

EXPLORER

December 2014

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. The culture of our Shelley School Community is truly one of caring concern for each other's well-being and success. We appreciate your generous response to our annual food drive these last few weeks. We were able to collect over 10,000 pounds of food that went to the Community Action food bank to help those in need. In addition to the food that was brought in we collected over \$300 in monetary donations! The Community Action Food Bank was elated as we loaded the food into their truck and gave them the money we had collected. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity for those less fortunate than others.

We have approximately 95 Fifth and Sixth grade students who are 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 and serving as peer mediators at lunch time. We are grateful for their service and help during the school day!

A glance at the parent volunteer log will attest to the strong showing of parent support we have here at Shelley. Countless volunteers are here on any given day helping student's practice and review important math and literacy concepts, complete science experiments, work on social studies projects, and performing service in the Take Home Reading library. We really appreciate our parent volunteers! Thank you.

Our teachers are also some of the finest around. They spend l-o-n-g hours both here at school and at home researching ideas, 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 student's 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 indeed 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,
Mike Ericksen

Dollar Wars - Sub 4 Santa

The clubs and organizations at American Fork High School would like to provide help and assistance to some of the families in our community. They will be helping the families through monetary and gift donations. With any leftover money, they will be filling backpacks with supplies to give to children in need of school supplies within our community.

American Fork High School will be working to raise money in various Sub for Santa fundraisers. Their goal this year is \$15,000 to use to help 15 families this holiday season. They have asked Shelley Elementary to help them in this endeavor. Therefore, we have decided to help by having **Dollar Wars**. Each class will have a jar in their classroom that can be filled with dollars, quarters, dimes and nickels. Money will be collected from December 1 - 16. The class with the most money by the end of our **Dollar Wars** will have a donut and hot chocolate party.

We, at Shelley Elementary, are very excited to be helping American Fork High School achieve their goal. We know that they will appreciate any help we can give them. Thank you for your support!

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 19th and they will be donated to a local charity.

Shelley Soundz

All Shelley families are invited to enjoy the sounds of the season as our school choir, ***Shelley Soundz***, will be performing for **Family and Friends** at the school on **Tuesday, December 2 at 5:30 pm** and at **The Festival of Trees** (South Town Expo Center at 9575 South State Street, Sandy) on **Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 pm**. Discount tickets are available at any Zions Bank and a Family Pass for \$15 which allows six members of a family to enter may be purchased at the door. All proceeds are donated to Primary Children's Hospital. We're so proud of these talented students sharing their gift of music to touch our hearts. Come enjoy a little "Cool Yule!" and catch the Christmas spirit!

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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our Winter Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, and Thursday, February 5, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Scheduling of appointments for this event may be done through Skyward. The parent window for sign-ups will be open in January, with further information to come in January's newsletter. We look forward to the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet together to discuss and celebrate each student.

From the Lunchroom

Thank you for making our Thanksgiving lunch a huge success! We hope your students have enjoyed all of the positive menu changes this year. I know we have been happy to see more meals that the children like to eat! If your student has not had the opportunity to join us for lunch, we would love to have them give school lunch a try. We will be having a special frosted sugar cookie with our Christmas meal on Dec.12th. Happy holidays! Thanks for your support!

Holiday Break

Our last day of school in 2014 will be on Friday, December 19. Our first day of school for 2015 will be on Monday, January 5th. We wish you a very happy holiday season. Please travel safely and enjoy the break.

New Partnership Between Shelley and Amazon

We have recently added a new feature to our schools website which will help Shelley Elementary earn additional funds to support our school and students. Prior to making purchases on Amazon, please click the small "a" located in the upper right hand corner of our school webpage. Doing so will help the school generate and earn advertising fees with any purchase(s) made. It's that simple! Click the "a", login with your Amazon account, and start shopping! Purchases you make will support Shelley Elementary. The link does reset every 24 hours so if you are logged in for more than a day, please re-click our Amazon link to ensure that your purchases will benefit our school.

Happy Shopping and Thank You!

The Power of ONE

One of our fifth grade students decided to personally make a difference with the Food Drive this year. Emmy Martin donated 318 cans, but they didn't come from her parents' pantry. She set up a hot chocolate stand in her neighborhood and sold all weekend. Her mother also sold some items on-line for cans of food for Emmy. Emmy and her mother took the money she earned and went to the store to buy the food she wanted to donate. AMAZING!!! Your generosity will benefit many hungry people, Emmy, but your generosity has touched our hearts here at Shelley and we want to tell you "Thank you" for reminding all of us how powerful one person can be. You are an inspiration!!!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Happy Holidays! We would like to thank all the parents who have volunteered their time to help out this year. The students have really progressed and it is apparent your hard work at home is making a positive impact in their education. We have seen improvement in recognizing letters, sounds, and sight words. Thanks for making your child's education a priority. Your child's education is a priceless gift and you should be commended for your dedication.

The colder weather is upon us! Please make sure your child wears a winter jacket, hat, mittens, and boots. The children spend recess outside and we need to ensure your child's comfort/safety while they play.

Soon it will be time for Christmas break. During the time off it is important that students take time to continue reading, writing, counting, reviewing letter recognition, and sounds. Make learning fun by incorporating it into your daily routine so students understand the importance of education.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. We wish your family a happy, healthy, holiday season.

1ST GRADE NEWS

November was a busy month filled with lots of learning as well as assessing for our first report card. The students are making great progress!

We have been working especially hard on addition strategies. We have learned to add in any order, count on, add three numbers and make a ten. One of our favorite strategies is definitely doubles!

We have also been working on narrative writing. We have learned that a good first grade narrative story must have two or more sequenced events, temporal words, details and a sense of closure. Pretty impressive for first grade isn't it!
😊

During the Thanksgiving season we also took time to reflect on our many blessings. Here is a great list of some things our young students are thankful for: dogs, cats, shoes, school and friends,

my bed, Minecraft, family, Legos, my teacher, the letters, a house, food, USA, penguins, toys, iPads, teeth, cars, people, numbers, my elephant, clothes, veterans, animals, tooth brushes, heaven, glasses, my baby blanket, hair, life, the earth, my mom, toilet paper, and everything! BYU and The Utes were also on the list in no particular order. The teachers in first grade are very thankful for our amazing students and their wonderful parents and families. We love working with each of you and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

2ND GRADE NEWS

Well, even though it's been more than a little bit chilly outside, the second graders at Shelley have had some great learning experiences this month. We had the opportunity to go see the ballet, "Pinocchio" at the Covey Art Center in Provo and learned how an old fairy tale can be retold through the beauty of dance and music. The BYU Museum of Art opened its doors to us and docents took us on a tour of one of the best museums in the state. We want to thank all those that made this field trip possible and to those parents who were able to help chaperone.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break we did class rotations and learned about popcorn, made Indian necklaces, experimented with a floating Thanksgiving feast, and studied changing matter by making butter from cream. After a fun Thanksgiving holiday we will be back in December with another field trip to a performance of "Christmas Around the World" at the Marriott Center and a visit to the newly renovated Bean Museum.

During Explorer Time we have been working hard on addition facts and strategies. We are now focusing on subtraction. Please help your student master these facts to 20 before the end of the year.

Remember, it is cold outside!! Make sure your student is dressed warmly every day. Except on extreme weather days, the students spend at least a half hour outside for lunch recess. Please dress them accordingly.

We can't wait to see what exciting things are in store for us in December!!

3RD GRADE NEWS

In November, we had a fun time exploring Indigenous peoples' cultures. We learned about the customs of different Native American people, pottery, grinding corn, making leather, and making pictographs. Third graders are learning how to write opening statements, topic sentences, and using details to support the main idea. We also have been asked to decorate the Christmas tree in the library. If you are at school anytime during the month of December, you might want to go to the library to see what our students have done. We were pleasantly surprised to find out we had been selected to go to watch Ballet West, dance Pinocchio. What a fun field trip to go to! Students learned best etiquette of how to dress, and act appropriate for art performances. The week of Dec. 15-19 is Polar Express Week. We will study, and read the book, as well as do activities regarding Polar Express.

4TH GRADE NEWS

This month the fourth grade has been working hard with multiplication, factors and division in math. We are also enjoying our science rotations and learning about Utah's environments and resources.

Fourth Grade students and teachers had an amazing guest speaker, Mr. Schoonover, come share some stories about his experiences in the Vietnam War for Veterans Day. He even brought his Purple Heart and passed it around for all the students to have a close-up look. He shared his respect for the American Flag and the National Anthem and encouraged each of the Fourth Grade students to reflect more on the words of these American emblems.

As December approaches we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the Holidays. Even though there is no school, please remind and help your children to keep up with their Math facts and Reading over the winter break. Thank you for all your support.

5TH GRADE NEWS

Fifth grade is excited for December! We will be going to the McAuliffe Space Center in Pleasant Grove. Mrs. Elison and Mrs. McMurtrey's classes will go December 17th. Ms. Hadfield and Mrs. Kukahiko's classes will go December 18th. On the day of your child's field trip, he or she will attend school from 8:00 A.M. to 2:15 p.m. The school bus will need to leave promptly at 9:15 in order for us to arrive at the McAuliffe Space Center, located in Central Elementary, on time. Students will participate in a space mission called "Intolerance." The students will also study constellations in the StarLab, participate in a space science activity, and eat lunch. Classes will board the bus at the center to return to Shelley before 2:15 P.M. The teachers will review the mission with the boys and girls in class. Officer assignments will be given to students prior to their field trip. You may learn about the mission or the McAuliffe Space Center at www.spacecamputah.org. It is one of the highlights of our year!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Awesome! What a fantastic month November has been for the sixth grade! A few weeks ago we had a wonderful field trip to the Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City. Students, teachers, and parent chaperones all enjoyed the ride on FrontRunner and Trax to and from the planetarium. A big thanks to all parent chaperones!

As December approaches, we are looking forward to another wonderful month. We'd like to make parents of 6th grade students aware that on Thursday, December 18th, we will be enjoying our Renaissance Fair. This event will be at Shelley. There will not be any change to the school schedule that day. More information will be coming home from the 6th grade teachers.

PTA

Wow, where did November go? The Holidays can be a very busy time of the year. This month we only have a few things happening. Here is a quick update.

Food Drive- We had a successful food drive and thank you for all of your donations. The food bank is so appreciative of our help. Thank you to the volunteers who helped us load the truck. This month we will be watching our **Christmas Movie on December 19th** to celebrate our efforts during the food drive. YAY!!

Chick-fil-A - November's spirit night was a great success. December's spirit night will be **Thursday, December 18th**. Mark your calendar now.

Author Assembly. Another reminder that our guest author will be **McKenzie Wagner** she will help us kick off our reading program in February. She is **13 years old** and will be talking about following your dreams. She wrote her first book at age 7. She is best known for the **Benotripia trilogy**. We will be sending home pre-order forms in January so you can buy some of her books for your children if you would like before she visits.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Sincerely,
Mindy Woodhouse
PTA President

REFLECTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On November 20, Shelley Elementary held a night of celebration for all those who participated in this year's Reflections contest. Sponsored by the PTA, the theme for this past year was based on "The World Would Be a

Better Place If.....", and students entered a variety of projects. Under the co-direction of Naoma Avery and Julie Call, each student received a certificate of recognition. Then the following students were announced as the winners who are going on to the next level for further competition in the categories listed:

Visual Arts

Hazel Bastian
Cayden Coston
Zackary Gray
Abby Coston
Chaylee Coston

Photography

Ashley Hammond
Zackary Hammond
Emma Ruch
Mason Call
Samantha Hammond

3D Art

Bryce Woodward
Mason Call
Jace Woodward
Ronnie Manuela

Literature

Sophie Tholstrom
Ryan Hammond
Michael Rodeback
Mary Alice Law
Ronnie Manuela

Music

Emma Call
Brinley Pascoal
Ethan Pascoal

Dance Choreography

Ronnie Manuela

Film Production

Charlee Coston

We love to see the creative display of talents from our students as they participate in the Reflections Program.

December 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 <i>Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> <i>2:40-3:45 p.m.</i>	2 <i>Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> <i>2:15-3:30 p.m.</i> <i>Shelley Soundz</i> <i>Family & Friends</i> <i>Performance</i> <i>5:30 p.m.</i>	3 <i>School Community</i> <i>Council</i> <i>2:30 p.m.</i> <i>Shelley Soundz</i> <i>Festival of Trees</i> <i>5:30 p.m.</i>	4	5 2nd Grade Field Trip BYU Christmas Around the World & Bean Museum Common Start 8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
8	9 PTA Board Meeting 12:45 p.m.	10	11 Mrs. LeBaron's Class Play Parent Performance 7:00 p.m.	12
15	16	17 <i>5th Grade Field Trip</i> <i>Space Center</i> <i>McMurtrey/Elison</i> <i>Common Start</i> <i>8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.</i>	18 6th Grade Renaissance Fair Spirit Night Chick-Fil-A 5-8 p.m. <i>5th Grade Field Trip</i> <i>Space Center</i> <i>Hadfield/Kukahiko</i> <i>Common Start</i> <i>8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.</i>	19 Christmas Movie
22 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	23 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	24 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	25 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	26 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL
29 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	30 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	31 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	January 1 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	2 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL