



Ridgecrest RAMbler

January 2009



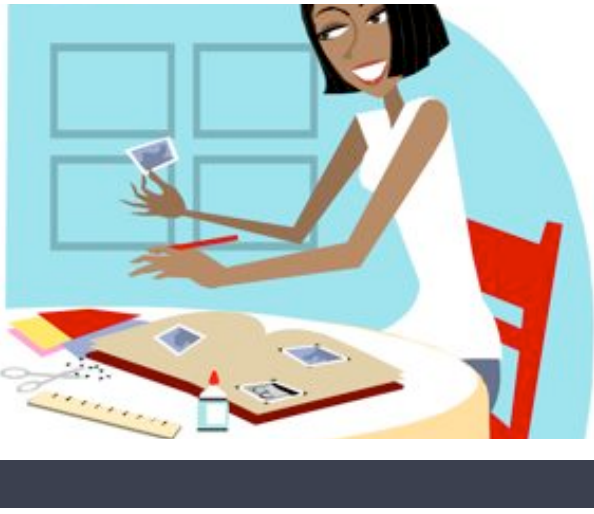
EVENTS

- ★ January 12, 2009: Band Concert at Third Place Books. Starts at 7:45 p.m.
- ★ January 16, 2009: Pajama day.
- ★ January 19, 2009: No school. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ★ January 20, 2009: Science night.
- ★ January 23, 2009: Popcorn day. Popcorn is \$.50 a bag.
- ★ January 29, 2009: Twin Triplet Day.
- ★ January 30, 2009: No school. Staff work day.

Principal Delgado as a Parent

The extended winter break provided me with the opportunity to spend a large amount of time with my three children. The first few days were spent doing some last minute shopping, decorating the house, and visiting with friends and family. The latter part of the break was spent playing the Wii, watching tons of football, and playing in the snow.

As I look back on the break, I realize I didn't spend much time working on my childrens' academic skills. They not do much reading and writing. However, because I am a person who focuses on solutions instead of persistently focusing on the problems, I have some ideas about how I can work with my children in the coming weeks to reinforce their academic skills.



Principal Delgado as a parent (cont.)

My first idea is to use some of the pictures I took during break as a way to encourage my daughters to enjoy journaling.

***Create a scrapbook.** This weekend, I plan on creating a scrapbook with my children. It might have an inspiring theme, such as “When is Dad going back to work?” I plan on having my children add mementos such as ticket stubs, drawings, and descriptions too.

***Involve a friend.** On one page, I will have my child write something about her friend, and then have her friend write something on the next page. The can continue alternating pages until they have their exposition finished.

***Relax about words.** Both of my daughters are beginning writers, so drawing a lot of pictures is fine. There may only be a word or a sentence on each page. My youngest daughter might even dictate to me.

Did You Know?

Reading is a part of many home and school activities, so when a child struggles with it, it can feel as if it affects every part of life. To make matters worse, parents often worry about the correlation between reading difficulties and their child’s self-esteem. To help your child:

- ✓ Consult experts, including your child’s teacher. Ask about realistic expectations. Is your child reading at grade level? If not, what help is available?
- ✓ Use reading materials at home that minimize frustration. For example, choose books that are easy to understand and read. They should have very few difficult words. A good technique to use is the “Five Finger Test.” Have your child read a random page from a book, and put up a finger when he or she comes across a word that is unknown. By the end of the page, if all five fingers are up, wave the book “goodbye.”
- ✓ Stay positive about your child’s learning. Focus on their strengths!

Kinderfest 2009

Kinderfest 2009 will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Shoreline Room, which is located at Shoreline Center 18560 – 1st Ave NE

Kinderfest is an opportunity for parents who will be enrolling their children in kindergarten to hear about the kindergarten programs offered by the Shoreline School District.

Kindergarten registration for **Shoreline residents** with students starting kindergarten in the fall of 2009 will begin on Monday, February 2, 2009 at your neighborhood school. In order to attend kindergarten in the fall, a child must be five years old by August 31, 2009.

Kindergarten registration for **out-of-district** students will begin on February 9, 2009. Parents will need to come to the Instruction Department of the district offices (Shoreline Center: 18560 – 1st Ave, NE) to submit registration forms and boundary request paperwork.

For more information on kindergarten registration and Kinderfest, please call Cathy Allred at 206.361.4211.

Highly capable testing

Screening for the Shoreline School District's Highly Capable Program for elementary grades will begin in January 2009. All district and interested private school first grade students will be tested in January. Parents of current district first graders were mailed information about the testing and have the option of declining the testing of their child by signing and returning the postcard to the Highly Capable Program office. The top 10% of the first graders tested in January will go on for further testing.

Students currently enrolled in Shoreline in grades 2-5 who are not currently being served by the program, and private school students will be tested in March 2009. Deadlines and testing dates are listed below.

Parents interested in having their child assessed for program eligibility may self-register online at <http://learn.shorelineschools.org/spec/hprogram/index.php>. If you have any questions, about this program or the process, please contact Trudy Wright in the Highly Capable Program office at 206.368.4771.

Registration will end January 30, 2009.

Important deadlines

- Private 1st graders to register for testing..... Jan. 14
- Second through fifth graders to register for testing..... Jan. 30
- Preliminary 1st grade testing in regular classrooms.... Jan. 5-16
- Private School 1st grade testing at Shoreline Center...Jan. 21
- 1st grade (top 10%). Both days required..... March 21 & 28
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade. Both days required.....March 21 & 28

Science Night

Planning for Family Science Night at Ridgecrest is in the works. This year's PTA Science Night will be held on January 20, 2009. We are currently recruiting exhibitors and finalizing all the details. Please stay tuned for more information.



Notes from the Nurse

Who should receive influenza vaccine?

- Influenza vaccine is now recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for all children ages 6 months through 18 years.
- Influenza vaccine is also recommended for adults age 50 years and older, persons of any age with chronic medical conditions (such as heart, lung, or kidney disease, or diabetes) that increase the risk of complications from influenza.
- In addition to being immunized, it is also important to wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home (from work, school, or other activities) when you're sick. School age children can pick up influenza infection from each other at school and then easily spread it to young siblings and other family members in their household who are elderly or otherwise at high risk for influenza complications.
- Where can we get the flu vaccine? Many private providers will have flu vaccine for children and adults.

Ridgecrest Student Council Reflects on Martin Luther King Junior

When asked to discuss Dr. King's legacy, Ridgecrest Student Council members offered the following insights...

"Dr. King offered peace between cultures without using violence."
Peter

"He stuck up for the rights of African Americans." Ilona

"ML King made peace for one and all. He worked on celebrating uniqueness in everyone." Veda

"Dr. King stood up for his rights and helped all people understand each other better." Shiloh

"He was not just about the rights of African Americans, but people of any color or heritage." Allegra

"He risked his life to end segregation." Elizabeth

"Dr. King made white and black people a community." Anya

"He taught violence is not the answer and it is okay to be unique in your own way." Mallory

"He made speeches about people being inside the same." Emma

"He had a dream that all colors could join together in harmony." Genny

Ridgecrest Student Council says,
"Thank you, Dr. King!"



Ridgecrest Elementary School's Family Advocate

The Family Advocate at Ridgecrest Elementary promotes the success of students by providing support to children and their families. As individual and household needs vary, the Family Advocate tailors services to each child and family. These services may include the following:

- ✓ providing social, emotional and behavioral support at school
- ✓ providing support and resources to your child and family in times of crisis
- ✓ collaborating with you and school staff to improve your child's learning and school performance
- ✓ facilitating leadership groups for students
- ✓ meeting with parents, students and school staff to address a student's needs
- ✓ connecting your family to resources in the community
- ✓ informing parents/guardians about parenting support resources and tool

Quick Tips

- Please be sure to send your students to school with appropriate clothing for winter weather.
- For our students safety, please pick them up immediately after school. Also, if you have plans that are different than your typical routine, please communicate them to your child.
- To further enhance your communication with the school, be sure to sign up for Family Access.

The Family Advocate, Janel Fox, is on the Ridgecrest campus part-time and is available to meet with you and/or your child. Please feel free to contact Janel with questions or to schedule an appointment at 206-393-1495 or janel.fox@shorelineschools.org.



Volunteers Matter

Ridgecrest Elementary School would like to thank all of the volunteers who make a positive difference for our school and our kids. If you would like to find out how to volunteer at Ridgecrest, please contact your child's teacher. Together, we make a difference.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Sign your child up to start having fun with Big Brothers Big Sisters! The more positive examples that children have in their lives, the more chances they have to succeed. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound has a variety of programs to provide children ages 7-16 (or as young as 4 if he or she has an incarcerated loved one) with another positive role model, in addition to their parent/guardian, who will offer encouragement and support as he or she grows. For over 50 years, they have worked to develop a successful, proven youth mentoring program. Our experienced approach to recruiting, screening, matching, and supporting our Bigs and Littles has resulted in thousands of safe, lasting friendships, and has helped to change the lives of young people across the Puget Sound region. And the best part - it's FREE! Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound: 877-700-BIGS, www.bbbsps.org, or text "BIG" to 839863.

Thank you!

Thank you for donating to the PTA Food Drive. Ridgecrest contributed 422 bags of sugar, and helped to provide holiday food boxes to 320 families in Shoreline.



RAModular

The new modular building at Ridgecrest Elementary finally has a new name. Thank you Hank U, from room 12, for naming the building. From now on it will be known as the "RAModular."

