

EXPLORER

February 2015

Principal's Message

Dear Parents:

January was quite the month at Shelley Elementary. Our students came back from the holiday break and have been enjoying uninterrupted instruction time in their classrooms. This time of the year is very valuable to teachers; our students come back from the break refreshed and ready to learn. We only have a few weeks remaining of the second trimester, and our younger grades enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of the school year this past week. Also during the month of January, each grade level completed the Winter DRA (Direct Reading Assessment).

In preparation for the SAGE testing that will take place, I encourage you to visit the SAGE testing portal site, sageportal.org. This site has many resources for students, parents and teachers to begin preparing for SAGE testing. I encourage each of you to access the site with your children and look at the information contained in it. There are practice tests, information rubrics, webinars and other helpful information that will help to prepare our students for their testing experience. If after accessing the site and you find that you need some guidance or explanation about things, please contact me so we can talk about your questions. It seems we are in a constant process of gathering data to help us monitor how our students are learning, progressing, and adjusting as they go through their school experience.

I encourage each of you to make sure you attend our Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday and Thursday, February 4 and 5. It is a great opportunity for teachers and parents to

celebrate areas of strength, progress and growth, and to discuss areas where you can work together for continued improvement and success. *There is a strong positive effect on student learning when parents and teachers partner together in the education process.*

I would like to thank Heather Miller for her efforts to bring comfort and happiness to our troops that fight for and protect our liberties at home and overseas. Heather was instrumental in managing a project that almost every classroom at Shelley participated in. Each class made cards that had a student handprint on them and a small personal note addressed to members of our military. We had an assembly that gave our students the chance to give those cards to the different branches of the Armed Forces. I have not participated in such a powerful assembly before, as the cards were given to our service members with handheld flags waving, there were many eyes that were not dry in our gym. We appreciate the sacrifice, diligence and service of our Armed Forces. We also appreciate the respect that our Shelley Elementary students showed during the presentation.

Continue to support and help your students in their school work, I know that our Shelley students come prepared and ready to handle the challenges that come their way because of the support they receive from home.

Thank you,

Mike Ericksen
Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held Wednesday and Thursday, February 4 and 5. Core teachers will fill in the remaining slots with appointment times for the parents of any students who did not schedule their own on-line.

We encourage you to visit with your child's specialty teachers as well. They will be available on a drop-in basis in their classrooms as follows:

- Mrs. Child, Computer, Room 24, Thursday evening, 4:00-7:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Davis, Music, Room 39 (trailer), Wednesday evening 4:00-7:30 p.m. and Thursday evening 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Ms. Leong, PE & Health, Room 41 (trailer), Thursday evening, 4:00-7:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Sabey, Art, Room 34, Thursday evening, 4:00-7:30 p.m.
- Please also note that Mrs. Allred, our Speech Teacher will also be available both evenings from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. Her office is located in the main office complex.

We look forward to the process of parents and teachers coming together to celebrate student strengths, and to work together to support student learning and success.

Take Home Library

The Take Home Reading Library is looking for a volunteer to help supervise and coordinate the summer Take Home Library. Duties include making sure there are enough volunteers for the days the library is open, sending out weekly reminders to volunteers, making phone calls, texts, or e-mails to ensure books are returned on time, collecting books and ensuring all books are returned at summer's end. If you are willing to oversee the summer months, please contact Jennifer Thomas at [801-756-9330](tel:801-756-9330) or jenniferthomas@alpinedistrict.org.

Valentine's Day

Thanks to PTA room mothers and the generous parent volunteers, students will have a special Valentine's Day party in their classroom from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Kindergarten class parties will be the last hour of class. All grades are invited to bring individual Valentine cards for each member of their class. This is, of course, optional. We ask that students not exchange home-prepared Valentine treats at school.

SEND A
VALENTINE
GREETING
WITH
VAL-O-GRAMS !



Send a note to your friends with a laffy taffy on each note for only **25 Cents!**

Sold Before and After School thru February 12th

Parents may purchase these for children in the office or there will also be a booth during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

All purchases help fund the Shelley Service club and Service Projects. Thank you!

Maturation Programs for 5th Graders

Each Spring, 5th grade students and their parents are invited to participate in a maturation program. Mike Cottam is scheduled to do the boys' presentation and Annette Pulley is scheduled to do the girls' presentation. Reminder letters will be sent to the parents of each 5th grade student, but for your advanced planning, please note the following schedule:

Monday, March 16 - 5th Grade Boys presentation
12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the Library

Monday, March 23 - 5th Grade Girls presentation
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Gym

We look forward to this important time in the lives of our students as they learn from experts about the process of growing up.

6th Grade Students Win a Treat!!!

Every sixth grade student at Shelley Elementary with all required vaccinations completed (and records submitted to the office) in preparation to enter seventh grade **before Tuesday, March 3, 2015**, will get a treat! Tdap, a second chickenpox shot, and a meningococcal shot are required vaccinations for seventh grade entry. Don't forget to get your vaccines done and turn your records in to the office at Shelley Elementary before then! **Remember, you must turn in an updated record including the dates of the required seventh grade shots in order to get a treat!**

Battle of the Books (BOB)

Attention all Battle of the Books students. The Battle of the Books competition is just a few short weeks away. Keep reading those books and making sure each book has been read by your team.

Remember to wear your BOB shirt on Wednesdays. Surprise shirt Wednesdays could be any Wednesday. Make sure to turn in your tracking slip to the BOB box. Watch the BOB wall to see if you are a weekly drawing winner. We are getting so close to the END. Can you get your name on the list of those students that have read all 20 books? Good Luck and keep reading.

The Battle of the Books competition will be held the first week of March. The 3/4 grade battles will be March 3rd. The 5/6 battles will be March 2nd. The top two teams from each will battle it out in a Championship game. The Championship games will be held Friday, March 6th.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: In order to run this type of program we are in need of lots of volunteers. We need two parents at each battle in order to run smoothly. Please come and help us out. This is great fun to watch these kids who have worked hard reading to battle it out. If you are willing to come and help, please contact Bev Cook at bcook@alpinedistrict.org.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! "Once Upon a Time the Storytelling Festival came to Shelley Elementary and I participated" is what we encourage each student to say this year. With your support, your child can be a WINNER through stories! Storytelling builds confidence through creativity, vocal clarity, enunciation, poise, expression, eye contact, gestures, sequencing, body awareness, characters, emotions and FUN!

Grade-level competitions will be held in 3-4 weeks at the end of February, so please help your child write their own 3 - 6 minute original story or find one to tell or add a twist. Have them practice, practice, practice! The top two or three winners of each grade will share their tales in an assembly. **ALL participants** are invited to come spin their story one final time at an "Evening of Storytelling" on Friday, March 6th at 7 p.m. with professional storyteller, Nannette Watts! **All Shelley families are invited** to wear pajamas or sweats and come to this special event.

So, WHAT'S YOUR STORY???

After School JUNIOR Golf at Shelley!

We have partnered with InMotion Junior Golf (www.inmotionjuniorgolf.com) to provide an opportunity for our students to learn the game of golf. This program is offered after school on the Shelley Elementary fields starting on April 24 and ending on May 22. There will be two sessions, a session for Early Birds and then a session for the Later Gator group. Early Bird session goes from 2:30 - 3:30, Later Gator session goes from 3:30 - 4:30. You can register your student for the session that corresponds to their school start time. There is a registration fee associated with this program (\$65) and you should click or paste the link above for details on registration. This is a great opportunity for your student to learn about the great lifetime of enjoyment that golf can provide them.

IDEAS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do poorly on exams. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly are also at less risk of getting involved in crime and substance abuse.

You can promote good attendance when you:

- Make sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Take an interest in their education; ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Discuss any problems they may have at school; inform their teacher about anything serious.
- Do not let them take time off school for minor ailments; particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Provide incentives and consequences for attendance and learning. Set daily, weekly or monthly goals and agree on rewards and punishments. When completed, follow through with the incentives and consequences and then set new goals.
- Come up with a back up plan for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).
- Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community

agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.

- If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.
- Arrange appointments and outings after school hours, on weekends or during a school holiday to prevent disruption to your child's education.

Your child's success begins with YOU!

BOOK FAIR

I would like to let you know how well our Book Fairs have been doing, and what your continued support does for your children's classrooms. We are currently working on finishing up an order for all the Core teachers at Shelley in which they were each given \$250.00 for their classroom. Each year they receive funds to help support reading. Your involvement at the fair be it volunteering, purchasing, or both greatly help support this opportunity for them. Each fair has increased in total sales every year.

You may have noticed the Spring and Fall fairs have increased in their size with more books and cases. This year our BOGO will also be a custom fair. We will have just as many books and cases as our regular fairs. Since this is our most popular fair we frequently run out of things and hopefully this will fix that and give you more choices. Don't forget we also have an online fair that anyone, (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) who do not live close enough can order from. <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/shelleyelementaryschool>

If you would like to volunteer, please email me at MichelleJensen29@gmail.com. I still have some hours open for this fair coming up! You earn a book valued at \$6.99 or less for every two hours you serve.

February 2nd thru 6th

Monday: 8-3 p.m.

Tuesday: 8-4 p.m.

Wednesday: 8-7 p.m.

Thursday: 8-7 p.m.

Friday: 8-4 p.m.

Thank you again!

Michelle Jensen

Book Fair Chairperson

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

In Kindergarten we have been working hard on recognizing sight words and word families. If your child knows sight words and can recognize words in a word family, he or she will be a better reader.

We are looking forward to parent/teacher conferences coming up on Feb. 4th and 5th. The students have been working hard on their reading and we are excited to discuss their DRA test scores with parents. It's so exciting to see their growth!

Coming up in February for math we will be working on addition and we will be learning eight new sight words and four word families.

On February 13 we will be having our Valentine's Day parties. We will be celebrating "friendship" and decorating bags in class to hold valentines from our friends. Class lists will be coming home soon so you can prepare your valentines.

Just a few reminders:

*Please label all outerwear with your child's name.

*Teacher's go out to recess with their class, so if your student is too sick to go outside they will need to sit in the office during recess.

Thank you for your continued help and support!

1ST GRADE NEWS

Wow! It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through our school year. The first graders are quickly getting ready to move on to second grade!

We just finished our mid-year DRA testing. It is so exciting to see the progress our students are making in their reading. One of the most important things first graders can be doing to prepare for second grade is to read. Beginning in April for some of our first graders, and in second grade for all of them, students will be asked to write a summary of the DRA book they read. This summary includes highlights from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

We will begin working on how to write a summary as we prepare our students to move on to second grade.

The last week of January we celebrated the 100th day of school!!! What an exciting day full of fun activities all about the number 100. Zero the Hero has made an appearance several times in first grade as we counted up by 10s to the 100th day of school.

2ND GRADE NEWS

Well, we can hardly believe it is 2015 already. We spent the first part of the month talking about and writing New Year's Resolutions and setting goals. Celebrating Martin Luther King Day gave us an opportunity to learn about accepting and being kind to others. One of our most challenging tasks in January was learning how to subtract double digit numbers. This is something your second grader could use ongoing practice in. It is important that they draw pictures and explain their thinking when regrouping. The traditional algorithm is nice but they need to know what they are doing. We will be moving on to telling time in February. Practice with an analogue clock!

We love our Scholastic newspapers we get each week. In January there were a lot of interesting articles about animals in the Arctic and we learned about non-fiction text features. We finished up the winter DRA and will discuss the results at Parent Teacher conferences. Hopefully you have all had a chance to sign up. If there is a problem with scheduling, please make special arrangements with your child's teacher.

One of the highlights of the month was our 100th day of school on January 29. We did lots of fun activities with 100 charts, counting, writing stories, playing games, counting money, and many other things. Thank you for your contributions to some of the 100 day activities in your student's class.

We look forward to a Fabulous February.

3RD GRADE NEWS

This month in third grade, we've been working hard to get ready for the Sage Writing Assessment. The children are doing very well and we are so proud of them. We hope they are proud of themselves for the work they are doing!

February is a busy month at Shelley. We look forward to meeting with you at parent/teacher conferences. We are very excited to start our Time Machine projects. This will be a very successful, positive experience for all our students. Please have your child's name choices approved by Monday, February 9th. We'll be drawing straws and choosing their famous names on February 10th. Also, Sage Writing Testing for the third grade will be on February 10th, 11th and 12th. Please plan to send your child well rested, well fed and on time on those days. The writing the students are doing at home to prepare them for these tests should include practicing their writing on their own, noticing their spelling errors and editing their own work. You can also help your child on our test days by encouraging him/her to do his/her best and by reassuring worrisome children that everything will be okay.

4TH GRADE NEWS

The fourth grade has had a month of intensive writing! The students have really progressed in their writing skills. We look forward to a grade level Spelling Bee, which is on February 2nd. The Mountain Man Rendezvous will be on February 27th! We enjoy this yearly tradition, as we try to provide an authentic experience for the students. They have been earning Beaver Pelts to use for buying and selling goods. It will be a great experience! We look forward to working with the parents in this endeavor.

5TH GRADE NEWS

Fifth Graders have been writing up a storm in preparation for the upcoming SAGE writing test. Using the writing tool, utahcompose.com, students are given a writing prompt and resource materials to review before writing an informative or persuasive essay/response using evidence from the text. The essays are scored immediately and

students receive feedback on how to improve their writing. Receiving a score of 24+ is no easy task! As an incentive, a challenge was issued by the 5th grade teachers to complete four specific essays with a score of 24 or higher. Many students took the challenge and were rewarded with a 30 minute activity last Friday. A second challenge has been issued. As fifth grade teachers, we are so proud of the hard work and determination we see on our students' faces as they learn about good writing and apply that knowledge to their own writing. We'd like to thank our students' parents for the support and encouragement they give at home. We are proud of the great writing we're seeing!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Sixth grade has been settling into a rigorous working routine after all our fun with the holidays. We have been enjoying finishing up our study of space in science and look forward to beginning our study of heat, light, and sound. During the first few weeks of February we will be doing the writing portion of our SAGE testing. The students will have the opportunity to show their skill writing both explanatory and augmentative essays. Also, this is the time of year when information regarding junior high registration begins to come home. Look for information regarding ALL (Advanced Learning Lab) testing, immunization requirements, and registration in the coming weeks. Please contact your child's teacher with questions or concerns. Mr. Engles' class recently presented Hamlet. They did a great job! Mrs. Ricks' and Mrs. Riding's classes will be presenting their plays soon. We can't wait!

We will also be starting our NOVA program with Officer Lott from the American Fork Police Department. The NOVA program helps students learn about drug prevention, bullying, how to be safe on the internet and other important life skills. This program will continue from February 3 until May 5.



Dear Shelley parents,

We have some great activities planned for the month of February. We are so excited about our reading program this month and our author assembly. It should be a great month focused on reading and writing.

Read Across America - February 17th-March 6th- We have some great activities planned for the reading program. This is a national program set up and focused around Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2nd). Watch for a detailed explanation to come home with your child.

Mom & Muffins - February 19th 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 8:45-9:15 a.m.

Dads & Donuts - March 3rd 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 8:45-9:15 a.m.

Family Reading Night - February 23rd 5-7 p.m.

Author Assembly - February 23rd - McKenzie Wagner. She is **13 years old** and will be talking about following your dreams. She wrote her first book at age 7. She is best known for the **Benotripia trilogy**. Attached is an order form so that you may purchase her books ahead of time. There will be some books you can purchase on the day of the assembly. Order forms are due February 9th in the main office. She will also stay and sign her books as well. Her books are \$8.99 each.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - February 4 & 5 -We will probably need some volunteers to help us with the meals. Please watch for an email about this.

Book Fair - February 2-6 - All the money earned at the book fair goes toward book credits for teachers at our school.

Spirit Night @ Chick-fil-A - In December we earned \$350.96. Next months' spirit night will be **Thursday Feb 19th**. Mark your calendar now. Thank you for all of your support with these evenings.

Macey's - You can now link your Macey's perks card to Shelley Elementary and our school will receive a percentage back of what you spend. Anyone can do this including grandparents and friends who live out of state. The following are instructions on how to do this. It is a simple and easy way to earn money for our school.

Go to www.maceys.com

Click on Perks Login on the right hand side of the screen

Go to the bottom of the page and click on Continue where it says to Register

Enter in your phone number and follow prompts

Click on Nonprofits

Choose Shelley Elementary

Amazon -Don't forget we are also linked to Amazon to connect your purchases with our school find the Amazon tab on the school website.

Box Tops- Great job, everyone! Thanks to all the Box Tops you turned in, our school received a check from Box Tops For Education for \$2,600.00! Way to go Shelley students and parents! This money helps fund programs for our school.

Our next submission deadline to receive money this year is March 1. All you need to do is cut (or tear) them off of the box they are on, send them in a baggie, or glue or tape them on a collection sheet. No need to cut along the dotted line, just make sure the expiration date is visible and send them to school with your child.

If your child brings them before school on Fridays they can receive a small reward. The collection table is located in the front lobby, or they can be dropped off anytime in the large Box Top box just outside the office.

Thank you and keep clipping!

Sincerely,

Mindy Woodhouse

PTA President

February 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>2</p> <p>Book Fair</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Main Office</p> <p>Book Fair</p>	<p>4</p> <p>School Community Council 2:30 p.m. Faculty Lounge</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Book Fair</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Book Fair</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Book Fair</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PTA Board Meeting 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Mrs. Rick's Class Play Parent Performance 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Valentines Class Parties</p>
<p>16</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p> <p>Presidents Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Read Across America Reading Program Begins</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Moms & Muffins</i> Track 1 7:30-8:00 a.m. Track 2 8:45-9:15 a.m. Knowledge Bowl Playoffs 3:30 p.m. Media Center Spirit Night @ Chick-Fil-A 5 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>23</p> <p><i>Family Reading Night 5 - 7 p.m.</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>End of 2nd Trimester</p> <p>4th Grade Mountain Man Rendezvous Common Start 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</p>