



Monument Elementary Eagles

# Monument Noticias

“Soaring to New Heights”

**S**afety

**O**wnership

**A**cademic  
Achievement

**R**espect

January 2011

## A Message from the Principal

*Don Francis*

Happy New Year! One thing I love about January is the opportunity to set resolutions for the upcoming year. Some of those resolutions last longer than others, but one always seems to get stronger throughout the year: our passion for helping every student succeed. Our staff at Monument works hard to help success become a reality for each student. When we encounter challenges in this area, we find ways to overcome our roadblocks. The solutions often come in the form of finding ways to connect with our students and build trusting relationships with them. We have created some programs that assist us in these efforts.

Our “intervention”, or “exploratory” block (45 minutes daily) allows us to individualize instruction for our students, either providing extra help or enriching their current learning. Readiness to Learn provides tutoring in the library every morning before school. Our Language Arts and Math Academy programs provide a more challenging curriculum to students above grade level. This program allows us to stretch and challenge students that perhaps wouldn’t experience this in a regular classroom. These students also learn important leadership skills by developing and leading service projects in our community.

We believe in the importance of moving beyond the classroom to help students learn and succeed. Our field trips at each grade level provide for enriching opportunities for all of our students. Our leadership camp programs also give opportunities to our students to learn valuable skills and provide posi-

tive leadership in their homeroom classrooms. This year students have learned teamwork through camping and canoeing skills, have experienced a ropes course, and will go snowshoeing and backpacking to further their experience and leadership skills. Our music program provides enrichment for 120 students in band and choir. There are many other examples of programs and innovations teachers are using to help each student succeed.

We are appreciative of the support we currently receive through a voter approved levy to maintain these programs. These programs make a difference in the lives of our children. As the school district is running a replacement levy, we would hope that each parent would take the opportunity to vote. Levy ballots go out January 21<sup>st</sup>, with the last day to mail in ballots being February 8<sup>th</sup>. We feel privileged to have your child at our school each day and thank you for voting on the upcoming levy.



## 4th Grade Parents

Hello 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents! It is already that time of year to be thinking about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip! To get ready we will be having a parent meeting to talk about the Spaghetti Feed and to have parents sign-up to volunteer to help out. The meeting will be **Thursday, January 20, at 3:30 in the Library.**

Can’t wait to see you all there!

Special notes of Interest:

### January

♦ **January 10**

**PVC mtg @ 6:00**

♦ **January 13**

**Winter Learning Festival**

♦ **January 17**

**NO SCHOOL**

**Martin Luther King Day**

♦ **January 25**

**Student of the Month**

**@ 8:30 Library**

♦ **January 28**

**NO SCHOOL**

**Records Day**

### February

♦ **February 14**

**PVC mtg @ 6:00**

♦ **February 21**

**NO SCHOOL**

**Presidents’ Day**

♦ **February 22**

**Student of the Month**

**@ 8:30 Library**

## Math Challenge

### Problem of the Month:

The mean of 9 numbers is 27. If two of the numbers, 94 and 163, are taken out of the set of 9 numbers, what will be the mean of the remaining 7 numbers?

Solve this problem as a family and bring your strategies and solutions to Miss Bunch. Be one of the first ten families to correctly solve the puzzle and win a prize. Every correct solution will go into a drawing for a grand prize at the end of the year. (Remember to put the names of everyone who worked on the problem on your solution sheet.)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Quincy School District will notify local radio and TV stations of late start or school closures due to bad weather.

Please make sure your child is dressed warmly during the winter months.

### Clubs and Activities at Monument

#### **Math is Cool**

Monday's 3-4 PM

#### **Drama**

Tuesday's 3-4 PM

#### **Crafts**

Thursday's 3-4 PM

#### **Math and Science**

Friday's 3-4 PM

#### **Dance**

Tues/Thurs 3-4 PM

## 4th Grade Holiday Cheer



Ms Wright's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class performed a Readers' Theater on "How the Grinch Who Stole Christmas", to all the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to spread Holiday Cheer. From left – Angel, Jared, Marcus, Ben, Gabriela, Mallory, Silvia, Melanie, and Michael.

### From the Counselor

*Mrs. Stewart*

A few years ago, I was paying bills at the kitchen table. My son came into the room. I was so caught up in what I was doing that I didn't even notice him.

"Mom, can you help me with my algebra problem?" he asked. Without even thinking or looking at it, I passed the problem on to his Dad saying he was smarter at math than I was. My son told me "Never mind," and walked away.

Later that evening when it was time to say good night, he seemed a little put off. When I asked what was wrong, he responded, "Why are you always too busy to help me?"

His words hit me like a ton of bricks. I have been so busy with my job and my concerns that I was ignoring my son's concerns. He also had a job and it was school and his homework was like me paying my bills. I need help at times with my concerns and so does he.

Since that time, I started making an effort to spend some quality time with each of my boys each evening. We have always made it a priority to eat dinner together but I realized they needed one on one time too. For example, someone can do their homework at the kitchen table while I clean up the kitchen. Also, good conversation can happen while you are driving, especially to Wenatchee. Turn off the radio and have a chat. You all will benefit.