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SKYKOMISH ROCKETS PRESS

EVERYONE SUCCEEDS. NO EXCEPTIONS. NO EXCUSES



Grades 4-12 took a field trip to the Chihuly Museum of Glass and the Seattle Space Needle on September 27th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

September 28, 2018

Dear Skykomish Community,

Welcome back to another school year! As we begin our 2018-2019 school year I am happy to report that we had a very successful summer in cooperation with BNSF to restore our school to its pristine state before cleanup operations. If you visit the school today you will find new lawn, the removal of monitoring wells, new curb, new sidewalk, and a refinished basement floor. We continue to partner with BNSF and their contractors to remediate final punch-list items, but we are very happy with the progress we have made on the restoration process. The Department of Ecology will continue to do long-term groundwater monitoring for the next several years. For more information about the cleanup please visit the following webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/y73aupkc>.

Our 2018-2019 academic year is shaping up to be a very exciting this year. As I reported last spring we were awarded a King County Best Starts grant for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to

Treatment and Services (SBIRT). SBIRT is an innovative model to help schools intervene early when substance use or mental health concerns may interfere with a student's ability to succeed. In applying for the grant one of the leadership interventions that King County approved for our school was *The Leader in Me*. *The Leader in Me* is a complete-school makeover model and process—developed in partnership with educators—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century to positively change unhealthy behaviors and maintain those changes. It is based on secular principles and practices of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness. Distinct in several ways, *The Leader in Me* starts from a powerful premise—every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader—which shapes the views of staff to value and develop the whole child. August 27-28, 2018 all faculty and staff received 7 *Habits* training.

Skykomish School District is now a *Leader in Me* school and throughout the 2018-2019 school year we will begin implementing the process. For additional information about the grant please visit the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/y8qb593d>. For additional information about *The Leader in Me* please visit their website:

<https://www.theleaderinme.org/>.

Skykomish School District works together with students, parents and the community to provide what they need to succeed, empower and inspire as contributing members of society. We will provide them with the tools and education they need to realize their full potential as life-long learners. We will create a safe, academic, and rigorous learning environment with high expectations that are tailored to our students, their skills and interests.

I look forward to serving you, our students, and our community for another year!

Sincerely,

Thomas Jay
Superintendent



www.facebook.com/skykomishsch ooldistrict

NOTES FROM ENGLISH CLASS

- Tegan Shelton, High School English



Above: Students take part in a quiz while catching vocabulary Pokémon around the school building.

What are the skills needed to teach others? How do people learn? These are questions that we have been answering in Ms. Shelton's English class. Throughout September, sophomores, juniors, and seniors took part in a project-based learning unit where they became teachers for one whole class period. Students chose from a variety of topics, ranging from how to play guitar to how to tie knots for macramé to how to write short stories. Students learned just how much work is put into the creation of lesson plans and assessments.

Scan the QR code below with your phone for a video of student-led lessons.



Our freshmen class has been reading various short stories while they learn about the elements of a story. As they read stories like Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper* and Ray Bradbury's *There Will Come Soft Rains*, students are examining the following questions: *What are the elements of story? What makes a story? Why do we tell stories? How do readers construct the main idea or theme of a story?*



SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Dan Bubar, Physical Education



In early September, I attended the Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions (OSPI) Safe Route to Schools Program. It was a two day course, focused on pedestrian and bicycle safety. The purpose of attending this course relates to our partnership with the Index School District, and a grant that we secured with them last year. During the 2018-19 school year, bicycles will be used in our PE classes for our middle school students. I am very excited about this opportunity, and more excited that we will be

sharing the bikes with Index in the upcoming years. Once we complete our grant requirements, the bikes can be used for other grade levels and some of our other clubs and programs. It's been nice to see a few of our students and parents biking to school with helmets in September, and I hope this trend continues.



WHAT DOES RESEARCH SAY ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

- Sonia Bartosek, Guidance Counselor
(From Attendance Works)



Attendance effects achievement.

Beginning in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school. Chronically absent students (missing 10% or 18 days in a school year) statistically have more difficulty reading and experience lower achievement.

Attendance is a habit.

Kids who miss school in early grades are more likely to be chronically absent in later years. Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child get and keep a job.

Attendance = graduation.

Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation. By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school. By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Chronic absenteeism is the strongest predictor of dropping out of high school.

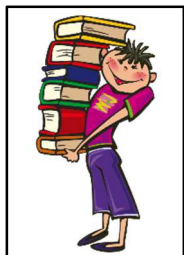
Attendance is a team effort!

Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher must slow down learning to help children catch up. All school staff are here to support students who are struggling with attendance.



HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS

- Sonia Bartosek, Guidance
Counselor



What is it?

Highly Capable Services are designed for students who perform or

show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or

environments. Successful candidates are often independent learners who thrive on progressively challenging opportunities, utilize advanced problem-solving, and enjoy in-depth study and presentation of the curriculum. Students qualifying for Highly Capable Services shall receive appropriate curriculum and instruction to meet their academic needs.

Who can be nominated?

Any students grades kindergarten through 12th grade who live in the Skykomish School District boundaries.

Who can nominate students?

Nominations for the Highly Capable Program may come from parents, teachers, school staff, students, and other community members.

How can I nominate a student?

Call or email for a nomination form:

Sonia Bartosek, School
Counselor (360) 677-2623 ext.
201 / or email:
sbartosek@skykomish.wednet.edu

What's next?

Once a referral is received, you will receive a nomination form to complete. In addition, the counselor will review current

standardized testing and grades. A Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES) will be provided to the student's teacher. This is a norm referenced rating scale which identifies intellectual ability, academic skills, creativity, leadership, and artistic talent in comparison to average students their age. An additional screener, the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary and Middle School Students (SAGES-2) will be given to K-8 students by the counselor.

Following the screening process, if a learning team determines it is possible the student may qualify for Highly Capable Services, the parent/guardian will be provided further information about the program. The parent/guardian then decides whether or not they want their child formally assessed and must provide written permission.



WELCOME TO MUSIC CLASS

- Jace Roland, Music Teacher



Hello Skykomish Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I am excited to start the year as a new addition to the teaching community. As the new K-12 music teacher, we are aiming to establish a comprehensive band program that allows every student a chance to become involved in the creation and exploration of music. It is my goal for all students to develop an appreciation and understanding for music and for them to discover how music can be an active part of everyone's life. Music has always been an ongoing passion of mine. As a recent graduate from Central Washington University, I am beyond excited to finally be able to share that passion with my students.

Since instrumental music is a recent addition to Skykomish, we are working hard to build the program from the ground up. To make music accessible to

everyone in the area, we are teaming up with Index School District to make sure all students who want to participate in music can do so. It is our goal to eventually combine the music programs of both schools to provide students with a more meaningful and comprehensive music education. We are even taking steps to address transportation and financial concerns to eliminate as many obstacles as possible. We want to make sure nothing stands in the way of a child wanting to explore music. To make this goal a reality, we are going to need everyone's help and involvement!

It's going to take the combined efforts of students, staff, parents, and community members to build a successful music program from the ground up. To do this, we must provide instruments and equipment for all students, build up the resources needed for meaningful musical opportunities, and collaborate throughout the year in planning and fundraising.

If you want to participate or assist in this process, there are many ways to do so! We are always in need of instruments and equipment. If you or someone you know has a musical instrument, please consider donating it to the school. We may be able to get it in working order for a student

in need! If you would like to participate as a volunteer in planning and organizing various events, I would like to eventually establish a parent group for the music program. Your contribution can be as large or small as you like and would have a meaningful impact on the lives of many students. If you have any questions or concerns related to music, please feel free to contact me at any time in person, by email, or by phone. I am always open to discussing individual students or details of the program. I look forward to meeting and collaborating with everyone in the future!

Go Rockets!

Jace Rowland, K-12 Music Teacher and Director of Bands Skykomish and Index School Districts
Phone: 541-519-1979, email: jrowland@skykomish.wednet.edu, or email: jrowland@index.k12.wa.us



SUMMER EXPEDITION: YELLOWSTONE

- Dallas Robinson, 2nd & 3rd
grade, Amanda Robinson,
Middle School



This past summer, five Skykomish high-school students and two teachers drove through five states and visited over a dozen attractions over the course of a week. Hannah Jay, Rebekah Jay, Rio Schwartz, Anthony Grider and Ben Grider traveled with Mr. and Mrs. Robinson to Yellowstone National Park for the Summer Expedition.

The Summer Expedition allows students to experience things they read about in books firsthand. The Expedition gives students the opportunity to travel to places outside of Skykomish. Students get to see new things, eat different kinds of food, and build relationships with their peers.

This year students saw a variety of different attractions. They witnessed the steamy geyser that is Old Faithful. They smelled the sulfur of Grand Prismatic. They viewed the beauty of the Grand Tetons. They climbed down caves in Craters of the Moon. The Summer Expedition allowed students to explore national

parks, hike trails, visit museums, try new food, and experience America.

The Summer Expedition, just like last year's Spring Expedition, is truly a learning experience. Students showcased their learning from the trip on Curriculum Night, where they presented to a packed room of staff, students, and community members. Student presentations included the following topics: Steampunk, Geysers, Host Springs, and Craters of the Moon. The student presentations were thoughtful and well-researched.

On behalf of everyone involved in our Summer Expedition, we would like to thank the School Board, Mr. Jay, Mrs. Daniels, our community, our parents, and Joe and Leslie Alexander for their support.

We look forward to where our next expedition takes us!



LADY ROCKETS VOLLEYBALL

- Becky Daly, Volleyball
Coach



Volleyball season is off to a good start for the Lady Rockets.

We've been practicing since late August. On Labor Day weekend the Lady Rockets organized a car wash at the Sky Deli to raise money for new uniforms. Our girls were very successful in raising money and had a great time doing it. Our first game was September 9th against Lopez Island. Our team displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship. Although this first game resulted in a loss, we have improved with each new game. The Lady Rockets want to thank you for your support.

Please check our volleyball schedule for the next home game.

Go rockets!



DENSITY EXPERIMENT

- Lanette Diaz, 4th & 5th Grade



The 4/5th grade class has been studying and learning the following science terms: matter, mass, volume and density. After understanding what each term means, they were able to figure out the density of random objects on a sink or float science experiment.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10/1/18 - Home volleyball game against Lummi at 5:00 pm
 10/8/18 - Away volleyball game against Sulamita at 4:00 pm
 10/10/18 - Teen Night for high school students at Fred Meyer
 School Board meeting at 6:30 pm
 10/11/18 - Railroad Safety presentation
 10/15/18 - Home volleyball game against Grace Academy at 6:00 pm
 10/16/18 - KCLS Presentation *Around the World in 30 Instruments* at
 1:00 pm Open to Public
 10/17/18 - School Photo Day
 Home volleyball game against Cedar Park at 6:00 pm
 10/19/18 - Away volleyball game against Arlington at 4:00 pm
 10/22/18 - Away volleyball game against Providence at 4:00 pm
 10/24/18 - School Board meeting at 6:30 pm
 10/25/18 - Tentative day for Remlinger Farm field trip
 10/31/18 - Trunk or Treat in Skykomish (details soon)

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

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Skykomish, WA 98288
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