



WEDGWOOD

The Weekly

By The Wedgwood Elementary PTA: *JOIN IN!*

Volume XI, Number 22, February 24, 2009

CALENDAR



MARCH

Monday Mixer with
Principal Espania
Monday, March 2
9:15 am, Library

Two Hour Early Dismissal
Wednesday, March 4
1:05 pm

Read Around the World
Begins
Monday, March 9

PTA Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 10
7:00pm, Library
Please RSVP to Jennifer Bucher
at rjmlbucher@comcast.net
Childcare is available

Scrip Orders Due
Thursday, March 12

Math Night
Thursday, March 12
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Professional Development
Day – **NO SCHOOL**
Friday, March 20

Spring Break
NO SCHOOL
March 30 – April 3

A Message From Your Principal

Welcome Back Wedgwood Families!

We had a great week prior to break and we have a great deal of learning to accomplish prior to our next break.

It was a wonderful week full of activity prior to our week away from school. Friday was filled with a bustle of activity. Ms. Sokolow and I enjoyed doing creative cards with the 5th graders while their teachers had grade level collaboration time. They did an amazing job putting together a variety of supplies to create their own cards from scratch. During morning recess all of our children effectively and efficiently completed the reverse evacuation drill. We were proud to see that our students quickly and independently came in and met their teachers with minimal amounts of reminders and guidance. I also enjoyed attending a meal with manners with some of our classes. Sitting with a napkin in their lap, using quiet voices, and everyone using their polite words and utensils was so impressive! My Friday ended with a number of 5th grade groups performing and delivering heart-o-grams. We have such a talented and wonderful group of students at Wedgwood! As we head into school tour season, I am proud to have the opportunity to share with our larger community Wedgwood students and teachers and all they are accomplishing.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable mid-winter break and you are energized to get back to school! It is great to have the building filled with energy again.

Denise Espania

Caffeine and Conversation

Come join us on Monday, March 2nd at 9:15 am in the Library for our monthly Monday Mixer with Principal Espania. It is an excellent way to get any questions or concerns you may have addressed or just meet other parents. See you there!

Scrip Co-Chair – Urgent Need !!

WE NEED YOU! A co-chair for Scrip sales is needed through the end of the school year to learn Scrip system and take over as chair for the 2009/10 school year. Filling this position is a very high priority as the generous volunteer parent running Scrip will be moving on to middle school and we could lose valuable training time. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact PTA VP Volunteers Julie Stevens at bryceandjulie@comcast.net.

Informational Nights at Jane Addams (K-8)

Jane Addams will open in Fall 2009 as a new K-8 in the Northeast Cluster. Co Principals Debbie Nelsen and Christopher Carter welcome you to join in building an exciting program focusing on environmental science. In addition to a rigorous academic program, the new school will offer Spectrum for gifted students, bilingual services for English Language Learners (ELL), special education services and multiple art opportunities. To learn more, attend one of the informational nights which will be held March 5th and 17th from 6:30 –8:00 pm at Jane Addams. For more information, go to www.janeaddamsk8.com.

Wedgwood Elementary

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JOIN IN!

Do you have great ideas or skills to share?
Contact VP Volunteers

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Have Some News to Share?
Send it to *The Weekly* Editor
Jill Biondolillo
wedgwoodnews@yahoo.com
Deadline: Fridays at noon

Wedgwood Gives

Wedgwood's fundraising efforts at the Lunar New year celebration enabled the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) to purchase six 50-pound bags of rice, which feeds 120 families! The ACRS would like to thank Wedgwood on behalf of their clients who have culturally relevant foods because of people like you and the students at Wedgwood Elementary. Way to go Wedgwood!

Math Night is Almost Here

Wedgwood Elementary Math Night, March 12, 6:30-8:30pm

What is Math Night?

Math Night started as a Math Fair in Seattle elementary school, a project co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation (via the VIGRE and GK-12 grants), the Department of Mathematics at the University of Washington and the local store Math-N-Stuff. The goal of this project is to bring mathematics closer to home for the families of the students in Seattle Public Schools. Our main motivation is to promote mathematics as fun activity for all kids.

How will Math Night work at Wedgwood this year?

Tatiana Toro, parent of a kindergartner and Professor of Mathematics at UW, along with Leanne Robertson, Professor of mathematics at Seattle U and parent of a 2nd grader, will run two training sessions for parents and student volunteers. An adult must accompany all students attending training sessions. The two training sessions are *Thurs., 2/26, 6:30-8:30pm* and *Thurs., 3/5, 3:30-5:00pm*. Both training sessions will take place in the Wedgwood Library. During these sessions, parents and kids will have a chance to learn how to play some games, learn the strategies involved and most importantly, have FUN! Adults and kids that attend the sessions will become game leaders who will then teach the games to our Wedgwood community on Math Night. You only need to attend one training session to become a "certified" game leader. Parents and student game volunteers will have the opportunity to same strategy, memory, sequencing and geometry games.

Contact Tatiana Toro at toro@math.washington.edu or ttoro64@gmail.com if you and your child can attend either training session. This event cannot happen without the enthusiastic support and volunteer efforts of our school community. Come to a training session and be prepared to have FUN!

Students in State Government

Wedgwood 5th Graders Testify for Olympic Marmots

On Monday, February 9, 2009, Wedgwood 5th grade students Gabe Briggs, Erin Cunningham, Claire Demorest, Nick Jansen, Garret Lawrence and Caroline Malone traveled to Olympia and asked state lawmakers to vote for the Olympic Marmot as the official endemic mammal for the State of Washington. The students testified in front of the natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee headed by Ken Jacobsen, whose wife Rachel has been a longtime supporter of students at Wedgwood. This process began in 2008 when students participated in Ms. Clark's 4th grade classes' introduction to government.

Things have moved quickly since February 9. The bill (Senate Bill 5071) has passed from the Natural Resources Committee to the Rules Committee, which decides if the bill can be brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote. As part of this report, our diligent 5th grade students are now in the process of lobbying the 18 senators on the Rules Committee via email, in hopes that they can persuade them to pull SB 5071 onto the Senate Floor.

Please stay tuned to see if Team Marmot's bill progresses. The Rules Committee will be deciding soon whether to bring the bill to a vote or not. If you are interested in hearing the students testimony and learning about the research they uncovered about the Olympic Marmot and why it is important to our state, please visit: <http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/NROR/membersstaff.htm> .

Submitted by "Team Marmot"