



Heatherwood Hawk

Heatherwood PTA Newsletter

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Membership: 304

March 2009

Volume 20 , Issue 7

Calendar

March 18	Pre-Registration For Jackson High School (8th grade)
March 25	Registration Forms Due to 8th grade Block teachers
March 25	Principal's Chat 1:45-2:30pm
March 25	Young Band Concert & Recital (6th & 7th grade)
March 23-27	Spride Week!
March 30- April 3	Spring Break!
April 11	School Beautification 9-11am
April 13	PTA Meeting 7:00 pm, Library
April 14-16 April 21-23	WASL



March Madness is in the air and brings on a whole bunch of

different meanings. I was hoping to finish writing my article and include the grants approved at this month's meeting, but March madness blew in to town and brought some snow along with it, canceling our PTA General Membership meeting.

In March, PTAs from the district gather for a meeting to honor our principals. Please join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication that both Janet Gillingham and John Balmer give to our school each day, and into the night. Together, they make our school an active, engaging, and safe place for our students to learn. Make sure to join them at the "Principal's Chat" on March 25th from 1:45-2:30pm and say "Thanks"!

For me, March brings a checklist of tasks, here are a few Heatherwood PTA would appreciate your help with:

- Send in your nominations for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Advocate by March 27th, 2009.

- Contact the Nominating Committee to see how you can help with next year's PTA Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

- Attend the Principal's Chat on March 25th.

- Plan to attend the April 13th Heatherwood PTA Board of Directors meeting @ 7:00 in the Heatherwood Library.

Heatherwood PTA would like to extend a huge THANK-YOU for all that you do for our students and community. Everything you do has an impact on our children. We also want to thank everyone who was able to make the trip to our State Capital and those who sent emails to their legislators from home for Focus Day. It was a wonderful turn out of children's advocates.

Have a FABULOUS Spring Break!

Sincerely,
Christa Pederson
Heatherwood PTA President
christapederson@comcast.net



HEATHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
1419 TRILLIUM BLVD SE, MILL CREEK, WA 98012 (425) 385-6300

Please continue to check the calendar on our school website for upcoming school events:
<http://cms.everett.k12.wa.us/Heatherwood>

Heatherwood Middle School
1419 Trillium Blvd. SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012

President: Christa Pederson
Editors: Linda Eaton & Kathy Thompson

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

It is just about time once again for WASL, a sure sign of spring regardless of weather. Focusing on a Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday schedule, this annual state assessment of students in all middle school grade levels will begin Tuesday, April 14th, and run through Thursday, April 23rd. Make-ups will occur on all other school days through May 1st. In the past, we have had fantastic attendance during our regular sessions, and we appreciate your continued attention to seeing that your children are rested, nourished, and ready to demonstrate their best work. While studies bear out that students perform better when testing on scheduled assessment days as opposed to make-up days, we certainly understand that illnesses rarely surface conveniently according to our schedules.

This year's WASL brings with it some changes that promise reduced testing time, specifically for math and reading. Although it is untimed, students may anticipate completing some sections in less time while still doing a thorough and high-quality job. All students will test two days each in reading and math. Sixth graders will round off the six days with two days of the district writing assessment, seventh graders will add WASL writing, and eighth graders will test additionally in science.

Our teachers and students have been working in preparation, and we are confident our students will shine. We thank you for partnering with us.

Janet Gillingham

Principal, Heatherwood Middle School

Heatherwood Math Carnival

Thank you to all the parents and Jackson High Honor Society Students who helped out with the Heatherwood Math Carnival on Feb 19th! Your support was greatly appreciated!

We would also like to thank parents who donated prizes and the following businesses for their donations which helped make the evening a success!

Albertsons, Central Market, QFC, Fred Meyer, The Inside Scoop, and Spotted Cow

The Heatherwood Math Department



SPRIDE WEEK!

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Heatherwood is looking forward to a pep assembly on March 20 to kick off our Spring Spride Week, March 23-27. Monday is Black and White Day, Tuesday is Vacation Day, Wednesday is Mismatch Day, Thursday is Western Day and Friday is Nerd Day. Prizes will be given at lunch for the best dressed.

An Announcement from WSPTA Executive Director Bill Williams

Approximately 400 PTA volunteers, kids and supporters of public education brought an important message to Olympia on Thursday, February 26 at WSPTA's annual Focus Day. Thank you again to all who participated in the planning, those who braved the cold and icy roads to attend, and those who sent emails to their legislators from home. We are making a difference for kids!! You can access links to news reports, WSPTA's press release, and some photos of the event on the WSPTA website at <http://www.wastatepta.org/legislation.htm>. There's also a link to a brief Zoomerang survey at the same web-page. Even if you weren't able to attend, please take just a couple of minutes to complete the survey, which will help us plan for next year!

TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

GO HAWKS!



Coaches: Ms. Weiss, Ms. Figurelli, Mr. Crowninshield

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Mon	4/6	First Practice				
Wed	4/22	Heatherwood	North	Eisenhower	Eisenhower	3:45pm
Wed	4/29	Eisenhower	Gateway	Heatherwood	Heatherwood	3:45pm
Wed	5/6	Heatherwood		Evergreen	Evergreen	3:45pm
Wed	5/13	Heatherwood	North	Gateway	Gateway	3:45pm
Wed	5/20	All District			Everett Memorial Stadium	3:30pm

WSPTA Annual Convention May 1-3, 2009

Make plans now to attend Washington State PTA's annual convention on May 1-3, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac. Hear from timely and inspiring speakers including National PTA President Jan Harp Domene, Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, Washington's Teacher of the Year Susan Johnson, and the "humor therapist" Elaine Lundberg. In addition you can choose from almost 90 classes to help you grow as a parent, a PTA leader and an advocate for children. Most of all, you can network with PTA members from across the state and have a good time! Our on-line registration will go live around noon on Monday, March 2nd www.wastatepta.org.

Reminders for all drivers picking up and dropping off at school:

- Yield to the buses at all times!
- Drop off in the lower lot in the AM only.
- Remember, all pick ups should be done in the upper lot.
- Never drive in the bus chute in the lower lot.
- Pull forward at all times when you drop off/pick up in the upper lot.
- Drop off/pick up at the curb only – not in the parking lot.
- Remind your student, that there is no drinking or eating on the bus.



Report all problems to Mr. Ken 425-385-6320.

Recession-Proof Your Teen's College Plans

7 tips for scholarship success

The ongoing recession has adversely affected families on many levels. With job losses, weakened stock portfolios, and sliding home values, saving for college seems a grim task. Students are considering less expensive community college options or postponing college plans altogether. However, college scholarship expert Marianne Ragins says you can recession-proof college plans with this seven-step strategy for scholarship success:

Marianne Ragins knows something about offsetting costs for college. As a high school senior, she secured a record-breaking \$400,000 in scholarship funds. Ragins is the publisher of <http://www.scholarshipworkshop.com>, a college and scholarship information website. She shares this seven-step strategy for making college plans recession-proof:

- Start early** - Many of the largest scholarship programs have deadlines in the fall or winter. Students shouldn't wait until they actually get accepted to the school of their dreams to apply for scholarships. In fact, they don't even have to wait until senior year. They can win money for college as early as age six.
- Don't ignore the small stuff** - To be successful, students should explore scholarship treasures in their backyard. Even though local and regionally based scholarships may be for smaller amounts, they can add up, and ultimately wipe out a textbook bill or more. Some of these scholarships may be easier to win since the number of applicants is often fewer.
- Participate!** - One of the best ways to stand out among a crowd of other scholarship applicants is through participation in activities beyond the classroom. Students should strive to be well-rounded and get involved in several meaningful activities. A leadership role in some of the activities is also important.
- Community service is key** - Not only can some scholarships be won on the basis of community service alone, nearly all scholarship programs want to see students who get involved in activities that benefit others. They also love students who can recognize a school or community issue and successfully come up with a way to solve it.
- Don't consider limits** - Applying for two or three of the largest scholarships is not enough. The scholarship application cycle can be long. If students apply for a few large scholarships and wait to see if they win them before applying for others, they can miss out on other scholarship opportunities. If students prepare an application package that includes two compelling essays and a student résumé, they should be well-prepared to apply for every legitimate scholarship they find.
- Perfect essays** - Essays should reflect more than the information included in a student résumé or transcript. They should highlight and explain extracurricular activities and reveal how specific activities may have impacted them or positively affected someone else.
- Scoop up effortless funds** - Although they may not offer scholarships (though Upromise actually does) programs such as <http://www.upromise.com/> can also help with the tuition bill. These are no-cost programs that allow individuals to register credit and frequent shopper cards to earn rebates into a college savings account.

*This information is excerpted with permission from www.scholarshipworkshop.com and the book *Winning Scholarships for College* by Marianne Ragins. See her website for more information.*

Seattle Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (PNACAC) College Fair

Saturday, March 21, 2009, Noon – 3 PM

Seattle University, Connolly Center, 550 14th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

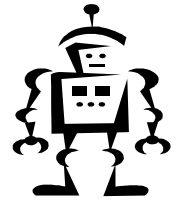
Over 100 colleges and universities will be represented. 1200 – 1500 students and guests have attended the fair in the past. Admission is free.

http://www.pnacac.org/index_files/Page5563.htm

2009 Microsoft Seattle Regional High School Robotics Tournament

Saturday, March 28, 2009

The event will be in Key Arena. Come join about 50 FRC (First Robotics Competition) teams as they celebrate science and technology by having a fun action packed competition. Jackson HS will be participating. The event is open to the public and is free of charge.



Dr. Gary Cohn to be Everett Public Schools Superintendent

At a special meeting on Thursday, Everett Public Schools Board of Directors voted to offer the current superintendent of Port Angeles School District, Dr. Gary Cohn, the position of school superintendent for the district. Board President Sue Cooper called Dr. Cohn after the meeting to officially make the job offer on behalf of the board. Dr. Cohn accepted the offer and added, "I am honored to be selected, excited by the challenges of working in a continually improving district, very much looking forward to meeting people in Everett, working with another competent school board and joining a great team of educators."

<http://www.everett.k12.wa.us/everett>

ASB OFFICER ELECTIONS!

Heatherwood ASB Officer Elections are approaching. Students interested in running must attend an informational meeting on March 24 at 7:45am in C106. Officers are President, 7th and 8th grade Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Election week is the week after spring break.

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION!

School Beautification will be held Saturday, April 11, 9-11 AM. Students should bring gardening tools and gloves. Refreshments will be provided.



PTSA Nominating Committee Update

Heatherwood PTSA has elected a Nominating Committee to begin the search for the 2009-2010 Executive Committee: President, Vice President-Ways and Means, Vice President-Membership, and Secretary. If you are interested in serving our school community or you know someone who would be willing to serve, please contact Tay Sadjadpour, Becky Hitchcock, or Christa Pederson christapederson@comcast.net.

GOLDEN ACORN AND OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS

Please help us select people from our community deserving of a Golden Acorn or Outstanding Educator Award this year. Please complete and return this form in a sealed envelope marked "PTA Awards" to Heatherwood Middle School office by **March 27th, 2009** or email forms (available at www.heatherwoodpta.org) to Emily Waite or Christa Pederson at christapederson@comcast.net.

Our PTA Awards Committee will make the final selections and nominations will be kept confidential. Please be as specific as possible; evaluations and selections are based on the criteria below. Additional pages may be submitted. Please include your name and number in the event the PTA Awards Committee needs additional information.

Each year our PTA gives Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator Awards to people who have given exemplary volunteer service to children and youth in our school community. The Golden Acorn Award is very special and is given for continued and dedicated service. This is an excellent way to honor PTA members for their contributions to our community.

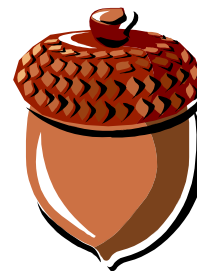
The Outstanding Educator Award was created by PTAs to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding educational opportunities for children and youth that are beyond the normal scope of their jobs. An educator can be but is not limited to being a teacher, and can include specialists, support staff, administrators or community members.

Award recipients receive the Golden Acorn Award Pin, and for the Outstanding Educator Award, the individual is given a gold pin in the shape of an apple. Award winners will be acknowledged at a district-wide reception. The PTA also contributes \$65 in each recipient's name to the Washington State PTA Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to selected high school students entering post-secondary education.

GOLDEN ACORN NOMINATION

School Year _____ I recommend that _____ be awarded the annual Golden Acorn Award. She/He has demonstrated an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of children and youth in the following ways:

- A. PTSA service:
- B. School volunteer (non-PTSA):
- C. Service district-wide to the schools community:
- D. Other community service (non-school/non-PTSA):



OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR NOMINATION

Current School Year _____ I recommend that _____ be considered for an Outstanding Educator Award.

Describe why you feel this person is an outstanding educator.

List programs and activities that enhanced the student's educational experience.

If you were to write an article for a newsletter proclaiming this person an outstanding educator, what might it look like?

2008-2009 PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Christa Pederson
VP-Membership	Debra Meyer Deidre Villani
VP-Ways & Means	Linda Pazevic Brenda Buell
Treasurer	Darci Long
Secretary	Tay Sadjadpour
Audit	Becky Hitchcock Emily Waite Linda Eaton
Bookfair	Emily Waite
Concessions/Socials	Dori Henry Rachel Cottingham
8th Grade Ceremony	Deborah Hansen Kim Keene Tammy Lance
8th Grade Party	Linda Eaton Michelle Dineen
Legislation	Christa Pederson
Newsletter	Linda Eaton Kathy Thompson
Email Administrator	Alexandra S.
Newsletter Publishing	Michelle Dineen
Programs	Lisa Steckler
Reflections	Christa Pederson
Staff Appreciation	Lori Taylor
Volunteer Coordinator	Ronda Lone
Website Master	Jeff Heckathorn