



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER
2019

SKYKOMISH ROCKETS PRESS

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

Thank you for supporting our technology levy! We are so very grateful to our community!

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



"SYNERGY IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS TEN OR A HUNDRED OR EVEN A THOUSAND! IT'S THE PROFOUND RESULT WHEN TWO OR MORE RESPECTFUL HUMAN BEINGS DETERMINE TO GO BEYOND THEIR PRECONCEIVED IDEAS TO MEET A GREAT CHALLENGE."

- STEPHEN COVEY



REMLINGER FARMS

I was trying to remember how many times I have been on a field trip to Remlinger Farms. 35 years ago when I started at Skykomish School...

FINISH READING ON PG. 3

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

I love my job, which sometimes feels like being in an intersection with a whistle, directing traffic between the school, the community, and health issues...

FINISH READING ON PG. 4





Dear Skykomish Community,

Thank you for supporting our technology levy! We are so very grateful to our community!

With the passage of this levy we can continue to ensure that we continue to provide our students with a one-to-one laptop program, for which every student will continue to have access to their own personal computer device, providing teachers with updated instructional tools—teacher laptops and electronic white boards in each classroom, and professional development training for teachers on how to best implement technology into their instruction. This levy will also be used to replace our 15-year-old phone system, which we rely upon to make daily announcements, emergency communications, and communicating with parents, families, and the public.

As we move forward, we invite all of you to continue working with us as we build our strategic plan for the district. This winter, we will launch our Strategic Planning Committee. We will look to this group to provide feedback and input into our District's process of defining its strategy, direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue those

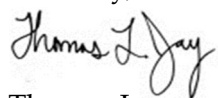


strategies. Through the development of this plan we will ensure that we are using our funding in a way that demonstrates our financial responsibility to our students, staff, and community. Thank you for supporting all our students.

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support and trust in Skykomish School District. Your approval of the technology levy will ensure that all Skykomish students receive an education that prepares them for success in college, career, and life.

Thank you for your continued support! As always if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to give me a call, 360-677-2623 ext. 101, or send me an email, tjay@skykomish.wednet.edu.

Sincerely,



Thomas Jay
Superintendent

REMLINGER FARMS

Ann Walker, Kindergarten



I was trying to remember how many times I have been on the field trip to Remlinger Farms. Thirty-five years ago when I started at Skykomish School we went to Craven Farms in Snohomish. After about 10 years we switch-

ed to Remlinger Farms. So I'm guessing it's been about 25 years give or take a few. It's been so long that I am recognized by some of the old-timers who work there. This year I was greeted by the gal who checks to see if we are wearing our passes, "I was wondering if I would see you this year," she said to me. "I was wondering the same about you," I replied, both of us recognizing that we are getting up in years.

We always have a lot of family members join us at Remlinger, but this year we outdid ourselves. We had a total of 75 people of which 35 were students. It was wonderful to see so many parents enjoying the farm activities with their children. There is a lot to see and do. The field trip was educational as

What is 1599?

Sonia Bartosek, School Counselor

Students must still take the Smarter Balanced Assessment for State and Federal Accountability purposes, however, E2SHB1599 offers additional options to meet graduation requirements from: <https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways>.

Newly enacted legislation (E2SHB1599) removes the explicit link of the state assessment plan to graduation replacing it with a set of pathway options for graduation.

Beginning with the class of 2020, students must meet at least one of these pathway options to graduate: [Note: these are a summary of SBE proposed rules (WAV) graduation pathway options.]

1. Smarter Balanced Assessments: Meet or exceed the graduation scores in the smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.)
2. Dual Credit: Earn at least one high school credit in ELA and at least one high school credit in math in dual credit courses (Running Start, College in the High School, and Career and Technical Education dual credit courses). Students do not have to pay fees or claim college credit to meet this pathway, but they must be eligible for college credit at the level of 100 or higher, by meeting the program criteria established by the local district and the applicable higher education entity.
3. AP/IB/Cambridge: For both ELA and math, earn a 3 or higher on certain Advanced Placement (AP) exams or an E on certain Cambridge International Baccalaureate (IB) exams or an E on certain Cambridge International exams, or pass the course with at least a C+.

well as fun. The farm has a pioneer home and outbuildings giving the children a peek into the lives of the early settlers. They were even able to grind corn into flour.

If you ask the students what the best part of the farm was, they will say it is a tie between the rides and the hay maze. For me, the best part was the train because I could sit down for a while.

We started our trip in the rain as we have for most of the last 25 years. After all, it was October. And again, as it has for the last 25 years, the weather cleared up in time for us to enjoy ourselves. It did rain while we were having our lunch in one of the covered shelters, but stopped when we were ready to see more of the farm. It was as if Mother Nature was watching out for the students of Skykomish.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Lynne Kelly, School RN

I love my job, which sometimes feels like being in an intersection with a whistle, directing traffic between the school, the community, and health issues all day. The best part is when I have good news to pass on!

Many of you may already be aware of a Secure Medicine Return Program sponsored by King County. Research by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that at least half the teens who get into drug abuse started out with medications obtained from home. Whether it is due to easy access or because kids believe prescriptions to be “safe” to experiment with, it is good practice to have nothing that could be enticing to your teenagers or their friends in your medicine cabinet.

Most seniors take more than five prescriptions and supplements a day. Safe Storage includes separating current pills from ones that are not used everyday. This decreases the risk of taking the wrong medicine as well as reducing access to others who might be interested in experimenting. Lastly, children under the age of six are frequent visitors to the ER every day, as a result of accidental poisoning related to prescriptions obtained

4. SAT/ACT: Meet or exceed the graduation scores set by SBE in the math and ELA portions of the SAT or ACT.

5. Transition Course: Pass a transition course in ELA and math (for example, a Bridge to College course, which is a senior course for students who earned a Level 2 on the SBA) which allows a student to place directly into a credit-bearing college level course. This pathway includes transition courses identified through local agreements between colleges and school districts.

6. Combination: Meet any combination of at least one ELA and one math option of those options listed in 1-5.

7. ASVAB: Meet standard on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) by scoring at least the minimum established by the military for eligibility to serve in a branch of the armed services.*

8. CTE Sequence: Complete a sequence of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses: two or more high school credits of CTE courses in a progression tailored to the student's goals and relevant to the postsecondary pathway(s) outlined in the student's High School and Beyond Plan. The sequence may be comprised of courses within the same CTE program area or courses within more than one CTE program area.*

*Note: The armed services test and the CTE course sequence are new graduation pathways; the other pathways have been alternative assessments. Students who pursue these pathways (ASVAB or CTE) do not need to meet English and math requirements separately. English and math content are embedded in both pathways—and both pathways meet the purpose of a high school diploma: to declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner (RCW 28A.230.090). A student who meets either ASVAB standard or the CTE pathway requirements has met the graduation pathway requirement.

from a family member. These are 100% preventable and for the past two and a half years, King County and some big pharmaceutical companies have stepped up to help reduce them.

Skykomish does not yet have a Rx disposal box, but both the library and the school nurse have pre-paid envelopes, which are free to anyone who would like to mail unwanted medicine to be properly disposed of. The Gold Bar Town Hall at 107 5th Street does have a box in their lobby, and anybody from any county is welcome to stop by during office hours and toss your pills safely away.

Incidental reminders:

- Many people feel that water bottles do not require serious cleaning, since they are only used for water. This is absolutely not true. Bacteria from the mouth end up back in the bottle and in the straw, and then multiply easily at indoor temperatures. Water bottles and drinking cups need to be sanitized, just as if they contained milk or juice. We are very happy to help with this at the school, or you can remind your child to bring their bottle home for cleaning every Wednesday and Friday. If this results in the water bottles being left home, just have your child ask kitchen staff or the nurse to run their water bottle through the sanitizer at school.
- The most important thing you can do to stay healthy throughout flu season is to get enough sleep and eat nutritional food!
- October and November is the time of year we do vision and hearing screenings. Please make sure if your child wears glasses that they have their glasses with them every day at school.

ME TO WE CLUB

DeLana Slone, Me to We Club Advisor



The middle school and high school *Me to We* club met and brainstormed ideas on how they can work together to serve their school community, and their local and global community. So far, we have seven amazing student leaders who will be working together to make a difference. The ideas that this group shared and explored were outstanding. We are so excited to put these ideas into action.

Students kicked off the month of November with a food drive to support our local Skykomish Food Bank. Boxes for donations were available at local businesses and throughout the school to collect non-perishable, not expired food items. The classroom who brought in the most non-perishable food items was Mrs. Walker's kindergarten class, and they will be celebrating with a pizza party in the future.

If you have any questions about this food drive, please contact program leader, DeLana Slone, at 360-677-2623 x 100. Thank you for supporting our food drive and the *Me to We* program!



E-SPORTS IN OUR SCHOOL

Benjamin Grider, Public Relations Specialist

What could E-sports do for our students?

Some students at Skykomish High School have thought about putting together an E-sports team. E-sports is another way of saying Electronic Sports. With E-sports, we can get our school and its students together to do something we all enjoy: video games. Not only could a team bring us together, but it could also make us some money, too.

E-sports require many skills from players. Some benefits of playing are helping to gain skills for college, such as strategy and critical thinking skills, expanded career opportunities, and improved social engagement and interaction. E-sports will also allow students to focus on strategy and critical thinking. An added benefit of this type of team is that it is played indoors, so if a child has allergies that are preventing them from playing an outdoor sport, or if there is a student with a disability that keeps them from a typical sport, this club could be amazing for them. E-sports is for anybody who has a passion for competitive gaming.

As technology becomes more advanced, video games have been pulling people from around the globe together. E-sports is something that is sure to get our students talking and meeting all different types of people. Later on in our students' lives, these strategies and critical thinking skills will come in handy during their future careers.

CHICAGO TEACHERS ON STRIKE

Cheyenne Beaston, Public Relations Specialist

On Friday, October 18, 2019, 3 million Chicago students were out of class for the second day in a row while their teachers were on strike. Their teachers demanded better working conditions, such as more support staff, smaller class sizes, more money for schools, and increased salaries.

"This strike may never end," says one witness. Teachers are enraged because they want to be able to teach, but they do not get paid enough to work. It isn't fair that teachers often have to pay for supplies with money from their own pockets, leaving them with less money to survive on.

This strike is not only for increased salaries, but it is also to try to secure money for the children. By next year, 2020, some schools will be forced to close. Strikes affect students' learning because they are forced to miss school while their teachers are out. This gives teachers less time to teach their subjects and also affects time given to study for state testing.

While this issue is taking place in Chicago, it is important for all of us, even here in Skykomish, to support our teachers to promote a fair working environment for the people who take care of our children. Hopefully this issue will be resolved soon and teachers and students can resume classes.



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH: CHEYANNA JONES & BRENDAN MARTIN

Bella Martin, Middle School Journalist



Our Middle School Employee of the Month for October is our librarian, Cheyanna Jones. Cheyanna was voted for Employee of the Month because she never needed to be reminded to do her job. Cheyanna is responsible and returns the books people check out. She also puts the books away nicely where they are supposed to be kept in our classroom library. Our employee of the month for November is our banker, Brendan Martin. He was voted employee of the month because he took responsibility for his job, didn't need to be reminded of what to do, and he helped everyone with their money.

In order to get to know our Employees of the Month, I decided to interview Cheyanna and Brendan.

Bella: Do you enjoy doing your job? Why?

Cheyanna: Yes! Because I like to organize and put things back where they go.

Brendan: Yes. I like to work on my math skills and pay people their money so that they are happy.

Bella: Was the job hard for you?

Cheyanna: It was easy.

Brendan: Sometimes.

Bella: Did you apply for the job just because of the Rocket Dollars?

Cheyanna: I don't really care about the Rocket Dollars, I care about the job.

Brendan: Yes and no. I enjoy the money that I make, but I also enjoy working with math.

Bella: What's your favorite color?

Cheyanna: Blue

Brendan: Black

Bella: What is your favorite animal and why?

Cheyanna: A wolf, because I love the color of their fur and how big they can become.

Brendan: A black jaguar, because they're feisty and also my favorite color.

Bella: What are your hobbies?

Cheyanna: I like to draw, and I enjoy making videos on my YouTube channel.

Brendan: Playing video games, sports, and eating.

Bella: What is your favorite food?


Cheyanna: Steak.

Brendan: Spaghetti.

Bella: What is your favorite television show?

Cheyanna: I love the show *Steven Universe*.

Brendan: Naruto.



“If my life is
going to
mean
anything, I
have to live
it myself.”

- Rick Riordan, *Percy
Jackson and the Lightning
Thief*

NOTES FROM ENGLISH CLASS

Tegan Shelton, High School English Teacher

We have had a busy year so far!

In conjunction with Disability Awareness month, our twelfth-grade students have just finished a novel unit for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Through this novel study, they learned about a teenager named Christopher who has autism, and they follow him on his journey to find out what happened to his neighbor's dog. Students studied questions like: *how does the community impact the growth of an individual? How can unstable family situations affect teens? and how do different types of environments affect the growth of individuals?*

Eleventh-grade students are participating in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). NaNoWriMo is a month where participants' goals are to reach 50,000 words in their current novels. We have set more achievable goals in our classroom, and students are having fun creating their characters and building their plots. When the month is over, we will look over what they have written and they will participate in peer revis-

ion workshops.

Tenth-graders are having fun working through Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* where they are exploring themes of intolerance & hysteria, lies & deceit, respect & reputation, and compassion & forgiveness. Students are also answering questions like: *how does a collective fear affect the group or individuals? Is hypocrisy a natural human flaw? and why and how do religion, politics, and persecution interact?*

Eighth-graders have moved on from *Amina's Voice* to a Greek Mythology unit where they will be reading *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. We have started this unit by gaining a basic understanding of Greek Mythology. Students have been tasked to create "Fakebook" profiles for the Olympian gods, and they are currently working on creating their own Greek monsters through a combined essay and art project. Through this project, students are learning how to write their own myths and having fun honing their creativity.

Non-discrimination 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/06/19 – PTSO Movie Night

“Elf” with blanket donation

5:00 – 8:00 pm

12/07/19 – Skykomish Tree Lighting

12/10/19 – PTSO Meeting at 3:00 in the
library

12/11/19 – School Board Meeting at
6:30 pm

12/19/19 – Holiday Program/PTSO

Raffle/Pie Sales at 6:00 pm

12/20 – Early Release at 11:30 am

Holiday Hoedown 5:30 – 8:30



Accelerated Reader Program

We have adopted the Accelerated Reader program as part of our comprehensive literacy program here at Skykomish School. The only way to become better at comprehending what we read is through practice. Reading is a skill, and it is up to us to practice to perfect that skill. The only way to get better at reading is to *read*.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a program used to motivate students to increase their reading and vocabulary comprehension and guide them to independent reading. AR is a popular reading program that is used in nearly 60,000 schools. There is a proven link between strong reading skills and academic success—great readers make great students.

Online Program

With the AR Online web-based program, our students are able to read books from our own library, their classroom library, the public library, home library, or book store. You may check for AR test availability at www.arbookfind.com.

How does AR work?

1. Each student is tested and assigned a reading range and point goal.
2. Students then choose an AR book based on their interest and reading level.
3. When they are finished reading the book, they are quizzed by the AR test to assess comprehension.
4. The student earns points for mastering the material on the test. They earn full points by answering all test questions correctly.

AR Rewards

The Skykomish Deli has graciously teamed up with us to begin their version of a “Book-It” Program. When students meet their point goals, they may turn in their reading logs to their teachers in exchange for a gift card to the deli that is good for a personal pan pizza and a small milkshake. See the chart below for point goals:

Grade	Point Goals
Kindergarten – 2 nd grade	20 points
3 rd grade – 5 th grade	40 points
6 th grade – 7 th grade	60 points
8 th grade	80 points
9 th grade – 12 th grade	100 points

How can I help my child?

1. Promote reading at home. Encourage them to read, read to them, let them see you reading, and encourage them to bring a book wherever they go.
2. Ask about the current book they are reading and their progress on their point goals. Congratulate them when they meet those goals.
3. Cheer on your child when they read.

Please contact your student’s teacher with any questions or concerns.

My Accelerated Reader Log

1st Quarter

Name:

[illegible]

Total AR Points for 1st Quarter: _____