



Methow Valley Elementary School Newsletter



Critical Thinking - Character Development - Life-long Learning

No School - Professional Day
Friday, Dec. 9th

Elementary School Winter Concert
Friday, Dec. 16th - 1:00 pm Eagle Gym



Note from Dr. Patrick

Winter break is coming, kids are excited and we are all scrambling to keep bodies and minds active and focused on learning. It is also an excellent time to remember the character traits of love, humility and justice as we think of those less fortunate than us.

Every year, MVE students have a food drive, with all items going to "neighbors helping neighbors." Last year, we collected 1,531 food items. Our student advisory council has set an ambitious goal to nearly double that number to 3,000 items. The students have thought of a creative reward if they reach their lofty goal: have Dr. Patrick die his hair purple. Since I want to honor student voice, I pledge to follow through with this (it might even cover up some gray!). In addition to the school goals, each class is setting its own goal based on their results from last year. We are also collecting canned food donations at the front desk, and at our movie night next Thursday. I encourage youth sports teams (AAU basketball, Nordic team and Hockey) to collect food and bring it to school as well.

When we return to school in January, we will keep the spirit of kindness and compassion alive through our participation in "Rachel's Challenge." A group of sixth grade students (Corinne Dietz, Zoe Hancock and Mackenzie Woodworth) came to the student advisory with a proposal to start a school-wide "chain reaction" of kindness. We will record acts of kindness on slips of paper and create a visible record of these acts by linking them in a paper chain. Classes will start this effort, which will become school-wide as the kindness becomes too big to be contained. I hope you all have a wonderful break. Dr. Patrick

Calendar

No School

Professional Day

Dec. 9th

APT Movie Night

Dec. 8th - 5:30

(see article on pg 3)

No Kindergarten

Dec. 12th

*We will have Kindergarten
on Friday, Dec. 16th*

MVE Winter Concert

Dec. 16th - 1:00

Winter Break

Dec. 19th - Jan. 1st

M.L.K. Day

No School

Jan. 16th

Early Release

January 26th

**No School
Professional Day**

January 27th



WINTER

Getting ready for winter!

- **Sledding hill** - In order for students to use the sledding hill, kindergarten, first and second grade students will need to wear snow pants, boots, coats, hats and gloves. Students in grades three through six will need at least a coat or long-sleeve sweater.
- **Inside recess** - Recess will be held inside when the temperature drops below 20 degrees.
- **Dress for cold** - For outside recess, students in grades K,1, and 2 must wear a coat. Students in grades 3,4,5 and 6 must have their arms and legs fully covered to go outside. Please write your child's name in his/her coat, gloves and hats so they can be easily returned if they are lost.
- **Late Start/No School** - On the occasion that the weather prevents school from starting on time, or starting at all, please refer to local TV and radio stations for information. Our web site, www.methow.org will also have up to date information on late starts and closures.

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.**

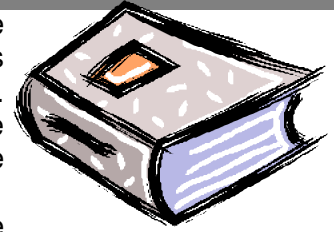
Parent Resource Library

The Parent Resource Library is up and running. We have a variety of parenting books available to borrow and welcome any additional contributions to our collection. You can loan your parenting books to us or if you no longer want them, we will happily accept your donation. If you have any books you would like to contribute (for loan or donation), please drop them at the MVE office with your name and contact number. Topics should be relevant to school-aged children. Books that pertain to infants/toddlers would be graciously accepted by Room One as they are looking for donations. The Parent Resource Library is located at the green table in the MVE Library and books are checked out via a sign out sheet also located at the green table. Questions: Jennifer Elden 996-4343 or jenelden@comcast.net



Library

You may have noticed the Newbery Medal Hall of Fame bulletin board in the library. This is to recognize those students who read Newbery Medal winning books and score at least 80% on the Accelerated Reading or Reading Counts quizzes. These books are considered to be among the finest in children's literature. At the end of the year two students from our Hall of Fame will be awarded a gift certificate to the Trail's End Bookstore.



The 2011 Newbery Award winner is **Moon Over Manifest** by Clare Vanderpool. The setting is 1936 Manifest, Kansas, during the Great Depression. History and fiction combine as Abilene Tucker, age 12, narrates the story of a worn out town full of colorful characters and long-held secrets. Abilene has been sent to Manifest for the summer while her father Gideon works on the railroad. Longing to know her father's past, she is thrilled to find a hidden cigar box with intriguing and mysterious keepsakes. These trinkets and letters become a link to the past that Abilene believes is a connection to her father. The story of Manifest unfolds in a series of flashbacks with Miss Sadie, a local diviner, who relates the story of Ned and Jinx, two likable young men, and their adventures during the turmoil of World War I. Abilene seeks to understand the connection between Ned and Jinx, her father and his place in Manifest history. Lots of plot twists along with rich historical detail make this a truly gripping story. The war, the coal mines of Kansas and the immigrants who worked them, the Ku Klux Klan, Prohibition, and orphan trains all add to Abilene's story. This is a very good book for 5th and 6th grades and adults.

APT Movie Night

The Methow Valley Elementary School A.P.T. (Association of Parents and Teachers) will be having a movie night on Thursday, December 8th. Doors open at 5:30. They will be showing A Charlie Brown Christmas first followed by The Polar Express. East 20 Pizza will be serving pizza. Please see the pre-order form below or online at the school's web site under the APT link. Order forms must be received by Tuesday, December 6th at the school office. They will also be selling popcorn for \$.50 with proceeds going to MVE ASB. See you there!
