

Roosevelt News

<http://roosevelt.bsnet.wednet.edu/>

676-6440

October 30th, 2009

Why Do We Have Early Release?

Sometimes parents ask:

"Why we have early release days?"

"What do the teachers do on early release days.?"

"Do you feel they are worthwhile?"

Early release days are provided by the district for teachers to receive training and/or to collaboratively plan units and lessons to help all students meet the new high standards that the state has adopted. The state also provides one day a year for teachers to learn and plan for instruction. We also provide early release days every November for teachers to meet with every parent.

This year, our teachers will be (and have been) working with the Arts Impact Program during early release days to enhance our ability to infuse art into the regular curriculum. We believe that students enjoy the arts and this will make the school experience at Roosevelt even more positive for our students. Research also indicates that infusing the arts (music, drama, visual arts) into the curriculum leads to higher academic achievement and helps schools to reach non-traditional students, who can sometimes be harder to reach.

Teachers will also be learning how to utilize the Balanced Math Program and about new district adopted math materials and reading assessments. 3 of the 10 early release days will be used for training for all teachers in the Bellingham School District and 7 of the days will be used for each school to plan specific in-service for the teachers at that school.

Teachers also are working one on one this year with Terri McKee, who is serving as a building arts coach. Ms. McKee and the classroom teachers are providing extra experiences for the students at each grade level. Each classroom teacher has also been assigned a local artist mentor for the year! Teachers collaborate in professional learning communities, too. The teachers in the BSD have numerous learning opportunities.

We believe that these opportunities are very worthwhile. This ongoing training helps keep all of our teachers at a high level of expertise. Thanks for your support for these early release days! (And a special thank you to the PTA for the treats that we eat during break time!)



November 3:

PTA meeting at 7:00.

November 5:

Picture Retakes

November 11:

No School. Veteran's Day.

November 18-25:

School released at 12:30 for conferences.

Picture Retakes

Donette Studio will be here Thursday, November 5, for picture retakes. If your student was not here on the original picture day, this is the opportunity for them to have their picture taken. ALSO, if you have a pre-schooler and would like to have their picture taken by Donette, be here at **9:00**. Prices are the same as for Roosevelt students.

Birthday Celebrations

We are encouraging healthy lifestyles for our students.

WSU offers classes on nutrition, we have an annual fun run, and we teach healthy habits as part of our curriculum. Therefore, we are discouraging sweet snacks for birthday celebrations in support of the district nutrition policy and in an attempt to model and teach healthy eating habits to our students. We would prefer that you send a book to school on your child's birthday for the teacher to read that day or to donate to the class. Please do not send cupcakes, etc.

Also, we will no longer allow homemade baked goods for birthday celebrations due to concerns about allergies and hepatitis. Each classroom may choose 2-3 days a year for special celebrations. If/when one is scheduled, your child's teacher will let you know. However, we will not have treats several times a week any more. Thanks for supporting your children and us as we attempt to look for more healthy options at school.

Artistic Parents

"Reflections" is a PTA sponsored National art contest. The theme for this year is "Beauty is...". Any parent interested in this project can contact Pam Beehee at 647-9070 or pambehee@yahoo.com

Bellingham School District

E-news

Did you know that you can sign up to receive E-news from the BSD? Go to: <http://www.bham.wednet.edu/> to get to the district website. At the website, click on "families" and you will see a link to sign up for the BSD E-news!

Artists' Corner

Educational research shows the following advantages to providing art opportunities in the schools.

Motivation to learn-Learning in the arts nurtures motivation, including active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence, and risk-taking, and also increases attendance and educational aspirations.

Effective social behavior-Studies of student learning in certain arts activities show student growth in self-confidence, self-control, self-identity, conflict resolution, collaboration, empathy, and social tolerance.

School environment-Studies show that the arts help to create the kind of learning environment that is conducive to teacher and student success by fostering teacher innovation, a positive professional culture, community engagement, increased student attendance and retention, effective instructional practice, and school identity.