects? The Association of Parents and Teachers (APT) finds a parent representative for each classroom to help coordinate classroom needs with outside volunteer help.

- **Science Fair - we are the mentors and set up crew.**
  - **Book Swap - we collect the books and make sure every child goes home with something new to read.**
  - **Artists in Residence - we are the extra hands that help make the art projects fly.**
  - **Third grade tree planting and Friday skiing—we are the tool bearers and ski waxers.**
- Please contact Lisa Spitzmiller if you are interested in being involved in APT.**  
**996-4267 elsptz@aol.com**

## **After-school program**

Methow Valley Elementary will launch a new after-school program in 2011-2012. The program will take place two afternoons a week and will include a wide variety of activities including art, recreation, and learning activities.

Elementary students, grades 3-6, can sign up for a variety of offerings. Some opportunities, like homework help and tutoring, are similar to those offered in the past. Other classes/clubs/ sessions might include sports, games, arts, crafts, community-based classes, school newspaper, writing club, etc.

After-school coordinator, Nick Algood, will send out a flyer at the beginning of each trimester, letting parents and students know of their upcoming choices. Students can sign up for one or two days a week, depending on the activity.

A small snack will be served after school and a 5:00 bus will provide transportation to Winthrop and Twisp. Funding for this new programming is provided by the Public School Funding Alliance.

If you are interested in being a community volunteer, please contact Dr. Patrick at [bpatrick@methow.org](mailto:bpatrick@methow.org). The after-school program will launch the first week of October.

## **Pipestone Youth Orchestra seeks string players**

Pipestone School of Music invites young string players to join the Pipestone Youth Orchestra. Rehearsals will be on Mondays, starting Sept. 19, from 3:30-4:30 in the band room of Methow Valley Elementary School. Students must have played their instruments for a minimum of 2 years, and should read music with some fluency. Tuition is \$25 per month. This group will work towards performances in December and May. For more information, call the Pipestone office at 997-0222.

## **Instrument Rental Meeting**

For students who are going to be in 5th and 6th grade band or violin, we will be having an instrument rental meeting on September 12th in the elementary school library. The meeting will start at 6:00pm. Chinook Music Service will be on hand to help students get the proper instrument and have the band music book available for purchase.

# Methow Valley School District

## September 2011 Lunch Menu

Menu subject to change

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	6 Chicken Nuggets Whole Wheat Roll Green Beans Fruit Milk	7 Chili Corn Bread Salad Fruit Milk	8 Turkey Deli Sandwich French Fries Carrots Fruit Milk	9 Bean Burrito Salad Corn Fruit Milk
12 Hot Dog Baked Beans Cole Slaw Fruit Milk	13 Nacho Bar Cinnamon Bun Salad Fruit Milk	14 Turkey Noodle Soup Hot Roll Salad Fruit Milk	15 Chicken Patty Sandwich Potato Salad Carrots Fruit Milk	16 Pizza Salad Corn Fruit Milk
19 Macaroni & Cheese 1/2 Sandwich Carrots Fruit Milk	20 Chicken Fajitas w/Peppers & Onions Salad Fruit Milk	21 Turkey a la King over Biscuit Salad Fruit Milk	22 Baked Potato Bar Broccoli Roll Fruit Milk	23 <i>NO SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DAY</i>
26 Egg Patty Sandwich Hash Browns Blueberries Yogurt Milk	27 Cheese Burger French Fries Green Beans Fruit Milk	28 Spaghetti Bread Sticks Salad Fruit Milk	29 Roast Turkey Deli Sandwich Pasta Salad Fruit Milk	30 Tacos Salad Corn Fruit Milk