Greetings Meredith Hill Parents, Grandparents, and Friends,

Hasn't this school year gone by quickly? Oh, my, we are getting very close to the end. I wanted to thank all of you for all of your support this year. Being a parent is incredibly rewarding but it is also a lot of work to make sure our kids are well prepared for school each day. Our students really do an exceptional job in school because of you and we are very appreciative. I want to also acknowledge and thank everyone for the fine work of our PTA, Watch D.O.G.S., Art Docents, Orca Buddies and all the good things that parents and grandparents do for us.

Our students have worked hard over the last few weeks and most have completed the SBA state assessments. I am very pleased with the focus and dedication of our students. It hasn't been all assessments and work over the last few weeks. We have also been celebrating with the end of the year concerts and projects. It is so fun to see the pride that students have when they have done their best.

Behind the scenes, the staff and I have already been working busily on plans for the 2016-2017 school year. If you haven't already done so, please let the office know if your student will not be returning in the fall. I've included some information below that might help keep you updated on our plans for the rest of our school year:

- Last day of school: Wednesday, June 15th is our last day for students in grades K-5. Students will be dismissed at 11:10. Breakfast will be available that day.
- Please make sure students have paid all library fines and returned all library books by June 3rd, as well as any textbooks that students may have borrowed.
- Please check the Lost and Found for any missing clothing items. We send left-behind items to the clothing bank soon after the last day of school.
- If your child has any medications at school, it would be very helpful if they were picked up by the last day. We must discard all medications at the end of the year.
- As you know, class lists are no longer posted for privacy reasons. Your child’s placement information will be available in August, along with an invitation to our Orientation.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank four really exceptional educators who will not be with us next year. Teachers, Mrs. Cindy Dennison and Mr. Ted Gamble, have decided to retire. Also, Para educator, Marcia Hallmark, is retiring. It is tough to see them leave because of their wonderful work with our students but we realize they, too, get to move on to another chapter in their lives. We wish them well.

And, our Dean of Students, Valerie Orrock, is transferring to another school. We are going to miss her but we know new bright opportunities await her!

Sending you and your family the very best...
Terry Meisenburg, Ph.D.
Principal
Tuesday, June 15—Notes From the Nurse

Field day is always a student favorite. Please prepare your child ahead of time for a safe and fun day!

- Apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school.
- Have your child wear appropriate shoes for playing and running safely.
- If your child has an inhaler at school, please remind him/her to come to the Health Room to use before participating in field activities if asthma is a concern.

Thanks for helping us keep all students happy, healthy, and safe! HOORAY for Field Day!

Your Plans for Next Year

If you have not already notified us, please let our office know (253-945-3200) if your child(ren) will not be returning to Meredith Hill next year. This helps us make accurate plans for next year’s classrooms.

School Supply Lists

As in the past, a school supply list will be sent home with your student’s report card. Hopefully this will help you get a head start for the next school year—and allow you take advantage of summer sales!

Report Cards

End of year report cards will be sent home with students on their last day of school. Your child will not receive their report card if they have any overdue library books, outstanding fines or classroom textbooks.

First Day of School September 7, 2016

You can find your child’s class assignment on ParentVUE! These will be available August 15th. If you have not already set up a ParentVUE account for your child you will need to in order to see their class assignment. Please remember that a class assignment might be changed if circumstances require it.

If you have not yet set up a ParentVUE account:

1. Email grades@fwps.org include your name your student’s name and their ID number. Your student’s ID number is on their report card. You will be given an activation code in a return email.
2. Go to https://grades.fwps.org/
3. Click on “I am a Parent.”
4. Click on the link to create an account.
5. Accept the privacy statement
6. You’ll be prompted to choose a user name and password, provide an email address and complete your account set-up. Make sure to write down your password and keep it in a safe place. Each parent will receive his or her own separate activation key, if he or she is listed in our records system. Your student will receive his or her StudentVUE log-in information at school.
Thanks to PTA for Assemblies!

During the month of May our PTA sponsored two great assemblies. The first was a play based on the award winning book, *Flora and Ulysses*, presented by Book It Repertory Theater. This book won the Newberry award in 2014, was a nominee for this year’s Young Reader’s Choice Award, and was one of the Battle of the Books titles. Many of the students had read the book, so they thoroughly enjoyed watching the book come to life during the play.

The second assembly was Jeff Evan’s magic show about anti-bullying. Using magic tricks to illustrate his points, he encouraged students to pass out warm fuzzies instead of cold pricklies. He presented strategies for how to deal with bullies. Students have been learning more about the concept of bullying during their library lessons.

Thank you PTA for providing our students with quality educational assemblies that support what the students are learning at school!

Thank You PTA for Library Grant

Each year the PTA gives the library $600 to purchase books for the library collection. This money is used to purchase student requested books, additional books in a series, and copies of the books nominated for the Washington Children’s Choice Picture Book award. It is so exciting for our students to read the books they have put on the library wish list! Thank you PTA for your generous support of our library program.

Education is the foundation to a brighter future

Office Depot / OfficeMax will give 5% credit to our school on qualifying purchases when you present our number

Give 5% Back To Meredith Hill Elementary School!

Simply make a purchase of qualifying school supplies, provide our school ID 70105867 at checkout and Meredith Hill will receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies!  
It's a small act that can make a huge difference.

Mr. Potter Represents Heroes from our School

On Saturday, April 30th volunteers from each building in the district were recognized at a Heroes Banquet. Mr. Potter represented our school’s Orca Buddy program. Each week twenty people as well as three therapy dogs come to Meredith Hill to listen to students read and work with students in small groups. All of these volunteers are community members who do not have children in our school. This successful program has been in place at Meredith Hill the past two years and provides teachers support with improving students’ reading and math skills. We appreciate these dedicated volunteers and their role in making Meredith Hill Elementary a great place to learn!
Are You Missing a Coat, a Lunch Box, or a Sweater?

The lost and found is overflowing! Please check the foyer for any missing items as soon as possible. All left-behind items will be taken to the clothing bank shortly after the last day of school.

Sunscreen use in Federal Way Public Schools

Along with the beautiful spring sunshine also come concerns about too much sun exposure and the need for sunscreen use. Per RCW 28A.210.260 on Medication Administration in Schools – sunscreen is considered a “topical medication” as referenced in WAC 170-295-3060. All those letters and numbers mean that FWSD is required to have a HCP (Health Care Provider) provide a medication authorization form for the use and application of sunscreen in the school setting.

There are current efforts being made through the legislature to remove sunscreen as a “medication” in the school setting. Please contact your legislators in Olympia and encourage their input.

Sun Safety Tips:

Dress in tightly woven, loose fitting clothing that covers as much as the body as possible.
Liberally apply sunscreen to exposed skin in the morning as part of a daily routine. The sunscreen container should specify a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or greater and should state that it provides broad spectrum (UVA and UVB) protection.
Apply a lip balm with a SPF of 30 or greater.

Additional sun safety tips for the upcoming months at:

Medications

Parents should plan to pick up any medication from the health room between 8:15 & 11:15. on June 15th. If your child will be taking medication at school next year you will need to fill out a new form for the 2016-2017 school year.

To ensure that medication your child may have (left over) at school will get home safely please make arrangements for an adult to pick-up the medication at school.

Please take into consideration you will want to keep emergency medications such as inhalers, EpiPens, etc. at school until the last day.

Any medication left at school after the last day of school will be destroyed.