



Honeywell Instant Alert System for Parent Notification

The Mary Walker School District knows that keeping parents informed and involved helps to assure student safety and improve student success. With today's on-the-go lifestyles, it has become more difficult for schools to reach families quickly and effectively. This is why our district uses the Honeywell Instant Alert[®] for Schools.

Instant Alert for Schools is an essential tool for notification and communication. Within minutes of an emergency, school officials can use Instant Alert to deliver a single, clear message to the students' parents or guardians by telephone, cell phone, e-mail, pager or PDA. Instant Alert can also be used to notify you of a school closing due to inclement

weather. It's an equally effective way to keep you informed of everyday activities, such as event times and locations as well as schedule changes.

As parents, you do not need to do a thing to enroll in this service. All of the contact information you have already provided to the school will be used for sending you alerts. However, it is vital that the school has accurate and complete information to prevent miscommunication, so please contact the offices with any changes or updates.

If you would like more information on Honeywell Instant Alert, please visit the School Closure Information page of the district website at www.marywalker.org.

Mark Your Calendar

- December 22nd - December 31st ~ No School - Winter Break
 - January 17th ~ No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - January 24th ~ No School - Teacher Inservice
 - January 25th - End of 2nd Quarter
 - February 18th ~ No School *or* Snow Day Make-up
 - February 21st ~ No School - President's Day
 - March 18th ~ No School - Consortium Day
 - March 30th-31st ~ Early Release for Conferences
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News from Mrs. Henjum ~ K-8

Welcome Lindsey Ross

I would like to welcome our newest member of our Springdale Elementary team, Lindsey Ross. Lindsey is a graduate of Gonzaga University and is excited to work with our staff and students in grades K-5. Some of you may be aware that we have not had the expertise of a counselor for over two years. With the help of ESD101, Lindsey was brought to us through a grant that was awarded to ESD101. We are very excited to have her as part of our team. Lindsey will be starting social groups after the first of the year. This will help many of our students become strong responsible citizens. If you feel your child needs to see Lindsey, please contact her at 258-4750.

Lost and Found

Please write your child's name in their jackets, gloves, snow pants, etc. Our lost and found is overflowing and many of the items are only gently used. After each quarter, all clothes are given to families in need.

Warm Clothes

As the temperatures get colder, please make sure you are sending your child to school with the appropriate attire. We unfortunately do not have enough gloves, hats, etc. to

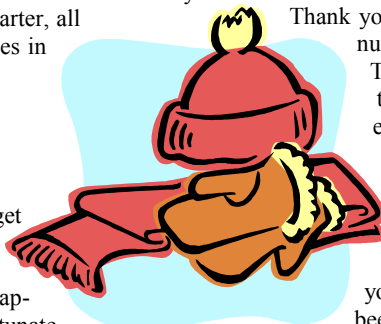
supply all of our students with the essentials for winter. Take the time to make sure your child is ready for school before they leave the house.

Walk-To-Intervention

Many of you may be hearing about our WTI (Walk-To-Intervention) program that takes place from 2:15-3:00 in the elementary grades. Our WTI time is to remediate and enrich students of all levels in the area of reading. All students in the elementary are included in a WTI group that focuses on their individual needs. There are twenty-six groups that are throughout the building; which is very impressive!!! We look forward to the progress that ALL students will make with an added 45 minutes of intentional instruction at their level.

Walk-A-Thon

Thank you to all who donated to our annual middle school Walk-A-Thon. The students raised about \$3900 to help fund field trips, sporting events and various school activities that happen throughout the school year. Thank you to everyone for making this fundraising opportunity a success for everyone. Without your support this would not have been possible.



Please visit the Mary Walker School District Website for the latest news, sports schedules, breakfast and lunch menus, and upcoming events. You can also now follow us on Facebook...just click on the "Like" button in the Headlines section of our webpage.

www.marywalker.org

Preparing for School Closures

Mary Walker School District's School Closure Procedure is in place to ensure the safety of students and staff in the event of an unexpected school closure. The plan includes several elements that are important for parents to be aware of.

First, an emergency plan for all students must be on file in the event that it is necessary to close school early. We would like to know where your child should go in case of an emergency or unexpected school closing. Causes of an emergency school closure may include an extended electrical outage, gas line leak, interruption of water or sewer service, or severe weather conditions.

Checking the safety of the students' route to school is especially important in winter because weather in Northeast Washington can be quite challenging! Parents need to know that they have a choice if they decide the weather, roads, bus stop, or walking conditions are unsafe for their students with consideration for the students' maturity level and clothing.

The expectation in the Mary Walker School District is to hold school every day that we can safely transport students and that our staff can safely get to work. However, parents are in the best position to make a judgment as to whether or not to send their children to school based on weather



conditions in their specific locale. If parents believe it is too cold or too dangerous for their children to walk, be driven, or drive to school, they certainly have the option to keep their children home.

When weather and road conditions are a concern, we gather information from different sources to decide if it is safe to transport our students to and from school. Our first concern is the safety of students and staff. Our school buses are well-equipped for winter conditions and our drivers are trained to drive in all kinds

of weather. We do know that it is safer for students to ride the bus than to drive themselves to school, so we encourage beginning drivers to take the bus when road conditions are poor.

If the decision is to close schools, that information is given to the media, so please tune in to your local TV or radio stations to be kept up to date. You will also be notified by telephone and email through the Honeywell Instant Alert system if you have provided accurate and current information to the schools.

Family Night Out

Family Night Out on October 7th was a great success. Thank you for showing your support by attending.

The school supply vouchers will be accepted throughout the year. We still have plenty of supplies so be sure to remind students to see Lisa Williams regarding their needs.

The Family Night Out in December focused on Family

Involvement. There was a photo booth set up for family portraits and also a craft activity to create a Christmas photo frame that each family was able to take home. Pictures were distributed to students at school the next week.

The next family night out is in February. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Family Night Out Dates (5:30-7:00 pm):

February 3 - Cultural Awareness: Tribal Dinner

April 14 - Earth Day Awareness: Potato Bar

May 5 - Talent Show: Cinco de Mayo Fiesta & Enchiladas

Just Read!

“I Don’t Have Any Homework.” Anybody who is or has ever tried parenting a teenager has heard those words. In the strict, literal sense of the definition of homework that may even be true. Your student may not have an assignment that is due the next day or week. But they do have homework. Let me explain.

Students who read for pleasure every day for 20 minutes outscore students who do not on state achievement tests and college entrance exams. The difference is significant enough for researchers to continue studying why this happens. It is a significant enough difference in scores to give students access to college scholarships. So they do have homework! Just read.

Reading a science fiction

novel, a video game cheat guide, a romance, an engine repair manual or anything else counts. Just read. It will make a long term difference in your child’s development and education.

Would you like to see even more stretch in your student’s growth and learning? Watch the news together and talk about world events. Read the newspaper and current events

online with your student. Discuss local and national political events. Help your student understand world events. Seeing printed text and ideas in all formats increases vocabulary, thinking, and citizenship.

So even when your student says they have no homework it is not true. They really do! And so do you! Read everyday!



Holiday Resource List

Rural Resources – www.ruralresources.org (energy, cash, food, housing & employment assistance)

956 S Main St
Colville, WA 99114
509-684-3932

Mission Outreach – www.4mission.org
1906 E Mission Ave
Spokane, WA 99202

They provide assistance with clothing, blankets, holiday gifts, school supplies etc. They have an emphasis on infant care and provide folic acid, car seats, formula and diapers. They are open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.



Salvation Army – www.salvationarmyspokane.org (rent, clothing, furniture, Life Skills classes, food)

204 E Indiana Ave
Spokane, WA 99207
509-325-6821

Loon Lake Food Pantry – 509-233-8450 or 509-258-9356

Hunters Food Bank – 509-722-3568

Chewelah Food Bank – 509-935-6204

Valley Food Bank – Open from 12-3 pm on Mondays. Located at the Grange at 3091 Waitts Lake Road in Valley.

Breakfast is Served



Parents and students may not be aware that all students in the Mary Walker School District are eligible to receive free breakfast during this school year. There are no income requirements, nor is it necessary to complete any paperwork for your child to begin eating free, nutritious breakfasts in the morning when they get to school.

In addition, the district has received a Breakfast Awareness Grant that has allowed us to purchase the equipment to serve high school students breakfast in the High School Square. This is scheduled to begin January 3, 2011, when students return from Winter Break.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Food Service Supervisor, Shauna Oakes, at 258-4731.

High School Students Attend 27th Annual INTAF

October 22nd and 23rd nine Mary Walker High School Theatre students and two chaperones traveled to Mount Spokane High where they attended the 27th annual INTAF Festival (Inland Northwest Theatre Arts Festival). The students who attended were: Spencer Lind, Victoria Smartt, Chelsey Stump, Donny Richardson, Alex Paul, Alicea Morrell, Cassie Howder, Sam Cashion, and Mike Anderson. The chaperones were Gail Shelton and Lis Motley.



At the end of the workshops, students gathered in the Mt. Spokane auditorium where they were treated to a short comedic play and an improv performance from Spokane's own Blue Door Comedy Theatre. Former Mary Walker graduate, Thomas Axtell was one of the Blue Door performers.

During the two-day festival, students participated in various workshops such as: stage combat, stage fighting, directing, tap dancing, sword fighting, fencing, warm-up activities, voice projection,

improv, etc... One Mary Walker student, Victoria Smartt memorized and performed a monologue where she received feed back from an actual Broadway actress.

INTAF students were treated to a dance at the end of the two-day festival. Saturday night, October 23rd, nine very tired students and their chaperones returned to Springdale full of knowledge and a renewed view of the performing arts.

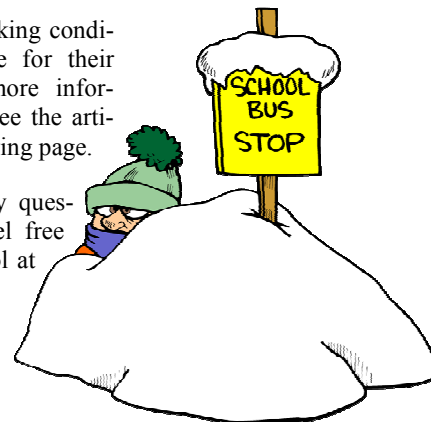
Weather Related Late Start Information

In the event that the Mary Walker School District has a two hour late start and the Valley School starts on time, students may ride their regular bus to Springdale. They will then be supervised in our cafeteria until school starts.

Parents need to know that they have a choice if they decide the weather, roads,

bus stop, or walking conditions are unsafe for their students. For more information, please see the article on the following page.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school at 258-4534.



STUDENT RECORDS, DIRECTORY INFORMATION, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND VIDEOS

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, it is the policy of the Mary Walker School District No. 207 to annually notify parents, guardians, or adult-age students (18 years of age or older) that they have the right of access to student records, to re-request corrections of or amendments to such records, and to appeal any refusal of a request to change or amend such records.

Student records will not be released without the consent of the student's parent/guardian or that of the adult-age student, except as provided by law or District policy. Specifically, directory information, as defined by District Policy No. 3231, and requests for records from schools where students have transferred will be released by the District without written consent.

An example of a non-profit entity that requests such information is the United States military. Photographs may occasionally be taken of students for use in the news media or school district publications, as well. **If you do not want any information released** to any and all such non-profit organizations, or **if you do not wish to have your child appear in a photograph, videotape, film or slide, please notify your child's school in writing.** This written request can be placed on file at any time during the school year. Inquiries regarding compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy act may be directed to either:

Jerry Dyar
Mary Walker High School
PO Box 159
Springdale WA 99173
Ph: (509) 258-4717

~ or ~

Cheryl Henjum
Springdale Elementary/Middle School
PO Box 159
Springdale WA 99173
Ph: (509) 258-4726

I (check only one box please) **do** **do not** want directory information on my student released.

Printed name of student(s): _____

_____ Date: _____

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Please sign and return this form if you have not previously done so this school year.

News from the Superintendent

In two years I will have to send my daughter off to college. We will move her into a dorm. I will connect all of her cables for computer, printer, and internet access. Then, will come the awkward moments before we say goodbye and leave. I will give her fatherly advice/wisdom. Then give her the nine words:

Go to Class
Do your homework
Do what's right

Not really awe-inspiring, but I have already been practicing and it is what I have preached forever.

You may be saying you are two years away and you are already thinking about this and what you will say and do. No, actually, it has been longer than two years. The conversations about college, the college life, and educational opportunities have been going on for years. The real focus of college visits, inquiries, and contacts has been more recent. Two years in a kid's life, as we all know, goes very quickly. I need to make sure that everything is taken care of so she can be all ready to go to class. Do her homework. Do what's right.

There is a lot a parent needs to learn about to get their student into a post-secondary institution. I am finding out that just because I am in education doesn't mean I know anything about getting my student into a post secondary institution. I have made phone calls and made connections with "experts" to help me along the way. And that is the message that I would give to you. Call us. Talk to our counselor, principal, and their teachers and find out everything you can about how to get your student into post-secondary education. It is never too early. One of the ways we can help is to offer college awareness and readiness nights in January and February. This would be an opportunity for you to meet with and talk to somebody who works with students daily on college readiness. Get started today on post secondary preparation for your student. The times are listed below for the college awareness nights.

College/Post Secondary Awareness Nights are from 6pm to 8pm in the High Library on the following dates:

Jan. 16th	Feb. 1st
Feb. 15th	Feb. 22nd