

# The Echo Express

October 1, 2009

also available on the web at <http://pv.bethelsd.org/web/pvehome.html>

## DATES TO NOTE:

**PTA Fund-raiser**  
October 2 - October 16

**State Teacher  
Inservice Day**  
No School - October 9

**Learning Improvement  
Day**  
No School  
October 12

**Late Arrival**  
October 14  
PM Kindergarten Attends  
(No morning students)

**School Photos**  
October 16

**Conference Week**  
Book Fair  
October 19 - 23

**Trick or Trunk**  
October 30  
5:30 - 7:30pm  
Candy Drive  
October 5 - 30

**Veterans' Day**  
November 11  
No School

## From Mr. Rushing's Desk:

### Welcome Back -

A great big welcome back to all of our students and parents. The school year has started quite well and we are so happy to see everyone again. This year is going to be an exciting one as we embark on new adventures. As usual, the first of the year has brought a number of changes and challenges. The campus has changed dramatically and other than a few parking issues the changes have been for the better. We are glad to welcome Spanaway Lake HS staff and students and look forward to working together this school year. Classroom sizes have been a challenge, but as of this week we have been able to balance numbers and now are moving toward our curriculum goals. Just a couple of reminders to parents: We will be continuing our 100% identification check of adults when they pick-up students. Also students must have a note from their parent if they are being picked up by someone other than their parent. This also applies to changes in your child's regular after school schedule. Best wishes for a fantastic school year!

### Did you know? -

Do you know how levy monies are spent? Levy money is money that is designated for the operational costs of school districts. These items may include; teacher training & development, sports, music, drama, campus safety & security, technology, computers, insurance, bus transportation, utilities, custodial services, librarians, and much more. The simple truth is, the state does not pay all the costs of a basic education, which puts the burden on local taxpayers to fill the gap through local levy dollars.

### PTA Fundraiser -

This Friday, PTA will begin their fall fundraiser catalog sales. This fundraiser will run from October 2 - 16. Students are encouraged to fund-raise but are not required to do so. This fundraiser is a catalog sale by Kids Are First and the products will be delivered about six weeks after the end of the sale.

### State In-service & Learning Improvement Day -

Teachers state-wide will meet on October 9, in conferences, workshops or classes, to discuss methods or materials that will help to support student social and academic success in today's evolving and changing academic world. On Monday, October 12, Bethel Teachers will work together for the purpose of improving student learning and implementing education reform.

### Picture Day - October 16th

Mark your calendar for picture day on Friday, October 16. Individual students pictures will begin in the morning with preschool students and continue through the arrival of our afternoon kindergarten students. Our uniform policy will be adjusted for this event. Students will be allowed to wear non-uniform clothing but the basic policy standards will still apply. No athletic wear will be allowed. This includes team shirts, jerseys, sweatpants, tear-a-way pants, athletic shorts, stretch pants, etc. Blue jeans will be allowed as long as they are sized to fit. Please remember that if students wear special or dress shoes they need to have shoes that are appropriate for recess and PE to change into.

### Conference Week -

October 19 - 23 is conference time for students, parents and teachers. We are committed to reporting to parents, on a regular basis, regarding student performance. The formal report card process is one of the ways we communicate with you regarding how your child is doing at school. Mark your calendar and help us by making communication regarding your child's performance a two-way process. Research indicates that parental involvement is a key factor in student academic success. WASL results will be given to parents at conferences.



## **Trick or Trunk -**

This is the third year for this activity at Pioneer Valley, and is popular around the area as an alternative to door-to-door trick or treating, plus also as a fun fall activity. Parents are invited to register with PTA and decorate their vehicle "trunk" for the evening. The "front" bus parking lot will be allocated for these trunks and students will be able to trick or treat around the lot. Through the collection of candy during October, PTA will provide candy to these "trunks." To assure a successful Trick or Trunk event PTA is looking to collect 15,000 pieces of candy for the "trunks" and student activities that evening. Other events that evening will include games, costume and pumpkin contests, music, and refreshments. Everyone is invited and volunteers are welcome - contact PTA or leave a message in the office.

## **PTA News -**

This year PTA is sponsoring a number of new and popular events. September is over and already PTA has a lot of activities happening. Popcorn Fridays and School Store began on September 25 and PTA's fundraiser will begin on October 2. October will be very busy with many events; including student pictures, Book Fair during conference week and Trick or Trunk at the end of the month. Mark your calendars for the following activities:

Book Fair - October 19-23 in the library during conference week.

Trick or Trunk - October 30 on the playground and bus parking lot. This event will run from 5:30-7:30pm and will include harvest activities, including trick or treating from car trunks.

Candy Drive - October 5-30 in classrooms and office area. To assure a successful Trick or Trunk event PTA is looking to collect 15,000 pieces of candy for the "trunks" and student activities that evening.

## **Library Corner -**

Mrs. Miller invites parents to visit her web page to find the latest information on upcoming events as well as links to authors, book fair dates, Battle of the Books news and how to access one-to-one tutorial help from the Pierce County Public Library. Mrs. Miller is always happy to have library volunteers for shelving books, working with students, or assisting with sales for book fair. Check at the office or call her directly in the library at \*253.683.8995.

## **Band Program -**

Sixth grade band has been meeting for two weeks now and seems to be off to a great start. Students are getting back into a playing routine, learning new skills and are looking forward to their first concert in December. Fifth grade beginning band will start this week. We should have a solid, enthusiastic group of beginners this year. If your child is interested, it is not too late to enroll in this fun and valuable program. Questions can be answered by calling Mr. Westbrook at the school.

## **Orchestra Program -**

Orchestra is starting up again so get your slips turned into the front office soon! We are thrilled to welcome our new orchestra teacher - Mr. Avakyan. We will be sharing Mr. Avakyan with several other schools in the district. If your child is in 4th - 6th grade and interested in joining orchestra please send a note to the office.

## **Family Support -**

Veronica Kaipainen, school counselor, would like to invite Pioneer Valley families to be sure to check out the community bulletin board. This area has information, activities and events that might be of interest to both students and their parents. Also, if any of our families need assistance with uniform clothing, school supplies or support services please contact Mrs. Kaipainen, through the school office.

## **Lost and Found -**

Parents - please have your children check the lost and found in the front lobby. There are many coats, hats, lunch boxes, etc. that are unclaimed and these items will be donated to charity soon. Remember, the best defense for lost items is your student's name clearly marked in their school wear and on personal items.

## **Automated Phone System -**

The district uses its automated phone system for two purposes; to report daily student absences to parents/guardians and to communicate important information that we need to get home quickly. The automated phone system allows us to call every student's home within three hours. As a building, we plan to use this tool carefully, but this system is a great asset in parent communication.

## **Student absences -**

Just a reminder that when your student is ill or going to be gone for the day please be sure to telephone the office and report their absence. In addition, when your child returns a written note is required to excuse their absence. All absences are listed as "un-excused" until this written note is received. As a building we are required to account for building absences.

## **Preventative Measures Against Cold & Flu -**

To prevent others from being infected, a child with a cold or flu should not attend school. It is recommended that if your child has a fever, they are not to return to school until 24 hours after the fever breaks and returns to normal. Teach and practice good hand washing techniques throughout the school year and particularly during the cold and flu season. Children should wash their hands frequently, especially after coughing, sneezing, and blowing their nose. Instruct children to cover their mouth with their arm rather than their hand when they cough or sneeze. Remember that viruses are the cause of the common cold and flu. Preventative measures can reduce the extent and length of an illness making the cold and flu season more tolerable. If you have questions or concerns about your child's health, please contact your physician.