

EXPLORER

March 2013

Principal's Message

On February 12, we held our annual Kindergarten Registration Day, and have currently registered 119 students so far for the coming school year.

Valentine's Day was a delightful time of exchanging cards and treats with classmates and friends. As I went to each classroom to share a valentine with the students, I was very impressed with the great parent support and spirit of volunteerism we have in this school! In each room there were several parents involved in directing student games or activities and serving creative treats to celebrate this fun holiday.

This year's Jazz Reader contest went from January 18 through February 19. Sponsored by our PTA and chaired by Shelley Parents—Cynthia Ruchti and Jeanette Franson, students turned in their weekly Jazz reading logs with amazing totals of minutes read in their outside-of-school time during the month-long stretch. The tone was set by having a Family Reading Night on Monday, Jan. 28. The halls of the school were lined with families curled up together reading! Parents were reading to children, siblings were reading to each other, and some families were simply all spread out each reading individually. Jazz Reading time was also enhanced by a morning each of Moms 'n' Muffins and Dads 'n' Donuts. In addition, we held a before and after school Read-a-thon in the gym. We greatly appreciate everyone's support, hard

work, and commitment to the importance of student reading! We set what we thought was a very lofty goal this year of a million collective total minutes for the school. Much to our delight, the students read a total of 1,090,730 minutes—far exceeding our goal!

Since the students did such an amazing job of becoming "Champions of Reading" at Shelley Elementary, I had to make good on my promise to come each day for a whole week dressed as a different character from some of my favorite books. Throughout the last week of February I was Annie Sullivan (Helen Keller's teacher), Mrs. Potts from *Beauty and the Beast*, Annie Oakley, Professor McGonagall from *Harry Potter*, and Abraham Lincoln. It was a delightful week of interacting with the students as I took on the character of these different people. Mr. Huntington made good on his promise as well by shaving his famous goatee, (which caused him several frosty mornings working out in the cold). Students reading the top three total minutes in each grade level were invited to bring their families and come to a dinner provided by Chick-fil-A and the PTA, after which we enjoyed an Author Night with Mark Smith, local children's book author. Congratulations to our students on a job well done!

We finished out the month with some fine story-telling performances. Grade level winners shared their stories in an assembly during the school day on Wednesday, February 20, and many student participants shared their tales in an Evening of

Retirements, Changes Announced

Storytelling that Friday, February 22. What a talented group of students we have at our school! Thank you to Mrs. Cheree Davis for her continued support and encouragement of the art of Story-Telling at Shelley Elementary.

All in all, February was a month of hard work and creativity while sharing and enjoying the talents of students, teachers, and parents alike.

The most difficult thing for me this past month was finalizing my decision to retire at the end of this school year. I wish there were a more personal way of letting each of you know than by way of the e-mail announcement I sent out. I would love to have been able to literally come house to house to shake your hands and thank you face to face for the wonderful five years it has been serving here as your principal. I am glad it is not "Good-bye" quite yet, as I am truly savoring each day that I continue to come to work at this great school.

--Peggy Crandall, Principal

March is Maturation Time

During the month of March, Shelley Elementary will be having their annual 5th grade maturation program. The following is the schedule we will follow:

March 18 -- 5th grade girls 12:20 - 1:20 p.m.

March 25 -- 5th grade boys 12: 20 - 1:20 p.m.

Both presentations will be held on Monday afternoons in the Media Center. Carissa Jensen, our school nurse, will be doing the presentation for the girls, and Brad Wilcox will be doing the presentation for the boys. *Because this is an important area that most parents prefer to also attend and be a part of, reminder/permission letters have been sent home in the mail to the parents of each 5th grade student.*

In addition to Mrs. Crandall, several other teachers will be leaving Shelley at the end of this school year. Also announcing their retirements are **Mr. Joseph Germaine** and **Mr. Ross Durrant**. Mr. Germaine has been our art specialty teacher, and Mr. Durrant has been our science specialty teacher in the past and, most recently, a 3rd grade core teacher. Both of these gentlemen have served many years at Shelley, and will be deeply missed. **Mr. Victor Williamson**, who has come to help out at Shelley during the interim of determining the new direction of the Christa McAuliffe Space Center, is also retiring this year. He has provided welcome support here at various times of supervision and in math support for our 6th grade classes. We express our appreciation for the service these men have given to our students in so many ways.

Miss Devery Larsen, our amazing Speech Therapist for the past two years, will be leaving at the end of the school year as well. She has received a call to serve an L.D.S. mission to the Minnesota—Minneapolis Spanish Speaking Mission beginning this July. We wish "Miss Devery" the best in her new adventure, and appreciate all the lives she has touched for good while she has been with us here.

Mr. Jeff Freeman has made the decision to pursue a masters degree in Educational Leadership at BYU, and will be taking a one year leave of absence to devote to full-time schooling. We appreciate his hard work with our 6th graders for the past three years, first as a science specialty teacher and then in 6th grade core, and we wish him much success in his graduate work.

Concerning Requests

Shelley families should have recently received blue track placement request forms in the mail. We will be accepting these at the front office through Friday, March 29. As each is submitted, it is marked with the date and time it was turned in, so *if a certain track is essential to your family's schedule, please get your track requests in early.* The placement process can be quite a challenge as we strive to create classrooms that are as balanced as possible—in boy/girl ratios, range of academic abilities, behavior or health concerns, and number of students in a.m. and p.m. tracks. Please do not assume, if your child is on a certain track this year, that he or she will be on the same track next year. Sometimes changes have to be made to support the need to maintain these balances. We very much appreciate those parents who are willing to work their family schedules around the track to which they are assigned. We do try, wherever possible, to keep all members of any given family together on the same track unless parents specifically ask us to do otherwise. The one exception we need to make clear is that there is no kindergarten session that lines up with the starting or ending time of the 8:00 a.m. track. You may still keep the rest of your children on the early track if needed, but need to realize because of the change in Kindergarten start times, you will need to plan accordingly.

On rare occasion, we receive a form with a request not only for a certain track, but also for a specific teacher, *and* the names of students who either should or should not be in the same class as the student submitting the form. Please understand that a great deal of thought and consideration goes into the placement process as we try to create balanced classes at each grade level. In so doing, we are simply not able to grant every person's wishes. *We ask your support and*

flexibility in looking for the good and the opportunity to grow in new ways as you receive your child's placement assignment for the coming school year. It will help keep balance and maximize each teacher's ability to create the most positive and effective learning environment.

Kindergarten Registration

If you did not participate in Kindergarten registration on Tuesday, February 12th, and have a Kindergarten student coming to Shelley this coming fall, please come in to the office *right away* to complete that process. Please encourage neighbors and friends in our community who may not already be receiving this information to be sure to register their Kindergarten student at our office as soon as possible as well to help the accuracy of our numbers.

Jr. High Math Placement Test Scheduled

Placement in the correct 7th grade mathematics course is an important step in a student's education and can play a large role in determining a student's success in secondary math. The suggested placement for students who are on grade level entering 7th grade is Intermediate 1. This will place students on a track that will allow them to take AP Calculus their senior year in High School.

Students may enter an accelerated math track in 7th grade and be placed in Intermediate 1H/2H Accelerated by demonstrating high levels of proficiency on The Orleans-Hanna Test and a Mathematics Skills Test. These tests will be administered at AF Junior High on March 25 or 26. Students interested in taking these tests may register at the following link: <http://survey.alpinedistrict.org/surveys/afjallregister2013.htm>.

Jr. High Information

As 6th grade students prepare for registration for the upcoming school year, there are some important dates to note from American Fork Junior High. Please note them on your family calendar for future reference:

- Feb. 27 Mr. Farnsworth, AFJH principal, and a counselor visited Shelley Elementary.
- March 1 6th grade packets mailed home
- March 19 Open House at the Junior High 4:30-6:30 p.m. **All registration worksheets are due to AFJH!**

Playground Safety

We have noticed a few parents who stop by the playground during lunchtime recess to say hello or to try to catch their student to leave a message, bring a treat, etc. This can be a concern, as it can appear to some as a stranger parked along the edge of the playground watching students. This in turn makes some students uncomfortable and even worried about their safety. Our playground supervisors have tried to approach such vehicles to simply determine the purpose of their parking at the edge of the playground, only to have some vehicles drive off rather quickly. This raises even more questions or concern.

May we request, to avoid misperceptions, that you come to the front office to connect with your student even if it is during lunchtime recess? *We love to have parents stop by any time.* We have some parents who come to have school lunch with their child, to drop off a birthday treat, to leave a message about a change of plans after school, etc. We can help you with each of these from the office. That way there is no misinterpretation of your visit, and students are not unduly frightened about people watching them from a vehicle parked at the edge of the playground. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Math Text Adoption for Grades K-5

Alpine District elementary schools will be moving forward with the adoption of a math text for Kindergarten through 5th grades to begin this coming school year. A district level Mathematics Textbook Adoption Committee has carefully considered a number of texts and has narrowed down the selection to the two choices that scored the highest in their evaluation and review process: *GoMath!*, by Houghton Mifflin, and *My Math*, by McGraw Hill.

It is now up to school level adoption committees to make the final decision for each individual school. To help in this process, we have planned a Parent Information Night on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. here in the multi-purpose room at Shelley Elementary. There will be a brief formal presentation, after which sample materials from each grade level will be available for parent review. A teacher from each grade level will be available to answer questions as well. Parents may fill out a response form to share their observations, list pros and cons they see, and to indicate their preference. For those who are not able to attend the Parent Information Night, the sample text materials will also be available at the school during regular school hours for review and feedback from March 20 to 28.

Taking into consideration all feedback from teachers and parents, a decision will then be made and the textbooks will be ordered in early April. This will allow them to arrive before the end of the school year so that teachers may have their new materials during the summer to work with to be ready for math instruction in the fall.

LOCKDOWN DRILL SCHEDULED

Shelley Elementary will be holding a lockdown drill on Thursday, March 14, at 9:30 a.m. From the American Fork Police Department, we will have Chief Call and Lieutenant Liddiard and at least two uniformed police officers assisting us with the drill. During this drill we will be implementing the improved practices we have been taught in recent safety trainings, and we are excited to now be even better prepared to protect our students and staff in the event of a situation requiring a lockdown.

The drill will begin at 9:30 a.m. Although the students will know it is a drill, we will be treating it as "the real thing" so that we may practice all the steps we would go through in an actual lockdown. This means that we need parent help and cooperation. It is especially important that the students arrive at school on time that morning. Also, if you have the need to check your child out that morning for an appointment, please plan to do so well before the drill begins at 9:30 a.m. At that point all doors to the school will be locked until the office staff completes the room check calling process and the officers are able to do a walkthrough of the school room by room.

During this time, the officers will show the students what a uniformed officer looks like as well as what an officer in SWAT fatigues looks like, so they will know and recognize who is there to help them in the event of a crisis. Because of the teaching and feedback involved in the process, we anticipate that it could take up to half an hour. Please anticipate any needs you may have during that time and plan accordingly. *We will have a school staff member posted at the front door to address any needs or unforeseen circumstances that may arise during that time.* We appreciate your support during this drill and look forward to the learning and experience it will provide all of us. Please be sure to discuss the drill with your children when they come home that day.

Alpine School District Special Education Parent Night

The Alpine School District Special Education Department is pleased to announce "Parent Night" for parents who have students potentially or currently receiving special education services:

Where: Legacy Elementary School, 28 East 1340 North, American Fork

When: Thursday, March 21st, 2013

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Topic: Strategies for Parents of Students with ADHD

Dr. Ellie Young, a professor at BYU, will be our presenter for the evening. She has been a credentialed school psychologist for almost 25 years. Dr. Young worked in the school setting for 10 years and currently has a private practice where she has worked with many children with ADHD and coordinated interventions with their parents. She has taught graduate level courses about ADHD and worked with children who have attention problems for most of her career. Her presentation will focus on learning what aspects of ADHD make it difficult for students to complete homework, understanding how working memory and executive functioning skills contribute to education, and implementing strategies for parents to help their students find greater success in school.

If you have any specific questions you would like addressed at the meeting, you are welcome to email Dr. Young at ellie_young@byu.edu.

Please come join us!

(Feel free to contact Kim Jones, parent night coordinator, with any questions: [801-610-8718](tel:801-610-8718).)

Lost and Found

As winter begins to ebb, the hats, coats, and accessories in the lost and found are beginning to overflow. If you are missing *any* clothing items, please take a few minutes to stop by our Lost and Found located just outside the multipurpose room.

PTA

Thank you so much for all your support these last couple months with Jazz Reader and our fundraisers at Culvers and Pizza Pie Café! What awesome readers we had during Jazz Reading, the school goal was to read ONE MILLION MINUTES, our students read that plus more! Way to go!

Our focus this school year, as well as for the next few, is to raise money to upgrade or replace our school playground equipment pieces. We have a Playground Committee that has put together a couple of proposals and has given them to the district for approval. Because of the expense we are exploring more

ways to bring money in through fundraisers so that we can get started on this project. Between the Culvers and Pizza Pie Café Family Nights we earned nearly \$1500.00! We hope to continue with monthly fundraisers for this purpose. This month we are COLLECTING BOX TOPS. This is not a contest of any sorts, just a school wide effort to raise needed money. There will be a box near the front office where the children can put their BOX TOPS. Please have BOX TOPS in a baggie of some sort, it would be helpful if they are counted with the number written on the baggie.

Coming Up...

In April we will have our Annual Walk-A-Thon, more info to come. Also in April we will have a White Ribbon/Family Focus Week, take time to talk about internet safety and enjoy some family time ending the week with a Family Movie at the Towne Cinema on April 13.

Thanks Again!

Shelley PTA

IT IS YEARBOOK TIME!!!

Looking for 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, please.*

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.

March 2013

				<p>1</p> <p>Last Day of 2nd Trimester</p>
<p>4</p> <p>MINIMAL DAY!!! 8:00 to 12:30 9:15 to 1:45 Kindergarten: 8:00-10:00 Track 1 9:15-11:15 Track 2 10:30-12:30 Track 3 11:45-1:45 Track 4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6th Grade Field Trip to Clark Planetarium by Front Runner 6th Grade Attends 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>School Community Council Meeting 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Report Cards sent home</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Miss Udy's Opera "Pride of the Gods" Parent Performance 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Mountain Man Rendezvous All 4th Graders Attend 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lockdown Drill 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. With AF Police Department</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5TH GRADE TALENT SHOW 12:45 P.M.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>5th Grade Girls Maturation Presentation 12:20-1:20 p.m. Media Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PTA Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. 3rd Grade Clark Planetarium Field Trip 3rd Grade Attends 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. 6th Grade Open House @ AFJHS 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Math Text Adoption Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Spring Pictures (Adams Photography) Watch for flier</p> <p>Special Education Parent Night 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Legacy Elementary</p>	<p>22</p> <p>March 23 Battle of the Books District Competition</p>
<p>25</p> <p>5th Grade Boys Maturation Presentation 12:20-1:20 p.m. Media Center</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2013/14 Track Request Forms Due</p>