

EXPLORER

March 2012

Principal's Message

The month of February was packed with many happenings at Shelley Elementary! To start the month, our 6th grade students went on a most excellent adventure to the Christa McAuliffe Space Center at Central Elementary in Pleasant Grove. On February 9, we held our annual Kindergarten Registration Day, and have currently registered 112 students for the coming school year.

February 9 was also the fateful day that I had a fall while jumping rope with some students as I was supervising on the playground during lunch. OUCH! I ended up with quite a cut that required six staples. It has healed nicely now, and the worst thing that was hurt was my pride! (My husband gently reminded me that I need to remember to act my age.) I was especially touched by the sweet get-well cards from so many of the students. There were some who drew pictures of me jumping rope, some who shared a similar experience of a time they also had to get staples, and one that said, "Mrs. Crandall, we were worried about you. Don't *ever* do that again!" Students, parents, and staff members all were so thoughtful in wishing me well and expressing their concern. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness.

On February 10, we had a special visit from Superintendent Henshaw and Alpine Foundation Director, Tim Eisenhart, to recognize Miss Kim Jones, our school psychologist, as one of the Alpine Foundation

Accent on Excellence educators for this school year. We are so lucky to have her at our school! To read our tribute to Miss Jones, please visit our Shelley website.

Valentine's Day was a delightful time of exchanging cards and treats with classmates and friends. Miss Menlove and I made the rounds to visit each class between the two of us and to deliver a valentine to every student. As we went to each classroom, we were 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 20 through February 21. Sponsored by our PTA and chaired by Shelley Parent, Cynthia Ruchti, 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. 30. 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, sponsored by our Shelley Service Club. We greatly appreciate everyone's

support, hard work, and commitment to the importance of student reading! We set what we thought was a lofty goal this year of 425,000 collective total minutes for the school. Much to our delight, the students read a total of 835,445 minutes—nearly *double* our goal. With this kind of support, I see us raising the bar to a million minutes this coming year!

Since the students did such an amazing job of “taking reading to new heights” at Shelley Elementary, I had to make good on my promise to spend the day on the roof of the school in my pajamas! On Monday, February 27, I put on my Shelley blue scrubs, armed with helium balloons and a basket of books and poetry to share and treats to toss down to the students to say thanks. Some classes came out to visit throughout the day and others gathered around during recess to hear me read a favorite poem or a children's storybook. What a wonderful day of celebration of some absolutely amazing reading. 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 22, and many student participants shared their tales in an Evening of Storytelling that Friday, February 24. 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, it has been a month of hard work, creativity, and sharing and enjoying the talents of students, teachers, and parents alike. Thanks to everyone who is a part of this great school community of Shelley Elementary.

--Peggy Crandall, Principal

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.

Kindergarten Registration

If you did not participate in Kindergarten registration on Thursday, February 9th, 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.

Concerning Requests

Shelley families should have recently received track placement request forms in the mail. We will be accepting these at the front office throughout the month of March. As each is submitted, it is marked with the date and time it was turned in. 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. It is therefore very important that we receive a track request form from every family that has a strong track need. 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 to keep all members of any given family together on the same track unless parents specifically ask us to do otherwise.

On occasion, we receive a form with a request for a certain track, a specific teacher, *and* the names of students who either should or should not be in the same class as the student. 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 the teacher's ability to create the most positive and effective learning environment.

2012/13 Student Placement Form

You should soon be receiving a white form in the mail inviting you to submit student placement information and track requests for the next school year. Please complete and return the form to our office no later than Friday, March 30th. These forms will be numbered in the order in which we receive them in the event we may need to move some track assignments to balance class loads as we make student placements for fall. *If a certain track is essential to your family's schedule, please get your track requests in early.*

March is Maturation Time

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

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

March 19 -- 5th grade boys 12: 20 - 1:20 p.m.

All presentations will be on Monday afternoons in the Media Center. Betty Sue Hinkson, our school nurse, will be doing the presentations 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 letters will be sent home in the mail as your child's scheduled time approaches.*

BOOK FAIR

Our yearly buy one, get one free sale at the Book Fair is coming up April 2-6. Mark your calendars for this great opportunity to add to your child's or your family's home library!

News from the Lunchroom

The ladies in the lunchroom would like to let you know how much we enjoy seeing your children every day and providing them with a nutritious meal! Thank you for your patronage! We also wanted to make you aware of a change on the March menu. We will have 2 grades gone on field trips on March 30, so we will be providing the same meal for the entire school. The menu for that day will be:

Turkey/ham/cheese sandwich
Apple juice
Baby carrots
Chips
Elf grahams
Choice of milk

Fill Your House With Stacks of Books

Ever wonder how to read with your children? How to help them go beyond just reading the words on the pages? How to get them engaged in the essential skills of reading?

Teri Harman, author of the Book Matters column for KSL and Deseret News and Studio 5 contributor will be coming to Shelley on March 27th at 7:00 pm.

As a mom of 3, Teri will share some fast, simple, and tested things you can do to help your children catch the love of reading. As a reading enthusiast, Teri will share with you how reading has impacted her life. As a book critic, she will share with you many wonderful books on all levels that your children will love.

Join us for a fun, reading filled night!

Alpine School District Special Education Parent Night

The ASD special education department is pleased to announce the next parent night on March 29th from 6:00-8:15 at Dan Peterson School (169 N. 1100 E. American Fork). The conference format will begin with a keynote speaker and then participants will be able to choose two 45-minute breakout sessions. The parent night is titled "Taking Care of You and Those You Love." There will be several sessions to choose from including behavior (aggression/noncompliance), caregiver stress, literacy, transition, sensory, developing talents/hobbies, and more. Please come join us!

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:

- Mar. 5 6th grade packets mailed home
- Mar. 7 Mr. Farnsworth, AFJH principal, and a counselor will visit Shelley Elementary
- Mar. 15 All registration worksheets are due to AFJH! 6th Grade Open House at the junior high from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- July Information packets mailed home
- Aug. 20 7th Grade Day

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.

New Core Information Night

There will be a parent information night held on Wednesday, March 21, in the gym at Shelley Elementary. Principal Peggy Crandall will present a brief overview of the new core curriculum, after which an open house format will follow.

Mrs. Crandall and teachers will be available to answer questions, and a number of handouts will be available as well. These will explain the district implementation plan of the new Math Core and the new Language Arts Core, and address a number of most frequently asked questions.

We hope to have a strong turn out as we engage in conversation with our patrons about the new core curriculum that will soon be implemented. We look forward to this opportunity.

PTA

BOX TOPS STORE

In case you haven't heard, on the first Friday of each month the Shelley Elementary Box Tops Store is open for business. On that day you can bring the box tops you've collected and turn them in for fun prizes. The store moves from classroom to classroom throughout the day, so all you have to do is bring your box tops. In order to help with the process, please take a minute and do the following before turning in your box tops:

1. Check that you have a redeemable box top (e.g. has an expiration date that is not expired)

2. Count your box tops and try to trim any excess packaging from around the box top
3. Place box tops in a sealable sandwich bag
4. Label your bag with your name, teacher, and the total amount of box tops inside
5. Bring your bag to school on the first Friday of the month and wait for the store to come by your classroom

All of the steps will make the shipping process much smoother (you can imagine clipping the excess packaging from ALL the box tops collected from the whole school).

We are excited at the amount of box tops we have collected so far! One mother had the great idea of sending an e-mail message to relatives and friends inviting them to also collect box tops as well. It was amazing to see the results of that quick e-mail! Yet another example is fathers who are collecting box tops at their places of employment! There are many ways we can branch out and collect many a box top for our school. Keep up the good work! Every little bit helps in raising funds for the school and the children. See you Friday!!

March 2012

			1	2 Last Day of 2nd Trimester
5	6	7 School Community Council Meeting 2:30 p.m. Mr. Farnsworth AFJH Principal Meeting with 6th Grade Classes	8 5TH GRADE TALENT SHOW 12:45 P.M.	9 Tyler Whitesides Author Visit
12 5th Grade Girls Maturation Presentation 12:20-1:20 p.m. Media Center	13	14 PTA Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.	15 Mountain Man Rendezvous 4th Grade Attends 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 6th Grade Open House @ AFJHS 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	16
19 5th Grade Boys Maturation Presentation 12:20-1:20 p.m. Media Center	20 Walk-A-Thon Kick-Off Assembly	21 Parent Meeting New State Core Information Night 6 p.m. Gymnasium	22 Spring Pictures (Adams Photography) Watch for flier Miss Udy's 4th Grade Class Opera Performance 6:30-7:30 p.m. Gymnasium	23
26 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	27	28	29	30 2012/13 Track Request Forms Due 3rd Grade Clark Planetarium Field Trip 1st Grade Hogle Zoo Field Trip