

James Monroe News

James Monroe Elementary
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Tuesday of each month
Enrollment: K-5: 547
Principal:
Gerard Holzman
Office Staff:
Nikki Stevenson-Bonilla
Sue Cooper

Our mission as the James Monroe Elementary School community is to empower each student to become a resourceful, responsible, lifelong learner in a secure, positive learning environment where each person feels worthy and respected through the support of family, community, and staff.



Principal's Message from Mr. Holzman

As we move into the middle part of our school year, we are working hard to help each child be a successful learner. In our reading, we are taking time to teach each child the habits of a good reader. Those seven critical reading habits that proficient readers use are:

- Great readers see themselves as readers.
- Great readers make sense of text.
- Great readers use what they know.
- Great readers understand how stories work.
- Great readers read to learn.
- Great readers monitor and organize ideas and information.
- Great readers think critically about books.

How do these habits fit into your life as an adult reader? Teachers are also spending time at all grade levels working with smaller groups of students in providing guided reading that tailors instruction to meet a student's individual literacy need.

In math, teachers are making the time during student math activities and math fluency development to discuss with students what students are doing in an activity, what they are learning, and why various math practices will make them a stronger math learner. The common core emphasizes eight specific math practices that are taught alongside grade level concepts.

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Math fluency is an area that we ask our families to assist us with. Work with your children to practice their math facts at home. Chose a few numbers and quickly review them with your child each night. Start with addition when they are young, then subtraction, multiplication, and division. Fluency in quickly knowing what 6+5 equals or the product of 6x7 when they see it helps students to more accurately work through other math concepts.

I also THANK each of you for all you do to support student learning at James Monroe. I hope you find additional time to enjoy with your families during our extended Thanksgiving Break this week. At James Monroe, while helping your children to be responsible, resourceful, and respectful, we remain at our best when we are all PEOPLE LEARNING TOGETHER. Enjoy the upcoming Holiday seasons! GH

With this edition of the newsletter we welcome our new office manager, Mrs. Nikki Stevenson-Bonilla. Mrs. Stevenson-Bonilla joins us following the retirement of Mrs. Deborah Fox last month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS November 26th

12:15 p.m. Early Release Day

November 27 & 28 NO SCHOOL

December 2nd

Picture Retakes & Class Photos

December 5th, 1:30 pm

Learning Improvement Friday
75 Minute Early Release

December 5th, 6:30 pm

PTA Movie Night

December 12, 1:30 p.m.

Learning Improvement Friday
75 Minute Early Release

December 17th

Vision Screening

December 19, 1:30 p.m.

Learning Improvement Friday
75 Minute Early Release

December 22-January 2nd

NO SCHOOL
Winter Break

Learning Improvement Fridays

75 Minute Early Release Schedule:

Kindergarten-5th Grade:
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

12:15 p.m. Early Release Schedule:

Kindergarten-5th Grade:
8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

The first Friday of each month is School Spirit Day! On December 5, wear a **Weird T-shirt** or your eagle wear.

A small monthly glimpse into student learning:**News from Ms. Baer's 1st Grade classroom:**

Here in Room 111 we are working hard building our reading stamina, becoming successful readers, and independent thinkers/workers. My 1st grade students are more than amazing! We can now read silently the whole time for 16 minutes. We are writing with a beginning, middle, and end. We can also solve for missing parts of 10. WOW! 1st grade is going to be a year of many milestones for each and every student. I can't wait to see where they are at by the end of the year!

News from Mrs. Bean and the Kinder-Rabbits of Room 106:**The ABC's and 1*2*3's of Kindergarten**

Each and everyday the kindergartners of Room 106 are busy working on developing and mastering a wide range of literacy and mathematical skills and concepts. Acquisition of these skills is obtained in a variety of ways including direct instruction, guided practice and independent practice. Students are given the opportunity to practice emerging skills independently or with guidance from a teacher or volunteer during three daily activity periods called "Workshops". **ABC Workshop** activities center on reading readiness, letters and sounds, sight word acquisition, phonemic awareness and beginning reading and writing skills. **1*2*3 Workshop** focuses on building foundational math skills such as counting, comparing, measurement, sorting and classifying, shapes and addition and subtraction. **Kid's Choice Workshop** allows for the development of social skills along with literacy, math, fine motor and art skills during self-selected intentional play activities. All "Workshop" activities foster the growth of independence and self-confidence making the ABC's and 1*2*3's easy as can be!

News from Student Council:

The student council would like to thank all those who participated in our food drive. The amount of food donated is astounding and is helping a lot of people that need it. Please know that you can always donate to our food bank. The Food Bank is open to all who need it. If you would like to access it please call Ms. Debi Doyle, our counselor, at 425-385-7328 to arrange a convenient time. We are well stocked and waiting for your call.

With our sincere thanks,
James Monroe Student Council

WANTED!!!

Donations of gently used sweats for boys and girls (all sizes, but especially for smaller kids) for health room. If your student has borrowed clothes from the health room, please wash and return also as soon as possible.

Learning Assistance Program Services

Students at our school benefit from support through the Learning Assistance Program (LAP). The LAP program is designed to provide supplemental support to students who are identified as in need of additional assistance to meet Common Core state reading and math standards.

Your child may receive support through LAP throughout the year. We are continually monitoring our students' progress. If we identify that your child needs additional assistance with a skill or a concept, our math and reading specialist, Mrs. Linda Beyer, and highly skilled paraeducators may work with your child in his or her classroom following the teacher's instruction. Or your child might be pulled out of the classroom into a small group for a few minutes of review. LAP support is always a second dose of instruction in addition to what occurs in your child's classroom. The students receiving support vary from day to day depending upon what skill is being taught. Some students are also provided support in before and after school programs throughout the year.

Please don't hesitate to talk to your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child's learning or questions about instruction.

**A note from Debi Doyle, School Counselor:**

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago.

That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14). Last year, 15 million students tried computer science in one week. We were part of this last year and this year, we're joining students worldwide to reach 100 million students!

Our Hour of Code is a statement that James Monroe Elementary is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. Be sure to ask your student about this during Computer Science Education Week Dec. 8-14.

District News

Accepting Highly Capable nominations from Oct. 27 until Dec. 1, 2014 Find forms and more information on the [Highly Capable website](#). Nominations are for winter testing, which will take place in January 2015.

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106/**Title IX Officer** – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104/**504 Coordinator** – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063/**ADA Coordinator** – Kristine McDowell, kmcdowell@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250/Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201