



Mountaineer "Home of the Miners"



Monte Cristo Elementary
1201 100th Street NE
Granite Falls, WA 98252

"The purpose of Monte Cristo Elementary is to inspire and encourage life-long learners and responsible citizens through quality instruction."

Kari Henderson-Burke

Phone: 360.691.7718 Fax: 360.691.2673

September 2008

Principal

Attendance Policy Notes:

With the start of the new year, we wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the attendance policy. Here are a few points that we feel need attention:

- If a student arrives late but before 9:00am, he/she will be marked tardy.
- If arrival is from 9:01am to 11:59 am he/she will be 1/2 day (morning).
- If he/she is dismissed anywhere from noon to 2:00pm, they are 1/2 day absent (afternoon)

All absences or tardies need either a note or parent escort into office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Toni Getchell in the front office.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to another school year! It has been with much anticipation that the Monte Cristo staff has planned for the arrival of the children. It seems that even the building itself has been awaiting early September when the kids return.

Now that school is back in full swing, I have some important information to share with you. Our WASL test results have come back, and while we met our AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress, a measure of academic progress as delineated in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation) participation goal, we did not meet our proficiency goal. Areas to be improved on are Mathematics for all students, and reading and Mathematics for Special Education and Low Income students.

This means that the staff at Monte Cristo has focused staff development time on establishing our fundamental purpose as a school and establishing learning goals based on WASL data and other measures of student progress. One of the many reasons this is such an incredible school is that the staff cares so much about students and learning; teachers are increasing collaborative planning, sharing expertise, and changing their instructional delivery methods so that our students achieve even more than before.

This also means that we need greater partnership with families. Can you volunteer an hour each week to work with a student on reading or Math facts? Will you commit to helping your child practice Math facts, reading, or writing for just ten minutes every evening? These small increments of time add up and can have a tremendous impact over the course of one school year.

One school year... and we are just beginning. With your help and this committed and intelligent staff, we are on our way to a phenomenal school year.

Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Kari Henderson-Burke
Principal

Important Dates:

09/03/2008 K-Orientation 6:00pm

09/05/2008 K - First Day

09/09/2008 Parent Group Mtg

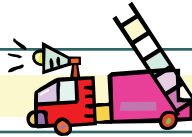
09/10/2008 Meet the New Superintendent

09/20/2008 MCE Open House

Report to the Community:

Report to the community - The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind Legislation, requires school districts to annually report on progress outlining very specific information and includes Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test results broken down by achievement levels, ethnic, gender, disability, English proficiency, Migrant and economically disadvantaged; two year individual WASL trends and State comparison; graduation rates; school goals and school identified for improvement. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has compiled all the data required by the ESEA law. Information on the Granite Falls School District can be found at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>. If you cannot access the report online, contact Kathy Grant, 360.691.7717 for a hard copy.





School Emergency or Weather Related Information

Each family should plan in advance so everyone knows what to do if a child arrives home early due to school emergency or inclement weather conditions; this plan should make note of alternate bus drops and who your child should call if school is dismissed early and you are not available. Make sure your child's school has current, up to date phone numbers for family members and emergency contacts.

School emergency information such as a lock down situation or bus accident will be sent to the media (radio and TV, see list below) for parents to have information on where and how to pick-up students. Inclement weather conditions can also cause school closure or a late start; that information is also released to all media outlets. However, limited bus routes may NOT be announced through the local media - light snowfall or unexpected ice may close roads WITHOUT radio/TV announcements. Changes to the school schedule due to adverse weather conditions are normally posted on the website and available for radio and TV stations by 5 am. Go to the link, www.schoolreport.org, located in the blue section next to the cloud on the left side of our homepage anytime of the day or night for the latest communication on school schedule changes (or for any school emergency information).

What you should do in an emergency situation?

We want our parents prepared for what you can do to help the school if we are in an emergency situation. Here is some basic information:

- During an emergency situation, this website, local radio (KIRO 710 AM, KOMO 1000 AM, KING 1090 AM), TV stations (KIRO CHANNEL 7, KOMO CHANNEL 4, KING CHANNEL 5), and the www.schoolreport.org will keep parents informed.
- Please listen to instructions through the media/web pages and act accordingly. **DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL** as the phones will be used for the emergency situation and staff members will be busy taking care of student needs. Messages to the media will be updated as needed; for instance, when and where you can pick up your child.
- If the school is in a lockdown, **NO ONE** (other than emergency response teams) is allowed to enter the school. This is for your child's safety. Please **DO NOT COME TO THE SCHOOL** but listen to the radio/TV for the time and place you can pick up your child.
- Once the emergency situation is over, any adult coming to the school to pick up a child(ren) **MUST HAVE IDENTIFICATION**. This is for your child's safety so we can track who has picked up the child. Students who normally walk home will be allowed to do so **ONLY AFTER THE POLICE HAVE DETERMINED THE AREA IS SAFE**. Under some conditions, students that normally walk may need to be picked up. Depending on the situation, High School students who drive may need parent permission to leave campus and drive home.
- **MAKE SURE EMERGENCY INFORMATION IS CURRENT FOR YOUR CHILD**. Whenever you move, change phone numbers or change emergency contact names contact the school immediately.

District sanctioned websites - With the age of technology developing at such a rapid pace with email, webpages, blogs and podcasting, the District wants to remind parents/guardians to be actively involved in your child's use of technology. The District takes every safe guard to filter sites not appropriate for students while at school. The following domains are the only websites sanctioned by the Granite Falls School District as official school district sites:

gfalls.wednet.edu , granitefalls.wa-k12.net, nwrdc.wa-k12.net, switfclassroom.com/gfms

Any other sites that may include blogs, webpages, podcasting or other forms of internet communication are not sanctioned by the Granite Falls School District and are not considered a school sponsored activity or learning tool.

The Granite Falls School District has a wide variety of information available on the District's website at www.gfalls.wednet.edu. Information includes reports required by the state, student handbooks, commonly requested forms, lunch menus, School Board minutes and much more. If you cannot access the District website, contact Kathy Grant at 360.691.7717 for hard copies of requested documents.



Welcome Back!

As we all know, getting back to school can also mean getting back into cold & flu season.

Please remember some of these basic guidelines from the **Health District** when it comes to your child and school.

Your child must stay at home or be sent home if:

- He/she is running a temperature of 100 degrees or higher.
- He/she is vomiting.
- He/she has a rash that has not been checked out by a Physician. (Dr. note required)



Please join the School Board of Directors at an open house to welcome new superintendent Karen Koschak, September 10, 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the High School commons. Parents, students, community members and local civic and business leaders are invited to stop by, introduce yourself and welcome Karen into the Granite Falls community.