



Methow Valley Elementary School October Newsletter



Check out our web site for district-wide calendars, newsletters, lunch menu, family access and more!

Letter from Dr. Patrick

Welcome to Fall everyone! We had open house and the first rainstorm - can the signs be any more clear?

Thanks to everyone who made our open house last week a positive event. From the scavenger hunt in Ms. Bleke's room to the estimation jar way down in Mrs. Caesar's Kindergarten classroom, parents, students and teachers filled the school with smiles, laughter and curiosity.

We started open house in the gym with introduction of the teaching staff, followed by sharing "This I Believe" statements from Ms. Garrigues' 2nd grade class. Thanks to Jayden and Chad for sharing their writing with the crowd. I'm sure it was scary, but what a powerful experience for all of us. We are trying to find more opportunities for students to publish writing, art and other original work. For example, you can find a poem written by the sixth grade class at the Methow Grist (<http://www.methownet.com/grist/wordspot/wordspot.html>). These opportunities lead to true student engagement as our budding writers, artists, scientists and historians become emotionally invested in the process of creating something new to share with the world.

It is a busy time here at Methow Valley Elementary. We are about to launch our reinvented after school program, start up a student council, explore the potential of a ski bus to Loup Loup and a host of other initiatives. It is not possible to do all of this without serious parent involvement. I want to thank all of you who give us your precious time to support these efforts. We expect our students to be challenged and supported here at Methow Valley Elementary. We also want to be challenged and supported as we strive to get better, together.



After School Program

The new after school program will be starting on Tuesday, October 11th. We are very excited about the opportunities that will be offered for students this month. Tutoring, Writing Club, Asian Cooking, and Sewing are among the October program choices. Also, look for a new course sign-up sheet at the beginning of every month with a list of the classes that will be available for that month. Remember, any student that wants to participate in the after school program must be in 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, have the registration form filled out and pay the \$20 ASB/activity fee. You can pick up a registration form at the front office and your children will also have one sent home with them along with the course sign-up sheets.

We are still looking for volunteers to expand after school opportunities for all students. If you have the time and interest to lead a course at some point this year, please contact us. Also, if you know someone in the community who may be interested, let them know about this program. Several ideas for offerings have been generated from students already! Time commitments can be as little as one Tuesday or Thursday in a trimester. This is a community supported program and that is why we are able to offer such incredible, diverse classes for our students. Our program coordinator, Nick Allgood, can be contacted at: nallgood@gm.methow.org or at 509-998-7860.

Library



The library has acquired many new and exciting books for our students this year. The upper grades may choose from more than two dozen new titles, including the nominees from the Sasquatch Reading Awards and the Young Readers Choice Awards lists.

For younger students, the library has all 20 nominees from the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award list. These beautifully illustrated books are read aloud to the K-4 classes during their weekly library visits. In March, they will have the opportunity to vote on which was their favorite picture book of the school year. Most of the books are very funny, but some are based on fact and tell amazing and moving stories.

The library is open each day from 8:30 am to 2:45 pm. If you'd like to know more about your child's library visit or to check on the books they have borrowed, please call me at the school or send an email to dleuschen@methow.org.

Welcome all to another year of great reading!

Donna Leuschen

UPCOMING DATES:

APT Meeting

October 20th 5:00

Professional Day

October 21st

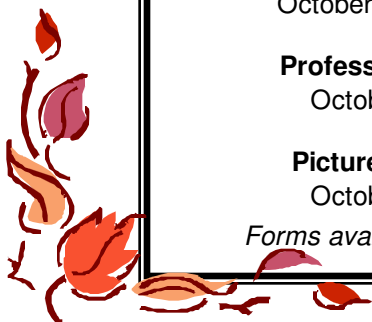
Picture retakes

October 26th

Forms available in office

Reminder

When your child will be absent or late, **please call the office** before 10:00 am. If you know of dates that your child will be absent, please call or send a note to the office in advance. Although you may tell the teacher of an absence you **must also let the office know.**



Methow Arts Alliance

As students settle into another school year, teaching artists around Okanogan County are collecting their brushes, inks, and clay in preparation for another series of classroom residencies through Methow Arts' Artist in Residence (AIR) program. AIR pairs working artists with classroom teachers to incorporate a specific art project—painting, clay, fiber arts, literary arts, juggling, theatre arts, mosaic, drawing, music—into the classroom curriculum.



With 30 teaching artists on the roster, many of the 5,000 students in the six school districts who are part of the Okanogan Region Arts Education Partnership (Brewster, Methow Valley, Okanogan, Omak, Paschal Sherman, and Pateros) get the opportunity to participate in a classroom residency.

Nearly 100 residencies will take place in the partner schools during the upcoming school year, including both annual residencies and new projects. Students will paint, work with clay, sing, dance, sculpt, cut block prints, tile, create books, write poetry, and take photographs with professional artists from around the region.

Additionally, Methow Arts' arts education program brings a steady stream of professional performers into the schools to act, sing, and dance for students. This year's performers are moira smiley & VOCO (folk vocals and body percussion), NANDA (acrobatics/aerials/juggling), the House Jacks (a capella rock), and Obo Addy (African dance and drumming).



To celebrate Arts Education, Methow Valley Elementary School 4th graders will perform as the opening act for moira smiley & VOCO at the Winthrop Barn on October 22, after working with musicians Lauralee Northcott and Jennifer Epps of Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band to learn western vocals and harmony.

Programs are supported by the Methow Valley School District, National Endowment for the Arts, WSAC, Public School Funding Alliance, Community Foundation of North Central Washington, and many business and civic sponsors. Learn more at www.MethowArts.org, 509.997.4004, or

ArtsEducation@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

Character Traits-*Below is the common language we use at school*

Wisdom: Wisdom is balancing all of the other virtues to make decisions that are good for us and good for others.

Justice: Respecting the rights of others, treating others how we wish to be treated.

Fortitude: Inner toughness that allows us to keep going in difficult situations.

Self-control: Regulation of our emotions and desires in the service of higher goals.

Love: The willingness to sacrifice self-interest for the benefit of others. Love is also challenging others to improve, while accepting them as they are at present.

Positive attitude: Like many other virtues, our attitude is something we can choose.

Hard work: We use this a lot, but what do we mean? Goal setting, being resourceful, showing initiative are a few more specific elements of what it means to work hard.

Integrity: Doing the right thing, even if no one is looking.

Gratitude: Choosing to be thankful. Counting our blessings.

Humility: There's sort of two parts to humility: awareness of our own flaws and using our abilities without constant need of praise.



Methow Valley School District

October 2011 Lunch Menu

Menu subject to change

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri				
3	Chicken Nuggets Hot Roll Green Beans Fruit Milk	4	Chicken Soup Cheese Bread Salad Fruit Milk	5	Chili Haystack Salad Fruit Milk	6	Chicken Teriyaki Over Rice Oriental Vegetables Fruit Milk	7	Burrito Salad Corn Fruit Milk
10	Hot Dog Baked Beans Cole Slaw Fruit Milk	11	Nacho Bar Salad Cinnamon Bun Fruit Milk	12	Turkey Deli Sandwich Tater Tots Fruit Milk	13	Spaghetti Bread Sticks Salad Fruit Milk	14	Pizza Salad Corn Fruit Milk
17	Barbecue Ham or Turkey Sandwich Pasta Salad Fruit Milk	18	Chicken Fajitas w/Onions & Peppers Salad Fruit Milk	19	Cheese Zombie Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Milk	20	Corn Dog Baked Beans Salad Fruit Milk	21	PROFESSIONAL DAY
24	Cheeseburger French Fries Carrots Fruit Milk	25	Chicken Patty Mozzarella Bread Sticks Salad Fruit Milk	26	Teriyaki Dippers Rice & Mixed Vegetables Salad Fruit Milk	27	Turkey Noodle Soup Hot Roll Salad Fruit Milk	28	Soft Tacos Salsa Corn Fruit Milk
31	Egg Patty Sandwich Oven Potatoes Yogurt Fruit Milk								

