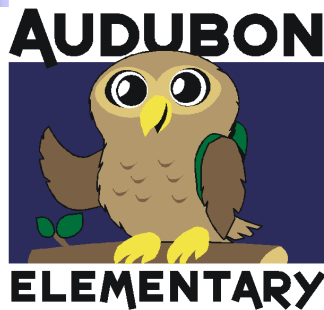




THE OWL'S NEST



Audubon Elementary School, March 2010

2009-10—Issue 5

Principal's Message:

Dear Families,

So hard to believe that spring is here! Though I don't actually feel like we have had our winter yet, these mild days have made for nice outdoor recesses for our students and staff.

It was a joy to see such a great turnout of families here on Student Share Night. It fills my heart to see the value that our community places on school and the accomplishments of our children—and what a great message this sends to our kids. Our teachers made it more special by adding interactive games and Active Board demonstrations, and our PTSA topped the night off with ice cream. Thank you all who attended and helped plan this fantastic celebration of hard work and effort!

This time of year is when we begin what I call the, "down-hill slide". As I review the calendar it seems that there are so few school days left before the end of the school year. Yet, there is a great deal to accomplish before June arrives. This is a good time of year to review schedules and prioritize so that we make time for the most important events and activities. Keeping students focused can be a greater challenge in the spring when the days grow longer and evening events begin to increase. Please remember the importance of a good night's rest for your children (and for us adults as well). We know that children need more sleep than adults in order to function at their best.

I look forward to teaming with you all to usher in another spring at Audubon!

Karen Dickens, Principal

MARCH CALENDAR:

3/1–3/5

Read Across America Week—see PTSA list of events

3/11 Bedtime Stories and PTSA Membership Meeting

3/19 LEAP for teachers—

No school for students

3/29-4/2 Spring Break

No School for students and staff



Book Talk

A principal's book corner...

Nurture Shock: New Thinking About Children, by Po Bronson & Ashley Merryman

I am currently reading a book that I cannot put down. Each chapter pulls me in deeper because of the relevance of the topic, the easy reading style of the journalist authors, and the extent of the research cited. The premise of the book is that many of modern society's strategies for nurturing children are backfiring – because key twists in the science have been overlooked. Authors Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman address common understandings about raising children and cite years of research to provide a completely new perspective on conventional wisdom. Each chapter deals with an equally relevant topic on child-rearing: how to praise children; early assessment for gifted programs; why kids lie; the effects of sleep (or lack of) on children; sibling rivalry, teen rebellion, teaching self-control, just to name a few. I have read many books about raising and educating children. This one has made an impact on me both as a parent and as an educator as each chapter causes me to say, "hmmm".

New State Assessment:

You may be aware that the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has made some changes to the state assessment, formerly known as the WASL. It is now called the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) in grades 3-8. The test is shorter by half in reading, math, and science, and will take one testing session for students to complete. The writing test remains the same as always and requires two testing sessions to complete.

For sixth grade parents: OSPI has also made it possible for students to take the MSP on-line in reading and math. Each school in our district is piloting one online test this year in sixth grade. Audubon 6th graders will take the assessment on-line in math only this year. You may want to go on-line to look at a demonstration of the test tool.

Here's how to view the MSP sixth grade test demonstration.

Go to the following web site :

<http://wa-online.caltesting.org/tutorials/studentTutorials.html>

Click on the Demo link and choose to listen to the demo using audio

We hope this helps you see what your sixth grader will experience during the on-line version of the MSP.

Congratulations Audubon Students!

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council Officers:

Co-Presidents:	Travis Rice and Maddie Washburn
Vice President:	James Davidson
Secretary:	Anousha Shadrach
Treasurer:	Josh Bull

These students will work with Advisor Mrs. Christensen, to plan the Student Council meetings and associated events and will help to build our Audubon Student Council program.

Go Deep Diving Dolphins Go!

Audubon's Global Reading team, the *Deep Diving Dolphins*, won North Regional semi-finals! Congratulations Simran Bhandarkar, Harriet Clarke, Tom Firstenberg, Natasha Foti, Tessa Fujisaki, Alice Zhu and Theresa Hisel. These talented girls will compete in the finals on March 26th to determine the King County Champion! Good Luck Deep Diving Dolphins! We are proud of you!

Budget Updates: LWSD needs your input!

School District Budget Input Sessions Set

The state legislature is currently working on the state budget and indications are that K-12 public education will get even less money next year from the state. Estimates of the budget cuts Lake Washington School District will have to make based on proposals range from \$3.6 million to \$8.4 million. Cutting that much more from the district budget after last year's \$7.7 million cuts will be difficult.

Last year's budget input from parents, staff and community members provided important direction for the district's budget process. A similar process will be used this year. Parents, staff and community members are invited to attend any one of five meetings where they will receive information on the expected budget and potential options for where to reduce the district budget. Everyone will have the opportunity to fill out and submit a form with their choices.

March 24 – Redmond High School, 7-9 p.m.

March 25 – Eastlake High School, 7-9 p.m.

For those who cannot attend one of these meetings, the information will also be available on the district Web site. An online input form will be open from March 15 through March 26.



Texting, Calling While Driving?

Distracted drivers account for almost 80% of all crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That statistic includes drivers who talk or text on cell phones. Another survey found that one in five drivers text while driving and that figure rises to one in three for people aged 18-34. Parents who drive on field trips have a particular responsibility to drive safely: your car is full of students! Please make sure that you leave your cell phone alone when driving on a field trip. If you must answer a very important call, pull off to a safe location on the side of the road. Our students are depending on you to keep your attention on the road at all times.