

# EXPLORER

April 2015

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## *Principal's Message*

Dear Patrons:

March has been quite a month at Shelley Elementary! I still reflect on what an opportunity I was given to be the principal here at Shelley almost two years ago. I like to equate Spring with renewal and growth. As we watch our yards, gardens and other things come to life from their long winter sleep; I feel that all of the steps that make up the growth process in the springtime can be applied to our students as well. During the Winter students are cramped indoors working on reports, spelling lists, reading books, working on technology and other instructionally needful things. As Spring comes around the air warms and students are getting outside more often, we see a blossoming of our students! It seems that their minds are more rested, their bodies are starting to grow and we see many changes in attitudes and personality patterns as the season brings growth and renewal. I appreciate all the great things that our parents are doing to help their children be successful here at Shelley. Your involvement with your children's education will directly affect their learning ability during their educational years. Please continue to read with them, help them with their homework and set a positive example for them to look to as they face the growing challenges of their lives.

March saw our BOB (Battle of the Books) competition start. Our students had been reading their books in preparation for the coming battles in their respective grade levels.

The battles culminated in our gym with two teams facing off. Each proving their knowledge by answering questions fired at them from a panel of BOB judges. The support shown from the students not involved in the battles made the atmosphere electric! March seemed to be a month for field trips for many of the grades. Our students are so very lucky to have parents that make these field trips possible through your generous donations at the beginning of the school year. Thank you, thank you! Field trips provide learning experiences that help make connections to the classroom content for each student that participates. March is also the time for our boys and girls maturation programs. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and their fathers listened to Mike Cottam present some great information in a very well done program. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls and their mothers had Annette Pulley (an RN from A.F. Hospital) present them with information in a nicely done program. Our Shelley Knowledge Bowl teams placed in the top 10 in the district competition. Way to go! We have so many great things that happen at Shelley that make our school the place to be!

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement of your students and our teachers as we start to see the end of the current school year. I appreciate the chance I have to work with such great parents, students, teachers and staff each day! Have a fun and safe Spring Break!

Mike Ericksen  
Principal

## EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK NOMINATIONS

Here at Shelley Elementary we have wonderful teachers and staff who dedicate countless hours to help children progress and learn in a safe environment. Starting April 13<sup>th</sup>, we would like to encourage parents and the community to express their appreciation by nominating a teacher or staff member for Employee of the Week. Each week a Shelley employee will be recognized for their hard work. Employee recognition will include a certificate and parking privileges for a week. There are two ways to access the form to submit your nominations.

- Visit our school web page and go to the Parent/Student tab. There you can find a newly added **Employee of the Week** link. Click on the link to enter your nomination and reason why he/she is being nominated.
- A direct link to the nomination form will be posted on the front-page slider. Click the "Read More" button on the "Employee of the Week" slider to access the form.

We look forward to reading about the teachers and staff that make a difference in the lives of Shelley students. Mr. Ericksen and Mr. Wiet will review the nominations.

Thank you,

Mr. Wiet

Assistant Principal (TSA)

## From the Lunchroom

We will be serving a special frosted sugar cookie for Easter on Friday, April 3rd! So hop on in to the lunchroom and join us for school lunch!!!

## GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OVER SPRING BREAK

Over this spring break week the district grounds department has scheduled to have the school lawns sprayed with a weed killer. We have been asked that for safety, all traffic stay off the field for 24 hours after application. This is especially important for children and pets. We haven't been given exact dates yet so look for signs posted on the fence and grass.

### Freedom Films

During the month of March, Mrs. McGee's students created films celebrating the values of freedom. They had some fantastic ideas and produced some amazing projects. Ten of the films were submitted to the America's Freedom Festival - Provo film contest. Below are links to these films. Take a minute and check out their great work!

[Cost of Freedom](#)

[Freedom Fest](#)

[It's Our Turn at Freedom](#)

[Opportunity and Voting](#)

[Freedom of Speech](#)

[The Freedom to BE](#)

[The Values of Freedom](#)

[USA Freedom](#)

[We Are Free](#)

## ARE YOU MOVING?

If your family is moving and/or your children will not be returning to Shelley Elementary in the fall, please let us know. If you did not return the student placement form with the box checked that you are moving, would you be so kind as to contact the office as soon as possible? We are trying to accurately determine how teaching staff will best be distributed for next year based on student numbers. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**Time Machine Presentation**  
**for Parents:**  
**Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The long awaited day has arrived!

You are invited to attend:

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Time Machine Performances

Where: In the school library

When: Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Alger and Mrs. Barton (both Track 1)  
8:05-9:10 a.m.

Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. LeBaron  
9:35-11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Alger and Mrs. Barton (both Track 2)  
1:20-2:20 p.m.

## **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, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and they will be donated to a local charity.

## **Dress for Success**

With the onset of warmer weather it would be good to review the expectations for how students should be dressed that are printed in the Shelley School handbook you received at the beginning of the school year. It may also be accessed online by way of our school website. There are many wonderful outfits that may be great for spring and summer fun at home and in the neighborhood, but some of these outfits are not appropriate for the school environment. Please pay special

attention to guidelines about shorts, skirts, sleeveless tops and flip-flops. Thank you for helping us limit classroom distractions and ensure student comfort and safety by sending students appropriately dressed each day.

## **TESTING TIPS**

As we move into the months of April and May, a glance at the calendar reminds us we have begun the process of giving a number of end-of-year assessments such as the state SAGE testing in grades 3-6 (the testing window is April 13 through May 21), the DRA assessment in grades K-3 (April 1 through May 5), and the Kindergarten Literacy Assessment (May 4 through 15). These tests may at times be stressful to some students. This stress is not because the students don't know the information; it is because they may not be used to the test-taking format. Our teachers work very hard to prepare the students for the tests and to make testing a positive experience as a part of the students' overall learning process.

Here are four simple things parents may also do to help students do their best on these tests:

- Reassure your children that they are doing a good job at school. Self-confidence brings courage to do their best.
- Help them arrive at school *on time* every day.
- Make sure they go to bed early so that they are well rested.
- Be sure they eat a good breakfast at home or school every day.

Of course, these four practices are good not only during testing, but all the time to encourage success at school. They are especially beneficial to your children in preparation for testing time. Thank you for working with us to make school a rewarding experience for our students.

# Battle of the Books

## A Huge Success!

Battle of the Books (BOB) was very successful again this year. Thanks to all the students who read. FYI: 235 students participated this year with over 1424 BOB books recorded as being read. Congratulations to the top teams.

### Here are the top 3rd - 4th Grade Teams

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Golden Gliders** (Mrs. Jensen's Class)

Mindee Miner

Kalia Abo

Hailee Richins

Marley Jones

Abby McKay

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Thunder Giants** (Mrs. Jensen's Class)

Evan Williams

Ben Bradshaw

Ethan Thomas

Nate Dixon

Luke Patterson

### Here are the top 5th - 6th Grade Teams

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Bobles** (Mr. Engles' Class)

Sophie Hendrickson

Jessica Tobler

Kylie Dunne

Sammy Peterson

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Mrs. Elison's Giants** (Mrs. Elison's Class)

Easton Ernst

Daniel Thornton

Mary Alice Law

Abie Howard

Be watching the BOB wall for the list of next year's BOB books. As soon as we get the list we will post it on the wall, newsletter, school website, and Shelley Facebook page.

Thank you to those who helped make this program run smoothly: Mr. Ericksen, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Engles and to all the parent judges that came to help. The Battle of the Books program could not happen without your support.

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We can't believe that it is April already! There are a lot of fun and exciting things coming up in Kindergarten.

We are looking forward to our field trip to Wheeler Farms on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please sign and return your child's permission slip as soon as possible so that they may attend. If you didn't receive a note about the field trip with the attached permission slip, contact your child's teacher. Please remember that all kindergarteners will attend from 8:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. that day unless your child is in Mrs. Reid's OEK class in the afternoon. OEK students will attend from 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Your child's teacher will be contacting parents to come and help that day.

Coming up in April we will be working on numbers 11 and beyond. We will be learning eighteen new sight words and three word families. We will also be administering the DRA (reading assessment) test again. Please continue to read with your student as much as possible. Fluency and comprehension are what they should be working on now. Have your child read to you in a normal speaking voice and re-tell the story afterwards. What happened in the beginning, the middle, the end and who were the characters, etc. As the year starts to wind down, let's finish strong!

Thank you for your continued help and support!

# 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE NEWS

It is hard to believe that there are only two months of school left. The first graders are growing in their ability to read, write, and learn math strategies, as well as participate in their specialty classes.

We will be doing another round of DRA testing this month. Make sure your child is reading the Take Home Reading books each day. When finishing a book, ask your first grader to tell you who the characters were and what happened in the story. The children should be able to retell a story, naming the things that happened in the story, in the correct sequence.

Last, but not least, the boys and girls are excited to be going on a field trip to Hogle Zoo on April 17<sup>th</sup>. To go along with this, the children will be asked to write a report on an animal they are interested in. Watch for details from your child's teacher.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS

In the second grade, we have focused mainly on reading skills this month. We broke the students into seven groups during explorer time. Each teacher worked on different skills. We feel that we have seen a lot of improvement in the student's reading skills this year.

As a second grade we went on a field trip to see "Pinkalicious" at the SCERA Theater. Then we went to the Orem library where a wonderful storyteller and puppet master entertained us with some wonderful stories from books the students love to read. He also introduced some new books to the students that they now would like to read. He really brought the books alive for the children.

We have one more field trip coming up at the end of April. It will be to the Museum of Curiosity in Lehi. We are really looking forward to this event. This field trip also ties in with our curriculum with animals and the places that they live.

We would like to tell all of the parents how wonderful you are. Thank you for all the support you give the second grade team.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE NEWS

Third grade in the month of March was awesome! We rode TRAX and FrontRunner to the Clark Planetarium. It was a unique and wonderful opportunity for third grade students to use public transportation, as well as proper train etiquette. We had a safe and perfect day! Thanks to the chaperones who came to assist us. Also, our tulips have bloomed! Ask your child to show you where they are.

April is another busy month! Look for our article about the Time Machine Performances coming up. We have been participating in the Tulips Journey North program, and have the great opportunity to compliment our educational experiences by going to Highland Gardens and Thanksgiving Point Tulip Festival on April 23. Our classes are also getting ready for our SAGE tests in Language Arts and Math. Please make certain your child has enough rest, a healthy breakfast and lunch and is prepared to do his/her best each day of the testing days. Plan your appointments and other family activities outside of school times, so each child is not distracted and concerned about the testing. Each teacher will send home a testing schedule later this month.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

March has been a great month! We started it out with the Storytelling Festival. It was so fun to hear the 4<sup>th</sup> graders creative and engaging stories. We also enjoyed hearing Mr. Freeman's story about the "Moose Suit!"

This month we had our Battle of the Book's Battles. Students worked really hard to memorize the titles, authors, and events from the books. Great job to all who participated!

We enjoyed watching Miss Udy's class Opera. Her students did an awesome job! They put a lot of time and effort into it, and it turned out great.

Congratulations to our Knowledge Bowl participants! We had two teams from the primary division make it into the top 10 teams in the district!

As the end of the year is approaching, we encourage our students to continue working on the 30-book challenge. The end of year SAGE testing is also coming up. We encourage students to get onto the SAGE Portal site at home and practice the training tests.

We appreciate all of our parent support!

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

Our fifth graders have worked for hours on their state reports. They used books and the internet to research their assigned state. Then they wrote a 10 page report, made a trifold poster, designed a 12 slide power point, and will be done presenting their oral reports by April 2nd. We will keep their poster at school until our State Fair on May 20th. After all the time they put into these reports, we know they will be excited to show the whole school their accomplishments!

April is an exciting month for 5th grade because of our patriotic Hope of America program at the Marriott Center at BYU on Thursday night, April 16th. Hope of America is part of America's Freedom Festival in Provo, Utah. Each year thousands of 5th graders from over 70 schools come together and present songs of hope, service and patriotism. We have been practicing

the songs for months and we look forward to performing in this inspiring program, which goes hand in hand with our study of American History. During the school day on April 16th, we will be practicing in Provo with the other schools. This year, after the practice we are excited to be visiting BYU's Bean Museum for a presentation on animal adaptation, part of the 5th grade Science curriculum. We will have a common start day that day. All students will come from 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Look for additional information coming home soon with your child!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Riding's class really enjoyed performing their class play, Character Matters, for their fellow students and families. They did a great job learning their lines and fun songs, and the audience enjoyed the production.

All sixth grade students enjoyed a visit from the principal of AF Jr. High, and then had the exciting opportunity to register for Junior High, and tour their new school. We wish them the best as they prepare to represent Shelley in their next adventure.

This school year is flying to an end. Sixth grade has a bevy of activities planned in the next few months. A note was sent home with your child Wednesday, April 1st. Please watch for this note, it contains a list of dates and details for these activities.

Monday, March 30th, the Rocket Man came to speak with us, and introduced the students to the world of model rockets. Students should have brought home an order form, in case they wish to participate in our **OPTIONAL** Rocket Launch party. Rocket orders are due with payment by Friday, April 3, 2015. This should give students plenty of time to construct their chosen rockets, before participating students are invited to attend the launch with their parent(s), Thursday, May 21st, at 5:30 p.m.

SAGE testing begins when we return from Spring Break. Please note your student's class testing schedule, and help them get a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. We hope everyone has a fun and restful (?) Spring Break.

Dear Shelley Parents,

We truly have such awesome parents, students and faculty/staff. It is great when we can come together for the benefit of our children. This month be sure and stop by during **April 22-30th<sup>th</sup>** and look at the **main hall bulletin board**. The teachers at Shelly would like you to know how much they appreciate all your efforts in helping them support your children. Come by and read their comments. **THANK YOU PARENTS!!!**

**April 27-May 1<sup>st</sup>** is our **BOGO book fair**- Come by and check it out.

**May5-9** is **teacher/staff appreciation week**- Look for more information to come.

**Read Across America - February 17<sup>th</sup>-March 6<sup>th</sup>** - **Thank you to all parents** who volunteered and donated to help us with our reading program. We had a great turn out of both moms and dads at our moms and muffins and dads and donuts. IT was so fun to see **soooo many** of you at the school. The kids surpassed our goal and read **683,693 total minutes**. Also we had some great businesses donate to our reading program activities helping us make it a great success.

*Pizza Pie Café*

*Meltyway*

*Classic Skating*

*Chuckarama*

*Chick-fil-a*

*Fresh Market*

*Big 5 Sporting Goods*

*Jump on it*

*Costco*

*Target*

*Smart cookie*

*Cold stone*

*Buffalo Wild Wings*

*Avenue bakery*

*Fresh Market*

*Walmart*

**March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** - **White Ribbon Week**- **The theme was Let's Get Real...** We had a fun assembly with a magician and hope you took the chance to discuss with your children how to create more "Real" opportunities with friends and families.

**Chick-fil-A** -- Next months' spirit night will be **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**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. The following are instructions on how to do this. It is a simple and easy way to earn money for our school. First go to Macey's and sign up for a perks card. Then

Go to [www.maceys.com](http://www.maceys.com)

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

Go to the bottom of the page and click on Continue where it says to Register

Enter in your phone number and follow prompts

Click on Nonprofits

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

# April 2015

		1 School Community Council Meeting 2:30 p.m.	2	3 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Show 12:45 p.m.
6 <b>Spring Break</b>  NO SCHOOL	7 <b>Spring Break</b>  NO SCHOOL	8 <b>Spring Break</b>  NO SCHOOL	9 <b>Spring Break</b>  NO SCHOOL	10 <b>Spring Break</b>  NO SCHOOL
13	14 PTA Board Meeting 12:45 p.m.	15	16 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Hope of America Rehearsal @ BYU 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Common Start 8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. ***Hope of America*** Evening Performance In the Marriott Center (See student note for details and times) Spirit Night @ Chick-Fil-A 5-8 p.m.	17 Kindergarten Wheeler Farm Field Trip Common Start 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (OER 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.) 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip Hogle Zoo Common Start 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
20 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Time Machine Presentations	21 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Thanksgiving Point Field Trip Common Start 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.	22 Elementary Band Performance 12:45 p.m. Parent Information Night for Incoming Kindergartners 7:00 p.m.	23 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Highland Gardens & Tulip Festival Field Trip	24
27 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE	28 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE Moffitt, Ricks & McGee AM Leonardo Field Trip	29 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE	30 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE Riding, Engles & McGee PM Leonardo Field Trip	May 1 BOOK FAIR BOGO FREE



