



206-252-7400

John Muir School
3301 South Horton St.
Seattle, WA 98144
Attendance Line

206-252-7350

Home Bulletin

September 18, 2009

From Awnie Thompson, Principal

Welcome to the new school year! We have had the best opening of school ever! Thank you to families for preparing your students and supporting them and us through the opening. It was wonderful to see our returning families and meet the new ones.

A burning question for many of our families is about the **Mandarin program** for grades K - 4. We have a guest teacher coming from China, she had an unexpected delay in receiving her Visa. We are expecting her any day and will be sure to share the information about her arrival and the beginning of the program the minute we hear.

A couple of important items about picking up children.

If you are walking to pick up your child, please meet her/him in the front hall by the office, outside, or by the gate on the south side of the playground. Kindergarten parents meet at the K door. The halls are too congested if everyone walks to the classrooms!

Please make and discuss after school arrangements with your child before school. When we have to call classrooms to tell children where to go after school we disrupt time that teachers need for teaching, announcements, and homework directions. Only call the office with after school instructions if it is a change of plan from what was discussed in the morning.

As always, call or come into the office if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Spectrum/APP Nominations

expect to receive nomination forms next week. Nominations for Advanced Learning Programs are available in the office and due back in our office by **Thursday, October 8.**

Anyone can nominate a student, but the parent portion must be signed by the parent/guardian. Each nomination must include the parent portion and a teacher input form which can be completed by this year's or last year's teacher.

If your student was nominated and tested previously but was not designated as a Spectrum or APP student, she/he can be nominated and tested again. As students mature, they are often more successful in the testing process.

Please ask at school if you have any questions about the Advanced Learning Programs or the nomination/testing process.

Important Dates

- Sept. 23, Back-to-School Night 6:30–8:00 pm, see flyer
- Sept. 30, Early Dismissal for students at **1:25 pm**
- Oct. 2, School pictures all day
- Oct. 2, Non-uniform, choice day
- Oct. 6, Powerful Schools classes begin at 3:45 pm
- Oct. 7, 1st *Walking Wednesday*
- Oct. 8, PTA Meeting 6:00–8:00 pm
- Oct. 8, Spectrum nomination forms are due in the office

The Powerful Learning Centers after school programs from Powerful Schools will be starting October 6 and run through December 7 Catalogs are available now, sign up right away! Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Fundraising Update

We will have three fall fundraising events. I will share a little information about them so you can know what to expect and can decide how you choose to support them.

Entertainment Books: Now through Sept. 28 - organized by the wonderful John Muir PTA . The funds go to the PTA to directly support activities at John Muir.

Fall Bookfair: Sept. 23 - 25 - organized by John Muir staff and PTA. Students and families can buy reasonably priced books and the funds go to the library to buy books.

Gifts and Gift Wrap Sale: Oct. 5 - 23 - organized by the grade 4 and 5 teachers. Students and families can purchase gifts and gift wrap and the funds are used to send all grade 4 and 5 students to Island-Wood, outdoor learning center.

October is International Walk to School Month!

Join kids from all over the world and walk to school every **Wednesday** in October! John Muir is launching our Green Feet project which encourages kids to walk and bike to school. It's great fun for kids to walk in groups. The walkers will be met at school by members of the Feet First team and **activities with their huge Mascot**. This is a growing movement to encourage and support active commuting among school children and families. It's fun, healthy and good for the environment! **Please help** organize a walking group of kids and parents from your neighborhood, especially groups from south of McClellan, contact Joe Zajonc (joezajonc@yahoo.com, 206-320-9615).



Student Data Sheets Due

Parents: Please be sure to complete and return all of the forms in the first day packet by **Friday, September 25**. The student data sheet is very important. We need to know how to reach you or another responsible adult in the event of an emergency. If you do not need to change any names, addresses, or numbers please write "No Changes" on the form and send it back, so we will know that our records are complete and accurate.



Will we know how to reach you if we have an emergency?

Free or Reduced Rate Lunch applications are due on **Wednesday , October 21!** After that date, all children without an updated application will pay full price.

PTA News



... We are people of all ages improving the education, safety, and health of children. Join us in building a better world for children.

Welcome all returning and new families! You should have received the PTA First Day Packet of info sent home with your child. We hope you had a chance to review our letter as it contains important information about the Muir PTA. Included in the packet were also a PTA membership form (this is a yearly membership) and a student directory form (all families will receive a free copy of the directory in October). Please be sure to review and turn into your child's teacher or the main office by Sept 30.

Are you signed up in our volunteer e-mail list yet? If not, please send your e-mail to volunteerjohnmuir@yahoo.com. You may also leave a voice mail at 206-252-7369 with any questions (checked weekly).

There is a lot of good information on the Washington State PTA web site: www.wastatepta.org

We highly encourage you to take some time to look at the site for any information of interest to you regarding events & meetings, programs, advocacy and resources.

Our monthly PTA meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm in the school library. All are welcome to participate and school age child care will be provided by Kids' Corner in the building.

On behalf of the PTA Board, we are looking forward to a wonderful school year and your continued support of all John Muir students, families and staff.

Lara Macklin
PTA President
mlmacklin@yahoo.com

TechStart is a free, yearlong after-school program for students in kindergarten through 8th grade from Technology Access Foundation (TAF). The focus of TechStart is providing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment to underserved children of color through project-based learning and advanced technology tools. The primary goals of TechStart are to increase competencies in core academic subjects and to promote college as a viable option—particularly in STEM fields—for each student. But our approach in the classroom goes well beyond that. All TechStart students can expect to develop essential life skills, like critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and presentation skills.

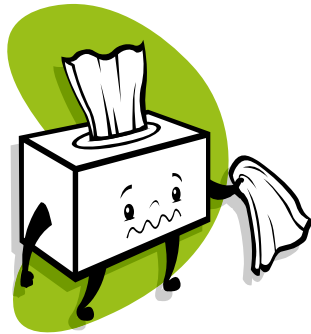
More information on TechStart: <http://techstart.techaccess.org>



Supply Request

“The flu” is in the news a lot these days. One of the best defenses is washing hands and surfaces that may have come in contact with germs and viruses. The best option is always soap and water but when classes are on a field trip or outside, soap and water may not be available. If you can send a package or two of hand wipes to your child’s classroom they will be used and appreciated.

The other item we can use is disinfecting wipes, like the *Clorox* wipes. We will use them to clean surfaces, especially if a child has gone home sick.



Assessment Update

You may have heard from your student that they have taken or will be taking a “test” on the computer. We have given a variety of “tests” or assessments over the years to help us see what our students know in core subjects (typically math and reading) at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. We use this information to guide our instruction - it tells us what we need to focus on more or less. We also use it to measure growth during the year so we can see if we are meeting our own expectation of each child making a year’s growth in their core subjects each year.

Our new assessment called MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) is replacing most of the reading and math assessments we have been using. While we have been giving assessments for years, MAP might seem more important to the students because they are taking it on the computer. Please feel free to talk to them about how we will use the information and encourage them to do their best to show what they know but not worry about it. If you have questions, please contact me, Mrs. McManus or your child’s teacher.

Back-to-School Night

John Muir Elementary School
Back to School Night and Book Fair
A Title I Event
Wednesday, September 23, 2009
6:30-8:00 pm

6:30-6:40 pm - Lunchroom - All staff, parents and students
Meet the John Muir staff and PTA board

6:45-7:15 pm - Parents visit classrooms and specialists

7:20-7:50 pm - Parents visit classrooms and specialists

8:00 pm Goodnight, thank you for coming!

Please note: We will not be serving dinner on this evening

***All students should accompany parents at all times!**

****Put these dates on your calendar!**

Parent/Teacher Conferences: November 23, 24, 25 (NO SCHOOL)