

EXPLORER

February 2013



SEND A
VALENTINE
GREETING
WITH

VAL-O-GRAMS !



Send a note to your friends with a pixie stick on each note for only **25 Cents!**

Sold Before and After School thru February 13th

Parents may purchase these for children in the office or there will also be a booth during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Valentine's Day

Thanks to PTA room mothers and the generous parent volunteers, students will have a special Valentine's Day party in their classroom from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Kindergarten class parties will be the last hour of class. All grades are invited to bring individual Valentine cards for each member of their class. This is, of course, optional. We ask that students not exchange home-prepared Valentine treats at school.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents:

January was quite the month with a record number of "in days" due to high particulate counts, extreme cold temperatures, and/or heavy precipitation. In contrast, what a beautiful day we enjoyed on February 1, with warmer temperatures and a clear blue sky! We have now moved into the second semester, and our younger grades enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of the school year this past week. Also during the month of January, each grade level completed the Winter DRA (Direct Reading Assessment), invited 4th graders completed the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) assessment, and all 3rd graders were given the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) screener. In the month of February, our 5th graders will be doing their DWA (Direct Writing Assessment), and invited 6th graders will be responding to the SHARP survey. It seems we are in a constant process of gathering data to help us monitor how our students are learning, progressing, and adjusting as they go through their school experience.

Monday, February 4, will be a Minimal Day schedule to facilitate an afternoon of Professional Development for our faculty. Our focus this time will be on improving

student achievement in the area of writing. With writing becoming such an integral part of all subject areas, teachers will focus on lessons to help students develop common vocabulary a variety of writing strategies and skills. We will also be working together to develop common assessments and rubrics to monitor student progress in their writing.

I encourage each of you to make sure you attend our Parent Teacher Conferences this coming week on Tuesday and Thursday, February 5 and 7. It is a great opportunity for teachers and parents to celebrate areas of strength, progress and growth, and to discuss areas where you can work together for continued improvement and success. *There is a strong positive effect on student learning when parents and teachers partner together in the education process.*

Our Jazz Reader Contest was launched on January 18, and will end on February 19. It has been a delight to see the excitement about reading among our students as they work to reach classroom, grade level, and school wide goals. *We appreciate parent support and encouragement to make sure minutes reported are accurate and honest.* I am also especially grateful to our PTA members who, under the coordination of Cynthia Ruchti, have worked so hard to facilitate such activities as Moms and Muffins, Family Reading Night, the Before/After School Read-a-Thon, and Dads and Doughnuts. These are all fun ways of providing opportunities for students to celebrate the joy of reading.

Peggy S. Crandall
Principal

MEMORY BENCH NOW IN PLACE

As you visit the school during the week of Parent Teacher Conferences and the Book Fair, we hope you will notice a beautiful new addition to our front entryway of the school. Our "memory bench" is now in place and adds a touch of color in bright Shelley royal blue! The original idea of a memory bench came about at the time Shelley student Tiffany Searle passed away back in May of 2010, at the end of her third grade year. We wanted to find some way to celebrate her life and keep her memory with us, so we began to accept donations for the cause. However, since Tiffany passed away right at the end of the school year, we did not receive enough donations to complete the project and it was put on hold.

We have since then expanded the idea of the memory bench to honor not only Tiffany, but we began to research any other student or staff member of Shelley Elementary who has passed away during the time they were enrolled or working at the school. We became aware of a few other students—Rowelena Manuela (2002), Jason Coates (1985), and Diane Pectol (1970)—and one faculty member—Mrs. Karla Reeves (2007). Not wanting to overlook anyone, we finally decided to simply let the memory bench be a place of thoughtful reflection for *anyone* who has had a loved one pass away.

We appreciate the active involvement of our 6th grade students who were Tiffany's classmates during her enrollment here at Shelley as they organized and advertised the donation efforts and the generosity of our patrons in their contributions to make this possible. We look forward to the joy and peace that this memory bench will add to our school.

DANCE FESTIVAL 2013

Special Opportunity for 5th and 6th Grade Students: The Dance Festival has always been a great time to celebrate our amazing students. We watch them dance, and listen to them introduce the dancers from each grade level. This year, in addition to having students narrate the dance festival, we would like to have a student *write the script* for the narrators. Any student interested in writing the script should submit the following:

1. An idea for a theme AND
2. A short two-person dialogue (four lines for each character-written like a play)

Give these two items to Mrs. Alger (Room 2) by Friday, February 22nd. The writer will be chosen and announced by February 27th.

Only interested in narrating? Auditions for narrators will be held at the end of March. Start thinking of something to memorize now, so you can be prepared to show your talent.

Questions? Mrs. Alger has the answers! ☺
(jalger@alpinedistrict.org)

STEPS TO ORDER YEARBOOK ON-LINE

How to order your yearbook on line:

Go to www.inter-state.com/store/preorder (wait a minute in time for it to load)

1. Enter flyer code 268949
2. Make sure you are on the Shelley Elementary link
3. Click on Order Yearbook
4. Enter student's name and click on Lookup
5. Select your student from list
6. Click add to cart
7. Double check to make sure order is correct
8. Click checkout
9. Register and check out following prompts
10. You will receive a confirmation email. Save it for your receipt.

Your student will receive his or her yearbook from the school during the last week of school.

Maturation Programs for 5th Graders

Each spring, 5th grade students and their parents are invited to participate in a maturation program. Brad Wilcox is scheduled to do the boys' presentation and Carissa Jensen, our school nurse, does the girls' presentation. Reminder letters will be sent to the parents of each 5th grade student, but for your advanced planning, please note the following schedule:

Monday, March 18 - 5th Grade Girls presentation
12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

Monday, March 25 - 5th Grade Boys presentation
12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

The programs will each be held in the Media Center. We look forward to this important time in the lives of our students as they learn from experts about the process of growing up.

Attendance Concerns

In order for your child to fully benefit from the opportunities offered in his or her school experience, please ensure that he/she attends each day, on time. From time to time, it may become necessary to miss school. We understand that, and would just request that you *make sure you call in to excuse your student's absence*. However, in a few cases, it is becoming a frequent habit to keep a student home or allow a student to stay home for reasons not justified by Utah State Law or Alpine School District Policy. We invite you to refer to the document "Elementary Attendance Information" accompanying this newsletter and posted on our school website. Parent support is critical in helping students understand the importance of being in school, on time, each day. If we all work together, we can have the greatest possible impact on student achievement and success. Thank you.

DADS & DONUTS!

Friday, February 8

Come celebrate the fun of reading with someone you love! We'd like Dads or other loved ones to join our students in the gym to start the day with a good book. Please have Dads (or Moms, or Grandparents, or any other adult who loves a Shelley student!) come with or without a book--we'll have some there for you. We will read with each other and then have donuts before the school day begins.

Track 1 students with an adult may come into the gym from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Track 2 students with an adult may come into the gym from 8:45-9:15 a.m.

All minutes of reading that students do at "Dads & Donuts" will count in our Jazz Reader contest. Remember, in order to eat a donut you must read, read, read!!! We can't wait to see you there! Grown-ups, this is a great chance for busy and working parents to spend time with your child at school before you head to work!

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

**"EVENING OF STORYTELLING -
Friday, February 22nd - 7:00 pm"**

Come in your pajamas or sweats, bring your entire family, your blankets and stuffed animals and enjoy our 5th annual "Evening of Storytelling" on Friday, February 22nd at 7:00 pm. You will be impressed and uplifted by the amazingly talented storytellers at Shelley! It's a fast-paced hour of pure entertainment for everyone in your family, so come support the art of storytelling and the student artists who paint their verbal masterpieces to tickle our ears and our funny bones! You'll smile from beginning to end!



Alpine School District Elementary Attendance Information

In order for your child to fully benefit from the opportunities offered in his or her school experience, please ensure that he/she attends each day, on time. From time to time, it may become necessary to miss school. This document contains information that will help you understand state and district policies and procedures related to school attendance. If you have any questions regarding this information or your particular situation, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

Utah Code: The Utah State Compulsory Education Requirements (Utah Code, Section 53A-11-101.5) is the law regarding elementary school attendance. Part of that law reads as follows: (2) a person having control of a minor between 6 and 18 years of age shall send the minor to a public or regularly established private school during the school year of the district in which the minor resides. (3) It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent to intentionally or recklessly fail to prevent the school-age child from being absent without a valid excuse 5 or more times in a school year. (5) It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent of a school age minor to intentionally or recklessly fail to enroll the school age minor in school, unless the school age minor is exempt from enrollment under Section 53A-11-102 or 53A-11-102.5. (7)...the school district shall report violations of this section to the appropriate county attorney...

Alpine District Policy: The Board of Education has approved Elementary School Attendance Policy No. 5158 which defines an excused absence as an illness, family death, approved school activity, absence permitted by the student's IEP plan or any other excuse established as valid by a local school administrator. If the student has excessive unexcused absences, the school will make earnest and persistent efforts to remedy the situation by making phone calls, sending letters, holding meetings with parents and children, making referrals to the district social worker and, possibly, to local law enforcement. A letter will be sent home to parents after 5, 10, and 15 unexcused absences. *If a child is excused due to illness more than 10 times the school may require a doctor's note to verify the seriousness of the illness.*

Excused Absences: When a child is absent, the parent/guardian should call or send a note to excuse the child from school within five school days of their return to school. Parents are welcome to meet with the principal to discuss extended absences.

Tardies: Tardies are recorded (on Skyward) as "T" = unexcused tardy, "V" = very tardy, "L" = excused tardy. A "T" or "V" can be changed to an "L" with a parent note within five days.

School Messenger: Teachers take attendance every day at 9:30 a.m. The *School Messenger* calling system will then contact homes of students who are marked "unexcused absent."

Checking on Attendance: Student attendance and grades are available via the Internet on Skyward. Parents can obtain their student's access information from their school secretary or principal.

Policy No. 5158

1.0 ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1.1 The Alpine School District Board of Education recognizes that regular daily attendance at school increases opportunities for students to profit from educational instruction and benefits students' academic learning. The Board further recognizes that the Utah Compulsory Attendance Law (53A-11-101.5) directs the parent/guardian to enroll and send school-age minors to a public or regularly established private school during the school year of the district in which the school-age minor resides, except as provided in Section 53A-11-102 and 53A-11-102.5.
- 1.2 In order to support elementary student attendance and the associated learning that occurs in schools, it is expected that each local school will make Earnest and Persistent Efforts (EPE) to cooperate with the parent/guardian to ensure regular school attendance.
- 1.3 Guidelines
 - 1.3.1 Students are expected to attend class, on time, every school day, unless properly excused by a parent or guardian.
 - 1.3.2 Teachers will keep rolls and record accurate daily attendance for all students assigned to their classes.
 - 1.3.3 Teachers will report to the principal anytime their class absences exceed 10% of enrollment.
 - 1.3.4 Electronic roll books are the official attendance records of Alpine School District and will be available for inspection in accordance with the district records policy.
 - 1.3.5 Teachers should contact the parent or guardian after three consecutive student absences. Unexcused absences will be referred to the appropriate authority.
 - 1.3.6 Elementary schools maintain a closed campus. Students should not leave the school grounds from the time school begins in the morning until it ends in the afternoon. Parents or guardians may authorize students to go home for lunch with an annual written release. Students may be checked out in the office by a parent or guardian or, in the event on an emergency, by those designated on the emergency release form.
 - 1.3.7 Excuses for absences typically include an illness, a family death, an approved school activity, an absence approved by the child's IEP, Accommodation Plan or any other excuse established as valid by the local school administration. An extended absence can be preapproved if the school collaborates with the parent/guardian to define the absence and provide reasonable make up opportunities.

IDEAS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do poorly on exams. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly are also at less risk of getting involved in crime and substance abuse.

You can promote good attendance when you:

- Make sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Take an interest in their education; ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Discuss any problems they may have at school; inform their teacher about anything serious.
- Do not let them take time off school for minor ailments; particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Provide incentives and consequences for attendance and learning. Set daily, weekly or monthly goals and agree on rewards and punishments. When completed, follow through with the incentives and consequences and then set new goals.
- Come up with a back up plan for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).
- Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.
- If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.
- Arrange appointments and outings after school hours, on weekends or during a school holiday to prevent disruption to your child's education.

Your child's success begins with YOU!

IT IS YEARBOOK TIME!!!

Want a way to preserve your memories of the 2012/2013 year at Shelley? With a yearbook you can have pictures of your friends and remember the fun school events.

**The cost is
\$13.00 for Color**

Due by April 12, 2013

You may turn in your order to the main office with check or money order. *No cash transactions.*

Or you may order online at:

www.inter-state.com/store/preorder

and enter this code: **268949**

Deadline is Friday, April 12th to reserve your copy.

After April 12th yearbooks may be purchased for \$15.00 while supplies last.

Yearbooks will be delivered the last week of school.

Name _____ Teacher _____

Number of Yearbooks _____ Total Cost _____

Make check/money order payable to Shelley Elementary. Due by April 12, 2013

After April 12th yearbooks may be purchased for \$15.00 while supplies last.

February 2013

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4 MINIMAL DAY!!! 8:00 to 12:30 9:15 to 1:45 Kindergarten 8:00-10:00 Session 1 9:15-11:15 Session 2 10:30-12:30 Session 3 11:45-1:45 Session 4 Book Fair	5 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 to 7:30 p.m. Book Fair	6 School Community Council 2:30 p.m. Faculty Lounge Book Fair	7 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 to 7:30 p.m. Book Fair	8 <i>Dads & Donuts</i> Track 1 7:30-8:00 a.m. Track 2 8:45-9:15 a.m. Book Fair
11	12 Kindergarten Registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Main Office Vaccination Clinic 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Faculty Room	13	14 Valentines Class Parties	15 STUDENT READ-A-THON TRACK 2 8 – 9:15 A.M. TRACK 1 2:15-3:30 P.M.
18 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day	19 PTA Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.	20	21	22 <i>Night of Storytelling</i> 7 p.m.
25	26	27	28	March 1 End of 2 nd Trimester