

Mustang Minute

Monday, May 2 – Friday, May 27

Monthly Family Newsletter

Mount Erie CARES

(Cooperation, Attitude, Respect, Effort, Safety)

What's Going On –

Student Voice. Our yearlong focus on student voice continues to develop. Teachers are currently teaching lessons on Spirit of Adventure and Fun and Excitement. What two better characteristics to focus on during our testing season? We're linking this work to our school theme of Aspiration as well. We'll celebrate these two themes at our last Aspiration Assembly on June 17. In looking forward to next year, I'm in the process of beginning Student Leader opportunities for Mount Erie kids. We'll start with an introductory message to all 4th and 5th grade classes and then follow that with an application process. From there, teachers and I will select the first set of School Leaders for next year. My plan is to rotate a new group of leaders each quarter. We'll include other leadership roles like: Junior Coaches, Hall Monitors, School Ambassadors.

Playground Update. A school team of parents and staff visited two Bellingham schools who use a playground support program/model called Playworks. It was a great visit and we learned a lot. Playworks helps to minimize playground conflicts and maximize student participation and excitement during recess. Mount Erie will move forward this summer with a two-day training for our recess team and then implement a new and better version of the playground for next year. The playground itself will not look substantially different, but the structure and organization will, along with new games for kids. We're excited about the possibilities. More to follow.

Testing is the word of the day. We have students in grades 3-6 taking their Smarter Balanced Assessment in English/Language Arts and Math. Testing will conclude on May 27th. All grades will follow our state mandated test with MAP assessments in reading and math. We use this data for important strategic decisions and monitoring growth for individual students over the year. It's a busy time, but students are handling it well. We have third grade students testing in classrooms for the first time and using their individual devices. Despite some glitches with internet connections, it's been great

to see and students are much more relaxed in the class setting. We'll be sharing results with parents in a variety of ways.

Monday, May 2

- Welcome to May!
- SBAC Testing

Tuesday, May 3

- SBAC Testing

Wednesday, May 4

- Late Start Wednesday – First bell rings 9:35 a.m. Second Bell 9:40
- Teacher Professional Learning Community Morning
- **National Bike and Walk to Work Day** – Storvik Event. School Ride 9 am at Storvik Park
- SBAC Testing

Thursday, May 5

- SBAC Testing

Friday, May 6

- School Spirit Friday – **Wear your Mustang shirts and colors!**
- Second Cup of Coffee – Parent Forum. 9:15 Staff Room
Topic: What worked for you this year as a parent? What needs improvement?
- Girl Scout Troop 3:30 – 5

Monday, May 9

- SBAC Testing
- Girl Scout Daisy Troop 4 – 5:30
- PTA Board Meeting 6-7 pm

Tuesday, May 10

- SBAC Testing
- Special Education Parent Meetings – District Board Room 1 – 2:30 pm and 6 – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 11

- Late Start Wednesday – First bell rings 9:35 a.m. Second Bell 9:40
- SBAC Testing

Thursday, May 12

- SBAC Testing
- Second Grade field trip Marine Boating Excursion – 9 -12

Friday, May 13

- School Spirit Friday – **Wear your Mustang shirts and colors!**

- Staff Meeting 8:20
- SBAC Testing
- Girl Scout Troop 3:30 – 5
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Monday, May 16

- SBAC Testing
- PTA General Membership Meeting
- Talent Show Tryouts 6:30 – 8 pm, School Gym, Permission slips required
- Girl Scout Troop 4 – 5:

Tuesday, May 17

- SBAC Testing
- Talent Show Tryouts 6:30 – 8 pm, School Gym, Permission slips required
- 6th Grade Sports Physicals – see below for details. Evening Event AMS

Wednesday, May 18

- Late Start Wednesday – First bell rings 9:35 a.m. Second Bell 9:40
- Teacher Professional Learning Community Morning
- SBAC Testing

Thursday, May 19

- SBAC Testing
- **Spring Concert** – Brodniak Hall 6:30 pm. Grades 2, 4, 6 and Mustang Singers

Friday, May 20

- School Spirit Friday – **Wear your Mustang shirts and colors!**

Monday, May 23

- Girl Scout Troop 4 – 5:

Tuesday, May 24

Wednesday, May 25

- Late Start Wednesday – First bell rings 9:35 a.m. Second Bell 9:40

Thursday, May 26

- Regional Principal's Meeting – Peter out for the day

Friday, May 27

- School Spirit Friday – **Wear your Mustang shirts and colors!**
- Half Day – Noon Dismissal. Beginning of the Memorial Weekend Holiday

Memorial Day Weekend – May 28 – 30 – No School

No School on Tuesday, May 31 – Snow Day

NEWS

SABA'S ANNUAL SPORTS PHYSICALS

For current 6th-11th grade student-athletes

Tuesday, May 17th

6-8 p.m.

Anacortes Middle School

Sponsored by **Seahawk Athletic Booster Association**-a parent-run organization supporting every AHS athletic program

In one night, finish two school sports requirements-getting your child a qualified sports physical good for the coming school year, and submitting required sports paperwork.

Note: This is for sports physicals only. Also, students with a current or past history of orthopedic or heart problems, diabetes, asthma or other serious medical problems cannot be examined at this event.

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE – ADJUSTED Smarter Balanced Assessment

Week	Grade Level	Test	Third Grade - In Classrooms
April 18-22	4th	Language Arts	
April 25-29*	6th	Language Arts	Language Arts
May 2-6	5th	Language Arts	
May 9-13	4th 5th	Math Science	
May 16-20	5th	Math	
May 23-27*	6th	Math	MATH

Twitter

I am now on twitter with a school account. You can follow the updates for free. Just download twitter to your smart phone and search for *Peter Donaldson@MTEprincipal*. It's fun and easy!

Early Dismissal

We're experiencing a real challenge with parent requests for early dismissal. We have parents coming into the school as late as 3:20 – 3:25 attempting to pull their children from class. This is the busiest time of the day for our school office and it's quite often almost impossible to locate a child at that time and get a message for dismissal to them. Our first request if you're coming at that time would be to wait until 3:30. If you have to have your child out prior to that time, we'd encourage all parents to send a written note at the beginning of the day that can be shared with a teacher. Hopefully, the student can be here waiting for you when you arrive. Thanks for your help here.

Attendance

Attendance is a critically important issue for our school and for students. Kids can't learn if they are not here. We track attendance data closely and will be sending regular communication home if students are missing school.. A few suggestions:

- Please let your teacher and the school principal about family vacations that occur during the school year
- Avoid vacation planning during our assessment windows. Those dates are shared on the district calendar
- If your child misses school, contact the office within 48 hours

This year Stacey and I committed to "Bee on time" every day. We are really trying to make change in our tardy numbers by encouraging all kids to be in school by the official start time of 9 a.m. We have had one day this year where we only had 3 students tardy. We have promised an all school reward if we can achieve our first goal to have no late students on a given day.

Front Door Access/Building Security

Please check in with the office when you visit the school. You'll be asked to scan your driver's license and get a visitor's badge from our new ID/Security system. It will only take a few minutes and after that you'll be able to enter your name at the kiosk station upon each visit. Thanks for your help keeping our kids safe.

Application Information for Free and Reduced Meals

In your back-to-school mailing you received an application for free and reduced-price meals. If you think that you might qualify for this program, you are encouraged to complete this form and return it the school office.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches for millions of children each school day.

Safe Car Drop Off/ Pick Up

Do's and Dont's

Do

- Do anticipate that it will take a few minutes to safely drop off/ pick up children in the designated area. Thank you for your patience.
- Do drop off and pick up your children only in the designated loop area in the front of the building.
- **Do pull all the way forward to drop off/pick up your children whenever possible.** This prevents traffic back-ups on 41st Street
- Do have your child exit your car on the curb side only, and if they need to cross potential traffic in the parking lot, teach them to cross only in the marked cross walks.
- Do drive without distraction to stay alert – Please refrain from texting or cell-phone talking when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Turn right ONLY when leaving the parking loop between 8:45 - 9:15 am and 3:25 - 3:50 pm

Do Not

- Do not drop off or pick up in the in the bus loop or in the staff and visitor parking area
- Do not drop off/ pick up your child on 41st Street
- Do not park your car in the loading zone – even for just a few minutes
- Do not drive around the inner circle passing cars waiting in line to pick up your child.
- Do not turn left out of the driving loop during pick up and drop off times. We're encouraging right turns to help with traffic flow.

PTA

If you have not already done so, please consider joining our incredible Parent Teacher Organization. Our school and your student receive countless benefits from this healthy, supportive relationship. Membership drives their efforts. Those efforts support programs, facility upgrades and special events for kids. The PTA is indispensable in our overall work to create an engaging, fun school for your children.

Communication

Please feel free to contact me at 503-1549 or pdonaldson@asd103.org if you need to have questions, share concerns or pass along praises for the school and/or staff.