



Methow Valley Elementary School Newsletter



Critical Thinking - Character Development - Lifelong Learning

Note from Dr. Patrick

"I used to do a lot of explaining, but now I do a lot of questioning.

I used to do a lot of talking, but now I do a lot of listening.

I used to think about teaching the curriculum, but now I think about teaching the student."

This quote reminds me of the importance of allowing students to have a voice in their education. We have to teach students the skills to think for themselves. What better way than asking them the right questions and truly listening and responding to the answers they give.

We want to increase student voice here at Methow Valley Elementary. Two recent initiatives are designed to do just that. The first is our new peer mediation program. Lois Garland, Steve Cleves and I recently trained eight fifth and sixth grade students to become conflict managers. When students have a conflict, they can be referred to peer mediation where the conflict managers take them through a series of questions and strategies designed to help them solve their problem collaboratively. We initiated the program last week and are already seeing positive results. This program is not designed to replace our discipline system. It aims to provide students with the tools to solve conflicts using their own skills, rather than relying on adults, threats or force to handle conflict.

The second initiative is our student advisory group. A representative from each classroom (K-6) will meet with me every two weeks. Our essential question is this: how can we make our school a happier place? Students are brimming with great ideas, from spirit wear to assemblies to special event days to food drives and other community service opportunities. I can hardly wait to meet with these students again to help them bring these ideas closer to reality.

We have great kids here at Methow Valley Elementary. They are imaginative, creative, and kind. I look forward to tapping into their positive energy and voice to make this school even better.

Missoula Children's Theater

Methow Arts and Missoula Children's Theatre present CINDERELLA

Once again, Missoula Children's Theatre will be visiting the Methow Valley! This year's show is Cinderella. MCT is brought to our community through the Okanogan Region Arts Education Partnership, a program of Methow Arts Alliance. It is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and local support from the Methow Valley School District, Chewuch Inn, Okanogan County Electric Coop, Winthrop Kiwanis, and the Public School Funding Alliance.



Auditions for the show will be held at Methow Valley Elementary on Monday, November 14 at 3:20pm and are open to all students K-12. Not all students will be cast in parts. Auditioning is free, and there is a \$25 residency fee for those cast in the production. Scholarships are available.

The cast will include more than 50 local students who audition, rehearse and perform with two Missoula Children's Theatre actor/directors in an intensive, unforgettable week. Rehearsals will be held after school from 3:20-7:50pm on November 14-18, and the performances are both on November 19th. Not all students will be called for all rehearsals; the bigger the part (and typically the older the child), the more rehearsals.

For more information call Ashley Lodato at Methow Arts (997.4004) or email ArtsEducation@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

Methow Valley Public School Funding Alliance

Through generous contributions from hundreds of donors, Public School Funding Alliance is providing more than \$45,000 this year to fund programs and materials that enrich education for our public school students.

Foreign language, violin instruction, field trips, a Young Writers Conference, individual counseling for students, and hands-on math games are among the programs supported by PSFA at Methow Valley Elementary School. Liberty Bell High School students can participate in advanced history studies, a new speech and debate program, trips to Seattle and Washington D.C., and college advising through programs supported this year by PSFA.

Funded projects and materials for 2011-2012 include:

Methow Valley Elementary School:

- Suzuki violin classes
- Bugs & Beauty Field trip for sixth grade
- Spanish classes for grades K-5
- Elementary school counselor
- Let 'Em Ride riding program for special education students
- Colonial Williamsburg history program for 5th grade
- Math enrichment and strategy games for 4th grade
- Fort Clatsop Traveling Trunk for 3rd grade
- Math intervention materials for 1st grade
- Young Writers Conference for Methow Valley Elementary students

Liberty Bell Junior/Senior High School:

- College Counselor
- Books for English classrooms 7th -12th grades
- Brainology math program
- Junior class Close Up Washington DC trip
- Chinese/drama/arts field trip to Seattle

History enrichment for 8th grade

- Girls Group
- Leadership books
- National History Day supplies for 8th and 11th grade
- Poetry and creative writing workshops
- Set design for Merc productions
- Speech and Debate materials
- Watershed Watchers field trip for 8th grade
- Lunch buddies program
- Upgrading computers
- After-school tutoring program

Independent Learning Center

- Books
- Digital cameras

District-wide

- Classroom in Bloom
- Methow Arts visual and performing arts residencies



APT Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 17th
5:00
MVE Library

Nordic Team
Registration Meeting for
kids born 2000-2005
Tuesday, Nov. 1st
5:30 pm
MV Elementary Library
For more info call
Annie B. 997-1319

AAU Basketball
Fall AAU Basketball
registration forms are
available in the office



Be ready for the weather

As we get closer to winter, I would like to remind everyone to double check that your student is coming to school with appropriate clothing. Unless the weather is bitterly cold, students will be outside for recess. Outside time is important—we want students to get fresh air at school every day! Since our students may not watch the weather channel (or even look outside before they head off to the bus!), it is up to us to send them off with clothing that is appropriate for the conditions. It is hard for students to learn after recess if they were not properly dressed to be outside. We want our students to be ready in every way, even for bad weather!

Upcoming Dates for November

Tuesday, November 1st	Rachel's Challenge assembly 8:30 for 6th & 1:15 for 3rd-5th grade
Friday, November 4th	Early Release 12:20
Tuesday, November 8th	Veterans Day Assembly 9:00
Wednesday, November 9th	NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher conferences
Thursday, November 10th	NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher conferences
Friday, November 11th	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
Monday, November 14th	Missoula Children's Theater (M.C.T.) auditions 3:20 K-12
Thursday, Nov. 17th	APT Meeting 5:00 MVE Library
Monday-Friday 14th-18th	M.C.T. rehearsals 3:20-7:50
Saturday, November 19th	M.C.T. performances 3:00 and 7:00
Wednesday, November 23rd	Early Release 12:20
Thursday, Nov. 24th & 25th	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

Please check our calendar on the website to see what is happening in the district.

www.methow.org/school-calendars/

Your Child: Too Sick for School?

Symptom by symptom, here are guidelines to help you decide whether your child should stay home from school:

Fever

If your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, keep him/her at home. While at home, encourage your child to drink plenty of liquids. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to school.

Mild Cough/Runny Nose

If no fever is present and your child feels fairly well, school is fine.

Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms

Children with bad coughs need to stay home and possibly see a doctor. It could be a severe cold or possibly bronchitis, flu, or pneumonia.

Diarrhea or Vomiting

Keep your child home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine).

Sore Throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset.

Keep your child home from school and contact a doctor.

Earache

Your child needs to see a doctor.

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)

Keep your child home until a doctor has given the OK to return to school.

Rash

Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases.



Methow Valley School District

November 2011 Lunch Menu

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Chicken Nuggets Hot Roll Green Beans Fruit Milk	2 Chili Cornbread Salad Fruit Milk	3 Hot Dog Baked Beans Cole Slaw Fruit Milk	4 Burrito w/Salsa Corn Fruit Milk EARLY RELEASE
7 Teriyaki Dippers Hot Roll Peas Fruit Milk	8 Soft Tacos w/Salsa Corn Fruit Milk	9 CONFERENCES NO SCHOOL	10 CONFERENCES NO SCHOOL	11 VETERANS DAY NO SCHOOL
14 Omelet Pancakes Tater Tots Fruit Milk	15 Chicken Fajitas w/Peppers & Onions Salad Fruit Milk	16 Nacho Bar Cinnamon Bun Salad Fruit Milk	17 Turkey Noodle Soup Hot Roll Salad Fruit Milk	18 Pizza Salad Corn Fruit Milk
21 Spaghetti Cheese Bread Salad Fruit Milk	22 Chicken Patty or Fish Sandwich Tater Tots Fruit Milk	23 Corn Dog Baked Beans Cole Slaw Fruit Milk EARLY RELEASE	24 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL
28 Cheeseburger French Fries Carrots Fruit Milk	29 Turkey Deli Sandwich Pasta Salad Fruit Milk	30 Cheese Zombie Tomato Soup Salad Applesauce Milk		