

PRINCIPAL NEWS, CHERRY CREST ELEMENTARY

JANUARY 2011

Don't forget.....Tonight there are opportunities you won't want to miss!

6:00 Kindergarten Orientation, Mrs. Hanson's Room

6:30 Dr. Cudeiro Parent Q & A/Discussion, Gym

7:30 MAP Assessment Presentation, Gym

Elementary Book Fair this Week! Come check it out in our library!

MAP Testing This Week and Next

Students in grades 3-5 will be taking the MAP reading assessment this week. The following week, all Cherry Crest students will take the MAP math assessment. If you are planning to attend tonight's PTSA meeting, I will be reviewing what the MAP assessment is all about with Susan Webster, Cherry Crest's Technology Curriculum Coach, starting at 7:30. If you are unable to attend tonight's meeting, you can find out more at www.nwea.org or check out Cherry Crest's website to find a Parent Toolkit <http://www.bsd405.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.bsd405.org/cherrycrest>

Mark your calendars!

March 11th has been designated our snow make-up day

Literacy Field Study

For parents in the Bellevue School District who are interested in providing feedback on the K-5 Literacy Adoption Materials the deadline is fast approaching. Feedback will be accepted until January 30th. Your feedback will be considered in the evaluation that will be done at the end of January and beginning of February by the K-5 Literacy Adoption Review Committee. We look forward to getting your comments and appreciate your feedback. Parents can follow this link to the feedback page on the BSD website. <http://www.bsd405.org/portals/0/curriculum/K-5literacy/feedback.htm>

Cherry Crest's Green Team Efforts Recognized by King County

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The school increased its recycling rate from 42 percent to 50 percent, a 16 percent increase.

Cherry Crest began to compost all food scraps during the winter trimester of 2009-10, with assistance from the City of Bellevue. The school's food scraps are being turned into usable compost for gardens.

- The school reduced the size of its outdoor garbage container as a result of improved waste reduction and recycling practices, and thus reduced the cost of garbage collection.
- During the 2008-09 school year, Cherry Crest began to recycle milk cartons and to place a school-wide emphasis on recycling and reuse practices.
- Outreach included the following:
 - Greenies team members were trained to help in the lunchroom during the two lunches to support custodial staff and to assist students with recycling.
 - Reminder stickers that read "This uses paper from trees" were placed near all printers, photocopy machines and paper towel dispensers.
 - A new recycling bulletin board with pictures, updates and reminders about the school's conservation practices.
 - An "Earth Day Challenge" in which a video was created of students demonstrating different ways that students and staff could "change one thing" to conserve resources and help the environment. Each class made a pledge poster with their commitments.

- The school collected bottle caps to send to Aveda for the company's bottle cap recycling program.
- Pesticide spraying was eliminated on school grounds. Students school-wide took part in several "weeding days" to offset the elimination of pesticide spraying at the school.
- Greenies team members made reuse paper bins for each classroom to use for paper that had only been used on one side.
- Staff was educated on and encouraged to use a paper-free method of sending grade reports home to parents each trimester.

Environmental Education

- Grade level teams invited outside speakers to present to their students regarding conservation practices.
- The school grounds were used as an environmental learning tool as students weeded, cleared debris and planted new seedlings in the fall and spring.
- International High School student Monet Springmeyer presented and taught Cherry Crest students about conservation practices. To encourage students to pack their lunches in reusable containers, Monet helped to kick off a new program called "Waste Free Wednesdays."
- Cherry Crest principal Michelle Carroll encouraged teachers, staff and community members to be role models for students in conserving natural resources. This was fostered through discussions in assemblies, during morning announcements and staff meetings, and in written communications with families.

Energy Conservation

- To raise awareness about conserving energy at school and at home, Green Team members shared "energy facts" each Monday during morning announcements and placed energy conservation labels near all light switches in the school.
- The Green Team formed an "Energy Patrol" which monitored lights, laptop carts and other energy outputs in the school with the goal of reducing energy use on a daily basis. In unoccupied rooms, team members turned off lights in classrooms rather than waiting for the auto-shutoff feature to turn them off.
- With the help of district leaders, school staff monitored the school's energy use and costs, and made changes to reduce energy use in the school based on this data.
- Cherry Crest encouraged a restriction in the use of personal electrical equipment such as space heaters, refrigerators and other appliances in classrooms and teacher offices.

New School Update

We are well on our way to getting a new school! The office staff and I recently visited Bellewood Elementary where we will be moving to for the 11-12 school year. This week, I am taking team leaders from each grade level to check out the classrooms and help me put together a map for where each class will be located and the district is sending out the "moving" directors to our staff meeting held on Wednesday, March 2nd. It's all starting to happen and following our meeting with the moving directors, we will have a better idea of when and how to get things packed up. Many of you have asked about our start time which has been rumored to be 8:00 a.m. At this time, this has not been confirmed but I suspect it will be sometime after spring break. As soon as I know, I'll let you know.

In addition to thinking about moving, I met with parent Christy Bear to discuss potential art projects to be showcased in our new building. She is going to meet with the architects and me to discuss our ideas (think fused glass tying into the curriculum at each grade level AND think cherry blossom tree).

Stay tuned for more information on our move and planned art projects which will be completed during our time at Bellewood.

