

Superintendent's Message

As the year is quickly coming to an end, it seems like the grandstand fire was much longer ago than seven months. It has been a long process to get us to the point where we are now within days of the project going out to bid. There have been disagreements with the insurance company that forced us to stand our ground to preserve the desires of the community to replace the grandstand with something that we can all be proud of. I think when the new stadium is completed, we will have a structure that will be a place where we can both remember the memories from the past and create new memories that will continue the traditions of Montesano High School.



While we all would like to have the stadium ready for the first game in September, it is highly unlikely that it will be ready. With construction starting in early June, there just isn't enough time to complete it. My hope is that we will have it done in time for next year's senior soccer and football players to play at least one home game at Rottle Field. While this is not the ideal scenario, the one thing we repeatedly heard at the community meetings was that it was more important to get it right than to rush and settle for something that would not fit in our community. We will do our best to communicate the progress as we go through the summer.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the district office or via email at: dwinter@monteschools.org.



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Go Dogs!

Spring 2013

Inside this issue

Superintendent's Message	1
What's happening around the schools	2
Testing	3
Exchange Students	3
Early Intervention	4-5
Meet Crystal Leigh	5

Visit our website at www.monteschools.org



The graduating class of 2013 will receive their high school diplomas on June 9th. Commencement exercises will begin at 2:00 pm in the Bo Griffith Memorial Gymnasium. Family and community members will join together to celebrate our graduates and wish them success in life after high school.

The Class of 2013

2013 Class Motto

"Special times and special places, special friends together; the moments pass so quickly, but the memories last forever."



What's Happening...

High School Knowledge Bowl had another successful season this year. Over 60 students participated from grades 9 through 12. There are three local meets held in November, December and January, at which all the students competed. Two teams went to the regional meet in February and another team went to the state meet that was held in Arlington, WA on March 23. The team competed well, but was unable to make it to the semi-final round. State team members include captain Tyson Lovell, Tim St. Onge, Marcus Gettman, Cody Olsen, Nathan Nussbaum, Joseph Pellegrino and Christian Hamblin. Students compete to answer questions from the entire breadth of the high school curriculum. Student teams need a wide range of knowledge from math and science to literature and grammar. **Well done Knowledge Bowl Team!**



FFA students and teacher Jeff Wetzel, have joined forces with the Simpson Afterschool Program. The Afterschool program is currently in the construction/growing phase of a school garden. The High School shop class, FFA, and Mr. Wetzel have generously given the Afterschool students a portion of the greenhouse to get their garden started. The students have lettuce, beans, dill, carrots and many flowers that they'll transplant to their own garden beds when the weather allows. Their hope is to have student volunteers as well as adults that will maintain the garden during the summer and the ASP will work on it during the school year. The garden provides nourishment and learning opportunities that Simpson School and the ASP can participate in and look forward to creating in the present and for years to come.



Greenhouse Plant Sale...



Mr. Wetzel's FFA students have been hard at work bringing the green house to life! The school's greenhouse is open for some pre-Mother's Day sales! Items include hanging baskets, herbs and vegetables.

Sale Dates and Times:

May 3 - 3:30 - 5:00

May 4 - 9:00 - 4:00

May 6-8 - 9:00 - 5:00

School Testing has Begun...

MSP Testing has begun! All schools in the state are required to test third through eighth grade students utilizing the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP). Beacon's third grade students will be taking the test on May 7th and May 8th in the morning on both of these days. Students will be taking tests in reading and math. Simpson school began testing on April 25th. As these are required tests, it is important for students to be at school on time, well rested, and have eaten breakfast. The results of the tests are used in part to gauge the success of school programs. The individual students results are also available in the fall on the district website. Various levels of the MSP are given in third through eighth grades. Students will take tests in reading, math and writing. Beginning in the tenth grade, students will take the High School Proficiency Exam. Also with the HSPE, high school students will take a variety of end of course (EOC) examinations. Passing these standards based tests are required to graduate high school. Additional information is available on the district website or you may contact the schools directly.

Teacher Training Days ...

Teachers around the state are facing new challenges with the new teacher and principal evaluation project and common core state standards. Due to new state requirements, these changes will go into effect over the next few years. Montesano's teachers and administrators are on task to implement this new program. Training is a key component to make this transition go smoothly. The 2013-2014 school calendar is currently being reviewed by our teaching staff to determine when these training days will take place. The calendar will then be presented to the school board at the May meeting for final approval. The current draft posted on the district's website reflects the standard school calendar days, early release days and school holidays. The changes we might see will be the last day of school as training days may be added at the end of the school year.

Montesano Welcomes Exchange Students...

Montesano families have opened their homes to host foreign exchange students this school year. Dr. Lori Blanchard, area representative of the ASSE introduced the exchange students during a school district board meeting in April. The students shared some experiences they've had so far in Montesano and the United States. It was evident their experiences have been positive and they feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the Montesano community. Dr. Blanchard shared that our host families have given them a 'second family' and it's an experience that changes your life forever. The students are, Kirsi Savolainen from Finland, Ariadna Almenova from Khazakhstan, Gurgen Khasapetyan from Armenia, and Nini Kurdadze from Georgia.

Pictured below - back row are Steve Poler, Dick Stone, Dan Winter, Jack Dwyer and Mike Lawr. Front row: Exchange Students, Kirsi Savolainen, Ariadna Almenova, Gurgen Khasapetyan and Nini Kurdadze.



Early Childhood Intervention Programs...

The Montesano School District provides early intervention services beginning at birth up to the age of 5 for children who can be identified as having developmental delays or have a medical condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.

The free services assist your child in five developmental areas:

- **Physical** (ability to move, see and hear)
- **Cognitive** (ability to learn and understand)
- **Communication** (ability to understand language and express needs)
- **Social or emotional** (ability to play and relate with others)
- **Adaptive** (ability to dress, eat, and take care of oneself)

Staff providing services include early intervention specialists, physical therapists, speech therapists and occupational therapists.

Services for children from birth to third birthday are provided by home or childcare visitors, depending on where children spend the majority of their time.

Qualifying children aged 3 are serviced in a two day a week preschool class. Transportation is provided. Placement can occur throughout the school year.

Qualifying children aged 4 are serviced in either a two or four day a week preschool class, depending on needs. Transportation is provided. Placement can occur throughout the school year.

Appointments for screening can be made at any time during the school year.

If you have any concerns about your child or want to see how they are developing compared to typical children of the same age, please call Karen at 249.2114 to set up a screening.

Montesano School District believes in early intervention and is committed to doing what is best for all children and supporting families in meeting the needs of all students.

Student Services
302 N. Church St.
Montesano, WA 98563
Director: Shawn Brown



It's time for Preschool and Kindergarten Registration...

Preschool and kindergarten registration for the 2013-2014 school year is currently underway at Beacon. Beacon Elementary is also accepting registrations for new students in first through third grades during this open enrollment week. Registration for new students in grades four through six may be completed at Simpson Elementary. A legal birth certificate and a current immunization record are required at the time of registration for all students.

To be eligible for preschool, a student must be four years of age prior to September 1, 2013. Community preschool tuition is \$76 per month. A sliding fee scale is available. Limited ECEAP spaces are also available at no cost if income eligibility guidelines are met.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a student must be five years of age prior to September 1, 2013. Half-day kindergarten sessions are offered at no cost. The morning session is 8:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The afternoon session is 11:50 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Midday bus transportation is not available for kindergarten students. Full-day kindergarten is offered for an annual tuition of \$2,250. A monthly payment plan is available. The full-day kindergarten class is limited to 23 students.

If more students register for community preschool or full-day kindergarten than there are available spots, students will be selected by lottery. To be eligible for the lottery, all completed forms and information must be submitted by the end of the open enrollment period.

Registration may be completed at Beacon Elementary between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration forms may also be printed from our website at www.monteschools.org/beaconelementary.

Getting firm counts of the number of students who will be attending is an important part of planning for next year. The school can plan for staffing as well as order adequate supplies and materials. If you have any questions regarding registration, contact the Beacon Elementary office at 249-4528.



Meet Crystal Leigh, our new Assistant Principal for the junior/senior high school. Ms. Leigh will begin in her new position this summer. She is replacing Alec Pugh who has accepted the Principal position, due to Dr. Corley's retirement. Ms. Leigh comes to us from Tumwater and is looking forward to moving to Montesano and becoming a part of our community. Having worked for the New Market Skills Center for over 10 years, she is ready for the next step in her career. Her variety of experience as a teacher, administrator and vocational specialist will be a great asset to our school district. Welcome Crystal, to Montesano!

Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week!

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-May 10. I appreciate and want to thank all of our teaching staff who I believe to be the best of the best! I truly believe our staff are committed to providing the best quality education available and strive to make a difference in each and every student's lives each and every day.

Remember to thank a teacher!

Dan Winter