

EXPLORER

March 2015

Principal's Message

The month of February was packed with many happenings at Shelley Elementary! Valentine's Day was a delightful time of exchanging cards and treats with classmates and friends. As the building began to fill with students, the excitement of the day was palpable. Each student received a Valentine and Laffy Taffy from their friends or certain admirers in the form of a Val-O-Gram. I am 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 at their class party.

This year's Family Reading Night set the tone to start off our Read Across America events. 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. Read Across America time was also enhanced by a morning each of Moms 'n' Muffins and our coming Dads 'n' Donuts (Mar. 3rd). We greatly appreciate everyone's support, hard work, and commitment to the importance of student reading! We set a lofty goal this year of 600,000 collective total minutes for the school. When we make our goal I will make good on my promise to spend the day on the roof of the school dressed as Cat in the Hat! Reading stories, tossing treats

down to students and making sure the students know that they did a terrific job of reaching our reading goal.

Before we know it we will be enjoying the events that close the school year in May. Our Field Day and Dance Festival are highlights of the school year, our students and teachers will soon be busy preparing and learning their class dances for this event. As we look forward to this event I would like to remind patrons that we have many that come to view their children dance and perform. As you set up your chairs and look for areas to view the performances and take photos, we would ask that you remember to watch for and respect the corded off areas that are meant for students to sit and watch the performances. Thanks to everyone who is a part of this great school community of Shelley Elementary!

--Mike Ericksen, Principal

Kindergarten Registration

If you did not participate in Kindergarten registration on Tuesday, February 3rd, and have a Kindergarten student coming to Shelley this 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..

From the Lunchroom

We are excited to announce that we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a special lunch on Monday March 2nd. We will be changing the menu to Green Eggs and Ham with french toast sticks and a hashbrown patty. Come enjoy this special lunch and don't forget to read!!!

2014/15 YEARBOOK ORDERS ONLINE

It is time to place an order for your school yearbook! This year's book will be packed with fun school year memories in full color!

Please take advantage of the yearbook price of \$13.00 until April 1st. On April 2nd the price will go up to \$15.00 while supplies last. Order yours today by visiting <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob> with yearbook ID Code 12060415.

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.

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:

Monday, March 16 - 5th Grade Boys presentation
12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the Library

Monday, March 23 - 5th Grade Girls presentation
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Gym

Annette Pulley, a registered nurse, will be doing the presentation for the girls, and Mike Cottam 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.*

2015/16 Student Placement Form

You should soon be receiving a **blue** 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 27th. 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. 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. *If a certain track is essential to your family's schedule, please get your track requests in early.*

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 for 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.

Evening of Storytelling

This Friday, March 6th, at 7:00 p.m. is our 8th Annual "Evening of Storytelling!" You and your family are welcome to come in pajamas or sweats, bring your pillow, blanket and stuffed animal to the multi-purpose room to hear professional storyteller, Mrs. Nannette Watts, share a favorite story. Then you may select a classroom to enjoy several Shelley student storytellers weave their magic. It's an hour of pure entertainment, talent, creativity and FUN! Bring your family on Friday night, March 6th at 7:00 p.m.! See you then!

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:

- March 4 Mr. Schoonover, AFJH Principal, and a counselor visit Shelley Elementary.
- March 6 6th grade packets mailed home
- March 19 Open House at the Junior High 4:00-6:00 p.m. **All registration worksheets are due to AFJH!**

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Can you believe it is March? February seems to have flown right on by. Before we know it Spring will be here! Kindergarten is a crucial year to build the foundation for learning. Here are some of the things your child has learned this year in math, reading, and writing:

Math -- In math your child has learned to write and recognize the numbers 1 - 20. Using concrete, visual props like buttons, cubes and

counting bears, your kindergartner has learned the concept of more and less, ordinal numbers, basic addition and subtraction, and how to sort using a number of different characteristics. The students have also learned how to read a calendar, name the days of the week, the months of the year and the four seasons.

Reading -- Students have learned to recognize simple words, including their own name and those of their classmates. They have learned letter-sound correspondence, phonemic awareness, sight word recognition, rhyming, word families, and concepts about print. Our kindergarten students have learned to read simple books this year and we are very proud of their progress. Please continue to have your child read to you every day for 20 minutes.

Writing -- Our Kindergarten students are writing their own stories by responding to story prompts or describing a picture. Our students are given opportunities to write in a variety of genres to help foster a love of writing. Types of writing your child has been exposed to are: narrative, informative, opinion, and writing biographies. When your kindergartner sees himself/herself as a writer, they are more likely to practice.

Students have participated in many activities in art, music, science, social studies, physical education, health, and technology.

We want to thank you as parents for being actively involved in your child's education. Thanks for reinforcing newly learned skills as a way to promote ongoing success. Be sure to ask your child to share with you what they are learning and find ways to extend that learning.

1ST GRADE NEWS

We started this short month meeting with all of you awesome parents at parent teacher conferences. It was so great to show you all the fun things and accomplishments we have made this year. We also had fabulous Valentines parties organized by our awesome parents. Thanks so much for all your help.

One of the best parts this month is we had the privilege of hearing from the author Mckenzie Wagner who wrote her first book when she was 7 years old! She has inspired many of our first graders to become authors.

This month, with the Read Across America contest we are encouraging all first grade students to read at least 20 minutes a day so we can make our school goal. First graders should already be reading this much at home each night, but now we just need the minutes recorded so we can win! Go First Grade!

2ND GRADE NEWS

We had a LOVELY February!! We LOVE seeing the continued growth in our students and their excitement for learning. Thank you to all the parents who came to parent/teacher conference. We LOVE and appreciate your support as we work together to help your child succeed in school. Valentine's Day parties were a huge success, thanks to all the room mothers and LOVING parents who helped plan fun activities. Our students LOVED learning about two of our great presidents, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and I'm sure they LOVED having a day off of school to celebrate these men's birthdays. And what's there not to LOVE about Chinese New Year?? The official Chinese New Year was on February 19th but the celebration lasts for 23 days! Second graders would LOVE that kind of holiday! :) The Shelley Read-a-thon has given all of us more reasons to participate in one of our favorite activities: READING!! We just LOVE to READ! The heated contest runs through March 6th. Students can win prizes and the top class in each grade will win a party, not to mention bragging rights. So it's GAME ON this

last week of the READ-A-THON! And speaking of reading, we were inspired by the author assembly last week featuring a 13-year old girl who followed her dream and passion and has already published several books. WOW! We want our students at Shelley to think about what they LOVE to do and follow their dreams. Like the young author said, "Follow your dreams. It's never too early or late to start." We LOVE that! Our students really enjoyed the field trip last Friday. We LOVED seeing the fun book, Pinkalicious, come to life on stage. Afterwards, we were entertained by a talented storyteller at the Orem Library. As you can see, we LOVED all of the terrific school activities in the month of February.

As for what fun and exciting learning activities that are coming up in March.....I think we're going to be BLOWN AWAY!

3RD GRADE NEWS

February was a very busy month. We enjoyed visiting with you about your delightful children at parent/teacher conferences. The students worked hard on the SAGE writing assessment. Please help your child continue to write well and improve, even though that part of the SAGE testing is finished. Writing homework is still required to encourage excellence. We appreciate all the help we received with the Valentine's Day parties. We had a great time!

Students in the Battle of the Books are excited for the upcoming battles. Keep up the good work! 3rd Grade teams will battle with the 4th Grade teams on Tuesday, March 3rd. Championship Finals will be on Friday, March 6th. Keep working on your Time Machine presentations. Reports need to be typed and turned in by March 10th. We also look forward to going to the Clark Planetarium March 11th. It's a common start day (everyone comes 8-2:15). Please be on time. We'll be learning train safety and will be able to ride the frontrunner up and back. Thanks for those who are volunteering to come with us. Our tulips have emerged and students are enjoying checking on their progress.

4TH GRADE NEWS

This past month was busy and eventful in the 4th grade as teachers and students put forth tremendous efforts to get ready and take the SAGE writing portion of this year's testing. Students were also lucky to have some visitors from the Living Planet Aquarium come and do a presentation on the Water Cycle, along with bringing in some of Utah's unique reptiles and amphibians. It was an excellent presentation that the students thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks Living Planet Aquarium!

We are also finishing up the month of February with this year's edition of the Mountain Man Rendezvous. Students are excited to participate in the various stations and the trading activities from which they will enhance their understanding of Utah history. Thanks to the parents who will volunteer (or already volunteered) their time to help out. We couldn't do it without you! With one term to go, we encourage everyone to continue putting forth your best efforts in order to end this year on a high note and be prepared for 5th grade. Go Explorers!

5TH GRADE NEWS

We have been working hard in fifth grade! During the months of January and February, students learned how to write argumentative (persuasive) and informative essays in preparation for the SAGE Writing Test. Many students have written fourteen essays in Utah Compose, in preparation for the test! Their writing skills have improved immensely since the beginning of the year. We even had a "Writing Bootcamp" on a Friday night for three hours and had around 100 students attend! You can't believe how excited these fifth graders are about writing!

During the month of March, fifth graders will research a state, create a poster, write a report, and give an oral presentation (using PowerPoint) about a state they have chosen. This assignment will begin at school and then students will be expected to finish their reports at home. State reports are due

on **Monday, March 30th**. The poster should be created and completed at home and is due on the day of your child's oral report.

Our second 5th Grade Talent Show will be on Friday, April 3rd from 12:45-2:15 in the gym. We require all fifth grade students to perform in ONE of our three talent shows. We are excited for the second set of our students to share their talents!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Shelley 6th graders have been working hard through the month of February. We are all happy to have completed the SAGE writing test, and are glad we have a few months ahead of us now to work hard on the rest of the core curriculum.

Mr. Engles' and Mrs. Ricks' classes provided fabulous entertainment with their class plays. Memorizing Shakespeare is a difficult task, and everyone did an amazing job. Mr. Engles' class did Hamlet and Mrs. Ricks presented Twelfth Night.

A huge thank you to the many parents who helped with our Valentines Party. It was a screaming success. The students loved it and it would not be possible without so much parent support.

We have finished studying space and are working on heat, light, and sound. We look forward to fun activities with these units. In math, our algebra units are wrapping up, and we move into geometry. Our Social Studies focus has moved to the Twentieth Century, and we study all the fascinating changes and technological and social progress that occurred during that amazing hundred years.

Many 6th graders wowed us all with their fabulous story telling skills. A few of them will perform for our school storytelling assembly, and anyone who learned a story is invited to share it with our families during our Evening of Storytelling in just a few weeks.

The year is rapidly drawing closer to the finish line. All 6th grade students should start watching the mail for junior high registration materials around the end of the first week in March. Time really is flying by!!

PTA

Shelley Elementary parents, THANK YOU!! We could not make all of these activities happen without your support.

Don't forget. This month we will be voting on a new PTA Board so all PTA members are welcome to come to our meeting on **March 10th at 12:45 p.m.** and vote.

Read Across America - February 17th through March 6th. Thank you to all parents who volunteered and donated to help us with our reading program. Our reading program is off to a great start and we can't wait to finish up with Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd and dads and donuts on March 3rd. Encourage your kids to keep reading.

Dads & Donuts - March 3rd 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 8:45-9:15 a.m.

White Ribbon Week -- March 16th-20th
The theme is Let's Get Real... This is a great week to encourage your kids to turn off their electronics and focus on having real experiences with others. This is a great opportunity to teach your kids balance and discuss smart ways to use technology. Here are the events to watch for:

March 18th - Get offline and come skate with your family at Classic Skating

March 20th- **Magic show Assembly-** A magician will use magic to remind kids the difference between what is real and what is not.

Book Fair -- We had an awesome book fair and ALL the money that was spent goes towards book credits for the school which will allow each teacher to receive book credits to buy books for their individual classrooms.

This year, teachers received \$250 in book credits. **Thank you for your support!**

March 19th - Spirit Night @ Chick-fil-A 5-8 p.m.

Macey's- You can now link your Macey's perks card to Shelley Elementary and our school will receive a percentage back of what you spend. Anyone can do this including grandparents and friends who live out of state as long as they are already a perks card member. The following are instructions on how to do this. It is a simple and easy way to earn money for our school.

If you are not already a perks card member, you must first go to Macey's and pick up your perks card then:

Go to www.maceys.com.

Click on Perks Login on the right hand side of the screen

Click on 'Continue'

Where it says to Register click "Continue

Enter in your phone number and follow prompts

Click on Non-profits

Choose Shelley Elementary

Amazon -Don't forget we are also linked to Amazon to connect your purchases with our school find the Amazon tab on the school website.

Box Tops- Keep collecting box tops. All you need to do is cut (or tear) them off of the box they are on, send them in a baggie, or glue or tape them on a collection sheet. No need to cut along the dotted line, just make sure the expiration date is visible and send them to school with your child.

If your child brings them before school on Fridays they can receive a small reward. The collection table is located in the front lobby, or they can be dropped off anytime in the large Box Top box just outside the office. Thank you and keep clipping!

Sincerely,
Mindy Woodhouse
PTA President

March 2015

<p>2</p> <p>Green Eggs & Ham for Lunch</p> <p>Battle of the Books Competition 3rd & 4th Grades 5th & 6th Grades</p>	<p>3</p> <p>DADS & DONUTS TRACK 1 7:30-8:00 A.M. TRACK 2 8:45-9:15 A.M.</p> <p>Battle of the Books Competition 3rd & 4th Grades 5th & 6th Grades</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>School Community Council Meeting</i> <i>2:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>Mr. Schoonover meets with 6th Grade Classes</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Storytelling Assembly</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Battle of the Books Championship Competitions</p> <p>Evening of Storytelling 7 p.m.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PTA Board Meeting 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3rd Grade Clark Planetarium Field Trip Common Start 3rd Grade Attends 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Miss Udy's Class Play Parent Performance 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>16</p> <p>5th Grade Boys Maturation Presentation 12:15-1:15 p.m. Media Center</p> <p>WHITE RIBBON WEEK</p>	<p>17</p> <p>WHITE RIBBON WEEK</p>	<p>18</p> <p>WHITE RIBBON WEEK</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Mrs. McGee & Mrs. Ricks Field Trip</p> <p>6th Grade Open House @ AFJH 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Spirit Night @ Chick-Fil-A 5-8 p.m.</p> <p>WHITE RIBBON WEEK</p>	<p>20</p> <p>WHITE RIBBON WEEK</p>
<p>23</p> <p>5th Grade Girls Maturation Presentation 9:30-10:30 a.m. Gym</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Riding Class Play Parent Performance 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2014/15 Track Request Forms Due</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>Last Day to Order Yearbooks for the \$13.00 price</p> <p><i>School Community Council Meeting</i> <i>2:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5TH GRADE TALENT SHOW 12:45 P.M.</p>

