

EXPLORER

April 2013

Principal's Message

Dear Patrons:

March has been quite a month at Shelley Elementary! To start with, my replacement as the next principal of Shelley Elementary was announced. **Mr. Mike Ericksen** will become the new principal, officially taking over on July 1, 2013. As I have begun to work with him to prepare for the transition, I have found him to have many strengths that help make him the perfect fit to move forward as the new leader of our school. I hope you will join me in giving him a warm welcome to our school community. He is preparing a personal letter of introduction to share with you in our May newsletter.

Another administrative announcement made this past month was that **Miss Kim Jones**, our current School Psychologist, has been assigned as the new Assistant Principal at Snow Springs. Miss Jones recently completed her administrative endorsement work through BYU and is anxious to move into a school leadership role. She has served for eight years here at Shelley and will be greatly missed as a part of our Special Ed team. She has shown such strengths—doing student assessments and evaluations, meeting with parents, and counseling and supporting our students in building the skills they need to experience success in their lives. We wish Miss Jones the best in her new position.

Thank you for your attendance at our Parent Math Information Night this past month where a review of the new Utah State Math Core was presented. In conjunction with that meeting, we also made parents aware that 2013 is the designated year for the adoption of a new math text and materials for our K-5th grade students. A district level committee consisting of teachers, administrators, and parents narrowed the selection to two final choices. One was **GoMath!** by Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt, and the other was **My Math** by McGraw/Hill. Both are closely aligned with the new Utah State Core for mathematics that will be implemented. Sample materials from both programs were on display at the parent meeting. We appreciate the parents who took the time to look through them, ask questions, and give their input. Our teachers have also taken time to review and compare the materials.

What we found was that **GoMath!** seemed to be the program with greater depth of the two. It also had the stronger technology component, especially for parent and student access from home. We also compared specific topics and compared how they were presented in the two programs. When we looked at the concept of fractions, for example, we found that they were more clearly introduced, taught, reviewed, and extended in **GoMath!**

Therefore, our final decision has now been made to move forward with **GoMath!**, (which is actually the same publishing company we selected for our 6th grade text last year.) Texts were ordered during Spring Break so that teachers will have access to the new materials for summer training and preparation for the new school year.

As we look forward to the month of April, there are a number of other relevant items of particular note. You will find important details in the articles about them in this issue of the *Explorer Bulletin* for further reference. Please take the time to read through this newsletter so you will be aware.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this great school community!

Peggy Crandall
Principal

Crosswalk and Pull-Through Etiquette

Because of recent events at our school, we have a need to review the importance of crosswalk and pull-through safety for our students at Shelley Elementary. *We invite all parents to please take some time to review the following guidelines both for your own information as well as for your students.*

- The crosswalk is there for a reason. Use it. Do not jay-walk or cut across the street mid-way through the block.
- Do not attempt to load or unload students at undesignated places. Students should especially never run and jump into a car that is waiting in the street. Nor should they bail out of a car still in the street to unload in the morning. We've seen some serious near misses with attempted "drive by" drop-offs or pick-ups.
- Please use the pull-through appropriately. (For example, do not try to drive through in

the wrong direction.) When given directions or requests by supervising teachers or aides, *please* follow them respectfully. The pull-through is no place for demonstrations of "road rage" as we have at times witnessed.

- When at the crosswalk, pedestrians should *wait behind the safety line* until directed to cross by the crossing guard. She will signal when it is safe for you to enter the crosswalk.
- Always *walk* bikes and scooters as you cross.
- When crossing in the crosswalk, *walk—don't run*, and always *show respect for others* who may be coming the other direction.
- Cars should only proceed when the crosswalk is clear of both pedestrians *and* the crossing guard.
- Use the sidewalks safely. Watch for cracks or shifting of concrete that may be tripping hazards.
- Respect people's property along the way to and from school by using the sidewalks and not spreading out onto their lawns and yards, grabbing at their trees or shrubs, etc.

Just for the record, most of our students and parents by far are respectful and wise in adhering to these expectations. Parents are modeling good practices, and taking the time to follow appropriate pull-through and crosswalk etiquette. THANK YOU. It is just the few exceptions where we see a parent beckon to a student to cut across the street to avoid waiting in the pull-through line or a few isolated other poor judgment calls or emotional responses that cause us concern. *We never* want to have an accident as a result of someone trying to save a minute or two by having their student do something unsafe. *With parents planning ahead and taking the time needed to follow these important guidelines and expectations, we will be better able to ensure the students' safety.* Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Bicycle Safety Alert!

We recently received a phone call from American Fork City. Some of their workers in the American Fork Cemetery reported a serious safety concern. They noticed some students riding their bikes down the hill on the sidewalk along the cemetery on their way to school. Because it was downhill, the bikers were gaining speed and going quite fast. The workers watched in horror as the students raced right through the stop sign at the bottom of the hill at 700 North and 100 West, witnessing a very near miss with an approaching vehicle. This could easily have had very tragic consequences.

We have addressed this with the students during morning announcements, but would appreciate parents of students coming from that area to *please stress bicycle safety to your children*. Even though they may not see any cars coming, they should still honor the stop sign, coming to a complete stop and looking both ways (several times) to make sure it is safe to cross.

Dress for Success

With the onset of warmer weather it would be good to review the expectations for how students should be dressed that are printed in the Shelley School handbook you received at the beginning of the school year. It may also be accessed online by way of our school website. There are many wonderful outfits that may be great for spring and summer fun at home and in the neighborhood, but some of these outfits are not appropriate for the school environment. Please pay special attention to guidelines about shorts, skirts, sleeveless tops and flip-flops. Thank you for helping us limit classroom distractions and ensure student comfort and safety by sending students appropriately dressed each day.

Alpine School District Special Education Parent Night

The Alpine School District Special Education Department is pleased to announce "Parent Night Conference" for parents who have students potentially or currently receiving special education services. The conference topics will be beneficial for parents of students with a range from mild/moderate to severe disabilities.

Where: Dan Peterson School
169 North 1100 East, American Fork
When: Thursday, April 18th, 2013
Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Dr. Tina Dyches, the keynote speaker for the conference, is a professor in the special education department at BYU. Her presentation will focus on family resiliency. Then the evening will proceed with several experts presenting in breakout sessions including the following topics:

- Positive Behavior Strategies
- Reducing Anxiety
- Toilet Training
- Support for Siblings
- Communication/Social Stories
- Sensory Needs and Strategies
- The Role of Play at Home & School
- Alpine Transition & Employment Center

Please come join us!

(Respite care will be provided for students with severe disabilities only. Please contact Kim Jones, Coordinator of the Special Education Parent Night, by April 15th to reserve a place or to answer any other questions at 801-610-8718.)

TESTING TIPS

As we move into the months of April and May, a glance at the calendar reminds us we are soon beginning the process of giving a number of end-of-year assessments such as the state CRT testing in grades 3-6 (the testing window is April 15 through May 23), and the DRA assessment in grades K-3 (April 8 through May 3). Others include the 1st and 2nd Grade Math Assessment (April 29 through May 10) and the Kindergarten Math and Literacy Assessments (May 6 through 17). These tests may at times be stressful to some students. This stress is not because the students don't know the information; it is because they may not be used to the test-taking format. Our teachers work very hard to prepare the students for the tests and to make testing a positive experience as a part of the students' overall learning process.

Here are four simple things parents may also do to help students do their best on these tests:

- Reassure your children that they are doing a good job at school. Self-confidence brings courage to do their best.
- Help them arrive at school *on time* every day.
- Make sure they go to bed early so that they are well rested.
- Be sure they eat a good breakfast at home or school every day.

Of course, these four practices are good not only during testing, but all the time to encourage success at school. They are especially beneficial to your children in preparation for testing time. Thank you for working with us to make school a rewarding experience for our students.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL

We would like to congratulate the Shelley students who represented our school at the Alpine School District Knowledge Bowl Competition in March. These students spent months actively engaged in learning key concepts found in the Utah State Core Curriculum for the Arts in preparation for this event.

We are pleased to announce that Shelley had all four teams place in the Top 10 Schools in their division of the district competition! Members of those teams are as follows:

Intermediate (5th/6th) Teams :

- Jake Rich, Aaron Jolley, Kade Wakefiled, Jake Heaps, and Aaron Larsen
- Christopher Rose, Caleb Miller, Jaydon Ruchti, Cole Van Ausdal, and Justin Corbridge

Primary (3rd/4th) Teams:

- Claire Rose, Ben Miller, Ryan Illum, Wyatt Harward, and Jordan Nixon
- Jefferson Penrod, Brian Bigler, Isaac Dixon, Claire Pusey, and Emma Jolley

We would like to thank the coaches and parents of these teams. They dedicated so much of their time to helping the students be prepared. Without the parents, this program would not be the success that it is.

We look forward to the Knowledge Bowl next year when the topic and focus will be on Geography.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If your family is moving and/or your children will not be returning to Shelley School in the fall, please let us know. If you did not return the student placement form with the box checked that you are moving, would you be so kind as to contact the office as soon as possible? We are trying to accurately determine how teaching staff will best be distributed for next year based on student numbers. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Battle of the Books

A Huge Success!

We had a very successful first annual Battle of the Books (BOB) competition at Shelley this year. We were so impressed with all the hard work and efforts of the participating students to make this a fabulous kick off year. We had 20 teams in the 5th and 6th grade division and 22 from the 3rd and 4th grade division, with each team consisting of 4 or 5 students from all reading levels. Over one fourth of the students read *all 20 books* from this year's reading list. A few even started reading them once again.

We had our 5th/6th grade battles on March 11th, and the students were amazing! Within the first five minutes of the "battles," it was quite clear that the students were very well prepared. At the completion of the school level pool competitions that day, the two top teams were: The Kukahiko Wizards-- Meghan Hendershot, Sarah Call, Justin Corbridge, and Austin Lefler from Mrs. Kukahiko's 5th grade class; and The Moe-Joe-Joe-Joes--Olivia Harper, Rachel Johns, Aidan Nielsen, and Connor Moore from Mr. Engles' 6th grade class.

On March 18th we held a school assembly to enjoy the championship battle between these two top teams. At the end of the first 24 questions they were tied and had to then go to a tiebreaker round. The atmosphere in the gym was intense and both teams demonstrated literary excellence! In the end the Moe-Joe-Joe-Joes took first place. They then went on to participate in the district level BOB battles where they took 6th place out of 22 schools, only missing 5th place by three points! It was such a fun day, and we are very proud of how they represented our school.

Our 3rd/4th grade level pool battles are Monday, April 8th. Then on Friday, April 12, we will have our final battle between the two top scoring teams.

Bringing Battle of the Books to Shelley Elementary has had a very positive effect on student involvement in reading and exposure to a variety of excellent student literature. The program has been under the direction of Bev Cook, our school Media Specialist. She says, "I also want to thank both our parents and our wonderful teachers for their help and support. It has been such a fun year!"

We are looking forward to next year's reading and fun to begin. The list for 2013-14 came out April 1st. Mrs. Cook will put a list of the books in report cards at the end of the year for recommended summer reading, BUT if there are students who would like the list earlier, they may come to the library for a copy fresh off the press.

IT IS YEARBOOK TIME!!!

Want a way to preserve your memories of the 2012/2013 year at Shelley? With a yearbook you can have pictures of your friends and remember the fun school events.

**The cost is
\$13.00 for Color**

Due by April 12, 2013

You may turn in your order to the main office with check or money order. *No cash transactions.*

Or you may order online at:

www.inter-state.com/store/preorder

and enter this code: **268949**

Deadline is Friday, April 12th to reserve your copy.

After April 12th yearbooks may be purchased for \$15.00 while supplies last.

Yearbooks will be delivered the last week of school.

Name _____ Teacher _____

Number of Yearbooks _____ Total Cost _____

Make check/money order payable to Shelley Elementary. Due by April 12, 2013

After April 12th yearbooks may be purchased for \$15.00 while supplies last.

April 2013

1 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	2 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	3 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	4 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	5 Spring Break NO SCHOOL
8 White Ribbon Week Internet Safety and Focus on Family	9	10 1st Grade Hogle Zoo Field Trip All 1st Graders Attend 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.	11	12 →(Sat., April 13)→ Free Family Movie at Towne Cinema 12:30 p.m. with completed Family Activity Record
15	16 PTA Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.	17 5th Grade Hope of America Rehearsal @ BYU 5th Grade attend 8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. ***Hope of America*** Evening Performance In the Marriott Center (See student note for details and times)	18	19
22 3rd Grade Time Machine Presentations	23 Elementary Band Performance 12:45 p.m.	24 2nd Grade Thanksgiving Point 6th Grade Constellation Night 8:30-9:30 p.m.	25 Walk-A-Thon Kick-Off (in individual classrooms)	26 Kindergarten Thanksgiving Point Field Trip All attend 9:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
29 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE	30 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE	May 1 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE Walk-A-Thon 9:30-10:30 a.m. & 1:00-2:00 p.m. School Community Council Meeting 2:30 p.m.	2 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE Mrs. Riding's Class Program For Parents 6:00 p.m.	3 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE Service Club Movie Night 6-8:30 p.m.