



Foothills Middle School FALCON FOCUS

Published by the PTSA for students and families of
Foothills Middle School
1410 Maple Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509-664-8961
<http://fms.wsd.wednet.edu>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- March 3: Choir Large Group Festival
- March 4: Spring Conference: 11:45 a.m. dismissal
- March 9: WHS Incoming Freshmen Orientation, 6:30 p.m., FMS Commons
- March 10: Band and Mariachi Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- March 12: Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- March 13: WHS Counselors in 8th Grade Core Classes
- March 16: **NO LATE START**
- March 18: Band Large Group Festival
- March 24: Orchestra Large Group Festival
- March 25: Mariachi Large Group Festival
- March 26 --
- April 3: 8th Grade East Coast Tour
- March 30 --
- April 3: Spring Break
- April 6: Track, Softball, Boy's Swim start
- April 9: End of 3rd Quarter
- April 13: **NO LATE START**
- April 14-23: WASL Testing
- April 20: **NO LATE START**
- April 21: Student of the Month Award, 8:50am
- April 24: Rock n' Run-a-Thon
- May 11: Submission Deadline for Newsletter

March 2009

Luck of the Irish!!



Office Staff:

Principal: John Waldren
Assistant Principal: Chad Morgan
Counselor: Jan Bullock
Office Manager: Josie Bryan
Attendance Secretary: Tami Maboney
Assistant Secretary: Trisha Wise

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Waldren's PONDERing

Students at Foothills Middle School are registered to take this spring's Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The WASL testing window this year for our school is April 14th – April 24th. Make up tests will be administered during the following week of April 27th – May 1st.

You may have read about the replacement of the WASL in 2010. However, the change to new state tests **does not** affect testing during spring 2009. However, that will **not** change this spring. All students will still need to take the WASL. Families should continue to encourage their children to participate and do their best on the state test this year. It is important to measure students' progress and proficiency.

The WASL will be replaced in 2010 by two new tests: the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) in grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE). Those tests are in development and will be unveiled in spring 2010. For those parents with eighth-grade students this year, your child will likely not be allowed to take the new HSPE as a ninth-grader. Ninth-grade testing is voluntary and the state was recently forced to eliminate that option because of a lack of funding.

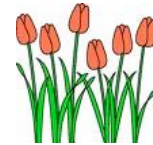
We appreciate all your hard work in helping to prepare your students to be successful in school every day. We also thank you in advance for encouraging your child to do their best on the WASL this spring.

Please contact me at 664-8961 or e-mail me at waldren.j@mail.wsd.wednet.edu if you have questions or concerns about state testing.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your child is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.

Sincerely,

✓ *John Waldren*
✓ *Principal*



2009-10 Class Schedules

We are in the very early stages of developing a schedule for next fall. Our goal remains the same, which is to provide the best opportunity for learning for all students. Students have a variety of needs and we do our best to meet specific needs. We need your patience and communication in order to achieve this.

If you have specific concerns regarding your student's schedule, please utilize the Parent Input Forms available in the office or e-mail Mrs. Bullock or Mrs. Ottley. Input is most helpful when it is brief and specific. If a conference is needed, please contact Mrs. Bullock. Conferences are helpful when a student has unique needs not met by placement guidelines.

We attempt to make the best placement for your student. However, we cannot fulfill requests for specific teachers. Teaching assignments, schedules and numbers change. We also cannot consider placement of classes to accommodate lunchtimes or classes with a student's friend.

Mrs. Bullock and Mrs. Ottley will meet with classes to discuss schedules and signing up for electives. Watch for this information to come home. Student schedules will be mailed about a week before school starts in the fall.

FMS Course Offerings will be updated in late April. This will identify and explain all required and elective classes. This is a good source of information. You can pick one up in the school

office and it will be available on-line from the FMS web page.

AVID classes will continue for 7th and 8th grade. AVID is a program that teaches skills for college readiness. Students are selected for this program and parents are notified of their selection.

Watch for more information coming about Math placement. This is sometimes a confusing topic for parents and students. We are working with the district to have consistent information regarding placement and class offerings. Information will be available on the counseling websites later this spring.

Spanish and Music are yearlong electives and students should plan on completing the year. Teacher's Aide, Library Aide, Cafeteria Aide and Office Aide positions are available for 8th graders only.

We will do our best to keep you and your students informed regarding upcoming changes regarding student schedules and placement.

Message from the PTSA President

Dear Foothills Families

Can you believe that half of the school year is already over? Your PTSA have been busy sponsoring author classroom visits, after school Art club, getting the Reflections program, and a drama production under way, just to name a few. That has been possible because of the generous donation of time by our dedicated board members and parent volunteers. Our parent volunteers have donated approximately 160 hours between the months of August and October to support our school. That does not include the hours donated by our board members to prepare, conduct, attend and carry out the business of our unity. We have a group of very dedicated and committed PTSA members, and parent volunteers. A heart felt thank you goes to each of them from us. Please refer to our VP of Volunteers' note attached to our message. In the

event that we have omitted anyone that has contributed in any way, we offer our apologies. The gift of your time says a lot about your commitment to our students.

Our most recent undertaking will be the Rock & Run-a-Thon fundraiser set for April 24th! The kick off assembly is scheduled for March 25th. This interactive, fun-filled event is coming to the kids after WASL testing when they are ready for a break of pace. The kids can start securing their pledge donors early. We are planning for an all school teacher and student participation day filled with fun! Contact our event chair Tammi Flynn at 670-8834 or nutritiontips@flynnpkg.com, if you would like to be one of our sponsors, or for more information. A big thank you goes to Tammi and her committee for introducing this promising fundraising to Foothills. We are looking forward to it!

Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 10th from 6:00 to 6:45 pm, preceding the Mariachi and Band concerts in the Library classroom. It will be brief, and informative. The names of the nominees for next year's board officers will be introduced to the membership. Membership vote is scheduled for April 13th at 11:30 am at the conference room. If you are a member and would like to vote, we would appreciate having you there. If you are not a member you are invited to attend as well.

In our first newsletter message to our families, we shared that our goal for the year was to provide our families with a "welcoming environment, where they may develop social networks to best support their student(s). This goal has primarily remained the same. At our last general meeting in November, 2008, we brought in one of our faculty members, ready to connect with our families on math proficiency awareness. Next month we will revisit the topic of Cyber Social Safety for our children. We look forward to seeing you there. We missed the opportunity of introducing our board at our Open House last year, and would very much enjoy

meeting you next month! For our monolingual families, an interpreter will be present to assist if needed be.

Think spring, and keep warm!

Amy Farris & Silvana Dice
FMS PTSA 08-09 Co Presidents

PTSA

everychild.onevoice.

“Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

~James Matthew Barrie



Many thanks to all our wonderful parent volunteers who helped make the last 2 months “fly” by with ease. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by FMS students and staff. Please give our August and September volunteers a well deserved “pat on the back”. We apologize for any omissions or spelling errors below:

6th Grade Orientations: Katherine Green, Silvana Dice, Jeanna Stillman, Elizabeth Nordi, Natalie Noyd, Michelle Ross, Carrie McCarthy, Sara Kalahar, Danny Garcia, Debbie Gravelle, Linda Park, Darlene Lenders

Opening Day: Susan Jagla, Michele Kiehn, Jody Murray, Katherine Green, Lucy Ochoa, Christina Turner, Lisa Heuple, Andrew Kahn, Katrina Keppler, Elizabeth Nordi, Alan and Maureen Schmaltz, Lisa Riggan, Amy Farris, Silvana Dice

Picture Day: Nel Wheeler, Vicki and Brent Cunderla, Cindy Fraley, Karin Schock, Allison Trussel, Silvana Dice, Betty Fong

7th Grade Vision Screenings: Memory Visscher, MaLani Kremer, Joan Qazi, Carol Springer, Jody

Fitzgerald, Betty Fong, Vicki Clive, Lisa Heuple, Carrie Arthur, Bruce Mcrae, Peggy Martin, Connie Celustka

October was a very busy month for parent volunteers. We are grateful to have many dedicated parents who are willing to get involved and make the time to help out when they can. Please join me in thanking the following individuals for their commitment to FMS. Again, I apologize for any omissions or spelling errors.

Picture Retake Day: Malani Kremer

ASB Magazine Helpers: Cristina Turner, Erica Mendoza, Tracy Thompson, Jeanna Stillman, Jeannine Barnwell, Betty Fong, Tammy Caldwell, Bruce Mcrae, Leigh Smith, Melissa Dietrich, Julie McKay, Katrina Keppler, Elizabeth Nordi, Lucy Ochoa, Cindy Fraley (chairperson)

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Erica Mendoza, Allison Trussel, Beth Crail, Amy Dilly, Michelle Still, Alan Schmaltz, Peggy Martin, Memory Visscher, Cristina Turner, Tammy Flynn, Jeanna Stillman, Betty Fong, Darci Waterman, Michele Kiehn, Silvana Dice

LOOK out for upcoming volunteering opportunities. We have a major PTSA “fun”raiser coming up in the spring and it’s something we’ve never done before at FMS.

Betty Fong, VP Volunteers
techfam5@verizon.net





If you're afraid to trust your middle-schooler's memory (or even your own), the FMS PTSA-Sponsored Email Newsletter is the organizational tool designed for you ...

Emailed to your home and/or work email address, the FMS Email Newsletter is sent out once-a-week, on Saturday or Sunday. The newsletter contains IMPORTANT school-related DATES and INFORMATION (for both parents and students), as well as PTSA-related events, requests and information.

The emails are sent as a "blind distribution," so your email address is never revealed to other recipients. In addition, you can be assured that your email address will never be used for anything other than the email newsletter and there will never be any attachments to the newsletter.

If you'd like to get on the distribution list for the FMS Email Newsletter, send your request (include your student's name/grade) to prater@nwi.net. To ensure easy delivery of your newsletter, please add prater@nwi.net (Matt and Angela Prater) to your spam filter "safe list."

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Angela Prater, newsletter editor, at prater@nwi.net or 679-9323.

Wenatchee School District Parent Survey

Be on the lookout for the annual parent survey coming your way in April. The survey will be available for you to take beginning April 6th. The deadline to complete the survey is April 17th. You will receive a hard copy of the survey via your student during this time. Also, the survey may be accessed electronically via the WSD website beginning April 6th. If you need anymore information about the survey, please give us a call.



Conlan Ross, an FMS 6th grade student, won Honorable Mention for his essay, "Dream", about the idea that even one person can make a difference.. This contest was sponsored by the Diversity Council of Wenatchee. Here is his essay. Congratulations, Conlan!!

Dream

I had a dream once. So did MLK. But he overcame his dream. Without it, we wouldn't have a black president that runs our U.S.A.

Also, we would have segregated schools.

To begin with, in my dream, everybody is happy and nothing could get any better. Blacks and whites are getting along and laughing with each other. There aren't segregated schools.

For instance, MLK made a difference by giving speeches about civil rights. He made us think about becoming one nation. Also, getting along. MLK made us aware of racial prejudice.

Moreover, MLK encouraged people to gather together. Peaceful protests, not violence, was what he thought.

As a result, one man can change the world. There wouldn't be a black president if MLK wouldn't have protested. Lesson learned, I can make a difference in the world too.



All cell phones must be kept in your locker, in silent mode, during the school day. Cell phones are not to be used anywhere inside the building. If you are not following the cell phone expectations your phones will be confiscated and will be released only to a parent or guardian.



Attention 7th Graders!
2010 8th Grade East Coast Registration Meeting
Thursday, May 14th 7PM in the FMS Choir
Room

This spring, World Strides, our East Coast Tour company, is freezing prices for students and adults who register for the 2010 trip by June, 2009. All current 7th graders and their parents are invited to attend the informative meeting, which will kick off the 2010 East Coast trip registration. Basic trip itinerary and trip cost will be shared. Interested travelers must register by June 1, 2009 to qualify for the frozen price.

Questions? Mr. Williams at 664-8961 ext 2112 or
williams.r@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

Rock & Run-a-Thon!

Plans are well under way for our new spring fundraiser, the Rock & Run-a-thon, set for Friday April 24th! The Rock & Run-a-thon is like a jog-a-thon. Students will be running for 30 minutes. They will either get friends, neighbors and relatives to pledge them per each lap they run or a flat donation for the event. The kick off assembly is scheduled for Wednesday March 25th. Students will receive their information packets that will include instructions, a pledge sheet as well as a prize list. Each student is encouraged to raise at least \$50. They can collect flat donations at any time before the actual event. We will have several collections days where they can drop off what they have collected. When they collect \$50 they will earn a *free* event t-shirt. Our top money earner for the school will win a Guitar Hero Game System! Top female and male lap runners in each grade will earn a free pair of Asic running shoes from Arlberg Sports! Plus for every \$5 collected along the way the kids have a chance to win great daily prizes...Apple Blossom carnival wristbands, slide water passes, event center gift certificates, \$15 iTunes gift cards and much, much more!! If kids received per lap pledges, they will need to go back

after the event and collect from those people and turn in their money on one of our scheduled collection mornings. We are excited about this new fundraiser but can't do it without volunteers.

If you are available to help during our collections mornings (TBD) or on Friday April 24th during the event, we need you! Please contact Tammi at 670-8834 or email her at nutritiontips@flynnpkg.com

Thank you in advance for your support of our students!

Thank you!
 Rock & Run-a-thon Committee



Office Depot "5% Back to Schools" Program
All Year Long
FMS Code 70108047

Office Depot customers can select Foothills Middle School to receive a credit of 5% of their qualifying merchandise purchases. The school can then use this credit to get free supplies all year long! Be sure to mention FMS school code #70108047 when you shop at Office Depot for your school and office supplies! Thank you.