

Timberwolf Newsletter



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<http://www.sheltonschools.org/sms>

“Providing a quality education in a caring, supportive environment”

What is “No Child Left Behind”?

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There has been a lot of publicity lately about a new Federal act that I believe needs some clarification and explanation about its' implications. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized by the Federal legislature with an effective date of January 2002. The act has been called “No Child Left Behind.” It requires states to develop and implement high quality accountability systems based on challenging standards and assessments with high expectations for students. The theme behind the act is to insure the lack of an achievement gap and provide for the success of all students. Schools and Districts will be required to demonstrate annual yearly progress of all

students in every subgroup of the enrolled population. Improvement will be based on the 2001-2002 baseline of scores. By the school year 2005 states must develop a statewide system to assess student progress every year of kindergarten through grade 8. Districts must demonstrate use of scientifically and research-based educational instruction and programs. Parents also have the option of student transfer if the school to which they are enrolled is designated as a school needing academic and program improvement by State standards. Districts must also demonstrate they hire only highly qualified teachers and educational assistants that hold the appropriate credentials or are able to pass a statewide test.

Unfortunately the act went into effect without many of the worksheets and processes for States and Districts to implement the law. We are hoping to receive more guidance from our State Superintendents office during this school year. Shelton School District recently went through a review of our programs by the State Office and received a positive preliminary report about our programs and methodologies. Shelton Middle School staff continue to implement strategies and programs researched to be of “best-practices.” This school year we are focusing on improving math instruction strategies and school wide student reading comprehension.

Sheryal Balding
 Principal



Reading Success Requires Reading Time

The staff of Shelton Middle School continues their quest to improve reading comprehension of students. Results of our last 7th grade WASL test showed only 33.2 percent of our students met the standard in reading and understanding of the written word. Our District wide goal is 100 percent of students reading at grade level with comprehension. Shelton Middle School last year implemented a reading program called “Experience Reading Project” and this year we have implemented a direct instruction program titled Soar-to-Success, targeting instruction for students who are reading below their grade level. With our new model, all sixth and seventh grade students receive reading instruction with either Soar-to-Success or the generalized reading program. We are hoping to see positive results on the spring achievement tests. In addition, Shelton School District has partnered with South Sound Reading Foundation encouraging all families to spend 20 minutes per day reading together. You can spend quiet time reading the newspaper or take turns reading aloud articles from favorite magazines or book passages.

Give it a try!



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What is "Honor Level"?

Honor Level is the name of the system we use at Shelton Middle School to track student behavior and reward those students who follow our school code of conduct on a regular basis.

It is not unique to Shelton Middle School and is used by many schools to track student behavior. Students who make the choice to misbehave receive recorded infractions and/or referrals to the office administration. A sample infraction slip can be found on page 14 of the student agenda/ handbook. Infractions can be given by any school employee and require a student signature denoting they were made aware of their misbehavior and understood the consequences.

Students who do not receive infractions are honored with special rewards during team meetings as well as are given the opportunity to attend special assemblies or receive awards from the school administrators. Infractions received within a two-week period have a demerit value (also noted on page 14 of the student agenda.) Zero to three demerits maintains a student on Honor Level One status. Three to ten demerits places a student on Honor Level Two status, which will prevent the student from participating in some team activities. Ten to twenty demerits places a student on Honor Level Three limiting participation on team and school wide activities, including participation in sports competition and attending dances. Twenty or more demerits places a student on Honor Level Four restricting them from numerous events, to include practicing with sports teams and attending school wide activities. Referrals to office administration carry a value of a minimum of five demerits, with most having a value of twenty or more demerits. An assignment to our in-school-suspension room or Saturday School Service automatically places a student on Honor Level four for a period of two weeks.

**Code of Conduct /
Page 10 of the student agenda handbook
Summary of Staff and
Student Expectations:**



The guidelines of our Code of Conduct are found on page 10 of the student agenda/handbook. In summary we expect the following from our

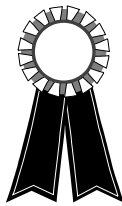
staff and students:

- All persons in Shelton Middle School, both student and adult, have the right to be treated in a respectful manner.
- All persons in Shelton Middle School are to come to school each day prepared to carry on the important tasks related to education.
- Shelton Middle School, as any community, requires that certain rules of orderly conduct be followed to assure a safe and productive environment.
- The property of the school and the persons in the school should be treated with respect.
- If conflicts arise, they should be dealt with in a manner that is consistent with the guiding beliefs of the school.
- All persons in Shelton Middle School have the right to be safe in school.
- Parents have the most important influence on student behavior.

Teachers Attended the National Middle School Conference

On November 1, a non-student school day, fifty-three teachers and staff members from Shelton Middle School attended the National Middle School conference in Portland, Oregon. Many of the teachers stayed for the additional workshops held on Saturday.

Following the theme, Building Bridges to the Future, the conference focused on methods and strategies teachers and administrators could use to improve the quality of education in their own schools. Shelton Middle School has followed the national model since moving into the building between Shelton Springs Road and Wallace-Kneeland Boulevard. This developmentally appropriate model includes teaming which provides programming around schools-within-the-school, encouraging integrated lessons. We also utilize student led parent-teacher-student conferences every fall. A few of the sessions teachers attended at this year's conference included reading strategies, math concepts, teaming, fun activities, bullying-proofing your school, looping classes in the middle years, checklists, rubrics, working with traumatized students, quality discussions, and diversified education. Staff returned to school invigorated to begin a new week with new strategies. The networking that occurs, both professionally and socially, at conferences such as this provides avenues for teachers to learn and gain insight from each other. We found that we are doing many of the classroom and school activities recognized by researchers as "best-practices", as well as gaining new strategies that we can use to improve Shelton Middle School.



Students of the Month

6th grade

PRIDE TEAM:

Beck: Karl Oleson
 Gagnon: Kassi Profitt
 Garner: Sam Opfer
 Hamm: Leiloni Simpson
 Jenney: Carolyn Leader
 Reiman: Tia Avey

CASCADE TEAM:

Sorry, no names for this month

Team Cascade News

Team Cascade held a special activity afternoon on the last day of October. Some classes got to have a "Read In" and others listened to stories. There were art activities in some rooms and graphing activities in another. It was nice to take a break from our hectic schedules for more casual work time. We are planning another special activity on the half-day before Thanksgiving. This surprise day will tie in with goal setting from our conferences.

By the way, Cascade students led great conferences! Thanks for the participation from parents and guardians. Students worked on establishing the targets that they should aim for as middle school learners before they started setting goals for themselves. The team will make a copy of the final goals from conferences and give the yellow goal sheet back to each student to carry in his/her binder. Please continue to talk about this goal at home and keep it alive in your child's mind. We will revisit these goals in the springtime and check for progress.

7th grade

VOYAGERS TEAM:

PHILLIP HODGES
 MARISSA HILL
 CAITLIN SUTTER
 MASON RITCHIE
 STEVEN SOHA

EXPLORERS TEAM:

WAYLON WALKER
 MEGAN WILSON
 KATI LITTLE
 MICHAEL JOHNSTON

Explorer Team students were selected because of their effort, positive attitude, and contributions to our team.

Following are members of the **Explorer Team** who won a free lunch at GODFATHERS PIZZA for all assignments completed and turned in to all classes during first quarter:

KATIE CHERRY, JOHN FOSSE, SEAN DAVENPORT, KATI LITTLE, BRIANA MARKS, TORI PECKHAM, SUZY PIERCE AMANDA PHELPS, ROBYN STEWART, and MEGAN WILSON.

Congratulations!

Art Display



The Artists of the Green Team have an ongoing display of their graphite value drawings in the SMS Library and in the Art room #108. The graphite pencil drawings are displayed next to the artists' four preliminary drawings. The preliminary drawings were done before drawing instructions and the pencil drawings were completed after only 5 weeks of instruction. The students did a great job on these drawings. Be sure to come out and take a look before the end of the semester.

Many thanks to our newsletter editor, volunteer Liz Davis. *SMS Staff*

8th grade

BLACK TEAM:

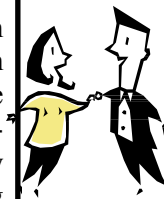
BRYDEN MCGRATH—Lang. Arts
 HUMBERTO LOZA—Math
 CURTIS TRONSDEN—Math Integrated
 ANGELA ESTRADA—Science
 TONYA SMITH—Technology
 CASSANDRA LOWE—History
 BREANNA CHAVEZ—Overall
 NATHAN MOYNAHAN—Overall

GREEN TEAM:

ETHAN MILLER—Science
 LEVI PECKHAM—Math
 TARA GRANT—Art
 JESSICA DODGE—Language Arts
 LEANDER GEIST—US History
 MITCHELL CARRINGTON—overall boy
 RACHAEL STEVENS—overall girl



Green Team has a field trip planned for February 4, 2003. We will be participating in tours at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. This is an all day event that requires help from our parents and guardians. **We need about 30 chaperones to meet the requirements of the museum.**



Any interested adults please contact Mrs. Deyette at 426-7991. This activity is scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM as we depart from SMS with a return time of approximately 4:00 PM. Thank you in advance with your help!

Shelton Middle School

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*Providing a quality
education in a caring,
supportive environment.*

Need Homework Help???

Homework Help is an after-school program open to all Shelton Middle School students. It is supervised by middle school staff members and is available from 2:45 to 4:00 Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (except when there is less than a full-day of school). School rules apply and students are expected to use their time to work on homework. This is a great opportunity for any student who just needs a little extra time and/or help to complete his/her homework. Permission slips are required and are available upon request in the SMS office. If you have questions, please contact Sharon White at the middle school (426-7991).

Booster Club News

We have an active Booster Club that meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in our Commons. We encourage all parents to participate in this organization. Members recently assisted teachers in providing books for parents to buy that can help with math instruction at home. Booster Club will be selling t-shirts and sweatshirts the first week of December. Look for the flyer that will come home with your child. In addition, seat cushions with the SMS logo are for sale at home athletic events.

Upcoming Events and Special Days

Half Day Releases: November 27th, December 5th

Honor Level One Assembly for students receiving no infractions is scheduled for December 10. The Yo-Yo man will be with us. Yo-Yo's will be for sale that week if parents are interested in stocking stuffers.

Band and Choir Holiday Concert: December 18 in our gym

Winter Holiday Vacation begins December 21. We will resume school on Monday, January 6.

Our Turkey Smash Food Drive was a great success. Thank you parents for helping us gather food that is donated to the local food bank. Students and staff gave up their spare change as well to provide turkey and ham gift certificates for needy families in our community.

Our Winter Sports of girls basketball and boys wrestling are well underway. Come on out and watch one of their competitions.

Boys Basketball will begin January 6th .

Be Safe!

We would like to remind parents to consider safe routes when dropping off and picking students up from school. Many students have been getting out of a car and then dashing in front of other vehicles. We try our best to provide a safe environment, but need everyone to be aware of safe precautions. *Thank you.*

If you shop the internet, register and shop with schoolpop.com
Up to 20% of every Schoolpop purchase you make goes directly to our school. Give it a try. Go to schoolpop.com today and register with Shelton Middle School.

Proceeds help to fund emergency supplies and safety equipment.