

EXPLORER

February 2012



SEND A
VALENTINE
GREETING
WITH

VAL-O-GRAMS !



Send a note to your
friends with a candy
stick on each note for
only **25 Cents!**

*Sold Before and After
School thru February 13th*

Parents may also purchase these for
children at the office.

Valentine's Day

Thanks to PTA room mothers and the generous parent volunteers, students will have a special Valentine's Day party in their classroom from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Kindergarten class parties will be the last hour of class. All grades are invited to bring individual Valentine cards for each member of their class. This is, of course, optional. We ask that students not exchange home-prepared Valentines treats at school.

Principal's Message

I would like to take this time to express appreciation for the great response of parents and students who attended our Parent Teacher Conferences the last week in January. It was a great opportunity for teachers and parents to celebrate areas of strength, progress and growth, and to discuss areas where you can work together for continued improvement and success. *There is a strong positive effect on student learning when parents and teachers partner together in the education process.*

Monday, February 13, will be a Minimal Day schedule to facilitate an afternoon of Professional Development for our faculty. During this particular time, grade level teams will be presenting to a parent panel to demonstrate the kinds of things they are doing to address the diverse learning needs of students. They will be sharing examples of the kinds of collaboration they do, not only weekly each Monday, but also daily in their conversations and ongoing work with students. Comments from last year's parent panel included the following: "I wish *every* parent could sit in on these presentations." "I knew our teachers worked hard to know and help our students, but this has helped me better understand just how *very* hard that is!" "I am in awe of the magnitude of the great things our teachers accomplish as they work with our children." It truly is a privilege for me to work with such amazing people as the

teachers who are a part of the Professional Learning Community of Shelley Elementary School.

Our Jazz Reader Contest was launched on January 20, and will end on February 21. It has been a delight to see the excitement about reading among our students as they work to reach classroom, grade level, and school wide goals. I am especially grateful to our PTA members who, under the coordination of Cynthia Ruchti, have worked so hard to facilitate such activities as Moms and Muffins, Family Reading Night, the Before/After School Read-a-Thon, and Dads and Doughnuts. Each of these has been a fun way of providing opportunities for students to celebrate the joy of reading.

This past month the School Community Council (SCC) members made site visits to three different schools where they have implemented a Recess Before Lunch program. We learned many things and got some great information and insights to consider. SCC members will also be helping gather information on the current state of sidewalks and crosswalks within our school boundaries as we update our safe walkways plan. In the newsletter for the month of March, the SCC will share an update of what our School Improvement Plan is for this school year and the ways we have been spending Trustland funds to support our goals for student learning. I so appreciate both the SCC and the PTA, and the time and energy members of these two great organizations are so willing to invest as we work together to maintain a strong school community!

Peggy S. Crandall
Principal

STEPS TO ORDER YEARBOOK ON-LINE

How to order your yearbook on line:

Go to www.inter-state.com/store/preorder (wait a minute in time for it to load)

1. Enter flyer code 93209745
2. Make sure you are on the Shelley Elementary link
3. Click on Order Yearbook
4. Enter student's name and click on Lookup
5. Select your student from list
6. Choose either Option 1 Color yearbook \$13.00 or Option 2 Black & White yearbook \$9.00
7. Click add to cart
8. Double check to make sure order is correct
9. Click checkout
10. Follow promptings to pay
11. You will receive a confirmation email. Save it for your receipt.

Your student will receive his or her yearbook from the school during the last week of school.

Maturation Programs for 5th Graders

Each spring, 5th grade students and their parents are invited to participate in a maturation program. Brad Wilcox is scheduled to do the boys' presentation and Betty Sue Hinkson, our school nurse, does the girls' presentation. These were originally set and published in our Student Family Handbook as March 12 for the boys and March 19 for the girls. Because of an unforeseen conflict in Mr. Wilcox's schedule, we will now need to reverse those two dates. Reminder letters will be sent to the parents of each 5th grade student, but for your advanced planning, please note the following *revised schedule*:

Monday, March 12 - 5th Grade Girls presentation
12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

Monday, March 19 - 5th Grade Boys presentation
12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

The programs will each be held in the Media Center. We look forward to this important time in the lives of our students as they learn from experts about the process of growing up.

Attendance Concerns

In order for your child to fully benefit from the opportunities offered in his or her school experience, please ensure that he/she attends each day, on time. From time to time, it may become necessary to miss school. We understand that, and would just request that you *make sure you call in to excuse your student's absence*. However, in a few cases, it is becoming a frequent habit to keep a student home or allow a student to stay home for reasons not justified by Utah State Law or Alpine School District Policy. We invite you to refer to the document "Elementary Attendance Information" accompanying this newsletter and posted on our school website. Parent support is critical in helping students understand the importance of being in school, on time, each day. If we all work together, we can have the greatest possible impact on student achievement and success. Thank you.

Nutrition Services News 2012

We have two new and exciting changes to introduce to you!

1) A new way to fill out Free and Reduced applications! We now have an online Free and Reduced application feature. The parents can go to our web page and select Free and Reduced On-Line application and fill out the Free and Reduced form online! No more printing out the application and submitting it! The new online feature walks them thru each step of the form. Once submitted online, the Nutrition Services Department will review it and send it through to process.

2) We have removed the processing fee (was 4.75%) for parents making online payments through Mypaymentsplus.com (formerly MealpayPlus.com) for their student's meals! Once parents are registered, they can track student meal balances, set up low balance alerts and make payments with no fees! This site is absolutely *free* for parents to better manage their student's meal account.

Alpine School District Special Education Parent Night

The ASD Special Education Department invites all who are interested to attend our monthly parent night on Feb. 23 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Shelley Elementary School (602 N. 200 W. American Fork). Jennifer Fletcher and Jannica Dale, district trainers, consultants, and teachers of small-group classes for students with Autism, will be sharing information about behavioral interventions at home and ways to communicate with schools in order to help students succeed. Although the focus will be on Autism, all interested parents are welcome to join us. Refreshments will be served. Please also save the date for March 29.

DADS & DONUTS!

Friday, February 17

Come celebrate the fun of reading with someone you love! We'd like Dads or other loved ones to join our students in the gym to start the day with a good book. Please have Dads (or Moms, or Grandparents, or any other adult who loves a Shelley student!) come with or without a book--we'll have some there for you. We will read with each other and then have donuts before the school day begins.

Track 1 students with an adult may come into the gym from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Track 2 students with an adult may come into the gym from 8:45-9:15 a.m.

All minutes of reading that students do at "Dads & Donuts" will count in our Jazz Reader contest. Remember, in order to eat a donut you must read, read, read!!! We can't wait to see you there! Grown-ups, this is a great chance for busy and working parents to spend time with your child at school before you head to work!

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

“Evening of Storytelling”
Friday, February 24th 7:00 pm

Come in pajamas! Bring your blanket, pillow and stuffed animals to enjoy professional storyteller, Nannette Watts, and others spin magic through storytelling!

We're excited to enjoy the talented storytellers at Shelley Elementary with our 4th Annual Storytelling Festival which includes class and grade-level storytelling competitions held by the middle of February, two school assemblies on Wednesday, February 22, showcasing the two winning representatives

from each grade, and an “Evening of Storytelling” on Friday, February 24!

Any students who participated in their class and grade storytelling competitions are invited to tell their stories at our “Evening of Storytelling” on Friday, February 24 at 7:00 pm. All Shelley families are welcome to attend! Come in pajamas, bring pillows and blankets, and meet in the multi-purpose room to hear Mrs. Nannette Watts, a professional storyteller share a tale, then select a classroom to hear 5-6 student tellers weave their stories. It's an hour of pure entertainment, talent, creativity and FUN! You'll want to have your child be a part of it and come hear others, too!



Alpine School District Elementary Attendance Information

In order for your child to fully benefit from the opportunities offered in his or her school experience, please ensure that he/she attends each day, on time. From time to time, it may become necessary to miss school. This document contains information that will help you understand state and district policies and procedures related to school attendance. If you have any questions regarding this information or your particular situation, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

Utah Code: The Utah State Compulsory Education Requirements (Utah Code, Section 53A-11-101.5) is the law regarding elementary school attendance. Part of that law reads as follows: (2) a person having control of a minor between 6 and 18 years of age shall send the minor to a public or regularly established private school during the school year of the district in which the minor resides. (3) It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent to intentionally or recklessly fail to prevent the school-age child from being absent without a valid excuse 5 or more times in a school year. (5) It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent of a school age minor to intentionally or recklessly fail to enroll the school age minor in school, unless the school age minor is exempt from enrollment under Section 53A-11-102 or 53A-11-102.5. (7)...the school district shall report violations of this section to the appropriate county attorney...

Alpine District Policy: The Board of Education has approved Elementary School Attendance Policy No. 5158 which defines an excused absence as an illness, family death, approved school activity, absence permitted by the student's IEP plan or any other excuse established as valid by a local school administrator. If the student has excessive unexcused absences, the school will make earnest and persistent efforts to remedy the situation by making phone calls, sending letters, holding meetings with parents and children, making referrals to the district social worker and, possibly, to local law enforcement. A letter will be sent home to parents after 5, 10, and 15 unexcused absences. *If a child is excused due to illness more than 10 times the school may require a doctor's note to verify the seriousness of the illness.*

Excused Absences: When a child is absent, the parent/guardian should call or send a note to excuse the child from school within five school days of their return to school. Parents are welcome to meet with the principal to discuss extended absences.

Tardies: Tardies are recorded (on Skyward) as "T" = unexcused tardy, "V" = very tardy, "L" = excused tardy. A "T" or "V" can be changed to an "L" with a parent note within five days.

ParentLink: Teachers take attendance every day at 9:30 a.m. ParentLink will then contact homes of students who are marked "unexcused absent."

Checking on Attendance: Student attendance and grades are available via the Internet on Skyward. Parents can obtain their student's access information from their school secretary or principal.

Policy No. 5158

1.0 ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1.1 The Alpine School District Board of Education recognizes that regular daily attendance at school increases opportunities for students to profit from educational instruction and benefits students' academic learning. The Board further recognizes that the Utah Compulsory Attendance Law (53A-11-101.5) directs the parent/guardian to enroll and send school-age minors to a public or regularly established private school during the school year of the district in which the school-age minor resides, except as provided in Section 53A-11-102 and 53A-11-102.5.
- 1.2 In order to support elementary student attendance and the associated learning that occurs in schools, it is expected that each local school will make Earnest and Persistent Efforts (EPE) to cooperate with the parent/guardian to ensure regular school attendance.
- 1.3 Guidelines
 - 1.3.1 Students are expected to attend class, on time, every school day, unless properly excused by a parent or guardian.
 - 1.3.2 Teachers will keep rolls and record accurate daily attendance for all students assigned to their classes.
 - 1.3.3 Teachers will report to the principal anytime their class absences exceed 10% of enrollment.
 - 1.3.4 Electronic roll books are the official attendance records of Alpine School District and will be available for inspection in accordance with the district records policy.
 - 1.3.5 Teachers should contact the parent or guardian after three consecutive student absences. Unexcused absences will be referred to the appropriate authority.
 - 1.3.6 Elementary schools maintain a closed campus. Students should not leave the school grounds from the time school begins in the morning until it ends in the afternoon. Parents or guardians may authorize students to go home for lunch with an annual written release. Students may be checked out in the office by a parent or guardian or, in the event on an emergency, by those designated on the emergency release form.
 - 1.3.7 Excuses for absences typically include an illness, a family death, an approved school activity, an absence approved by the child's IEP, Accommodation Plan or any other excuse established as valid by the local school administration. An extended absence can be preapproved if the school collaborates with the parent/guardian to define the absence and provide reasonable make up opportunities.

IDEAS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do poorly on exams. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly are also at less risk of getting involved in crime and substance abuse.

You can promote good attendance when you:

- Make sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Take an interest in their education; ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Discuss any problems they may have at school; inform their teacher about anything serious.
- Do not let them take time off school for minor ailments; particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Provide incentives and consequences for attendance and learning. Set daily, weekly or monthly goals and agree on rewards and punishments. When completed, follow through with the incentives and consequences and then set new goals.
- Come up with a back up plan for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).
- Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.
- If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.
- Arrange appointments and outings after school hours, on weekends or during a school holiday to prevent disruption to your child's education.

Your child's success begins with YOU!

IT IS YEARBOOK TIME!!!

Want a way to preserve your memories of the 2011/2012 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
\$9.00 for Black & White

Due by April 27, 2012

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: **93209745**

Deadline is Friday, April 27th to reserve your copy.
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 27, 2012

February 2012

		1 School Community Council 2:30 p.m. Faculty Lounge	2	3
6 Elison/Moffitt 6 th Grade Space Center Field Trip	7 Freeman/McGee 6 th Grade Space Center Field Trip	8 PTA Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Faculty Lounge	9 Kindergarten Registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Main Office	10
13 MINIMAL DAY!!! 8:00 to 12:30 9:15 to 1:45 Kindergarten 8:00-10:00 Session 1 9:15-11:15 Session 2 10:30-12:30 Session 3 11:45-1:45 Session 4	14 Valentines Class Parties	15	16	17 Dads & Donuts 7:30-8:00 a.m. or 8:45-9:15 a.m.
20 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day	21	22 Storytelling Assemblies 9:30 a.m. & 12:50 p.m.	23	24 Night of Storytelling 7 p.m.
27	28	29	March 1	2 End of 2 nd Trimester BOX TOPS STORE!