

EXPLORER

January 2012

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! We look forward to a great year for Shelley Elementary in 2012! The coming of a New Year is a time when we pause to reflect on the past year and to establish goals or make resolutions to help us move forward with improvement and continued growth and success. It is our goal to continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for all of our students here at Shelley Elementary, and to work collaboratively among our faculty and staff as well as with our amazing parents to help our students achieve to the best of their abilities.

As you are aware, Shelley Elementary moved to a Modified Extended Day school wide model at the beginning of this school year. I would like to express my appreciation for everyone's support as we have made this change. Our teachers have stepped up to learn new curriculum and are doing an excellent job in their teaching. Through weekly collaboration they are working closely together reviewing data and planning and refining curriculum to best meet the needs of their students. Parents have focused on the many positive benefits of the change as well. They are volunteering their help in the classroom, and are communicating closely with teachers to support student success. Students are thriving as they engage in their

lessons and learning activities each day. As we prepare for the new core curriculum coming soon, this model will provide a solid structure for its implementation and curriculum integration.

This month the School Community Council will be publishing and distributing our annual Stakeholders Report to share information on the success and progress of Shelley Elementary over the past year. It will be sent electronically to each of our patrons, and hard copies will be available by request at the front office.

January will be a busy month as we settle back in to our routine of school. We will be completing the winter DRA assessment for all students. This is a reading assessment that will help inform teachers of students' growth in various areas of their reading. Our teachers look forward to visiting with you about your student's progress in our upcoming parent conferences the last week of this month.

I do hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday break and look forward to seeing everyone again as we return to school on Tuesday, January 3, ready to continue our journey through this great school year!

Peggy Crandall, Principal

School Community Council Supports Student Learning

Shelley Elementary's School Community Council is an amazing group of people who come together regularly to address the needs of the school to best support student learning and success. This year's council members include the following:

Parent Members -

Sarah Beeson, Chair
Carol Anderegg, Vice Chair
Andrea Walters
Christine Rich
Jonny Bradshaw
Michelle Dolinar

School Members -

Peggy Crandall, Principal
Jeff Freeman, Teacher
Angi Cummings, Teacher
Brandon Engles, Teacher (SCC Secretary)

The SCC members review testing data and other reliable data to determine the needs of the students and create a school improvement plan, a reading achievement plan, and a child access routing plan. The SCC members then provide ongoing support in the implementation of the approved plans. They may also assume other tasks and responsibilities relating to our school, such as safety, school climate, student and teacher recognition, etc. that are best addressed through local school collaboration.

Each year the school receives money through the School Land Trust Program to fund what is needed to carry out the school improvement plan. This is a significant source of support for our school. For the 2010-2011 school year our school received \$39, 884 and had an additional carryover from the previous year of \$2,825, for a total of \$42,709. Last year the majority of our Land Trust funds went to pay the salaries of our two Star Reading aides who worked regularly with a large number of students to support and strengthen their reading skills. Land Trust funds also paid the salary of the teacher

who ran our Shelley Summer Reading Camp. This is a month long summer program for lower grade students to help build and maintain reading skills during the summer.

Additional funds were spent on Professional Development. This past year we sent nine educators to the BYU-CITES sponsored Literacy Conference, and two teachers to a Utah Technology Teachers Conference. Funds were also used to cover the cost of substitutes for the teachers who attended these conferences. Further Land Trust funds were spent to maintain our access to Tumble Books, an online literacy service which students may interact with either here at school or from their own homes. We also purchased some Kindergarten reading readiness books for our Take Home Reading Library. We are very grateful for the amazing support and resources that Land Trust funds make possible for our students.

In the forthcoming Stakeholders Report that the SCC will be publishing and distributing later this month, we will be sharing additional information celebrating student achievement at Shelley Elementary.

6th Grade N.O.V.A. Graduation

On December 14, we had our N.O.V.A. graduation for 6th grade students. Congratulations to these young people on successfully completing the N.O.V.A. certification program! (N.O.V.A. stands for nurturing opportunities, values, and accountability.) Under the direction of the American Fork Police Department, Officer Bylund came to the school each Wednesday during the first semester to teach students the basic N.O.V.A. principles. Armed with these principles as tools, we are confident that our students will be able to better address personal situations that may arise and to make wise life-long decisions, especially as they are preparing to move on to the junior high. The program ended with a resounding demonstration of the N.O.V.A. cheer!

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.

Star Reading in Need of Two Volunteers

Star Reading is looking for two more volunteers to fill openings. If you can help out in the Star Reading program on the following days, please e-mail Ines Seamons at iseamons@alpindedistrict.org: Every Tuesday from 9:20 am until 10:00 am, or every Thursday from 9:20 am until 10:00 am. You would be working with small groups, helping them with a reading activity. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Help and Follow Up Needed

Parents, we could use your help with a couple of "house-keeping" items in the front office. First of all, ***please make sure whenever your child misses school that you call in and excuse him or her.*** The district monitors a running record of student absences, and it is essential that we make sure that we account for the attendance of each of our students. Just call the school at 801-756-8540 and let us know that your child is ill, or will be out of town, etc. That way we can mark the appropriate excuse in our attendance records.

Another item of concern is the growing number of parents who call and ask for one of their children to come to the phone to speak with them, or for the office to get a message to their children. We understand that emergencies and unexpected situations do occur, but whenever possible, please confirm your after school plans with your children ***before they come to school in the morning.*** This would be greatly appreciated and help reduce class time disruptions.

One final note is a reminder that ***all treats brought to school to share are to be commercially prepared and packaged.*** This assures product consistency and safety. Labels may be read to determine contents to which some students might have an allergic reaction. We would appreciate your adherence to this school and district guideline.

Working together, office and home can both contribute to a safe and smooth-running school environment that helps teachers and students alike get the most out of the learning experience. Thank you.

Winter Weather Brings Concerns for Student Safety

With the anticipated coming of the winter cold and snow, we typically experience an increase in the number of vehicles coming to and from school each day. With over a thousand students, we have a very large number of students being dropped off and picked up at any given time. To assure student safety and the most efficient use of these critical time windows, we need to ask your help with the following:

- 1. Carpool whenever possible.** If just one car comes for even three children as opposed to one car coming for each of three children, it cuts the traffic down to only a third as many vehicles. We recognize that waiting in I-o-n-g lines of traffic can be trying, so anything you can do to reduce the lines is appreciated.
- 2. When dropping off and picking up students, please pull all the way forward.** There is often quite a line of cars waiting at any given time during drop off and pick up times. If you simply pull in and stop right in front of the school doors, it forces a large number of cars to remain waiting on the street. However, if you pull as far forward as possible, it allows several cars to get off the street and to be delivering students all at the same time. This is a much more efficient use of space and time.
- 3. Please take care of lunch money, homework check-off, and hugs at home before you jump into the car to come to school.** That way, you can pull in, the students jump out of the car with a quick "Good-bye, Mom! 'Love you," and you are on your way. When parents have to get out of the car, come around, look through the child's back pack for a permission

note, lunch money, etc., it greatly slows down the traffic flow.

- 4. Please obey traffic markings.** It is not appropriate to cross a double yellow line. On occasion we have noted drivers cutting into the oncoming traffic lane on the street in front of the school to zip around a line of cars once they have picked up their own children. This can be very dangerous, and we have seen some frightening near misses. Please plan your schedule such that there is not a need to compromise safety by breaking the law to gain five minutes.
- 5. Pick up your children in designated areas.** By far, the greatest number of parents uses one of our four pull-through areas to drop off or pick up students. Thank you. A few others park in the nearby neighborhoods and have their students come to meet them in their car at an agreed upon spot. This is fine also, *IF* the student still crosses with the crossing guard and follows appropriate sidewalk routes to get to the parent. At times we will see a student dart across the road to meet a parent waiting in the car half-way down the block. Even if oncoming traffic is obeying the speed limit (which is not always the case), it is still very dangerous for a student to randomly dart across the road.

Each one of our students is precious and important to us. Just as you do, we also want them to arrive at school and to return home each day safe and protected. Because we have such a great number of students who are transported in cars each day, we need everyone to exercise extreme caution and good judgment in the process. Thank you for your help in this important matter of student safety.

BRIGHT IDEAS WINTER SESSION

Alpine School District's winter session dates for their Bright Ideas Saturday Programs are coming up in January! This year's overall theme is "Super Strange." The focus of the winter session will be on *Stories and Illustrations*, with session choices of January 21 at Snow Springs Elementary in Lehi, or January 28 at Lindon Elementary in Lindon. The sessions go from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the cost for a single session is \$20 per student. Registration forms are available in our front office.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL!

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?

Shelley Sounds

There are a few openings for any interested 4th, 5th or 6th grade students in *Shelley Sounds* for our new spring show featuring rock 'n roll, Broadway and popular songs. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:15 - 9:10 am or 2:15 - 3:10 pm, either just before or after school for each track. If you want to make friends, build confidence and skills, enjoy a positive environment, come join the fun and learning! Classes will begin on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in the trailer for Mrs. Davis**. See you then!

Online Registration for Parent Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on January 24 and 26. You may use the online scheduler starting any time on Tuesday, January 3. The parent sign-up window will close at midnight on January 17. Teachers will then fill in the remaining time slots with appointments for those who have not signed up by that point. If you do not have internet access at home, this scheduling may be done either at the public library on their computers or on Shelley's Media Center computers.

Step-By-Step Parent/Guardian Instructions--

1. Visit the school's homepage (<http://shelley.alpinedistrict.org>) and select the Online Scheduler icon/link at the very bottom right hand corner of the page.
2. From the Online Scheduler Home Page:
 1. Choose your student's school from the drop down list and click "GO".
 2. Enter the school password (explorers).
 3. Enter your student's "Student ID". If

you do not know the Student ID, use the LOOKUP STUDENT ID button to access the system.

4. Verify the student's birth date.
5. A list of your student's teachers will be displayed. Check the box next to the name of each teacher(s) with whom you would like to meet.
6. If you have more than one student in the school you can see all of your students' teachers' schedules at one time by answering YES to this question: "Do you want to schedule conferences for another student?" Then repeat the steps above for your other students. If you only have one student, answer NO to that question.
7. You will then see the available time slots for each teacher you selected.
8. Select the times that work best for your schedule.
9. Enter your email address (recommended) if you would like an email reminder sent to you. (Your email address is kept private.)
10. Once you have finished you can confirm your appointment details and print your conference schedule.
11. Write down the confirmation number (you will need this number if you need to cancel or change an appointment.)

Need help? Contact the school's Online Scheduler™ specialist:

Name: Mr. Engles

E-mail: bengles@alpinedistrict.org

Phone: (801) 756-8540 extension 101



Earn cash for the school
at the Box Tops Store!

Each month (usually the first Friday of the month) we will be coming by to collect your box tops. These box tops may be used as currency at the store. Please plan on January 6th to turn in your box tops and get some fun treats in return. To make the exchange a bit easier for all, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Make sure what you're turning in is a box top.
2. Look to see if they are expired or not. Expired box tops cannot be used.
3. Count all of your box tops and put them in a Ziplock.
4. Place the child's name, teacher and number of box tops on the Ziplock.
5. Take them to school on the first Thursday or Friday of the month and have fun shopping!

Our first run with the box top store was such fun and we look forward to doing this again each month. Save up those box tops to help the school! Thank you for your support.

January 2012

2 NO SCHOOL	3	4 School Community Council 2:30 p.m.	5	6 [Box Tops Cart?]
9	10	11 PTA Board Meeting 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	12	13
16 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	17	18	19	20
23 BOOK FAIR!	24 BOOK FAIR! Parent/Teacher Conferences	25 BOOK FAIR!	26 BOOK FAIR! Parent/Teacher Conferences	27 BOOK FAIR!
30 Family Reading Night (PTA) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	31	February 1 School Community Council 2:30 p.m.	2	3