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COUGAR TRACKS

June, 2019

Below are topics of interest in this edition of Cougar Tracks.

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- *Last week of school happenings*
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Saying goodbye is hard to do!

As we say goodbye to another school year we are also saying good-bye to several staff members who will be greatly missed. Mrs. Rosey Tanksley has been a long-term sub for us at grade 1 and grade 5 this year. She has become a part of our faculty and we wish her well as she moves on to seek middle school teaching opportunities.

Mr. Ryan Wahlberg, our ELL teacher has been with us for 5 years and he is being transferred to Ardmore Elementary School. He will be greatly missed by our staff and by many of our English as a second language families.

Lastly, I would like to thank the community for your wonderful support during my six years here as Clyde Hill Principal. I will retire the end of June and will take many wonderful memories of you and your children with me. Thank you for all your support!

Wow, saying goodbye is always difficult, but especially this year! Best wishes to all of our students, families and staff who will be moving on to other adventures! You all will be greatly missed!

Last week of school happenings

We are counting down quickly at this point and we have some fun activities planned to celebrate the end of the school year and to commemorate our last days this school year. On Tuesday our 5th grade students will celebrate their end of the year by going on their annual 5th Grade Green Lake trip, and grades K-4 will participate in our annual Fun Day activities, from 1:55-2:50. n Wednesday we will host our 5th grade Moving Up Ceremony and reception in the gym, 9:30-10:45. Parents, please try to car pool or park off-site as we know that campus parking will be limited. We will be hosting our second annual Staff vs. 5th Grade Kickball game on Thursday the 20th. Other grade levels have special picnics and scavenger hunts planned throughout the week. Our year-end assembly will take place on Friday at 9:30am to congratulate all our students as they move up to the next grade and to recognize all students who participated in a variety of school activities this year. Wow, mark your calendars and plan to have some fun!

August Calendar and Open House

As we look towards August and prepare for opening activities in our new neighborhood building, we would like to give you some **preliminary** information about what to anticipate. We have tentatively scheduled the morning of August 29 for our Meet and Greet for grades 1-5, where parents and students their meet new teachers. Class placements for grades 1-5 will be emailed out on Friday, August 23.

All incoming kindergarten students will be invited to attend a special Kindergarten Camp on the afternoon of August 29th after which class placements will be emailed to kindergarten families. Teachers will send a personal email to invite families to participate in parent teacher conferences prior to the first day of school for kindergarten students, Monday September 9th. More details will be mailed to Kindergarten families in mid-August. Please keep the last week of August open as this will be the week that we will plan for many of our community events.

Congratulations to Mrs. Joanne Brandsma and Mrs. Jodi Kusak! PTA Golden Acorn Winners this year

Every year we have countless volunteers who give their time and talents throughout our school and community. From setting up events and volunteering in the classroom to committing to a board role for the year, our school is better for the remarkable people who step forward and declare, “I want to give.” At the end of each year, we ask our families to nominate those who made a difference by going above and beyond for our school. We received multiple nominations, and we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave of themselves this year; there were many worthy nominees. This year we would like to congratulate Mrs. Joanne Brandsma and Mrs. Jodi Kusak for all their countless hours of support and for being recognized by our community as people who are always willing to lend a hand and make a difference in our community and for our children. Thank you, Joanne and Jodi, and congratulations!

5th Grader Summer Reading Assignment: A message from Jen Benson, BSD Curriculum Director

It is hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of fifth grade! As you take a moment (and maybe a few deep breaths) to think about your child and the upcoming transition to middle school, I want to make you aware of an important SUMMER READING EXPERIENCE. In Bellevue School District, beginning in fifth grade and continuing through high school, students are asked to participate in a summer a reading experience.

Here is what you need to know:

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander is the newly adopted summer reading book that is provided to all incoming sixth graders across the district. The poetic novel is a heartwarming story about family, love, and loss. The main character is an African American boy in middle school. The story is written from his point of view and includes his feelings about the loss of his father. As one student communicated while providing feedback about the novel, “I thought it was sad and inspiring and funny – all at the same time!”

Students will be provided the novel and accompanying materials before the end of the school year. The summer reading experience will be used as a launching point for sixth grade language arts in their first unit of study. It will be helpful for students read the book as we want everyone to feel included in the classroom discussions about the novel and the story is very engaging!

If you have any questions now or over the summer about *The Crossover* or the summer reading experience, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jen Benson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (bensonj@bsd405.org).

What do you need to know about our move?

If you have been to school lately, you have no doubt seen the rows of moving boxes and preparations for our upcoming move back to our beautiful new school. Please know that by **Wednesday, June 19th** all student files will be packed and inaccessible until late-August. Many of your child’s records can be secured on line, but if you should need anything from the school office please take care of any needs immediately. **Our school office will close to the public on Friday, June 21st at 11:30am.** Please plan to pick up any medications prior to 11:30am, or work with our school nurse, Deb Baker, to make other arrangements. Students will be dismissed on Friday the 21st at 11:05, and all staff will be out of the building by noon. Although we do not know the move in date for the new building, we are sure that it will be a tight timeline for the start of school. Please follow our website and look for emails from our new Principal, Mr. Edmund Wong, regarding final dates for August activities.

Marks your calendars!!!

6/17 Yearbooks handed out

6/18 5th grade Green Lake Trip & K-4 Field Day

6/19 All student files are packed and stored for move

6/19 5th Grade Moving up ceremony in the gym 9:30; reception to follow

6/21 School wide moving up ceremony 9:30 Gym

6/21 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Students dismissed at 11:05am

6/21 Main office closes to the public at 11:30am

TBD New school office opens to the public - please watch website

8/23 Teacher assignments are emailed

8/29 Back to School Event 8-10am - Grades 1-5 Meet your teacher 8a-9a

8/29 Afternoon (time TBD) Kindergarten Camp (invitation will come in August with specifics)

9/4 First Day of School **Grades 1-5--NOTE START TIME: 8:05am**

9/9 First Day of school for **Kindergarteners--NOTE START TIME: 8:05**

TBD Curriculum Night