



NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2019

SKYKOMISH ROCKETS PRESS

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

As we end this school year I am more than thrilled to share with you that on May 21, 2019, we received our final, six-year accreditation...

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



"IT IS NEVER
TOO LATE TO
BE WHAT YOU
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN."

- GEORGE
ELIOT



NOTES FROM ENGLISH CLASS

Our freshmen have transitioned from their work with Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, into a darker, more sinister territory as they have dived into their final unit, Create Your Own Dystopia...

FINISH READING ON PG. 3

NOTES FROM MRS. BARTOSEK

Smarter Balance Testing is well underway for students in grades 3-8 and for high school.

FINISH READING ON PG. 5





Dear Skykomish Community,

This will be our last newsletter for the school year and we will resume our newsletters in the fall. As we end this school year, I am more than thrilled to share with you that on May 21, 2019, we received our final, six-year accreditation from the Washington Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD). We could not have completed this work without the help of many stakeholders: Skykomish Board of Directors, faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members. Thank you!

Washington State school accreditation was developed to ensure that the state's schools were adequately preparing students for continued academic success and life beyond high school. It was intended to document programs of high quality throughout Washington's educational system. However, it is now open to all grade levels and is a voluntary, self-study process that is a research-based approach to school improvement.

The accreditation process supports a long-term vision for a performance-based educational system that aligns accreditation requirements to the continuous improvement of student learning, achievement, and growth. The process provides for collaboration and deep reflection by the school



community, for external review and validation of the school improvement plan, and the process that led to its development. It also provides a statement of accountability to the public.

As we begin the 2019-2020 academic year, we will continue to use this accreditation work and use our school improvement plan to monitor student achievement and progress towards meeting our school improvement goals. We will join this work with our ongoing implementation of *The Leader in Me*, a whole school improvement model that uses teaching practices to promote social and emotional learning for all students. *Leader in Me* takes an organizational approach to engage all members of the school community, including professional learning that focuses on helping teachers collaboratively create a school culture where students and adults practice social emotional learning through a leadership lens as part of their everyday school experience.

Finally, as we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year, we have been collaborating as a faculty to create a teaching schedule where we place teachers in their strengths to best serve our students. As we develop this new schedule, we have been thinking outside the box to combine grade levels differently and to better serve our middle school students by rotating them to some of our high school teachers. We are excited for this new approach, and as soon as we have finalized this schedule, we will share it with all stakeholders.

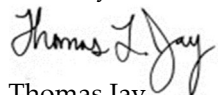
June 14th at 7:00PM will be a very special day in our community as we hold commencement exercises with our seniors, awarding diplomas to our three graduates of the Class of 2019. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

We will continue to work hard this summer and next year in improving in critical areas across our school: the improvement of student achievement outcomes and the enhancement of quality programming. Together, we will continue working to ensure the success of the District.

Thank you for your support of the Skykomish School District. My family and I are forever grateful to this community, to our Board of Directors, our faculty and staff, and our students, and I look forward to serving our District for another three years.

I wish you a restful and safe summer.

Sincerely,



Thomas Jay
Superintendent

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT


Skykomish School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Thomas Jay
Civil Rights Coordinator

Dan Bubar
Title IX Coordinator

Karen McEachern
Section 504 ADA Coordinator

105 6th Street North
Skykomish, WA 98288
360-677-2623



“There is
no story
that is not
true.”

- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

NOTES FROM ENGLISH CLASS

Tegan Shelton, High School English Teacher

As always, students are working diligently in English class.

Our freshmen have transitioned from their work with Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, into a darker, more sinister territory as they have dived into their final unit, Create Your Own Dystopia. As a part of this unit, students have decided on their own book to read, and they will be creating their own dystopias! As they do this, students will be answering the following essential questions: *What factors and situations combine to create dystopia? What happens to the individual vs. the group in a dystopia? What new problems does conformity create? and How important is it for people to have a choice?*

Our sophomores are working on their final unit, Native American Voices. In this unit, we are reading selections from *Moccasin Thunder*, edited by Lori Marie Carlson, *Stories for a Winter's Night*, edited by Maurice Kenny, and *Ceremony*, by Leslie Marmon Silko. They are answering essential questions like: *How do Native American values influence our society today?*

and *What can we learn from Native American literature and way of life?* To end this unit, students will be conducting a family history and personal legends project.

Our juniors are busy finishing their collaborative novella project, titled *Two Stories and Three Tails*. They have done a phenomenal job exhibiting synergy and bringing this project to close with revisions and collaborative discussion.

Our seniors are currently reading Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* for their final unit, Clash of Cultures and Colonialism. During this unit, students are exploring the following questions: *In what ways are human beings similar across cultures? What is the impact of European colonialism on the characters in the novel? and What is the impact of European colonialism on the people and cultures of Africa?* Students will be bringing this unit to a close with a group project and a argumentative essay focusing on the main character, Okonkwo.

WRAPPING THINGS UP

Sonia Bartosek, School Counselor

WOW; I can't believe there is less than a month left of school!

Smarter Balance Testing is well underway for students in grades 3-8 and for high school. The WA Comprehensive Assessment in Science has been completed for 5th and 11th grade students. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students are working hard at their end of school benchmark assessments in DIBELS and iReady. The last schoolwide assessment will be the iReady for the End of the Year Benchmark scores for students in grades 2-8 in June. We are hoping that the progress that has been made so far in both ELA and math continues to show on that benchmark as well. Growth is the key!

We have a few high school students who are short on credits. Sultan High School will be offering Credit Recovery again this year for students in Sultan for grades 10-12 from July 8th– August 1st. I will send out applications for credit recovery and will also have them outside the office. High school attendance appeals to the School Board will occur May 29th.

There are a lot of activities scheduled between now and the end of the school year, but there is still teaching and learning happening; the key is to not lose focus. Keep your goals in mind

and your grades up. High school students—keep working on those High School and Beyond Plans so we can schedule appropriate classes and you don't have a lot of things to do during the last week of school. Graduating seniors, make sure you have everything together and that you are ready for the next step in your life—applications, financial aid, setting up interviews, or whatever else your next step requires.

I hope you have a great remainder of the year with prom, the Museum of Flight, PreK-5 beach trip, PreK graduation, the field trip to Slide Waters, field day, and high school graduation. I challenge everyone who is of appropriate age to be working on your learner's permit or driver's license this summer. If you don't have a bank account, open one. Look for opportunities to learn about something new—read the trail signs, read a topographic map, go to a museum, take a walk and learn about the plants you see, cook dinner with the adults you live with, try your hand at learning a craft, play or watch a sport... the possibilities are endless. Keep up with formal educational activities as well this summer—keep your eyes open for opportunities to practice what you have learned “in the real world,” find new things that interest you, and read, read, READ!



FROM THE NURSE

Lynne Kelly, School Nurse

Over 50 million American have had allergies at some point in their lives. Some of us experience them more than others do. Because they are so common, the effects of allergies are often underrated. It is a small consolation to those of you blowing your nose as you read this, but seasonal allergies are actually a sign of a healthy immune system, in that your body attacks an influx of foreign bodies, whether it be hay, grass, pollen, cottonwood, or any of a thousand different environmental triggers. Why some of us react to certain things and some of us do not remains a mystery. While there is a tendency to run in families, allergies are not specifically passed from parent to child.

Signs and symptoms can change as you get older; age affects allergies! Early childhood after the age of two and early adulthood are the times more severe symptoms trouble us, but they can be a problem and even debilitating at any time.

Hormones have some relationship to allergies, but it is a mystery exactly how. Boys develop more allergies before puberty in early childhood, whereas girls are known to have more allergies during adolescence.

So what can we do to keep our students happy and healthy and ready to learn? Primarily, find out just what they are allergic to! Testing for allergens has come a long way and is no longer a drawn out torture of a hundred needlesticks spread out over many weeks. It may already be clear to you just what makes you miserable every Spring, but I caution you not to believe everything you think. Information really is power, and knowing your body means you can operate at your best.

For example, if you know cottonwood tree pollen triggers your immune system into high gear, you can choose to not have any in your yard and limit your exposure to them elsewhere, especially when there is a breeze. If you have multiple triggers,

it will improve your health a great deal to limit your time outdoors when that allergen is "on the wind." Symptoms can be diminished by showering every evening when you get home. Leaving your clothes by the door and not into the house except straight to the laundry bin will decrease your symptoms. Doctors recommend once you know what you are allergic to, it is in your best interest to start taking your allergy medicine before your symptoms begin. Staying indoors with windows closed at peak times will help you feel better. Wearing sunglasses and a hat will also be helpful in keeping allergens out of your eyes outdoors.



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Many students come to school with cold symptoms that turn out to be allergies. How can we tell the difference? Occasionally, you cannot. However, generally speaking, if there is a fever and the mucus has a color to it, that is most likely a cold. If the mucus is clear and there is no fever and the main complaint is itchy eyes and nose, that is likely an allergic reaction. Allergies can go on for many weeks, whereas colds should only last a few days. Seasonal allergies are rare in children under the age of two.

You are not destined to be miserable every spring! Tracking your symptoms every season will give you a lot of answers, and it will **really** impress your doctor and help them to help you.

Switching gears, I am excited to announce that after a year of training, I am finally qualified to raise a puppy for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB). It has been an interesting journey so far, and I am very much looking forward to getting “my” puppy in June, to keep and to train for the next 12-18 months. The puppy will be with me at school, usually under my desk at my feet, or in a crate in my office. If you’d like to learn more about GDB, their website can be found here: <https://www.guidedogs.com/meet-gdb/about-us/gdb-history>.

I grew up in a town next to where GDB have their headquarters in San Rafael, CA. I remember seeing them often and being curious about them and what exactly they did for their visually impaired owner. When I became a nurse, I occasionally had a patient with a guide dog and I made sure I took every opportunity to learn more about them. I have wanted to help raise a guide dog for as long as I can remember. I am so grateful for this wonderful community and for Superintendent, Thomas Jay for supporting this dream. Stay tuned for more information soon about greeting the puppy and being part of the adventure!

IMPORTANT SKYKOMISH SCHOOL BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy

School Board Director Position #5

The Skykomish School Board announces an opening for a School Board Director. The term of this appointment will be until the November 2019 general election. There will be a special 3-day candidate filing period August 7-9, 2019 for the November general election.

The Skykomish School Board will appoint this interim position.

Letters of interest should be sent to Board President John Robinson at jrobinson@skykomish.wednet.edu or dropped off at the School District Office by: Friday, June 7, 2019.

Board action on this position will be made at the June 12, 2019 Skykomish School Board Meeting.

School Board meetings are held on the second and last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Skykomish Community Center.

Applicants must be United States Citizens, registered voters, and must reside within the Skykomish School District boundaries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/01/19 – Prom

06/03/19 – Slide Waters Forms and
Money due

06/05/19 PreK-5th grade Edmonds
Beach field trip

06/07/19 – PreK graduation 10:00 am.
at the Community Center

06/12/19 – School Board Meeting at
the Community Center at
6:30 pm.

06/14/19 – End of Year Assebly at 8:00
am

Kindergarten Graduation at
12:00 pm

Senior Graduation at 7:00 pm

06/15/19 – Tunnel Days in Skykomish

06/17/19 – Slide Waters all school
field trip

06/18/19 – Field Day at the Ball Park

06/19/19 – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL –
11:30 am release

06/26/19 – School Board Meeting at
the Community Center at
6:30 pm

09/03/19 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Have a great summer!