



# Muir Elementary News

April 20, 2018

## Principal News from Jeff DeGallier

Happy Friday! The weather report suggests we might actually have sunny days next week creating a bit of Spring Fever at JME. However, we have a tremendous amount of learning yet ahead and we need our students here everyday if they are to achieve the high expectations we have for them. Please be sure that students are here on time if they are not sick. It really does matter if your child misses school. Regular attendance is linked to current and future school success. It is difficult to make up missed lessons and in most subjects the learning builds on previous lessons, so missing school creates "holes in the learning." Attending everyday on time in elementary becomes a habit that typically carries over to secondary school. As parents you send a clear message that education is important when children know that you expect them to be in school unless sick. Please support your child's school attendance so they may reap the benefits of learning for years to come. Have a great weekend.

Jeff DeGallier

## KITE STEM CHALLENGE BEGINS APRIL 23RD

Lake Washington School District and John Muir Elementary are partnering with area groups to bring a three week STEM Challenge later this month. Join the KITE STEM Challenge!

April 23-May 13. Google and Kirkland Parks Foundation are proud to sponsor the KITE STEM Challenge. A competition via an app on students or parents mobile devices. This is an outside of school friendly competition. The Challenge encourages students to use their STEM knowledge outside of the classroom for a chance at cash payouts for their school and individual prizes for students.

LWSD Superintendent Dr. Traci Pierce says, "The KITE STEM Challenge is one of those enrichment opportunities which complements what's happening in the classroom - it's all working together towards our vision of every student future ready." Through the mobile app, students and parents will have the opportunity to answer STEM-related questions to earn entries towards winning up to \$3,000 for STEM programming at their school. The highest performing students in the competition will be awarded Pacific Science Center memberships and IMAX tickets. The challenge runs from April 23, 2018 through May 13, 2018, with an awards ceremony at Google Kirkland on May 23, 2018. You can learn more at <http://www.kitestem.org/> or watch this 3-minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGcYGpgWZxE>.

## Class Placement Policy and Procedures

An important responsibilities of the school is to assign students to classes for the next year. The goal of the JME Student Placement Policy and Procedures is to create balanced classes, according to established criteria, which create the optimal learning environment for all John Muir Elementary School students. Each classroom is a small community that must be representative of the diverse social, academic, physical needs and abilities of all students.

### Student Placement Criteria:

1. Maintain an equal distribution of academically high, average, and low students.
2. Maintain an equal distribution of students that have a positive influence on other students.
3. Maintain a balance of dependent and independent workers.
4. Maintain an equal balance of boys and girls.
5. Accommodate special academic and social needs.

A form for parents who choose to provide input to the placement team will be available on May 11 in our office and must be returned by June 1st for the input to be considered. It is not appropriate to give input directly to classroom teachers regarding next year's placement, and staff have been directed to refrain from discussions with parents regarding placement with a specific teacher.

## STEM NIGHTS

STEM Family Nights encourages parents and students to solve problems together, with the help of Boeing engineers and Natural Leader parents. Parents and students at John Muir Elementary learned how to design/engineer a landing device with simple everyday items: string, plastic, cup, and sticks. Students and families worked together to build their landing device. Watching families test their unique designs was cool.

The Washington Alliance for Better Schools (WABS), and Curiosity Machine have partnered with Boeing to sponsor the Family Stem Nights at Title I schools around the state.

The Curiosity Machine provide project ideas and inspiration videos. Check out their website at <https://www.curiositymachine.org/> for project ideas they you can do at home. These Family Stem Nights are hosted by each school's Natural Leaders and volunteers from Boeing.



## Natural Leaders

Natural Leaders are parent volunteers who serve as multi-cultural bridges between students, families, communities and schools. At John Muir, the Natural Leaders leading the Family Stem Nights are Yahaira Fisher and Lola Tiburcio.

Two Boeing engineers, Greena George and Kevin Rosenthal, volunteer their time to help host the event at Muir as well. They share their knowledge with students and families. "It's exciting to see what the students come up with; the Stem Nights provide a challenging, enjoyable learning experience", said Rosenthal.

The program allows students and families to connect, spend quality time together and engage in critical thinking and design. WABS provides each school with a budget to provide dinner each week during the 5 weeks, as well as all the materials to complete each engineering challenge.



## Thank You to the Lake Washington Schools Foundation!

We would like to thank the Lake Washington Schools Foundation for their generous grant, funding the Star Reading Assessment. This is a short reading comprehension test given to intermediate students three times a year. The reports generated, give students, teachers, and families an accurate idea of a child's independent and instructional reading level with multiple measures. We thank the foundation for their support of this valuable resource.



## Grade 3-5 SBA Testing Dates

Please mark the following dates on your calendar. It is essential that all students who are taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) attend school these days. See below for the schedule.

It is important that students are present in class on these testing days. It is very difficult to administer make-ups with this test as it requires staffing, facility, and technology adjustments. Learning time is lost as well during a make-up test. Thank you so much for rearranging appointments and non-emergencies.

Your help in making sure your child is attending school well-rested, healthy, and fed on these days is appreciated.

	ELA CAT	ELA PT	Math CAT	Math PT	Science
3rd Grade	5/8	5/10	5/31	6/1	N/A
4th Grade	5/1	5/3	5/22	5/24	N/A
5 Grade	5/15	5/17	6/5	6/7	5/11

## Calendar

SBA begins May 1st

Camp Orkila, May 2-4

Parents & Pastries, May 11. 8-8:50 am, Library

Staff Appreciation Week, May 14-18

## Quick Links

Muir: <http://muir.lwsd.org>

LWSD: [www.lwsd.org](http://www.lwsd.org)

PTSA: <http://muirptsa.ourschoolpages.com/Home>

Peachjar: [Community flyers](#)

## Contact Information

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