

EXPLORER

November 2014

Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Students,

It is hard to believe that November is here, and we have already completed well over two months of school!

We had a delightful time with our fourth annual Halloween Parade! An excellent turn out of parents and family members came to watch the students parade through the gym, the media center, and the halls of the school to the music of songs such as "Monster Mash," "Ghostbusters," and "Flying Purple People Eater," as they showed their costumes to each other. There were a wide variety of very creative and amazing costumes! (Thanks to everyone for supporting our costume guidelines.) Our students loved watching each class in the parade walk by, they were very excited for this day.

With Election Day quickly approaching, I would encourage all of us to exercise our right to vote in the elections this coming week. It is amazing what the power of one vote can do to impact things that happen in our community, state, and country. I am grateful to live in a country where we are able to have our voices count.

Gratitude is also something I really like to focus on during the month of November. There are so many things that I am grateful for in my life—good health, a loving and close family, and the precious

freedoms of living in this great country. I am also especially thankful to work for Alpine School District with such supportive and dedicated supervisors and leaders, and to be at Shelley Elementary with such talented teachers and staff members, amazing students, and caring and involved parents.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and all the other things we associate with family gatherings; I invite each of us to reflect regularly on things we are thankful for—both the big and the little things. It is a sweet reminder of how blessed we are. I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving Season.

Mike Ericksen
Principal

Take Home Library

Thank you to all the volunteers who spend time exchanging books. We couldn't run our library without great helpers. Winter season is upon us and if you will not be able to exchange your books, please GET A SUB or switch days with another parent.

A few reminders:

Clean up after your toddler before you leave the THL
NEVER send home more than ONE book
Log out and record your Volunteer time on the Log out sheets

If you need a volunteer schedule please pick one up from the THL.

Knowledge Bowl

The Knowledge Bowl is an academic competition program sponsored by our school and facilitated by teacher and parent volunteers. It is a great showcase for students with special talent and drive to work quickly with memorized facts and concepts in the spirit of friendly competition. This school-sponsored program can lead. The highest scoring teams may have an opportunity to participate in the annual district sponsored Knowledge Bowl tournaments held in March. This year's subject is History.

There will be a Knowledge Bowl Meeting, for interested 3rd-6th grade students, on Thursday, November 6th at 3:30-4:00 p.m. in the library.

TUMBLE BOOKS

Tumble Books is a great resource available to our school. There is a link on our school's website homepage toward the bottom. Tumble books is free for your use. The user name is *Shelley*, the password is *books*. Students can read along with the books, answer comprehension questions, and do learning and fun activities.

Battle of the Books (BOB)

Students are well on their way preparing for BOB. Hundreds of books have been read already. Just a reminder to wear you BOB shirt EVERY Wednesday. On Wednesday the weekly drawing winners are posted for those that turn in their tracking slip into the BOB box located in the library. Make sure you check the BOB wall for the weekly winners.

Lost and Found

Every year we have a large number of items donated to charities throughout the world. Unfortunately, not all of these items are knowingly donated. Currently, we have more than 100 items in the lost and found. Prior to donation all items are checked for a name. The easiest way to keep your items found is to have a name in your coat or lunchbox.

The lost and found is located just outside the gymnasium on the circular coat rack. We encourage you to come and check for items missing from your child's wardrobe. Unclaimed items are donated to charity approximately monthly, as items build up after a while. It will be gathered for donation on November 12th.

Coat & Jacket Time

If a student is in need of a coat or jacket, we are happy to work through the Kid's Cause organization to get the help needed. There is no need for anyone to go without a coat out into the cold. For help in this area, contact Susan LeBaron, Shelley 3rd grade teacher and Kid's Cause coordinator for our school (slebaron@alpinedistrict.org).

Bryan McKay Eddington Learning Center

The Bryan McKay Eddington Learning Center is open for anyone needing help with school assignments, reading and other learning skills. We offer one on one tutoring to help improve reading skills. Best of all we are FREE. We are located in the basement of the American Fork Library. Open Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 6:00 pm during regular school days. You may contact the center at 801-492-3593 during learning center hours with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

KINDERGARTEN

NEWS

The Kindergarten students have been having fun working with and learning about pumpkins. They have been busy weighing their pumpkins; sorting them; measuring them; ordering them from biggest to smallest; and seeing if they will sink or float. Students have learned how pumpkins grow, and what fun things can be done with them. Our pumpkin investigations were made possible by Cornbelly's. We were able to get a small pumpkin for each student when we took a field trip there last month.

Our field trip was a huge success! We want to thank all those that came with us to help, and those that made it possible to go by donating funds to our grade level. The students had a wonderful time and were very engaged in all the activities. We are hoping to take another field trip in the Spring.

Coming up in November in math we will be working with numbers 1-5 and we will be learning seven new sight words. We are excited about our upcoming Thanksgiving Feast which will be held on Monday, November 24. Watch for more information about that coming home soon in your students backpack.

Thanks you for your continued help and support!

1ST GRADE NEWS

Writing is a fun adventure in First Grade. The students are given a variety of opportunities to write. All of the first grade students have a writing journal where they write about everyday experiences. Sometimes they are asked to write explanations on Math papers. They might be asked to write a list. One of the first grade classes did a project where they wrote a list of items that might go in witches brew. Right now one of the things we are working on is using words such as first,

next, then, and finally to tell the order of something. As children write words that might be hard for them, you can observe whether they are hearing beginning, middle, and ending sounds and are able to write them. Look for opportunities to have your first grader do writing at home and have fun with it!

2ND GRADE NEWS

The Second Grade had a fantastic October. We had our first fieldtrip to the Farm Field-Day put on by the USU extension service. At the fieldtrip we learned from local farmers, and ranchers all about their work and products. Some of our favorite stations were creating a living necklace out of sprouted wheat, meeting the cows, ducks, goats, horses, chicken, and rabbits, as well as learning about germs and hand-washing. We continued our farm to table themed trip as we traveled to the grocery store. There we learned how the grocers clean and process the meats and produce they receive from the farmers and ranchers. Our classes especially loved the meat packing and dairy sections.

In math we started a unit all about measurement. We enjoyed learning about inches and feet. We created our own rulers along with using a variety of measurement tools including inch rulers, yardsticks, and a measuring tape.

We loved participating in the Halloween parade and our class Halloween parties. We are grateful to all of the parents and guardians that helped make this day a success.

Looking forward, our first Trimester ends November 14th with report cards to follow soon after.

Just a reminder, the best thing parents can do to help their children succeed in 2nd grade is to make sure their student reads every day and completes the assigned homework, which is an important review of the concepts taught in the classroom. As always, it is a privilege to teach these terrific children.

3RD GRADE NEWS

In science, we've been studying living and non-living things. Encourage your children to use the words, isopod, terrarium, environment, classify, and observation. In November, we'll be studying indigenous peoples of the American continent. We've been working on writing paragraphs in class. Starting in the middle of November, we'll be requiring paragraphs for the writing homework instead of sentences. We'll also start a new book report in November, due December 8th. Watch for that to come home. We have been learning multiplication. Ask your children to sing their skip counting songs to you. Remember to practice typing. You can use the games on Mrs. Child's website to help you. We are loving teaching your children. They are a delightful group!

4TH GRADE NEWS

We have had a lot of fun activities this past month! We had the opportunity to go on a field trip to the state Capitol. We were given a great tour where students were able to learn about the materials and structure of the building. They also learned about our legislature and where and why they meet.

We were also able to go to the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum. This museum has many wonderful pioneer artifacts. Students were able to go on a scavenger hunt through the different floors to find certain items. Students were amazed at the different artifacts the pioneers made and used.

Our students also enjoyed the activities involved with red ribbon week where they learned the importance of keeping a drug and violence free life.

We are looking forward to having an assembly about the water cycle in November. This is aligned with our science curriculum.

We appreciate your support of our 4th graders!

5TH GRADE NEWS

We have been working hard in fifth grade. During the month of October, many students mastered long division with double-digit divisors! On the first day of school, we gave every fifth grader a math computation test, which included addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We gave this same test again last week, and are happy to report that every single fifth grader has improved from the beginning of the year! If your child still struggles with multiplication facts (and it is slowing them down) we are asking that you continue to drill these facts at home for 10 minutes every night with flash cards, multiplication games/apps, etc.

We are looking forward to the month of November. Our goal is for students to become fluent in all operations of decimals (add, subtract, multiply and divide) by Thanksgiving. During Writer's Workshop, we will begin an in depth unit on poetry. Your child will write many poems using numerous poetic forms and styles. We have started to learn about Colonial America. We will conclude this unit by having a Colonial Day. This will be on Monday, November 24th. All fifth graders are encouraged to come to school dressed in Colonial attire. Students will rotate during the school day between stations designed to give them a sample of what life was like in Colonial times - Colonial games, schoolroom, food, arts/crafts, social behavior.

Our first 5th Grade Talent Show will be on Tuesday, November 25th from 12:45-2:15 in the gym. We require all fifth grade students to perform in ONE of our three talent shows. We are excited for the first third of our students to share their talents!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Wow! What a fantastic month October has been for the sixth grade! In science we have been studying space. A few weeks ago we had an evening star party. Many students and their families attended. Some even brought telescopes so we could get a closer look at the planets. We also had iPads loaded with an app that allowed the students to see in real time what constellations were in the sky at the location the iPad was pointed. Sadly, the night was cloudy so we weren't able to see with the telescopes but the iPads were a huge hit. Despite the weather, we still had a blast. A big thanks to all the families who attended!

As November approaches, we are looking forward to another wonderful month. We'd like to make parents of 6th grade students aware that on Tuesday, November 11th, we will be going on a field trip to the Clarke Planetarium in Salt Lake City. To get to this event we will be riding Frontrunner and Trax. In order to make the timing work, we will need to have all students come to school at 8:00 am (track one start time) and dismiss at 3:30 (track two end time). Please let your student's teacher know if you have any questions.

PTA

October was a great month. We had a successful walk-a-thon and not only did we meet our goal, we surpassed it!!! Here is a quick update on the playground and information regarding some fun events coming soon.

Walk-A-Thon/Playground. WE DID IT! We successfully raised a little over \$13,400. **THANK YOU** to all students, parents, and businesses over the last three years who helped make a new playground possible. The second half of the new playground is scheduled to be installed the 2nd week of November. We used \$4,350 of the money we earned to complete the playground and \$7,000 will be given to the school to pay for field trips and other classroom needs. The remaining \$2050 will be used to fund the rest of the programs PTA provides throughout the year. Fifty-one children raised one hundred dollars or more and **Olive Garden** was awesome to provide a free meal to this large number of students.

THANK YOU CELEBRATION. Come enjoy a great family night at Classic Skating, **November 24th 5:30-8:30 p.m.** for all Shelley Elementary families. Mark your calendars. More details will be made available later.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Thank you to all parents who provided soups and desserts for teachers during parent teacher conferences. Our teachers wanted to say thank you for the great tasting meal. Also, a big thanks goes to **Texas Roadhouse** for

donating the other meal and **Buffalo Wild Wings** for providing wings.

Red Ribbon Week was **October 21-24**. Red Ribbon week was a great success and hopefully you took the opportunity to talk to your children about the dangers of drugs.

Shelley Elementary Food Drive- Our annual food drive will be **Nov 17-25th**. Our goal this year is to collect 10,000 pounds of food. If our goal is reached, we will watch a Christmas movie in December. We will need some volunteers to help us collect and load the food truck on Nov. 25th. Let us know if you are available to help. Watch for a more detailed flier about the specific needs of the Utah County food bank. They are so appreciative of any help we can give them. It is a simple way to help families in need.

Chick-fil-A October's spirit night was a great success. We earned \$117.40 not bad since it fell on fall break week. Next months' spirit night will be **Thursday Nov 20**. Mark your calendar now.

Author Assembly. We are excited to announce who our guest author will be in February when we kick off the Shelley Elementary Reading program. We have invited author **McKenzie Wagner**. She is **13 years old** and will be talking about following your dreams. She wrote her first book at age 7. She is best known for the **Benotripia trilogy**. We feel the kids will enjoy hearing from someone close to their age.

Sincerely,
Mindy Woodhouse
PTA President

November 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4 Picture Retakes (Siblings 11-11:30 a.m.)	5 School Community Council 2:30 p.m.	6 Knowledge Bowl Meeting 3:30-4:00 p.m. Media Center	7
10	11 6 th Grade Field Trip Clark Planetarium Extended Common Start 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. PTA Meeting 12:45 p.m.	12	13	14 Last Day of 1st Trimester
17 <i>Food Drive</i>	18 <i>Food Drive.</i>	19 <i>Food Drive</i>	20 <i>Food Drive</i> Spirit Night Chick-Fil-A 5-8 p.m. Reflections Award Night 6:00 p.m. (Gym)	21 <i>Food Drive</i>
24 <i>Food Drive</i> 5 th Grade Colonial Days <i>Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> 2:40-3:45 p.m. Classic Skating 5:30-8:30 p.m. Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast	25 <i>Food Drive</i> 5 th Grade <i>Talent Show</i> 12:45 p.m. <i>Gymnasium Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> 2:15-3:30 p.m.	26 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	27 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	28 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL
December 1 <i>Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> 2:40-3:45 p.m. Report Cards will be coming home this week	2 <i>Shelley Soundz Rehearsal</i> 2:15-3:30 p.m. <i>Shelley Soundz Family & Friends Performance</i> 5:30 p.m.	3 School Community Council 2:30 p.m. <i>Shelley Soundz Festival of Trees</i> 5:30 p.m.	4	5