



Mount Baker Middle School
2310 E. Section Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

December 2018
Volume 1, Issue 3

Mount Baker Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL~MRS. JENNIFER HARLAN

Hello Grizzly Community!

With the holiday break only two weeks away, this time of year is busy with learning, activities, sports and concerts. To stay on top of the many dates, please look for the monthly newsletter, Bi-Weekly School at a Glance, school and district websites, and MB Facebook. We also send out phone calls to remind parents of important dates. Starting in December, we will start to send emails to active accounts to help with reminders as well. Please make sure all of your contact information is updated yearly and if you believe it might be outdated, please contact our front office for help.

Report cards were mailed home on November 30th. Please look for them and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. First semester ends January 25th, 2019.

The break would be a great time to sit down with your student and look through and organize their binder. Are they in need of school supplies? This is the time many of our students start to run out of supplies. If you need help with supplies, please contact our front office.

Enjoy the holiday break. I wish you and your family a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harlan

Principal MBMS



Mount Baker Events

December

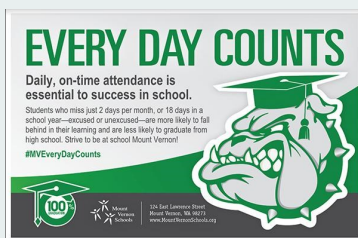
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| 12/6 | Winter Band Concert 7PM |
| 12/7 | 2 Hour Early Release |
| 12/10 | Concert Choir performs with HS |
| 12/11 | Winter Concert Choir 7PM |
| 12/14 | 2 Hour Early Release |
| 12/18 | Volleyball Game at LaVenture |
| 12/18 | Winter Orchestra Concert 7PM |
| December 19 – January 1 Winter Break | |
| 1/2 | Back to School |
| 1/8 | Volleyball Game at Anacortes |
| 1/10 | Volleyball Game at Conway |
| 1/11 | 2 Hour Early Release |

Winter Wonderland Family Night

On Dec 6th, at 6pm, at LaVenture Middle School, The Boys & Girls Club is hosting a family night for all Boys & Girls Club Families. This is a free event that will include dinner, fun family games, raffle prizes, a resource fair, and more. So come join us for an evening of fun! We will see you there.

Attendance

Attendance has a huge impact on your child's learning. Students who miss regularly are at risk of falling behind academically. Good attendance is important in school and at work. Please be sure your student attends regularly and is on time. Please schedule appointments and such after school whenever possible. If your child is ill or misses school, please send a note up-on return.



FROM OSPI: A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 25 percent less likely to ever enroll in college.

Character Challenge

Character Strong curriculum started on November 26th in Homecourts. Our new Monday schedule helps to support this important learning and we are excited to offer this research based social and emotional curriculum. **Don't forget to ask your student about the weekly Character Challenge!**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOMS

Reading and Writing at Home

Kirsten Jensen, Middle School ELA Coach

Research is clear that students need direct instruction in skills and strategies for reading and writing and significant time to practice their reading and writing work in class and at home. To learn and grow as a reader and writer, students need to read and write often at their independent level, and with books and topics of choice. ELA teachers use an instructional model called Reading and Writing Workshop or Balanced Literacy to support the growth of skilled, independent, lifelong readers and writers. Students are engaged in reading and writing texts that are narrative, informational, and opinion throughout the year. The most important features of a reading and writing workshop classroom include time for explicit teaching, and time to do the independent reading and writing work with choice and feedback.

How can families help support growing readers and writers at home?

Provide a **regular time and place to read every night** for 20-30 minutes. Talk to your child about their book choice and if it matches their interest and ability (students have been learning about making appropriate book choices with support from their teachers).

Read aloud to your children and encourage a love of reading and writing.

Ask your child...

- What are you reading now? Why did you choose it? Is it a good fit?
- What is your book about? What are you learning? Who are the characters?
- What do you plan to read next?
- What are you writing about in writing workshop? What are you working on as a writer?
- What did you learn during your mini-lesson today? What are you working on during independent reading or writing time?

Reach out to your child's ELA teacher for more information on how you can support your child's reading and writing growth this year.

"Reading is like breathing in, writing is like breathing out." Pam Allyn.

HEALTH ROOM

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- Keep an eye out for distracted pedestrians and drivers who may not be paying attention to you, especially when backing out of parking spaces. Shopping center parking lots are busier during the holidays.
- Buckle up every car ride, every time, whether it's the long trip to visit family or around the block to the mall.
- Turn off decorative lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Regularly check lights for exposed or frayed wires and loose connections.
- Keep candles and matches out of reach of small children. Lit candles should be at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and don't forget to blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep. Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight.
- Never leave the kitchen while you're cooking and always use oven mitts or potholders to carry hot pots and pans.
- Remind everyone to wash hands A LOT. The last thing you want is a winter cold going around your house. Don't hug or kiss every visitor that walks in the door. Teach kids it's best to cough or sneeze into their elbow not their hands. Tissues are best but not always available.
- Continue getting at least 8 hours of sleep every night to prevent illness and stay healthy.

Early Release Fridays for Teacher Professional Development

(2 hour early release for Mount Baker Middle School)

December 7, 14

January 11, 25

February 8, 22

March 8, 15

April 19, 26

May 17, 31

LIBRARY

With the long holiday break quickly approaching now is the time for middle school students to start thinking about what books they want to check out from the Cascade Commons Library. With over 100 new fiction and non-fiction books purchased over the past few months students have the best new releases available to check out and enjoy.

Remember, your student can access the Destiny Library catalog via the Mount Baker or district web page from any computer and peruse the collection of great books, read the first chapter of many titles, and even put books on hold using their student ID number.

Besides books, the Commons Library's home page offers students World Book Online, SIRS Discover, Culture Grams and other great data bases that not only have wonderful, age appropriate information for your student to read, but interactive games, timelines, maps, videos and online books free of charge to enjoy over the break. Why not visit the "Commons Media Center" online with your student to see all the great things we have to offer with just the click of a button.

Happy reading!

The Mount Vernon School District does not discriminate in employment, programs, or activities on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. We will take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities, including those specific to career and technical education programming. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent William Nutting, bnutting@mvsd320.org or the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Clint Carlton, Director of Special and Support Services, ccarlton@mvsd320.org, 124 E. Lawrence St., Mount Vernon, WA, (360) 428-6110.

AVID Update

In AVID, students are studying and practicing Public Speaking. They are also preparing for a Community Service Project by creating a presentation to bring to Kiwanis, Rotary, Parent Group, and Soroptomist, and neighboring businesses. AVID students are hoping that community will contribute labor and funds to enhance an outdoor activity area at Mount Baker. This will provide a much needed area for students during lunch and other down times as a healthy and cooperative play area.

Flowers for Sale!

Don't worry about stopping at the grocery store for flowers before the Winter Concert; the Parent Group has you covered! They will be selling flowers at the concert. \$3 for each rose. Please think ahead and bring some small bills to celebrate your student and their musical accomplishments.

