

EXPLORER

December 2016

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

The Holiday Season is a time of magic and excitement as students and families participate in parties, special programs, and other celebrations. I love the bright-colored decorations and the beautiful music associated with this time of year. This is also a time of focusing on ways we can give of ourselves to others. I have been especially touched by the genuine offerings of kind deeds and service I have witnessed going on at our school—among families, students, faculty and staff alike. The culture of our Shelley School Community is truly one of caring concern for each other's well-being and success. We appreciate your generous response to our annual food drive during November! We were able to collect over 10,000 pounds of food that went to Tabitha's Way to help those in need. Tabitha's Way was elated as we loaded the food into their truck. They commented that they were surprised we had filled more than Orem Junior High had filled. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity for those less fortunate than others. A glance at the parent volunteer log will attest to the strong showing of parent support we have here at Shelley. Countless volunteers are here on any given day helping student's practice and review important math and literacy concepts, complete science experiments, work on social studies projects, and performing service in the Take Home Reading library. We really appreciate our parent volunteers! Thank you. We could not

do what we do without your help!

Our teachers are also some of the finest around. They spend l-o-n-g hours both here at school and at home researching ideas, preparing lessons and materials to provide engaging learning opportunities for their students. Through careful collaboration, they work together to determine the best way to meet student's needs. I am so very grateful to be associated with such a top quality group of people as we have in our Shelley School Community. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to work with each of you, with your students, and with our faculty and staff. I wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season. May it be one of peace and joy for you and for those you love.

Sincerely,
Mike Ericksen

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found is located just outside the gymnasium on the coat rack. We encourage you to come and check for any items your child may be missing—jackets and coats, hats, gloves and mittens, lunch pails, etc. We even have a number of items that have fallen from cars dropping off and picking up children in the pull-throughs—socks, shoes, sippie cups, children's toys. We will be bagging any unclaimed items on Thursday, December 22nd and they will be donated to a local charity.

Shelley Soundz

All Shelley families are invited to enjoy the sounds of the season as our school choir, *Shelley Soundz*, will be performing for **Family and Friends** at the school on **Thursday, December 1 at 7:15 pm**. Come enjoy a "A Holiday of Music!" and catch the Christmas spirit or please join us at the **Festival of Trees** at the **South Town Expo Center** (9575 S. State St., Sandy) at **4:30 pm** on **Saturday, December 3** on the south stage! Merry Christmas!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our Winter Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Scheduling of appointments for this event may be done through Skyward. The parent window for sign-ups will be open in January, with further information to come in January's newsletter. We look forward to the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet together to discuss and celebrate each student.

Holiday Break

Our last day of school in 2016 will be on Thursday, December 22nd. Our first day of school for 2017 will be on Tuesday, January 3rd. We wish you a very happy holiday season. Please travel safely and enjoy the break.

Partnership Between Shelley and Amazon

Prior to making purchases on Amazon, please click the small Amazon button located in the upper right hand corner of our school webpage. Doing so will help the school generate and earn advertising fees with any purchase(s) made. It's that simple! Click the Amazon button, login with your Amazon account, and start shopping! Purchases you make will support Shelley Elementary. The link does reset every 24 hours so if you are logged in for more than a day, please re-click our Amazon link to ensure that your purchases will benefit our school.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

A HUGE thanks to all the parents who helped with preparations for our kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast! Some parents spent hours making our Native American and Pilgrim costumes. Others volunteered their time to help set up and serve food. Some helped the teachers get the students in costume and ready for the feast. Many of you helped by sending in food donations. Thank you to all the parents (and grandparents!) who were able to come and listen to our Thanksgiving songs. It was a wonderful experience for all and would not have been successful without the help of so many!

Kindergarten students are working hard on reading! Thank you for the support you show your child at home by working on take home readers nightly. Our students are expected to read on a DRA level 2 by January and a DRA level 4 by the end of the school year. You can help by practicing sight words with your child. For those students

who are reading higher level books, ask your child to recall what he or she has read. This will help with comprehension.

Now that colder weather is upon us, please make sure your child wears a jacket, hat, mittens, and boots to school. We go out for recess on most school days. We want to ensure your child's comfort and safety while at recess.

While on Christmas break, please don't forget to practice reading with your child as well as letter and sound recognition, writing, counting, etc. DRA testing (reading test) will begin in January soon after we return from the break.

Thank you for your continued support! We wish your family safe and happy holidays!

1ST GRADE NEWS

First grade has had an amazing November. We have been working hard on strategies for addition. We have also been learning about structure of stories, especially the characters, setting, and events. We have even been writing our own stories. Right before break we had an amazing rotation day where we got to go to each of the different first grade classrooms and learn about Thanksgiving. We look forward to all the fun learning and activities we will enjoy this December.

2ND GRADE NEWS

Our second graders have been so busy learning about "remarkable" things like the main idea of a story, the important details, plural and possessive nouns, words with two and three letter blends, how animals are important to us, measuring with inches and centimeters, beginning addition with two digit numbers, and, WOW! The list goes on!

A big "thank you" to Dr. Winn, a veterinarian, who took the time to come visit our classes and talk about being an animal doctor. Another big thank you to the Living Planet

Aquarium that came and did a presentation on the Rain Forest and even brought some of the creatures that dwell there.

We had a great time on our Thanksgiving Science day learning about making butter, foods that float, Native American culture and fall leaves. We are looking forward to our annual field trip to the BYU Christmas Around the World performance and the Bean Museum of Natural History on the BYU campus. In December we celebrate the holidays by learning about different cultures and customs and invite many to share their knowledge of some of their traditions that may be different than ours.

We love our students and we thank you, parents for reading with your children, helping with homework, volunteering when you can and supporting all of us. Have a lovely, cheerful, sweet and jolly Christmas holiday!

3RD GRADE NEWS

In November, we had a fun time exploring Indigenous peoples of the American continent's cultures. We learned about the customs of different Native American people, pottery, clothing, artwork, grinding corn, and making pictographs and totem poles. Third graders are currently learning how to write a 3 paragraph essay. They need to be able to type two kinds of essays in one sitting by the end of the year. Thank you for allowing your child to practice typing at home. It helps students be able to accomplish this task, if they are fluent with the keyboard in home row position. Encourage your child to keep working hard and celebrate effort. Third Grade students have the special privilege of decorating the school Christmas tree in the library. If you are at school anytime during the month of December, you might want to go to the library to see what your children have done.

4TH GRADE NEWS

The month of November was fabulous and fast! This month we improved our understanding of multiplication and began learning long division.

We also spent time learning about factors and multiples. Students are also continuing their education about our awesome state by learning about the geography, ancient peoples that lived here, and more recent Native American tribes that called our area of the country home. We finished our first science rotation and moved on to the next unit.

We started the month off with a "heart smart" presentation. Nurses visited each class and talked about healthy heart habits. The students were shown the different parts of a real pig's heart since it is closest to a human's heart. Most of them were fascinated.

We had a great time visiting the State Capitol and Pioneer Museum. Since we are studying the state of Utah, it increased our knowledge. We appreciate the support we received from parents who joined us.

We would encourage students to continue working on the 30 book challenge and multiplication facts. Everyone is excited for Christmas break!

5TH GRADE NEWS

Fifth grade is excited for December! This month we will be picking states for our state reports that we will be working on the second half of the school year. Before the break, we will write letters to our state's tourism department asking for information. We will be Time right before Thanksgiving. It was a blast. Students played outside games, made Christmas ornaments and created containers to protect eggs from breaking and then dropped them off the roof to see whose designs worked the best. We can't wait for our next Cave Time at the end of December.

NOVA finished up this week and graduation will be held on Friday, December 16th, at 9:30 in the

going to the McAuliffe Space Center in Pleasant Grove. Mrs. Curtis's and Mrs. Kukahiko's classes will go December 20th. Mrs. Elison and Mrs. McMurtrey's classes will go December 21th. On the day of your child's field trip, he or she will attend school from 8:00 A.M. to 2:15 p.m. The school bus will need to leave promptly at 9:15 in order for us to arrive at the McAuliffe Space Center, located in Central Elementary, on time. Students will participate in a space mission called "Intolerance." The students will also study constellations in the StarLab, participate in a space science activity, and eat lunch. Classes will board the bus at the center to return to Shelley before 2:15 P.M. The teachers will review the mission with the boys and girls in class. Officer assignments will be given to students prior to their field trip. You may learn about the mission or the McAuliffe Space Center at www.spacecamp Utah.org. It is one of the highlights of our year!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Can you believe we are almost to 2017? This year has flown by! Recently, the sixth grade has been doing some really great things. The students have had the chance to participate in a monthly "Cave Time". At the end of each month, students who have all their work turned in get to choose between an art, sports, or engineering activity. We held our second Cave Shelley Gym. Parents are invited to attend. Thanks to Officer Lott for all his time and effort teaching us so many life skills.

We look forward to many exciting events and field trips in the New Year. Thanks for all the parent support to make these great events happen!



Thanks for all your donations to our Food Drive! Mrs. Elison's and Barney's class each won a doughnut party for bringing in the most items, congrats! The school also reached its goal and earned a movie party that will happen on Dec. 22nd (the last day before the break).



Family skate night was so fun! Thanks to all who came! If you missed it, don't worry we will have another one in the spring.



The students pledged to be drug free and learned about the health risks of smoking. We also played twister reminding them to not get 'twisted up in drugs'.





We kept our lunchtime activities cheap so we could use the majority of our Red Ribbon Week budget on new equipment that was on the P.E. class' wish list!!!



Thanks for supporting our **Chick-fil-a Spirit**

Night!

Mrs. Kukahiko's class won the party in Nov and 20% of their profits will go into her Alpine Foundation account!! Congratulations Mrs. Kukahiko! They **chose** to do their party later in Dec, so we will post their picture next month.



**Remember, Chick-fil-a Spirit Nights are always the 2nd Thursday of each month; the next one is Dec 8th.

There is not a PTA meeting in December! Thanks for all your hard work, enjoy your families, we will meet again in January. ☺

Sincerely,

Kimby Corey
PTA Co-president

December 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		<i>Shelley Soundz Family and Friends Performance 4:30</i>	1	2nd Grade Field Trip BYU Christmas Around the World 5th Grade Talent Show 12:45-2:15
5	PTA Board Meeting 12:45 p.m.	7	Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night 5-8 p.m.	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	<i>20th Grade Field Trip Space Center Curtis/Kukahio Common Start 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</i>	<i>21st Grade Field Trip Space Center McMurtrey/Elison Common Start 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</i>	Christmas Movie	Christmas Break NO SCHOOL
26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	Christmas Break NO SCHOOL