

SHADOW LAKE ELEMENTARY

January 14, 2010

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to all, as we return to Shadow Lake following the winter holidays, it is always fun to see the smiling faces of the boys and girls. They energize us with their enthusiasm for learning and life.

Parents frequently ask "How can I support my children at home with their academic learnings?" For our students at Shadow Lake I have a few concrete suggestions to foster your student's academic progress.

1. Participate in our PTA sponsored at-home reading program- PAWS. Students read at least 20 minutes a day for 20 minutes. After the child reads a 20 minute session, the child marks off a paw print. After the 20th day, please have the student and parent sign the log, and the student turns in the log to the Shadow Lake office. The student will receive an award for completing a month's reading requirements.
2. Our boys and girls starting in first grade can be working on the quick recall of basic math facts. Flash cards, math games, and just a quick oral question – What's 3x6 in the car can help in students learning their math facts. I would also encourage you to help your students access the Everyday Mathematics Games from home. Please contact your child's teacher if your boy or girl cannot remember their password.
3. Please encourage your children to write in journals. Mrs. Hofferber attended a state training for writing and one of the primary suggestions at the state level for students to improve their writing is to add elaboration and detail to their works. Ask you student to write about a "small moment" in their day and to thoughtfully bring their writing to life by creating images through vivid word choices and extensions of their thoughts and ideas through elaboration.

Shadow Lake has been recognized by King County for recycling through the Green School Program.

- Shadow Lake Elementary School increased its recycling rate from 11 percent to 50 percent through a combination of waste reduction and increased recycled.
- School staff initiated a lunchroom recycling program for milk cartons, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. After students were doing well with basic recycling, the school began recycling food scraps which are collected for composting.
- At the beginning of each school year, students are educated about proper recycling and composting practices. Staff members were trained in a staff meeting presentation.
- School staff placed recycling stickers on all recycling containers. Provided by the Green Schools Program, the stickers list what can and cannot be recycled.
- Custodian Bill Smith creatively converted garbage containers to recycling containers with a polyvinyl chloride "hanger" above each container that uses real examples of recyclable materials. He also made leftover liquids buckets by painting black and white "cow" spots on old garbage containers. The students love these containers!
- Paper copies of weekly kid mail have been eliminated saving more than 35,000 pieces of paper already this school year.

One way parents can help us with this effort is to always make sure we have your current email address. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know your correct address. It is our goal to have all our parents informed of school events and news in an environmentally friendly way.

Respectfully,

Christina Everett

Tahoma School Levies, February 9, 2010

Tahoma School District is proposing to continue local levy support for students through the Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Technology Levy. Both measures would continue funding for staffing, programs, equipment and supplies that are provided through local levies that expire at the end of 2010. The Educational Programs and Operations Levy would also replace some of the state education that is being reduced in the current biennium. Please visit the Tahoma website at www.tahomasd.us for details about the levy request.

Announcements:

School Hours: Our school hours are from 9:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m., we provide supervision beginning at 9:00 a.m. No early drop offs are permitted, and please don't leave your children in the office until 4:00 PM. Please contact the district office at 425-413-3400 if you need information on our before and after school daycare.

No School – Monday, January 18 or Monday, January 25: Monday, January 18 is Martin Luther King Day and Monday, January 25 is Semester Break Day. There will be no school on either of these days. No School on Friday, February 5th for staff development. The second winter break week occurs the week of February 15-19.

Winter/Spring TLC Catalog: The latest edition of the TLC catalog was just posted on the Community Notice section of the District website, <http://swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/tflyers/index.php>. Please take a minute and see what is offered- there are some interesting classes, including registration information on the Father/Daughter ball.

PTA News

Rumplestiltskin: PTA is proud to sponsor a musical production of Rumplestiltskin, directed by Missoula Children's Theater. Students auditioned for parts on January 11th and those participating have been rehearsing all week. The young actors will perform during a student assembly on January 15th, with the public performance for families and friends being at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 16th. Due to the generous parents of Shadow Lake, the PTA has been able to sponsor this \$2700 production for the last three years. While there is no cost to attend the performance, admission donations to support future productions are welcomed. Even if your child is not performing, this is a great opportunity to come and see a first class dramatic production!

Winter Fundraiser Update-Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products: Shadow Lake students did a wonderful job on Thursday, Jan. 7, at the all school assembly, listening to how chocolate is grown, harvested and processed. It is evident that the students are practicing their thinking and evaluating skills by the types of questions that were asked. In addition to high quality chocolate items, coffee, tea, and healthy snacks are also available for purchase in this fundraiser. SLPTA will earn 40% profit on the orders!

Packets were sent home on January 7. Additional brochure/fundraiser packets are available in the office.

Please return all orders by January 21, 2010. Parents--please ensure your child's name and grade levels are written on the white collection envelopes. The tri-fold brochure/initial order form is kept at home for your records upon product distribution. Checks need to be made out to Shadow Lake PTA. **Product pickup is scheduled for February 9, 2010.**

All Earnings from the 5th graders will go into the 'pool' to defray costs for Camp Casey! Shadow Lake PTA is excited for the opportunity for this Outdoor Education experience to continue.

Please contact Karina Heiting-Sogge at slwinterfundraiser@yahoo.com if you have ANY questions. She can also be reached at 425-432-5102. Visit www.equalexchange.coop for more information about Equal Exchange cooperative.

Read-a-thon: Shadow Lake is hosting its first "Get 5 for \$5.00 Challenge" Read-a-Thon. Coming at the end of February, this fundraising event is designed to help kids learn to help their school! Kids will be asked to get sponsors for a week of intense reading from March 1-7th, *if every child can get just 5 sponsors for \$5.00 each our school can raise more than \$10,000.* 100% of the profits from this fundraiser will be channeled back into the school so help your student by supporting this event! Watch kid mail and packet information coming home for more details or contact Michelle Behrendt at m.behrendt@msn.com

Dates for your Calendar

1/11-1/16	Missoula Children's Theater- Rumplestiltskin
1/16	Rumplestiltskin Performance- 11:00 AM, doors open at 10:30 AM
1/18	No School- Martin Luther King Day
1/21	Equal Exchange Fundraiser Orders Due
1/25	Semester Break Day, No School
2/5	No School-Waiver Day
2/9	Equal Exchange Fundraiser Product Pick Up
2/12	PTA Read-a-thon Kick-off Assembly
2/15-2/19	Mid Winter Break- No School
3/1-3/5	PTA Read-a-thon Reading Week
3/8	PTA Board Meeting, 1:30 PM
3/11	2 nd Grade Music Program, 7 PM
3/12	Read-a-thon Pledges Due
3/19	No School-Waiver Day
3/26	Progress Reports Go Home
3/26	PTA Sock Hop