



The Pony Express

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Message from the President

Dear Mt Erie Families -

I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and winter break. We're almost halfway through the school year and Mt. Erie PTA has many things planned for 2009!

It has been a great first half of the school year. Remember, any involvement in our school at any level is welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact any PTA Board member should you decide to become in-

involved in PTA or if you have any questions. It's not too late to join PTA- pick up a membership form at the front office if you haven't joined yet this school year.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions! Happy New Year!


Suzy Gilbert
Mt. Erie PTA President

Important Dates


PTA Board Meeting	Jan 14
Martin Luther King Day No School	Jan 19
PTA General Membership Meeting	Jan 20

Volunteer Round-Up!

Many hands make light work! We are all volunteers—can you lend a hand?

 **Volunteers are needed** for Mt. Erie's Winter Reading Bingo. This is a great volunteer opportunity--interacting with other wonderful parents, encouraging our budding readers, and lasting only 8 (or less) mornings. Winter Reading Bingo volunteers will help tally the week's accomplishments on Friday mornings (@ 9:15 am) in the PTA room January 16 through March 6th. Call or email Catherine Houck if you are interested. 293 -1297 home telephone; chouck8@msn.com.

Do you have a flair for  scrapbooking and decorating? We need someone to help out with bulletin boards in our hallways! Please let us know if that is something that interests you!

RIF, health screenings and lice checks are  all important PTA functions at our school. We can always use a hand with these—and training is always provided.

We are so lucky to have  a great volunteer coordinator on our PTA Board. Silja Shjarback is great at matching you up with a volunteer opportunity that fits into your schedule. An hour or two on a day that's convenient for you could make a huge difference to our kids! Contact her at shjaresa@fidalgo.net.



Let it snow...oh no!

Well, it's hard to believe that we are back to school again after such a long break! But here we are, and here is a message from Mr. Knorr about the snow...

Snow Days - 2008

The winter weather hit with a vengeance on December 14th. Snow delayed the start of school for two days (12/15 and 12/16) and finally forcing cancellation of all school and school-related activities for three days (12/17, 12/18, and 12/19).

While the snow was beautiful to look at it caused the cancellation of our Winter Holiday Concert, the traditional Radio Broadcast of the Concert and "A Christmas Carol", basketball games and practices, and many other planned classroom projects and events. We apologize for any inconvenience these cancellations caused and will be working to reschedule as many events as we possibly can.

At this point it appears that the missed days would be made up by extending the school year in June. This would make the last day of school Wednesday, June 17th. However, most weather forecasters say that the challenges of winter are far from over and we may be faced with additional impact to our schedules.

All changes in the school calendar must be approved by the Anacortes School Board.



Staff of the Month Displays... Check it out!

The PTA Liaisons have started a Staff of the Month bulletin board in Mt. Erie. Each month, six new staff will be profiled.

Parents: be sure to check out the profiles when you come to school on the Bulletin Board on your left before you turn to the main hallway that leads to the gym. Did you miss a month? Not to worry: we will permanently post the profiles in the main hallway to the gym. So, stop for a moment on your way to basketball games or family nights and get to know the staff a bit better!

Many thanks to Rick Haley, Tina Hoxie, Ashley King, Marguerite Lavelle, Kristin Murphy, Julie White and Silja Shjarback for their efforts on these profiles!





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Corral 2008-2009**

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*We're on the web! Check out
www.mt-erie-pta.org for
Mustang Point totals, volunteer
information and more!*



Mustang Points! Yeehaw!

Congratulations to our top winners of Mustang Points: Mrs. Miller's first grade (407), Mrs. D'Amelio's first grade (406), Mrs. Cardinale's kindergarten (348) and Mrs. McMullen's third grade (334).

Each student received a scented recycled newspaper pencil: a Smencil, in wonderful aromas such as root beer, bubble gum, chocolate and grape! Honorable mention to Mrs. Petrick's second grade (320) and Mrs. Boyes' third grade (316) who were very close to the

top four classes. Mustang Point totals began at zero again in December. New prizes will be awarded in March.

Ways to earn Mustang Points are for kids to turn in "WOW" cards (DON'T FORGET: YOU MUST PUT AT LEAST YOUR ROOM NUMBER ON THEM!) in the box by the PTA door, (these are cards para-eds give out to students they catch doing something right, such as helping another student, proper behavior waiting to go home after school, picking up trash and more), parents signing

in for volunteering in the classroom and for PTA events (parents don't forget to search out the Mustang Points clip board and/or to sign in by the front office when you volunteer at school), and for parents contributing their time and effort to our many PTA programs.

We have so many wonderful parent volunteers at Mt. Erie. Over 4,000 Mustang Points were earned in three months....Each point represents a parent or child doing something wonderful for Mt Erie! WOW!

Make sure your time counts! Sign in for Mustang Points every time you volunteer at Mount Erie School or attend a PTA event!

Mt Erie PTA Mission:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.



Winter Reading Book Bingo is B-A-C-K-O!

Winter Reading Bingo starts this month! It runs from January 12th through March 6th. Winter Reading Bingo encourages students to delve into reading during the dark, cold winter days and broaden their reading repertoire.

Prize drawings will be held every Friday and each child that completes a "Bingo" will receive a free book. A grand prize drawing for two bicycles will be held at the end of the program for all students who have completed a "Bingo". For 2nd through 6th grade students, a "Bingo" is reached when a book in each category (B, I, N, G, and O) is read. Bingo categories are listed below. Kindergarten and 1st grade students do not have specific categories, but will fill out an entire Bingo card (24 books) to complete a "Bingo".

BINGO Categories (2nd-6th grades only):

B= Biographies (or autobiographies)

I= Incredible Classics (lists are in classrooms, library, and website www.mt-erie-pta.org)

N= Newberry Award/Caldecott Medal Winners (lists are in classrooms, library, and www.mt-erie-pta.org)

G= Great Series (e.g., Magic Tree House, Harry Potter, Laura Ingalls Wilder, etc.)

O= Other (student's choice)

Further guidelines and parent signature forms can be found on www.mt-erie-pta.org.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email Catherine Houck at 293-1297 or chouck8@msn.com.

