



## Skamania School Newsletter

### May 2016

Skamania School District 2  
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#### **Dates to Remember**

**Friday, May 27**

Snow Make-up Day

**School will be  
in session**

**Monday, May 30**

Memorial Day

**No School**

**Thursday, June 2**

4th & 5th Grade

Field Trip

**Wed., June 8**

Kindergarten

Visitation

**Tuesday, June 14**

Camp READ 2016

**Wed., June 15**

8th Grade Promotion  
1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, June 16**

**Last Day of School**

Awards Assembly

8:15 a.m.

Dismissal for the  
Summer @ 10:00

#### **End-of-Year 2015-16**

**As the school year winds down,** our students and staff are still working hard! We are planning on a grand finish to a great school year. Our students are taller, stronger, faster, and smarter—and most of them are really looking forward to their break from school this summer!

#### **State Testing**

All of our students in grades 3 through 8 are in the midst of taking the state-mandated Smarter Balance assessments. Testing should wrap up the week after Memorial Day, and results are usually available at the end of August. We are very pleased with the diligence and perseverance our students are showing.

#### **Kindergarten Visitation/ Move-Up Day**

On Wednesday, June 8, any and all prospective kindergarten students for next fall are invited to visit school. Visitation is from 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for them to become more familiar with the classroom, the school, and their future classmates. All children who will be five years old by August 31, 2016, are invited. There's no need to be a registered student, but please let the office know if your child will be attending.

June 8th is also Move-Up Day for all of our students—they will be spending the day in their next-year's classroom.

#### **READ 2016**

Skamania School students have nearly reached their goals of reading 2,016 books and reading 150,000 pages. The goal of achieving 2,016 Accelerated Reader points has already been surpassed! School-wide, we have earned 2,658 points. Keep reading!

Camp READ 2016 will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at Prindle Park or here at school if the weather doesn't cooperate. Camp READ is a fun-filled day of activities—races, games, art projects, and skits.



## **Kindergarten & First Grade**

The K/1 class is certainly enjoying spring! We now have goldfish, guppies, and snails in our classroom and are soon to get worms and isopods. Our science kit is FOSS Animals Two By Two in which the animals are studied in pairs. The students observe and care for one animal over time, and then they are introduced to another animal similar to the first but with differences in structure and behavior. We really get to focus our powers of observation and communication as we write and draw about these animals interacting with their surroundings.

We are starting our study on shapes; two dimensional shapes, three dimensional shapes, and symmetry in math, and will be collecting examples of shapes to bring to school to display in our shape museum.

During the last six weeks of school we are using a different approach in learning to read and write. We are using the story Stellaluna by Janell Cannon and a story from Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel to really dig deep and think hard about two focus questions: "How do readers know what makes a good retelling?" and

## **Second & Third Grades**

Air and weather have been our focus in Science. We have learned that air takes up space, we can compress air into a smaller space, air resistance helps objects float, and air pressure can move objects. We made weather tools that help meteorologists measure air temperature, determine the speed of wind and what direction it is blowing, types of clouds, and measure rainfall. Our daily weather jobs now include reports using some of these tools. We are becoming pretty good meteorologists!

We are learning about life cycles by watching plants grow and insects develop. We planted seeds and watched them sprout and grow leaves and flowers. What will happen to them next? We also have several kinds of insects in our classroom. Some arrived as eggs and others as larvae. We have seen mealworms change from larvae to pupa to beetle, and milkweed bugs hatch from tiny eggs. Again, we wonder what changes will happen next.

"How do writers create interesting events?" During our daily lessons the students are collaborating with one another to analyze, question, evaluate and respond as they practice and apply what they have learned. At the end of the unit they are expected to be able to retell stories including key details, and show their understanding of sequenced events by writing a narrative story with a beginning, middle, and end. I am very pleased with their eagerness to become great readers and writers.

In P.E. we are currently learning the rules and practicing the skills of the game Four-square. Soon we will be learning the rules and practicing the skills of Kick Ball so that we will be ready to play a big game of kick ball at Prindle Park during Camp READ 2016.

We are getting excited about Camp READ 2016! As a class we have read 757 books and 22,065 pages so far, and have five students that have met their personal goal of reading 2016 pages, have earned their medal, and are on the class Wall of Fame. Congratulations to Amelia, Ava, Daniel, Leif and Lilly!

In Social Studies, we learned the names and types of geographical features found on the earth. The students learned a song and read about each feature. As a culminating activity, they made salt dough maps of the United States, including all eight features we studied. It was messy but a lot of fun!

Third grade students are working on multiplication facts, reading decimals, adding and subtracting larger numbers, and fractions. Second grade students are mastering their addition and subtraction facts, telling time, adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers, and working with money, fractions, and measurement. We have some confident and very capable mathematicians in our school!

Congratulations to Henry, Tucker, Leavitt, Mia, Jamie, and Sophie who have already read over 2016 pages. They will receive their reading medal at the awards assembly on June 16. Students have until May 31 to read 2016 pages to be eligible for a reading medal. Keep reading!

## Fourth Grade

The fabulous 4th graders have been busy! We started a rainforest unit with an internet scavenger hunt, where we found answers to questions using specific web sites. We tasted strange rainforest fruits and discovered that some chocolate is extremely bitter when it is 100% cacao. We wrote a realistic fiction story, summarized texts, and even made a rubber ball. Learning about the importance and biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest was an important part of the unit.

In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of different regions of the United States. After studying the Southeast region, we worked in teams to choose recipes that represented the region. With the help of several parents, we made Creole Gumbo, Hoppin' John Beans, Hush Puppies, Orange Raisin Cake and Mint Punch. Everything was delicious! When we studied the Midwest,

## Fifth Grade

After studying the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a debate between the loyalists and the patriots. They continued their study of US History by investigating how such a small, inexperienced army could beat the dominant army of the time. We have just finished learning about the Constitution and the three branches of the government. Ask them about the games they can play on the iCivics website. (*iCivics is a non-profit organization dedicated to reinvigorating civic learning through interactive and engaging learning resources. It was started by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to provide students with the tools they need for active participation and democratic action.*)



In Science we are now learning about living systems. We started by learning what makes up a system, and looked at the food web as a subsystem of the environment.

some lively discussions took place comparing the lifestyles in the 1800's, 1900's, and now. We also explored the struggles that modern farmers face versus the struggles for farmers of the 1800's and 1900's..

The 4th graders teamed with the 5th graders for the science unit "Stories in Stone." We explored the differences between rocks and minerals, the properties of rock and minerals, the types of rocks, and how they were formed. We created clay models of different types of rocks, and we were able to identify a mystery rock based on its properties.

In Reading, we did a literature unit on *Because of Winn-Dixie* which culminated by watching the movie of the same title. We wrote an opinion paragraph stating whether we thought the book or movie was better. We also read numerous nonfiction articles and often used our writing skills to summarize the content.



While the Drama Club had a cast party after their performance, other students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade had the privilege of reading with Mrs. Hopple's kindergarten and first grade class. It was great fun to be the "big buddies" for these budding readers.





## 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have had a wonderful year. We recently took a field trip to OMSI, which is always a lot of fun. The special exhibit was called "Game Masters." It showcased the work of over 30 game designers.



Students not only got to play the games, but they also learned how the games worked. There were classic games such as Tetris, Pacman, and Centipede along with new games, such as Fruit Ninja and an interactive dance game. Students also enjoyed the physics lab, where they learned about electricity. In the Chemistry Lab students were able to find out what their blood type is.



In our classroom science we are studying Planetary Science. We learned about the earth's rotation (counterclockwise), every 24 hours, which is what causes day and night. From that we learned about time-zones and were able to figure out the time at another place in the world at any given time here in the Pacific time-zone. During the month of April students were assigned to look at the moon every night and make a log of it, so that we could see the progression of the moon phases.

In math the 6<sup>th</sup> graders recently finished the chapter on ratios, proportions, & percents and are now learning geometry. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders recently finished the chapter on geometry and measurement, where they learned about area, perimeter, circumference of a circle, square roots, the Pythagorean Theorem, and how to find surface area and volume. They are currently working on function rules, patterns and graphs. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders recently completed the chapter on using graphs to analyze data. They learned about different types of graphs, such as histograms, stem-and-leaf plots, box-and-whisker plots, scatter plots, and circle graphs. They are just starting the next section on probability. We have been very busy in math!

We are all reading a lot to make our goals for READ 2016! Every student is trying to read 2016 pages to get a medal. We have 9 students so far that have met this goal.

## PTO

We are pleased to announce that on Friday, May 20, our Skamania PTO again presented their Variety Showcase and Dessert Auction! The event began at 6:30 pm in the multi-purpose room with displays of student art work and silent auction items. The live show began in the gym at 7:00.

Nearly 40 percent of Skamania Students plus parents and other family members participated. We enjoyed dancers, instrumentalists, comedians and singers.

In addition, delicious donated desserts were auctioned away along with a variety of Artisan pieces. All money raised will benefit our Parent-Teacher Organization. The Skamania PTO provides support for on-line learning, field trips, plus family activities throughout the school year.



Way to Go  
Wednesday!

Cooking --  
Southeastern Style!

