



MESSENGER

November 2010
Volume 5, Issue 3

Working Together for Our Children

Marvista Elementary School PTSA
www.marvistapta.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Marvista Movie Night</i>	11/19
<i>Conferences</i>	11/22-11/24
<i>Thanksgiving Break/ No School</i>	11/22-11/26
<i>Seattle Kid's Marathon</i>	11/27
<i>Coffee Talk/Parent Enrichment</i>	12/1
<i>Math Listening Tour</i>	12/6
<i>Clothing Drive Ends</i>	12/10
<i>Friday Clubs End</i>	12/10
<i>PTSA Board Meeting</i>	12/14
<i>Variety Show</i>	1/28

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Marvista Families

I can hardly believe that we are already heading into the holiday season. Before you know it, we will be on our winter break. This time of the year also brings our best chance to provide all families a face-to-face update on their child's academic progress. We use our student-led conferences as the vehicle for this important communication. Students and teachers have been busy preparing students to share what they know and are able to do. Involving students in this process helps them take responsibility for their learning, provides them a chance to discuss their academic progress from their perspective (which is a really important perspective to hear from), and gives them a chance to answer questions that families might have about the learning experiences they are engaging in. Of course, your child's teacher will be present as a partner in the discussion.

One of the academic areas that your child will discuss with you is math. The district is taking a comprehensive look at its math program this year. The study includes teacher, principal, and parent focus groups; classroom observations; and teacher surveys. I encourage you to attend the 2nd of two parent input nights, scheduled for December 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the district's central office (ERAC). This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about the current math program, offer your suggestions about what

is working, and recommend ideas for consideration.

Math instruction is built around a fairly simple model: experience – formality – practice. The difficulty is balancing how much of each component to offer students for mastery of a given concept. For me, experience is the most important component for developing students' conceptual understanding of math concepts. This is the time that students work individually or, more often, in groups to make sense of a math idea by investigating, developing, and sharing strategies for solving math problems. During formality, students are provided direct instruction on the "standard" algorithm—the most common strategy used to solve a problem. These standard algorithms are usually the most efficient way to solve a certain type of problem. Strategies that students develop on their own during the experience phase (including coming up with the standard algorithm) are still honored, but all students are taught the standard algorithm, with the hope that they understand why the algorithm works through the time they spent understanding conceptually the math idea. The third component of our math instruction is practice. Students need ample opportunity to practice solving math problems to develop their automaticity and mastery of the concepts learned.

While I have your ear, I want to also take this opportunity to provide some information

on the district's upcoming levy. Voters in this district will have an opportunity to vote on this issue on February 8, 2011. The following is important information about the levy:

The levy provides nearly 25% of the district's operating budget. Levy dollars pay for basics not fully funded by the state, such as teachers, transportation and textbooks. About 80% of the levy pays for teachers and school support staff.

Our schools depend on the levy more than ever due to state funding cuts, which for the Highline School District amounted to \$14.5 million over the past three years. If the levy fails, the district will be forced to make dramatic cuts to staff and programs.

The levy is not a new tax; it renews a levy that will expire at the end of the year.

Voters are being asked to approve a fixed dollar amount; the school district does not collect more money if property values increase.

This is a mail-only election: Ballots will arrive in mailboxes about January 15; completed ballots must be postmarked on or before February 8.

I hope the next couple of months offers you time to be with family and friends to celebrate all that is important to you. Take time to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life.

Sincerely, Mike Fosberg



Mrs. Gardner-Young
3rd Grade



Ms. Pothier
4th Grade

Hospitality House Update

Hearty thanks to Kathleen Armstrong and the Weber family (Britt, Lucas and Madeline) for their recent time and generosity in providing shopping, preparation and set up for 10 dinners at Hospitality House.

Many families are "on the waiting list" for our next set of scheduled dates -- and we are happy to take more names!

Once we have the additional dates confirmed, I will get families set up with their specific dates.

Check the Hospitality House website for other ways to show support.

hospitalityhousesouthking.org

Contact Mardi Anderson
206.669.2197 or marditi-
lyoudrop@hotmail.com with
questions or to sign up to help
with future dinners.

TEACHER FEATURE

Where did you work before coming to Marvista?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: Many years ago I began my teaching by student teaching in a second grade classroom at Marvista! After that, I was hired as a sixth grade teacher at White Center Heights where I took two classes to Camp Waskowitz. I transferred back to Marvista twenty-one years ago and have taught second and third grade ever since!

Ms. Pothier: I had many jobs before coming to Marvista; I worked while going to school as a nanny, teacher aid, recess teacher, preschool teacher, and as a waitress and hostess at many restaurants. My employment right before coming to Marvista was as a teacher assistant at a private school in Burien.

What is your favorite thing about working at Marvista?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: My favorite thing about working at Marvista is the wonder and excitement each day brings! Every day is full of smiling, hard-working, motivated students who have their whole lives ahead of them! It is so exhilarating to be a part of that!

Ms. Pothier: It is hard to just say one thing I like about working at Marvista; it is such a wonderful school to work in! I really love getting to know the students and being a part of their growth. I also love the staff, because they are very

caring, sincere, and dedicated to serving our youth.

Tell us about something you're working on in your classroom--special projects or fieldtrips?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: We are writing five paragraph essays. The students write a thesis statement about something they believe strongly in and then they learn how to write about personal experiences that support their belief. It's very powerful.

Ms. Pothier: My students are currently working on writing and illustrating a narrative. I am very excited to have them share their stories during our class writing celebration next month! The students are also preparing for a field trip to Camp Waskowitz to learn about Pioneer life.

What do you like to do on the weekends?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: On the weekends I really enjoy watching my boys play college baseball at the University of Washington and the University of Nevada Reno. I also enjoy cooking and walking around Green Lake with my husband and two black labs.

Ms. Pothier: On the weekends I enjoy spending time with family, dancing, going out to dinner, and laying on the couch without feeling like there is something I should be doing!

What book are you reading right now?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: I'm not reading a book right now but love to read historical fiction. I've been spending my time reading books I've been given for our literacy instruction.

Ms. Pothier: I have been so busy that I have been reading the same book since March, Searching For God Knows What by Donald Miller.

Name 2 songs currently on your iPod.

Mrs. Gardner-Young: One of my favorite songs is "All Star" by Smash Mouth because it reminds me of when my boys were in Little League baseball and we were on our way to a big game. One of my other favorite songs is "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera.

Ms. Pothier: I actually have a zoon, not an iPod, and it is loaded with lots of songs. However, I have an iPhone. The two songs on it are "Hey Soul Sister" by Train (for my daughter who dances every time she hears it) and "Unforgettable" by Nat King Cole. I downloaded it to play for my brother - who is ill - because he loves it so much.

What is your favorite desert?

Mrs. Gardner-Young: My favorite desert is flourless chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream.

Ms. Pothier: Ice cream cake and chocolate mousse!

HOLIDAY GIVING...DRIVES MARVISTA

Food Drive

As the holidays approach, Community Outreach will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items. When

you are doing your grocery shopping, please consider adding a few extra items to help struggling families in our community. A bin will be in the school lobby

throughout the holiday season. Donations will also be accepted at the Marvista Movie Night (11/19).

Want to make a family event

Continued next page

HOLIDAY GIVING (CONTINUED)

of dropping donations off directly, or volunteering your time at our local food banks?

Highline Area Food Bank
18300 4th Ave South for exact location and hours call (206) 433-9900. There is also a donation bin at the Normandy Park QFC.

Des Moines Area Food Bank
22225 9th Ave South. For exact location and hours call (206) 878-2660. You may also support the food bank by dropping off your newspapers for RECYCLING on the North side of 216th, directly across from the Des Moines Post Office.

Contact *Mardi Anderson*
206.669.2197 or [marditi-](mailto:marditi-lyoudrop@hotmail.com)

lyoudrop@hotmail.com with questions.

Clothing Drive

The Highline School District has many homeless and needy families, some here at Marvista. We are collecting items for these families as part of our holiday giving. The items will go to our Marvista families and our district's homeless clothing depot. The most needed items are:

- * New coats in a variety of sizes especially for children 10 years to 18 years in age. (Please do not donate the big 'puffy' coats or parkas).
- * New shoes, child to teen.
- * New socks, child to teen.

* New T-shirts, long or short sleeved, contemporary designs, for boys and girls, pre-teen to teenage.

* Toys, games and books, all ages and gender.

* Donations and/or gift cards for groceries (Fred Meyers, Safeway, Target).

Wrap items individually and tag with gender, age and/or size, and one word item description i.e., boy, 12/L, coat. **The deadline is Friday, December 10 for the clothing drive.**

Donation bins are in the school lobby. *Questions? Louise Chandler-Hones, School Counselor at honeslc@hsd401.org*

Did you know a percent of what you spend with your Target credit card can go back to Marvista? Visit their website or ask at the store for details.

Marvista Auction

Sponsorships...Hot Item!

Do you know of a business that might be interested in a Heart & Soul Auction sponsorship? Sponsorship is a great way for businesses to get their names and information in front of an audience of community-minded, involved parents and citizens! Sponsorship packages vary and can be tailored to fit a company's needs. Sponsorships are also available for families and individuals! A big thank you to Ditchik Law Office, who recently joined the team as Heart & Soul Auction's Bid Card Sponsor (thank you, Mike and Kay!), to Cain Bolt & Gasket, who came on board as a Silent Auction and King Triton table sponsor (thank you Eric and Shelley!), and to Car Pros/Burien Nissan who recently joined as a Corporate Sponsor! Thank you to Car Pros/Burien Nissan owner, Nick Phillips--a former Marvista student! For information on sponsorship please contact Chris Sylvester at christinasylv@gmail.com or Ashley Fosberg at fosberg5@comcast.net.

AUCTION CONNECTION



Use your contacts--do you have a brother-in-law who works at an airline? An aunt who volunteers at the zoo? They may be happy to procure items for you. You never know until you ask!

Items can be dropped off in the school office--or, a volunteer can pick them up for you.

Here's a look at just a few items that Marvista families have already procured:

A "Panama Canal and the Wonders of Costa Rica" expedition from Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic.

A Pool Playing Party for up to 20 people at Belltown Billiards (includes pool and appetizers).

A "Save our Salmon" family immersion experience including managing eggs, feeding young salmon, and a salmon release party!

A "Heart & Soul of Georgetown" experience including dinner at Stellar Pizza, a visit to Totally Blown Glassworks, and Two Tartes Bakery!

Some items we need:

Tickets to sporting events, sporting good items and gift certificates.

Electronics like iPhones, a Flip video camera, TiVo, etc. (Does anyone have the ability to procure an Apple iPad?--we need one!).

Experiences in your favorite Seattle/Washington State towns and neighborhoods.

Vacation rental homes? Ski cabins? Favorite restaurants or activities away from the South end?

Creative ideas welcome!

Question? Contact any Auction committee member.
Go get 'em Marvista!

The Procurement Push is ON!

The procurement effort for the auction is in full swing--and your help is needed!

Tips for procurement:

Go to places you frequent (restaurants, sporting good stores...even gas stations and grocery stores!). Asking in person proves to be much more successful than a letter or an e-mail.

Bring a procurement form with you--fill it out in person with the donor or leave it with them.

Forms can be found at www.marvsitaptsa.org/auction or in the school office.

BULLETIN BOARD



George, our "Going Bananas" monkey, finds a new home! Congratulations Paolo Colello!

**October
I Got Caught
Grand Prize Winners**
Tsion Debebe-Mrs. Cox
Joselyn Kraves-Mrs. Pothier
Chase Cain-Mrs. Pothier
Kennedy Engelstad-Mrs. Schneeman
Peyton Gendreau-Mrs. Adlum



Lost & Found Before and After
 Thanks Marla McLaughlin for the garment rack!

Start Rehearsing Now
 the Marvista Variety Show date
 has been set:
Friday, January 28, 2011
 at the PAC. Auditions will be held
 right after winter break.

Movie Night is Friday, November 19th Wear your
 comfiest clothes and bring your softest pillow for
 Marvista Movie Night in the Multi-Purpose Room! En-
 tertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. Snacks, trivia and
 prizes will be provided. Be on the lookout for more
 information on this fun-tastic night coming home soon!

Coffee Talk is back! Join us on Wednesday, December 1st from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We will gather in
 the Library for a special presentation by Amy Lang: **BIRDS + BEES + KIDS@ YOUR Kids - it's time to
 start talking!** It's not about one "talk". It's about continuing the conversation with your kids. Come
 and learn what to say by when, compelling reasons to start the conversation early, and how to keep
 it going throughout your child's adolescence. Learn more at <http://www.BirdsAndBeesAndKids.com>.
 Coffee, treats and childcare will be provided. Adults only at the event.

Let's TOOT
Our Own Horn Marvistal

How many hours did 88
 Marvista volunteers work in
 the month of September?
**247!!! WOW! Marvista Vol-
 unteers are Awesome!**

Toot Toot!

The 2010-11 Marvista Yearbook Needs You The school year is off and running and the Year-
 book needs YOU to help us document the year in pictures! There are many ways that you can con-
 tribute to our annual keepsake. We welcome your photographs and input.

Send your images to our new e-mail address: yearbook@marvistaptsa.org. Please include class
 name and event in the subject line of your email for proper identification. You may also bring your
 photos on a CD to the front office marked "Attn: Yearbook". Be a part of documenting Marvista Ele-
 mentary history and preserving memories for our students! For more information - or to volunteer -
 please contact Yearbook Committee Co-Chairs, Theresa LaFrombois (tlafrombois@comcast.net) and
 Caitlin Gribble (cgribble4@comcast.net).

Please do not leave your vehicle when parked in the student drop off / pick up loop!

COMMUNITY CORNER



Cove Holiday Events
Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 4, 9 am–3 pm
Santa Party
Sunday, December 5, 1 am–3 pm
For more information visit npcove.org

Burien's Winterfest
Saturday, December 4
For information
Visit Discoverburien.com

Highline "Titan" Lacrosse Club
 New Parent Meeting December 13 @ 7 PM
 Normandy Park City Hall

Moshier
Holiday Pottery Sale
Saturday, December 4
10 AM–3:00 PM
206-988-3700

Math Madness

Resource Guide for Parents by Parents

There's an old saying, paraphrased as "if you want to get to Carnegie Hall, you need to *practice, practice, practice.*" The same can be said for math but it doesn't have to be drudgery or something to avoid. Here are some resources and suggestions for parents. Math is everywhere so open your eyes & mind and have fun.

For practice with basic addition and subtraction, play games like Junior Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders and others where you need to count in order to move. Instead of just counting 10 spaces, use the opportunity to say "you're on space 48. You rolled a 7. What space will you move to?" Backgammon, Yahtzee, Dominos, Battleship, Uno and many dice games are great for developing probability, mental addition and strategic thinking skills.

Websites with Math Practice Materials

mathfactcafe.com, superkids.com/aweb/tools/math, math-drills.com

Video recorded lessons

khanacademy.org

Websites with Math Games

coolmath-games.com, coolmath.com, coolmath4kids.com
mathplayground.com, mathcats.com, funbrain.com, PBSkids.org

A Website for Mom

themathmom.com

Washington State Mathematics K-12 Learning Standards

k12.wa.us/Mathematics/Standards.aspx

Sample Test Questions from California's State Test

csun.edu/~vcmth00m/practice.html, cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp

Math Focused Store in Seattle

Math 'n' Stuff mathnificent.com/store/

Every child has his/her own learning style. It's worth going to stores to browse through books and resources or peruse the internet to find effective learning tools for you and your child.

"Everybody needs some inspiration, everybody needs some motivation, mix it up with some imagination, and use your natural gifts."

– The Kinks

Mark your calendars for the last Math Listening Tour

What's working and what's not in math education for your child?

Our school and our district are working toward improving student achievement in math and they are asking for your input.

Get involved and give your feedback!

Monday, December 6th, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Highline Public Schools Central Office:

15675 Ambaum SW, Burien, WA 98166

Thanks to Stuart Jenner for the contributions to the Math Madness Parent Guide!!

? Math Madness Math Contest ?

? Figure it out!!! ?

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

1. I saw 2 cats and 1 dog outside. How many legs did I see?

2. I have 6 dog biscuits and 2 dogs. I want to give each dog the same amount of biscuits. How many biscuits will each dog get?

3rd – 4th Grade

1. There are 3 types of sundae toppings (chocolate chips, sprinkles and gummy worms). How many different types of sundaes are possible with the three different toppings? You may have 1, 2, or 3 toppings on your ice cream.

2. Kerri has to be at school by 8:30. It takes her 5 minutes to brush her teeth, 10 minutes to shower, 20 minutes to dry her hair, 10 minutes to eat breakfast and 25 minutes to walk to school. What time will she need to get up?

5th – 6th Grade

1. How many different types of pizza can you make with the following toppings: pepperoni, tomatoes, bacon, onions and green peppers?

2. Sam bought 8 ball caps, one for each of his eight friends, for \$8.95 each. The cashier charged him an additional \$12.07 in sales tax. He left the store with a measly \$6.28. How much money did Sam start with?



Bonus Question: I have a 5 scoop ice cream cone. Each of my 5 scoops is a different flavor of ice cream.

The five flavors are blueberry, chocolate, strawberry, vanilla and bubble gum.

Here are some clues to help you figure out what the flavors are from top to bottom:

1. The bottom flavor has 10 letters.
2. The vanilla scoop touches both the chocolate and the blueberry scoops.
3. Vanilla is below the chocolate scoop but above the bubble gum scoop.



**Submit correct answers to the Marvista office by December 6th
to be entered into a drawing for a Baskin Robbins Gift Card.**

First & Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Answer:

1.

2.

Bonus Problem: