

Camelot PTA News

Happy December, Camelot Families!

SKATE NIGHT! SKATE NIGHT!

Our next meeting will be during our **Camelot Skate Night on Wednesday, January 10 from 6 – 8 PM at Pattison's West**. We hope you'll join us! \$6/own skates, \$6/Quad Skate, \$7/Inline Skates. Students, families, and friends welcome. Teachers no charge! Our PTA meeting will be at 6:30 PM while the students skate.

2019 Carnival and Auction: Friday, May 31

In preparation for our biggest fundraiser for Camelot, please consider picking up an item or two to donate towards your child's class raffle basket. If your family would be interested in preparing a raffle basket, please email camelotptarocks@gmail.com

Albade—Play-dough
Clough—BBQ

Ball-Toughill—Adventure Outdoors/Travel/ Camping

Borg—Spa

Doyal—Crafts

Eilertsen—Book Club

Jones—Space (Astronomy)

KuldaneK—Summer Fun!

Lippman—Car Wash

Mak—Baking

Pomfret—Cat

Smith—Get Ready for Kindergarten!

Waterman—Tools

Whitford—Sport and Fitness

Williams—Chocolate Lovers

Winkler—Pet Lovers



Dates to Remember

December

12/6-1/9 Highly Capable Referrals Accepted

14th - 8:05am Coffee w/Kosty 

18th - 9:10am Choir Concert Assembly

18th - 6:30pm Choir Concert 

21st-10:15am Sing-A-Long Assembly

 21st Spirit - Pajama Day

24th - 4th No School- Winter Break

January

1/3-2/20 Choice Enrollment Window

10th - 6pm PTA Meeting @ Pattison's West 

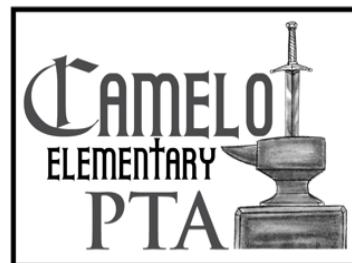
16th - 1:35pm Remember! Early Release

16th - 6-7:30pm Grading & Reporting Forum

 17th Spirit - Black & White Day

18th - 9:10am Martin Luther King Assembly

21st No School - MLK Day 



Camelot—DRAWBRIDGE

Federal Way Public Schools

December 2018



Joe Kosty, Principal (253) 945-2504

Sarah Jackson, Assistant Principal (253) 945-2507

Maureen Nunley, Office Manager (253) 945-2501

Lindy Lothian, Secretary (253) 945-2502

Attendance email: camoffice@fwps.org

From the Principal:

Dear Camelot Community,

Thank you all for such a strong start to our 2018-2019 school year. We are making great progress on our goals this year and are taking part in some exciting work. If you didn't know, we are actually 1 of 4 schools in Federal Way that are leading the way for changes with standards based grading and reporting. Next year all schools will make the switch, we are excited to be a pilot site this year.

How can you get involved? The district is offering monthly SBGR meetings open to staff and community. There is also a community event at Camelot on January 16th at 6:00 pm. All families are welcome and encouraged to come.

What changes can you expect this year? One of the biggest changes is in the report card. You will notice that the report card grades will be much easier to look at, because you will only be looking at scores for reporting standards instead of every individual standard. You will also notice that the grades for behaviors that promote learning are changed to *ownership of learning, collaboration, and problem solving* and are scored on a 3-point scale.

In addition to taking on the standards based grading and reporting work, our building is also focusing extra time and attention on core curriculum and instruction for math and reading. We are actively working to create tasks that are more rigorous for our students so that they are better prepared for the high standards expected of them. This includes an additional emphasis on written responses and citing evidence from the text. We are excited to see that we have moved from 32% of our school reading on level in October to 41% in December!

Lastly, don't forget that winter break begins December 24th. The building will be closed during this time. School starts again on January 7th. Please make sure to read with your scholars at home during the break. We will be jumping right into work when we come back from break, so also make sure that your scholar is getting some rest.

Joe Kosty
Principal
253-945-2504

Highly Capable Program—Referrals December 6th-January 9th

The FWPS Highly Capable Program provides services to scholars who are designated as highly capable learners, typically in math and/or English Language Arts (ELA).

If a scholar is designated as a highly capable learner he/she will receive specialized instruction and support to meet his/her needs.

FWPS staff, families, community members and scholars may refer a K-11 scholar for consideration during the Dec. 6, 2018 and Jan. 9, 2019 window for the 2019-20 school year.

For more information visit: www.fwps.org/Page/386 or call 253-945-2191.

Early Release Days for 2018—2019

December 12th, January 16th, February 6th and 27th, March 13th and 27th,

April 24th, May 22nd and June 5th

Mark your Calendar for Early Release Days!!

School is dismissed at 1:35pm.



Remember!

Join Us! Standards-Based Grading & Reporting Family Forum

A grade is the ultimate form of feedback to a student and it must be accurate. As a result, Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) is working diligently to ensure every scholar's grade is accurate.

We would like to invite you to provide valuable feedback to inform high quality and consistent grading practices across schools. Families, mark your calendars and attend one or all of our upcoming SBGR forums:

January 16, 6 pm – 7:30 pm at Camelot Elementary School,

4041 S 298th St., Auburn 98001

March 13, 6 pm – 7:30 pm at Federal Way High School,

30611 16th Ave S. Federal Way 98003

May 15, 6 pm – 7:30 pm at Twin Lakes Elementary,

4400 SW 320th St. Federal Way 98023

Light refreshments will be provided. Spanish, Korean, Russian, Ukrainian and Somali interpreters will also be available.

If you have questions about SBGR in FWPS, contact us at (253) 945-2126 or visit www.fwps.org/SBGR.

Attendance Matters, Every Day Counts, cont...

Waterman—Kylie A., Hailey B., Nikolai J., Mary L., Dennis M., Elina M., Audrey R., Adam R., Brianna S., Ramo S., Ilona T., Londyn W.

Whitford—Abram A., Alan C., Kaiya M., Lillian N., Archer S., Zachariah V.

Williams—Mariyah A., Molly B., Mercedes C., Cruz D., Keira H., Aarav K., Ilya M., Ryan R.

Winkler—Carter D., Samantha F., Haylin H., Mireille I., Nathaniel P., Sebastian R., Samuel S., Karina Z., Emma Z.

Planning A Family Trip/Other Absence Longer than 2 Days?

- Be sure to submit your scholar's pre-arranged absence form at least three days prior to taking off.
- There is a chance your scholars absence may not be excused if this important step is missed, or if the absence causes a significant impact on the student's educational progress.
- See the Rights & Responsibilities Handbook for details. Handbooks are available at your child's school and can be viewed on our website at www.fwps.org

PBIS

December has almost come and gone, but our PBIS practices are staying strong! The Student PBIS team has already started to come up with fantastic ideas on how to reteach Camelot expectations after Winter Break. Over the long break, our hope is to ensure that school will have the same routines and expectations when the students return. Our focus is to still make Camelot a place where students are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.



Attendance Matters, Every Day Counts!

Camelot recognizes students for having perfect attendance (with occasional tardies and early releases). Below are the names of students with perfect attendance for November. If your student is not on this list, encourage them to come to school *on time* every day. If your student will be absent or tardy, please call Mrs. Lothian at 253-945-2502. If there is a hardship, please contact Ms. Curran—Family Liaison at 253-945-2516 or Mrs. Bryant—Counselor at 253-945-2508 for support. Congratulations Knights on your perfect attendance.



Albade—Assane B., Darwin C., Emily F., Hailey K., Esteban M.

Ball-Toughill—Joshua A., Adelaide B., Michael C., Isabella C., Mya D., Charles F., Jaiden G., Lyra H., Christof H., Aaron J.

Borg—Alondra C., Anthony D., Madelin H., Janiah H., Makinzi K., Melissa M., Emma M., Nicolas N., Ratu V., Vita V., Trenton V.

Clough—Ousseynou B., Arya B., Hailey B., Antonio D., Cash F., Mason F., Cristiano G., Kiley H., Ibrahim I., Eli M., Ashley N., Ahmad N., Joey Z.

Doyal—Jorge C., Alina C., Santiago H., Olivia L., John L., Julia M., Anna T.

Eilertsen—Mason B., Ethan D., Alawna K., Jason M., Payton T., Arianna V., Krischana V.

Kuldane—Mason B., Emily D., Braxton F., Ava M., Lucas N., Victoria P., Jessica R., Yuliia V.

Lippman—Vivian H.

Mak—Mia C., Simon D., Payton D., Levi F., Mykhailo K., Emma K., Haruni M., Nicholas P., Sofiiia S., Eric T.

Pomfret—Alexis C., Garrett G., Hawa M., Therin R., Alice R., Myla S., Omer S., Autumn V.

Smith—Malakai B., Aria D., Lilliana E., Daylinh M., Andrea S.

Club BFF—Still Looking for Members

Is your student looking for a friend? Does your student have a hard time making friends? Is your student really good at making friends? Does your student like to have fun? If you answered YES to any of these questions, this is the club for your student! Club activities will be held throughout the year, both during the school day and, occasionally after school. Students can sign up by getting a Club BFF form from Mrs. B. Parents can also sign their student up by sending an email to Mrs. B at cbryant@fwps.org.

Save the Date—STEM EXPO

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 6-8pm at Federal Way High School



Inspiring scholars to explore STEM careers. Learn about STEM pathways.

Registration opens in January.

Questions, please contact stemexpo@fwps.org

Check out last year's event page: www.fwps.org/stemexpo

Green Team News

****NO Green Team after school until Feb 5th****

Green Team is taking a break so scholars can focus on the holidays, and a strong ending to 2018 and this semester.

Green Team is open to every 3rd - 5th grader at Camelot. Our meetings are every **Tuesday from 3:05-4:30pm**. Students are still welcome to join! Please turn in the required permission slip as soon as possible!

Green Team **RECYCLES!** Please bring in your old cell phones and tablets, old batteries, plastic bags, dead markers of any kind, and clean, dry styrofoam. There are bins in the hallway under the Green Team bulletin board ready to be filled with these items.



Counselor's Corner

Multi-Service Center and Holiday Distribution

2018 Holiday Food Distribution Hours:

10 AM – 2 PM: Monday, December 17, Wednesday, December 19, and Friday, December 21—If you are not in line by 2 PM, you will not be able to receive food that day.

5-7 PM: Thursday, December 20.

You must be pre-registered with the food bank prior to distribution days and you must bring picture ID, proof of address, and boxes/bags to carry your items.



Location: 1200 S 336th St., Federal Way—From the parking lot, follow the gravel path that leads between food bank and warehouse. Line forms under breezeway.

Special Needs hours (must have doctor note stating you are unable to stand in line):

9:30-10 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Salvation Army

Salvation Army provides holiday assistance.

For details call 253-946-1346

26419 16th Avenue South, Des Moines

If you have questions, concerns or interest in any of the above, please feel free to call Mrs. Bryant at 253-945-2508 or email cbryant@fwps.org.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FOSTER CRITICALLY IMPORTANT SOCIAL SKILLS

Parents tend to worry a lot about whether or not their kids are making adequate gains as they launch into their academic careers.

While early education creates an important foundation for academic skills, many parents would be surprised to know that social skills are actually far more predictive of outcomes into adulthood than early academics.

A study published in 2015 (Early Social-Emotional Functioning and Public Health: The Relationship Between Kindergarten Social Competence and Future Wellness by Damon E. Jones PhD, Mark Greenberg PhD, and Max Crowley PhD) showed that even while controlling for family demographics and early academic ability, social skills observed in kindergarten showed significant correlation with well-being at age 25. Regardless of how advanced of a reader they were or how much money their parents made, kindergarteners who demonstrated social competence were more likely to graduate from high school, go to college, get a job, and stay out of jail than those who showed a lower level of social competence.

Here are five important social competencies you can foster in your child.

How to play well with others

By playing with others, children learn to negotiate, problem solve, take turns, share and experiment. You can help your child build these skills by making time for free play with other children. Children need plenty of time engaging in unstructured play with other children, where they may be supervised—but not instructed—by the adults around them.

School Closures and Delays, continued

No Transportation

Schools are open, classes are in session, but NO BUSES will be operating. This includes “in-district,” “out-of-district” and “Special Needs” buses.

School Closure

This means,

All schools will be closed for that day only.

There will be no “out-of-district” transportation. Students attending “out-of-district” classes will not receive transportation, even if the hosting district is in session.

All scheduled afterschool and evening activities, athletics and extra-curricular events are cancelled. This includes all practices, mandatory or volunteer, any contests, games, matches, meets, events, facility rentals, etc.

The Educational Services Center (district office) will be open, unless otherwise announced.

Deciding to Delay or Cancel School

In spite of Doppler radar and other advances in weather prediction, it is difficult to be sure about how inclement weather will impact road conditions in the thirty-five square miles the District encompasses. When snow or inclement weather is in the forecast, we have a plan in place to assess and monitor actual weather and road conditions overnight and in the early morning hours.

The District night security officer checks road conditions and monitors the weather overnight.

Transportation staff drive the roads beginning 3:30 a.m. to assess driving conditions.

Maintenance staff check for possible utility failure that may impact a school or neighborhood.

The Superintendent makes all decisions to change school operating schedules based on the weather, road and driving conditions.

As a parent, you may decide to keep your child or children at home if you feel it's not safe to make the trip to school. You are in the best position to decide about your local conditions and your child's judgment and driving capabilities.

While we go to extensive measures to determine if roads district-wide are safe for travel, it's physically impossible for us to be on every street corner and side street at all times. We rely on you to be the final judge when it comes to the safety of your child.



The Specialists' Corner



Happy December, families! There is a lot going on in Music and P.E. as we approach Winter Break. In P.E., the Knights have finished up their fitness tests and are beginning their basketball unit. In music, the Camelot Honor Choir is getting ready for their Winter Concert on December 18th. The whole school is getting festive in the music room using movement and songs to celebrate the season. Wishing your family a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday season spent with friends and family!

Anything Can Be in Music and P.E.!

Sincerely,

Mr. Barry and Ms. Beck

School Closures and Delays

What if it snows? What if the roads are icy? Will school be cancelled?

Winter weather may bring road and driving conditions that cause changes in school operations such as delayed opening, early dismissal, or closure.

Even when road conditions in one part of the district appear passable, driving conditions on hills and in other areas of the district can impact the operation of buses on some routes.

Normal school operations will prevail unless a change of schedule is announced.

Expect morning buses to be late during severe weather.

If buses cannot complete afternoon routes, students will be returned to their schools.

Our goal is to make information available to families about school closure or changes in the school operations by 5:30 a.m.

We provide this information to families in a variety of ways:

Prominently displayed on our district homepage.

Social media posts on the district Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Local television and radio news stations.

If you do not see Federal Way School District closure information on any of these communications channels, it means we are operating on a normal schedule.

When winter weather or hazardous driving conditions result in school operations, the district will announce either a 2-hour late start or closed status with or without limited transportation.

Two Hours Late

This means:

All schools will begin two hours later than normal.

Bus pick-up schedules will also be two hours later than normal.

Although buses will start their routes on the two-hour late schedule, road and traffic conditions may impede progress, so buses could be running later.

Buses will use regularly scheduled stops unless the message specifies limited bus transportation.

All BEFORE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, athletics and extra-curricular events are canceled.

Breakfast will not be served when there is a 2-hour late start. Interested scholars may visit the school office for a light snack until lunch, which will be served at the normally scheduled times.

School will dismiss at the normal time.

Full-day ECEAP (Sherwood Forest, Brigadoon, Star Lake) will be delayed two hours behind regularly scheduled start time, dismissing at the regular time.

For AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, each individual school will determine if after-school activities, athletics, or extra-curricular activities will be canceled.

When schools begin late, the following classes or programs **WILL NOT OPERATE**:

NO Out of District Transportation

NO Puget Sound Skills Center

NO Head Start, No part-day ECEAP, No AM/PM Developmental Preschool (ie. Camelot AM/PM Preschool)

The district may cancel afterschool activities, athletics and extra-curricular events due to inclement weather on 2-hour late start days.

Every effort will be made to announce cancellations prior to the end of the school day, but due to changing weather conditions cancellations may be made at any time.

Limited Bus Transportation

This means:

All or part of some bus routes will operate on a modified route due to road conditions.

Parents of students with special transportation needs will be informed by the students' drivers of alternative stop locations.

Limited Bus Transportation routes may be used on the morning and afternoon bus runs.

If the weather and road conditions improve, regular bus stops may be used in the afternoon.

Families will be notified of the change prior to dismissal time.

How to problem-solve

It is tempting to swoop in at the first disgruntled squawk and make everything right again. We confiscate the object of the argument, set timers, or send children to play in different areas. We're good at problem-solving because we get SO MUCH practice as parents! And while some of this may be necessary for survival, our kids need some of that practice too. The next time your child has a problem, invite them to take part in that problem-solving process. Ask your child to describe what's going on, brainstorm solutions and try one out. You're still an active player, supporting your child through the process, but rather than doing all the solving yourself, let your child own the problem by asking, "What do you think you could do about that?" Teaching a child to be a problem solver also means that we teach them how to fail and try again, which is a critical "soft skill." When we ask children how their solution is working out, we give them an opportunity to evaluate their experience and make improvements when necessary. We're teaching them that mistakes help us learn and move forward.

How to label and recognize feelings

Children who are perceptive to the emotions around them are better able to get along well with others. You can foster this skill by calling attention to emotional cues and naming emotions. You can do this not only in your home ("I'm looking at your brother's face right now, and I don't think he's having fun." "You looked so happy when you won, your smile was like a laser beam!") but by also talking about the emotions in stories as well. ("How do you think he felt when that happened?") Storybooks are FULL of conflict and emotion—it's often what drives the plot. Conversations about observed emotions are often easier because your child isn't tied up in the emotions themselves. From this comfortable vantage point, they're able to be more thoughtful about the emotions on the page and then apply their understanding in real life.

Another thing to keep in mind is that **research has shown that excessive screen use may interfere with a child's ability to recognize emotions in others.** Make sure that your kids get plenty of time playing and interacting face to face with other humans, rather than with pixels and lights on a screen.

How to be helpful

Being helpful to others requires children to look beyond themselves and recognize the needs of others. By noticing and complimenting your child when you notice helpful behaviors, you encourage them to continue. Give your child simple opportunities to help within your family—putting away groceries, getting the baby's fresh diaper ready, or helping a sibling to get dressed—and then be generous with your gratitude afterward. Point out the helpers around you and show gratitude together to instill a value of service. This may be as simple as thanking the bagger at the grocery store or taking cookies to the fire station. It can also take a fanciful twist. For my own superhero-obsessed boys, I found that equating heroes to helpers made them feel like Batman just by helping with simple tasks around our home.

How to control their impulses

Impulse control is a part of the executive functions directed by the prefrontal cortex of the brain. This area doesn't completely develop until well into early adulthood, but some of the most rapid development happens in the early childhood years. That's why children need opportunities to practice this growing skill. Movement games that require a child to stop and go like Red Light/Green Light, Dance and Freeze, and Simon Says give kids practice quickly shifting gears and controlling their impulses to move. Pretend play is also a great way to build these skills. By taking on a new character and an imaginative storyline, children have to plan before acting, take turns and make rules to follow. They also practice thinking outside of their own perspective and act as they think another would, rather than simply following their own impulses.

Our fast-paced society demands great emphasis on learning more academic skills—and sooner than ever before. Social skills gained in early childhood—through the slow, simple processes of playing and interacting, engaging with their families, and paying attention to the world around them—are critical in supporting academic and life success.

Adapted from: "Your child's social skills in kindergarten are more important than their academics" by Amanda Morgan

Science Club Coming in January—Sign-up Now!

Kindergarten—2nd Grade: 1/10, 1/19, 1/24

3rd—5th Grade: 1/9, 1/23, 1/30

Information and permission slips will be coming home soon. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Upcoming Spirit Days

12/21—Pajama Day: Dress in jammies as we get ready to head into winter vacation

1/17—Black and White Day: Wear black and white

2/14—100th day of school! Dress like you are 100 years old!!

3/15—Duo Day: Think Batman & Robin, Peanut Butter & Jelly...

Dress like a famous duo... with a friend or on your own!

4/25—Funky Hair Day: The funkier, the better!

5/23—Crazy Hat/Sock Day: Let's see those silly socks and hilarious hats!

First REA²CH Parent Honor Roll Grab N Go Breakfast—February 7, 8:15—8:35am

This year we will recognize those parents who have helped their children **REA²CH** each month on our Camelot Parent Honor Roll. In order to “make” the REA²CH Parent Honor Roll, you will need to do the following:

RE – Show that your child Read for 30 minutes every day by signing our reading log, including the number of daily minutes and submitting it on time each month. (You may read to your child or have him or her read independently.)

A – Show that your child practiced his or her Arithmetic/Math facts every day by signing our math log, including the number of daily minutes, and submitting it on time each month.

A – Be sure that your child Attends school on time, every day. Only 1 absence or 1 tardy is allowed each month in order to qualify for the honor roll.

C – Communicate with the school by checking your child's backpack.

H – Help your child complete his or her Homelinks.

You should have received your December/January calendars to record your progress toward earning a place on our Parent Honor Roll. If you need another copy, please inquire at the office or email Mrs. Bryant at cbryant@fwps.org and one will be sent home with your student.

Student Council

12/18 10:30—11:30am Field Trip to Westhill Church to sort food donations. Students must have permission slip turned in to attend.

The Latest in the Librarium



The latest learning in the Library-

We have been learning about synonyms, onomatopoeias, and alliterations that are found in some great picture books. We have also been spending time doing hour of code! We are going to be working on point of view and vocabulary next. Grades 2nd through 5th will be doing keyboarding the weeks I am at Camelot.

Makerspace-

We are having great fun in the library. We are being creative and exploring lots in makerspace. If you have shoe box lids you don't need, please send them in for an activity we want to do later.

Intermediate Camelot Reading Program-We have a new Camelot Reading Program for our intermediate students, where they receive rewards for keeping a reading log and reading 30 minutes a day.

Hour of Code-

We have been doing hour of code and the kids are having a blast coding in different games. Your scholars can access these hour of code activities on our library website: go to library.fwps.org, then press Camelot and the games are under Hour of Code activities. (There are a lot of great resources on this page).

Accessing Math Whizz and Typing Agent through the library home page-

One way to get to Math Whizz and Typing Agent at home is through the library home page- library.fwps.org. There is a link that goes straight to the clever log in which they use at home. They log in using their google account which is their student ID number @p12fwps.org the password is Password1.

Rebecca Steininger
Teacher-Librarian at Lakeland and Camelot Elementary