

# EXPLORER

December 2011

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## *Principal's Message*

Dear Parents,

The Holiday Season is a time of magic and excitement as students and families participate in parties, special programs, and other celebrations. I love the bright-colored decorations and the beautiful music associated with this time of year. This is also a time of focusing on ways we can give of ourselves to others. I have been especially touched by the genuine offerings of kind deeds and service I have witnessed going on at our school—among families, students, faculty and staff alike. It seems, for some reason, that a number of our faculty and staff or their immediate family members have had significant challenges so far this school year. I have been impressed by the acts of kindness and concern and love shown by parents and students and by co-workers. The culture of our Shelley School Community is truly one of caring concern for each other's well-being and success.

We had an overwhelming response to our annual food drive this past month. The students and staff participated with great excitement. In the healthy spirit of friendly competition, individual classrooms as well as grade levels challenged each other to give generously. When I was out helping supervise the morning of the final day of the drive, there was a father who came with his

daughter and shared the fact that in support of this great cause, he had put up a sign at his work to also help collect food items to bring for the drive. He also donated the cash generated from his vending machines for that week. With parent examples such as this, no wonder we have such amazing students!

We have approximately eighty 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are actively participating in our Shelley Service Club this year. They have been actively involved in a number of ways—assisting teachers in their classrooms, gathering paper for our recycling efforts, helping with the food drive, serving as peer mediators at lunch time, working with parent volunteers on our Shelley Sprinters program, and leading the school in the pledge and making morning announcements each Monday. In October, they joined with students from Freedom Elementary and prepared alphabet books to go with hygiene kits to be distributed to those in need. They also gathered food and nonfood items and backpack donations and assembled packs of food for the food bank to send home to families who are struggling. What a great example these students are for all those around them!

A glance at the parent volunteer log will attest to the strong showing of parent support we have here at Shelley as well. Countless volunteers are here on any given day helping students practice and review

important math and literacy concepts, complete science experiments or work on social studies projects.

Our teachers are also some of the finest around. They spend 1-o-n-g hours both here at school and at home researching ideas and preparing lessons and materials to provide engaging learning opportunities for their students. Through careful collaboration, they work together to determine the best way to meet students' needs.

I am so very grateful to be associated with such a top quality group of people as we have in our Shelley School Community. It is an honor and a privilege to work with each of you, with your students, and with our faculty and staff. I wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season. May it be one of peace and joy for you and for those you love.

Sincerely,

Peggy Crandall, Principal

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our Winter Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, and Thursday, January 26, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Scheduling of appointments for this event may be done through the online scheduler available on our website. The parent window for sign-ups will be open from Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 12:00 a.m. through Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 11:59 p.m. Appointment times are set for ten-minute intervals. We look forward to the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet together to discuss and celebrate each student. Please note that the book fair will be on display in the Media Center throughout that week as well.

## ASD Special Education Parent Night

The district's special education department invites the public to attend monthly special education parent nights beginning January 19, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 in the media center at Shelley Elementary School (602 N. 200 W. in American Fork). The department's goal is to develop partnerships with parents in the school community through promoting awareness, offering education, and providing support. They hope to foster opportunities for positive communication with parents of students who are currently receiving special education services or who may be referred for special education assessments. The first session will provide a general overview of the district's special education program, including information about special education assessments, placement, and services. The remainder of the special education parent nights will cover topics identified by parents in the first session as areas of need or interest. Also, save the date for February 23. The dates for the remainder of the monthly meetings will be determined at a later date after receiving feedback from parents. Please come join us. Refreshments will be provided.

## Holiday Break

Our last day of school in 2011 will be on Friday, December 16. Our first day of school for 2012 will be on Tuesday, January 3rd. We wish you a very happy holiday season. Please travel safely and enjoy the break.

## **It's Storytelling Time!**

Now is a great time to help your child either write an original story or retell a fable, fairy tale or story from a book for our **4th Annual Shelley Storytelling Festival** to be held in February! Stories should be 3-5 minutes long. Telling their story during the holidays to family and friends will build children's skills as well as confidence. There will be class presentations in January and February, with grade-level competitions to be held in February. While only two representatives from each grade will be chosen to tell their stories in a school assembly on **Wednesday, February 22, 2012**, all storyteller participants may share their stories in **An Evening of Storytelling** on **Friday, February 24**. Shelley families will be invited to wear their pajamas, bring their pillows and stuffed animals, and come enjoy these entertaining stories. It is always a grand event to experience the amazing talents of our Shelley students! So, what's YOUR story?

## **LOST AND FOUND**

The lost and found is located just outside the gymnasium on the circular coat rack. We encourage you to come and check for any items your child may be missing—jackets and coats, hats, gloves and mittens, lunch pails, etc. We even have a number of items that have fallen from cars dropping off and picking up children in the pull-throughs—socks, shoes, sippie cups, children's toys. We will be bagging any unclaimed items on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and they will be donated to a local charity.

## **THE SEASON OF GIVING**

At this time of year a number of employers offer matching funds to any employee who makes a contribution to a charitable cause. If this is the case for you, it would be a perfect time to consider making a donation to your child's classroom or grade level. For example, if you made a donation of \$25 to your child's classroom and your employer matched it, the classroom would receive \$50! If you make your donation through the Alpine Foundation, it is tax deductible, and you can specify exactly where you would like the donation to be used. Donation forms are available online through the district website, or hard copies are available in the front office.

We have had a number of people make generous donations through the Foundation in the past, and the teachers and students have enjoyed the benefits in their classrooms as a result! Thank you.

# PTA

## BOX TOPS

GRAND OPENING of the Mobile Box Top Store was held this past Thursday and Friday, and it was a great success! Students enjoyed selecting something from the store in exchange for the Box Tops they have been collecting and saving to help our school. We encourage you to have your students continue to collect Box Tops, as the Mobile Store will be a regular occurrence now that it is up and going. Watch for dates on the January school calendar! (Please note that we cannot accept expired Box Tops.)

## FOOD DRIVE WINNERS!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the "Shelley Annual Food Drive". Our school brought in 4,600 donated items with a total of 4,300 pounds of food. GREAT JOB!!! The food bank said that Shelley Elementary School brought in the most food donations from an elementary school this year. AWESOME JOB!!!

The class that brought in the greatest average donation per student was Mrs. Cummings' 2nd grade class. They won lunch with Chick-Fil-A and the cow on Friday, December 2nd. Congratulations!!! Thank you to Chick-Fil-A for their support in providing this lunch.

Shelley "Penny Wars" was great fun as well. It was amazing to see how pennies could add up to so much money. Our school donated a total of \$1,737.87 to the Food Bank. Every dollar donated to the food bank will buy 17 pounds of food and because of your generous donations our school was able to provide 29,544 pounds of food. The grade level that brought in the most money was 4th grade. They won an ice cream party to celebrate their efforts. Thanks again to everyone who worked to make this such a success.

YOU ARE AMAZING,  
SHELLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!!!

## REFLECTIONS

Thanks to all of the students who participated in the PTA Reflections Program. We received 67 creative literature, art, 3D art, photography, and dance projects inspired by the theme "Diversity Means . . ." At the award night on November 10, entries by the following students were chosen to move on and represent Shelley Elementary at the council level. Congratulations, and good luck at the next level of judging!

### Literature

Sarah Call  
Dayna Dawson  
Lane Dudley  
Jefferson Penrod  
Daniel Thornton

### Dance

Breanna Avery  
Kaitlyn Avery  
Sadie Judy  
Kylie Jensen

### Visual Arts

Rachel Bruening  
Sarah Call  
Abby Poulton  
Cole Woodward  
Morgan Allen

### 3D Art

Breanna Avery  
Preston Avery  
Kaitlyn Avery  
Abby Poulton  
Ian Poulton

### Photography

Kaily Nicol  
Christopher Rose  
Robby Sorenson  
Zackery Hammond  
Anthony Knowles

### Film

Annie Callaway

# December 2011

5	6	7 <b>School Community Council Meeting</b> 2:30 p.m.  <i>Elison's Class Play</i> 1-1:45 p.m.  6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Plays Elison 5:15-6 p.m. Riding 6-6:45 p.m.	8  <i>Riding's Class Play</i> 1-1:45 p.m.	9
12  <i>Shelley Sounds Combined Rehearsal</i> 2:40-3:45 p.m. in the Gym	13  <i>Mrs. Riding's Space Center Field Trip</i>  <i>Shelley Sounds Combined Rehearsal</i> 2:15-3:30 p.m. in the Gym	14  <i>Hadfield &amp; McMurtryz Space Center Field Trip</i>  6 <sup>th</sup> Grade <b>NOVA GRADUATION</b> 1 p.m.  Shelley Sounds Performance Provo Towne Center @ 5:30 p.m.	15  <i>Kukahiko &amp; Knowles Space Center Field Trip</i>  Shelley Sounds Christmas Evening Performance 6:30 p.m. in the Gym	16  <i>Shelley Sounds School Performance and Christmas Sing</i> 9:40 a.m./12:50 p.m.
19  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	20  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	21  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	22  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	23  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL
26  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	27  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	28  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	29  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	30  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL
January 2  <i>Christmas Break</i> NO SCHOOL	3  Happy New Year and Welcome Back!	4  <b>School Community Council Meeting</b> 2:30 p.m.	5	6

