

Stafford Primary School Newsletter

WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Families,

Attached to the newsletter you will find our new math handbook. This handbook came about as a result of conversations at Site Council and with the mathematics curriculum renewal last year. The purpose behind the handbook is to give background into the thinking that guides our math program, tips for parents to help their children at home and to give an overview of mathematics K-5.

Last night we held a parent math night. I want to share some of the thinking that was shared last night. It is my belief that every child can be successful in whatever challenge is placed before them with the right support, scaffolding and guidance. Children come to school naturally curious and eager to learn. By bringing these two ideas together we help each child to grow as a confident learner and positive member of the school community. This belief shows itself beautifully in mathematics. Critical to our approach to math is creating the conditions for each child where their skills and understanding grow, and they look at themselves as mathematicians who can tackle even the most complex problems.

With that as a basis for our thinking about math, we framed the evening around these four main goals:

- First: To give an overview of math from Kindergarten through 5th grade. As a district, we have adopted a set of resources and curriculum materials that support students in making sense of mathematics and to support their development as mathematical thinkers. Our focus is on reasoning about mathematical ideas and developing computational fluency. Over the years we have learned a lot about how to approach mathematics that allows students to have a strong foundation of conceptual understanding and procedural fluency. Both are essential elements in developing capable mathematicians, and the two attributes work hand-in-hand to support the development of mathematical proficiency.
- Second: To have exposure to some of the same instructional practices your child experiences in their classroom. The engagement of students in their learning is critical and we wanted those in attendance to experience some of the practices that we have found that draws forth a child's thinking and understanding about a wide range of math concepts.
- Third: To experience some math ideas and experiences that your child will engage in across the K-5 grade continuum. We wanted to give the opportunity for people to try some math; to work first hand with different math tools and ideas. We felt that it was important for them to experience the value of sharing one's thinking and hearing the thinking of others to deepen understanding.
- Fourth: To share some tips for how to help your child at home. One of the many requests we get from parents is ideas and strategies for supporting your child at home. While we shared a range of questions and tips last night, these same tips can be found in the math handbook.

In the math handbook you will find an explanation of the underpinnings of math instruction. These specific areas are conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, strategic competence, adaptive reasoning and productive disposition. Within the handbook, there are specific examples and explanations of each of these strands. All of these strands form the foundation for developing confident and efficient mathematical thinkers. After reading about these areas, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Patrick Minor or myself. We would be happy to chat more about math.

We were fortunate to have Dan Schumaker, Assistant Principal at Athey Creek, in attendance last night. Dan spoke briefly about how middle school mathematics are supported by the primary program. He talked about continuity of mathematical experience between primary and middle school. It was great to have his perspective added into the evening's presentation.

Again, I want to thank the Site Council for their thoughtful questions and help in expanding our thinking about math at Stafford and throughout the district. They are a great group of folks and their insight and support has been invaluable!

Take care,
Patrick



Messages From The Office



MINOR MOMENTS

Through a grant from Pro Grass, we will begin building a large garden beside our gym this Spring. The garden design is based on drawings that our students have created. This outdoor space will give students an opportunity to explore nature and learn more about gardening through class lessons. Children have an innate curiosity about how the natural world works and our intention is to create an outdoor classroom where students can make observations that relate to their science learning in the classroom. This is an exciting project for our students and staff. As this project moves forward, we will need support with building garden beds, a compost container and other miscellaneous items. Please look for announcements about a future garden work day. We will especially need people who have carpentry skills-but will welcome all support. If you would like to be involved with this project or if you would like to know more about how we will use the garden, please do not hesitate to contact me!

WELLNESS CORNER

Our Wellness Revolution is taking force. Every student in our school is tracking their daily physical activity, eating fruits and vegetables as well as extending a bucket filling compliment to their peers. Stafford students RESOLVE to be WELL ! Parents can reinforce healthy habits at home too. Let's join forces together and make 2011 the healthiest year yet!

Dr. Lassell
Physical Education

PS: Supporting daily physical exercise by having children wear tennis shoes to school is a great step in the right direction. If your child chooses to wear boots or dress shoes, please insist that they also take a pair of sneakers for PE. This will ensure their full participation. Thank you.

ORDER A YEARBOOK!

Yearbook orders via the www.myear.com website can be taken at any time. The cost is \$20.00, in addition to a processing fee of \$1.85. If you would like to pay with a check, Judy Woodruff will be accepting those in the spring. Any questions please call Erica Yraguen @ 344-4725

NEED A DIRECTORY?

Perhaps you missed purchasing a directory in the fall and would like this valuable resource! We are happy to announce that we will have some available in the office by February 4th.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANCE COMING TO STAFFORD!

The district is implementing an automated phone calling system for all students who are absent. In order for this system to work correctly, we must have up-to-date information regarding your phone numbers. Please remember to call the school to inform us of your child's absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

Counseling Corner

Ways to Well-Being

Connect...be active...take notice...keep learning...give

As we continue our conversations about Wellness at Stafford School, I wanted to share some ideas with you about ways to increase your wellness and your children's wellness.

Wellness is about feeling good and doing your personal best. You can increase your well being by increasing the following activities in your daily life.

Connect

Connect with the people around you at home, school and in your neighborhood. Invest in positive and healthy friendships which will support and enrich your life.

Be active

Go for a walk or run outside. Ride your bike. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Discover a physical activity you enjoy.

Take notice

Be curious. See the beauty that surrounds you. Enjoy the moment. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling inside.

Keep learning

Try something new. Set a goal for yourself. Take an enrichment class. Pursue a hobby. Learn to play an instrument. Have fun. Learning new things will make you more confident.

Give

Show kindness and care to others. Be a "Bucket Filler!" Smile. Invite someone to play with you. Thank someone. Give a compliment. Volunteer your time. Seeing yourself as part of something greater can be incredibly rewarding.

Adapted from The Well Being Project's 5 Ways to Well being: a set of evidence-based actions to improve personal well being.

WEST LINN—WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

To review the revised District school calendar with furlough days, log on to:

<http://www.wlww.k12.or.us/News/LatestNews/SchoolCalendars.asp>.

CREST NEEDS SCIENCE JUDGES!

We need parents with scientific or engineering backgrounds to judge high school student projects at the CREST Jane Goodall Science Symposium. The student's energy and excitement about science is inspiring - as a judge you will be helping to nurture and mentor our next generation of scientists. The judging session will be held on **Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 9:00 - 4:30** at West Linn High School. Food will be provided.

To register as a judge for the CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium, please contact the fair's Judge Coordinator, Ellen Haugh, at: haughe@wlww.k12.or.us

The week before the fair you will receive a packet containing driving directions, parking information, a schedule of events for the day, and judging criteria. One week before the fair, student abstracts will also be available for you to view online on the above website.

TEACHER FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN RESULTS!

The West Linn-Wilsonville Education Foundation is pleased to share that your generous contributions to the HOT: Honor Our Teachers fundraising campaign in December **raised \$25,000!** These funds will be applied to the Foundation's \$300,000 fundraising goal -- to be raised by this June to preserve teaching positions in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District for the 2011-12 school year.

Thanks to all those who participated in supporting The West Linn-Wilsonville Education Foundation. One donor expressed that their donation "was made in honor of teachers and staff across the district for their outstanding efforts to educate our children." We received many comments such as this, praising the extraordinary commitment and talents of our teachers and staff.

Again, thank you for your support. To learn more about The West Linn-Wilsonville Education Foundation or to donate, please visit us at www.wlwwfoundation.org.

Sincerely, The West Linn-Wilsonville Education Foundation Board

CREST LEARNING-ON-THE-GO FIELD TRIP

MYSTERIES OF EGYPT: Friday, February 18, 2011 **GR.:** 2, 3, 4, & 5 **FEE:** \$40.00 **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Are you interested in seeing real mummies, figuring out how the great pyramids were built, and deciphering centuries-old hieroglyphics? If so, then join CREST on an adventure back into time with a visit to OMSI's new exhibit, Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets and Modern Science, and hands-on activities at the CREST center! We'll use our understanding of science to learn how the people of ancient Egypt lived, and experiment with real techniques used by archeologists to unlock the mysteries of this remarkable civilization. After exploring the museum and taking in a movie at the OMNIMAX Theater, we'll finish our day at CREST by making our own fruit mummies and building our own pyramids! Chaperones are encouraged to attend.

Registration forms are available at your school office or on the CREST website at:

<http://www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us/programs.html>

Superintendent's Message: The Budget Challenge Outlined

In this posting, I will outline the challenges we are facing in preparing a budget for the 2011-12 school year. The first variable challenge is attempting to determine the level of resources that will be available. It is unlikely that the **State biennium budget** will be adopted until late June or early July. Since the district is required to adopt a budget by the end of June, it is necessary to make some projections about what that final budget might be. We know that the Governor has proposed a \$5.56 billion figure. Historically, the Governor's initial proposal is lower than the final. We have opted to use the same level of funding that we received in this current biennium for our early planning purposes. That figure is \$5.75 billion.

The second variable challenge is estimating what the **Local Option tax** will bring the school district. The crash of the housing market and the decline in house market values has drastically reduced the amount of the local option collections for the last two years. We are currently projected to collect \$4,795,817 for the 2010-11 fiscal year. If the Real Market Value of property drops an additional 5.0% the decline of collections for 2011-12 would be close to \$900,000. If the fall of RMV is closer to 10% the loss would be \$1.8 million. Two years ago, the Local Option collections were just over \$7,500,000 so the decline in property values has dropped the total collections by nearly 50%.

Our third variable that influences revenue and expenditures is **enrollment**. The total district enrollment continued to grow this year although at a slower rate. We anticipate continued growth however we are using a very conservative estimate of enrollment growth for next year.

The fourth variable challenge is **General Fund Salaries and Benefits**. This issue has two components. First, both the teachers and the classified employee's collective bargaining agreements are up for negotiations this spring. For our initial expenditure calculations, we have not included any funds for salary increases, experience steps, or education increments. Benefits also include PERS and Health Insurance. Our starting point for estimating expenditures in Health Insurance assumes no increase in district contribution.

The PERS rate increase, mandated by the PERS Board, is very large. The rate increase goes from the current 10.28% in 2009-11 to 17.91% in 2011-13 and represents an approximate \$2,800,000 increase in expenditure.

The **Beginning Fund Balance** is another variable. The ending fund balance projection at June 30, 2011 as reported on our monthly school board financial report is \$689,642. It is possible to increase this amount. This can be done by not spending the contingency account and by implementing spending restrictions where possible. I have made the assumption that all other revenues will be in roughly the same range as the current 2010-11 budget.

Resources and Projected Expenditures 2011-12

In the chart below, you can see the figures we are using based on the assumptions above. We are making immediate budget cuts where possible to achieve the \$1,500,000 beginning balance (or better if possible). The State School Fund shows expected State revenue based on our enrollment projections. The Fees & Tuition are collections for out of district students, all day Kindergarten, Pre-School, Summer School, athletics and activities, etc.

The projected expenditures are based on the current number of employees, PERS increases, and no increases in salaries. It also includes the restoration of the 15 furlough days taken in this school year.

Beginning Balance		1,500,000	
Local Option	3,895,817		2010-11 amt less \$900K
State School Fund	58,446,034		\$5.75 Billion appropriation level
Fees & Tuition	2,150,000		
Interest Income	190,000		
High Cost Students	167,000		
Revenues Sub-Total		64,848,851	
Projected Expenditures		(72,378,545)	
Projected Deficit		(6,029,694)	

Summary:

As you can see from the chart, the cost of current programs and staffing carried into 2011-12 would produce a deficit of over \$6,000,000 if the variables discussed above occur as currently anticipated. Districts are not permitted to do deficit spending so the spending cuts will be made to meet the revenue. Principals and district administration are meeting several times a week doing program and cost analysis on all of the items listed in my first posting. This process will lead to the recommendations that I will put in the Superintendent's recommended budget at the April 4 School Board meeting.

In my future posts, I will address some of the specific programs that have been mentioned in the comments section.

Roger L. Woehl, Supt.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD!

<http://www.bond.wlww.k12.or.us/cbb/>

TALES to TAILS!

Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:00

Kids sign up for 20-minute sessions to read to our dogs downstairs at the library! Each child chooses a book and how much reading and petting to do. Our dog handlers encourage interaction with their dogs and will also offer help if needed.

Reading to the Dog: Increases enthusiasm for reading, develops reading skills, teaches children how to interact with pets and promotes confidence.

Reservations are necessary!

Please call 503-656-7853 x4 or stop by the kids' desk downstairs at the West Linn Public Library to reserve your time to read to Bode or Caterina.

FAR WEST FIBERS FAMILY FIELD TRIP: The Cedaroak Park Primary community continues to find ways to learn about sustainability. Our family friendly field trips are offered on Sunday, 1/30/2011 at 3:00 and Saturday, 2/26/11 at 10:00. Bring your questions and recyclables to our school parking lot at the times above or meet us at Far West Fibers a few minutes later. See how easy recycling can be!

WINTER WEATHER



In case of inclement weather and there is any question about whether school will be open, please tune in to a local radio or television station. They will begin reporting school closures by 6:00 a.m. School closure information is also available on our district website at www.wlww.k12.or.us or sign up for an email/text alert when the school has a closure. Click on the link at the top of the district web page and follow the prompts. NOTE: Conditions can change quickly so please stay tuned for closure updates throughout the morning before school begins. Check for Snow Bus Routes on the district website.

January

Jan. 28

Spirit Day!

February

Feb. 7

Scrip Order due at end of Day/Delivery on Feb. 10

Feb. 8

California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser, 2nd time

Feb. 9

PTSA Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Feb. 11

Bingo Night

Feb. 18

No School/Furlough Day

Feb. 21

No School/Holiday

Feb. 22

No School/Furlough Day

Feb. 24

Science Fair 6:30 p.m. MPR

JANUARY 27, 2011

Stafford Primary

PTSA

everychild. onevoice.

Stafford PTSA

NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER:

Come out and join the Stafford family at *California Pizza Kitchen* on Tuesday February 8th all day to earn 20% of the proceeds for our international service project. Don't forget your school flyer. This includes dine in and take out. Our first California Pizza Kitchen event raised \$318 for the international service project, let's try to beat this amount!

We also are going to have our 2nd annual *Burgerville Night* (West Linn location) on Tuesday April 12th from 5-8 PM. Tell your friends and neighbors because every order counts including the drive through. We will earn 15% of the proceeds for our international service project. (No Flyer Required) bkcurrency2002@yahoo.com

Scrip Highlights:

Remember the next Scrip order date is Monday, February 7th, end of day with delivery on Thursday, February 10th. For SCRIP information contact Karen Wied at wiedfamily@gmail.com or 503.722.2073.



Mark Your Calendar!

The Spring Social is set for April 9th!



Stafford Dad's Night Out

Dad's Night Out at the Corner Saloon was a great success. The proceeds earned are going towards Laura Barbour's after school fund. A thank you goes out to Mike Zoomajian for organizing the event.

Grade Level Social

Thank you to Frank and Jennifer Peters for hosting the 4th grade parent social on January 20th! This was a fine opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to make new connections.

BINGO

Another great PTSA event is just around the corner. Mark you calendars and bring the entire family! PTSA BINGO Night is scheduled for Friday, February 11th at 5:00pm. Concessions will be available for purchase along with raffle tickets for the chance to win some great prizes. Order forms will soon be available to pre-order whole pizzas. Cash prizes will go to those getting the 1st BINGO of each game! Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Bingo game tickets are \$5.00 for 6 games.

More small raffle prizes are needed through either personal or corporate donations. If you can help with more prizes or would like to volunteer the night of the event, please contact Holly Miller at hollydavemiller@aol.com.



Recycling = money \$\$\$ for Stafford!

Please donate your used inkjet printer cartridges and old cell phones to Stafford. Send in only original manufacturer inkjet printer cartridges (no refilled cartridges) and NO laser toner cartridges (those are the large ones). We can only accept old digital cell phones with a camera feature. Please do not send in chargers or accessories with the camera phones.

You can donate these items at the PTSA service center in the office. Your donation not only helps reduce landfill waste but helps Stafford PTSA earn money through a recycling program that offers cash for these items.

If you have any questions about what is accepted, please contact Margo Klose at klose1@comcast.net.

West Linn Softball...Registration is now open for West Linn Softball for girls ages 5 – 16.



Please go to www.westlinnsoftball.org to register or for more information. Registration closes on Feb 1. The Stafford PTSA would like to thank WLSA for their donation to last year's spring social.

Want More Information Regarding PTSA?

Try the **Stafford Primary Website** and click on PTSA: www.stafford.wlww.k12.or.us

Co-Presidents: Joanne Masters (503) 635-2808 / joanne.gmasters@comcast.net - or-

Courtney Kennedy (503) 638-0989 / courtney@pickaback.com

Volunteers: Please Contact Erika Vincent (503) 723-9380 / erikavincent@me.com

Newsletter Inquiries: Please Contact Dardee Layne (503) 709-6295 / dardinel@hotmail.com

\$1



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