



# The Pony Express

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## Sundae Celebration – Principal Style



Photo courtesy of Anacortes American

Principals future, present, and past. From left to right, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Bruland, and Mr. Knorr after being decorated as sundaes in celebration of Mt. Erie students' completing the Winter Reading program.

## From the Future Principal, Mr. Donaldson

I would like to thank the parents of Mount Erie who were able to attend the introductory meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to meet all of you and share a little about myself and what I envision for the school's future. I am proud to be a part of this community and look forward to nurturing the potential within the staff, students, and families who call Mount Erie home. At the introductory meeting, I talked about a number of issues I intend to address. My first priority for this school is always the students, staff, and families and I see my job as the support and connection between each of these elements and as the district. My position as principal will never supersede the role of others.

Second, I plan to develop, foster, and sustain all my relationships with members of the school community based on three tenets: respect, service, and excellence. Respect is the foundation--something to be developed over time while ensuring ALL families feel valued and appreciated. Service is the action--serving others so they can succeed and promoting service by others for the greater good. And excellence is the goal--establishing high standards and expectations for the staff and students, actively seeking recognition and reward, and avoiding shortcuts. I strongly believe in these principles and have worked hard in my career to remain true to these important considerations.

Third, I discussed my core belief for our school which I will work to incorporate into our school mission: **Everything for Every Child, Every Day**. And finally, I talked about a few ideas I want to try and put in place next year including things such as a morning news program run by students, student government, Kindergarten meeting, weekly First Grade reading, daily classroom visit, a redesigned Web Page, notes to parents, spirit assemblies, math madness, and a homework club.

I am very excited to get started and I look forward to next school year. Thank you.

## Mark Your Calendar

- Fri, Apr 15<sup>th</sup> - Family Movie Night, "Oceans", 6:30pm in the gymnasium
- Fri, May 13<sup>th</sup> - "Mt. Erie's Got Talent" Talent Show, 6:30p in the gymnasium
- Mon, May 16<sup>th</sup> - Middle School PTSA orientation meeting, AMS Library, 7p
- May 3 - Jun 3 - Measurement of Student Progress and Measurement of Academic Progress testing (see page 4).



## From the President

I hope you had a wonderful Spring Break and were able to return to school refreshed. We have a month of vigorous study followed by a month of testing. Be sure to send your children to school well nourished with nutritious food, good rest, plenty of exercise, and the knowledge that they matter to you and their school community.

A Family Night this month and the infamous Mt. Erie Talent Show in May will keep us entertained. In June, your PTA will be sponsoring a myriad of student enrichment activities. You will have opportunities to participate in field trips, a field day, and the Mt. Erie fun run.

A competent crew of PTA leaders was elected at the general PTA member meeting in late March. Silja Shjarback will captain the ship as President and Catherine Houck will be her trusty first mate as VP. Jennifer Aggergaard and Gina Thomas will keep the finances in impeccable order as co-treasurers and Polly Dubbel will record all proceedings as Secretary. These executive officers assume their duties July 1<sup>st</sup> but are already learning the ropes and planning for the next school year. Please welcome these dedicated PTA members!

If you are interested in being more involved with the PTA in the upcoming school year, please give us a call. Fresh ideas and energetic bodies are always welcome and several committee chair positions and many committees will need new people next year! Call Catherine at 293-1297 or Silja at 588-0866. Have a Happy Spring!

## Young Authors' Conference

Twenty talented Mt. Erie students attended the Young Authors' Conference at Skagit Valley Community College in Mt. Vernon at the end of March. Prior to the conference, each student wrote and illustrated a story which they polished in after school writing workshops during February and March. Mrs. Dellutri, one of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade literacy teachers, helped with the workshops and Mr. Dellutri, an artist, former Mt. Erie Librarian, and a high school art teacher, inspired and instructed students in drawing.

At the conference, students shared their stories with peers and young authors from other schools. Everyone went to "classes" taught by published authors and illustrators and created stories, poems, and pictures, learned about what it takes to be a writer or an illustrator, and discovered new authors and their works. Hannah Gleason, Megan Paul, Indigo MacLaurin, Brenna Palmer-Perry, Hannah Jones, Madelyn Hering, Chloe Donohue, Cassie Ausland, Anja Shjarback, Gemma Sladich, Anna Morrow, Jayda Jameson, Conner Rodriguez, Eliot Breifer, James Parker, Heather Rolph, Kim Krebs, Marco Gaspar, Samantha Troxdair, and Tristan Munich represented Mt. Erie at the conference and had a grand time. Thank you all for sharing your stories, hard work, good manners, and leadership.

## Join Mt. Erie PTA

If you know anyone who hasn't joined the PTA, please encourage them to join. Great schools come from strong parent involvement and joining helps get you involved by being more connected to the goings on at your child's school.

The PTA helps fund field trips and conducts many enriching activities to make our children's education better. Spread the word and give others the opportunity to join. Information and membership forms can be found on our website, <http://mteriepta.org/home/>, or you can turn in completed forms with a membership payment to the school office. For more information, call Emily Hylton at 293-7097 or send an email to [emilyhylton@comcast.net](mailto:emilyhylton@comcast.net) or contact

Kristen Murphy at 708-5747 or via email at [vauxmur@frontier.com](mailto:vauxmur@frontier.com). Hope to see you soon!

### PTA MEMBERSHIP 2010-2011

Month	Members	Goal
March	196	225

## Watch D.O.G.S.



Fathers and Father figures: sign up for your Watch DOG day today!! We still have some openings so check out the calendar at <http://mteriepta.org/watch-d-o-g-s-calendar-2011/>. If you see an available day that will work for you, please contact Silja Shjarback or go into school and put a sticker on the master calendar in the PTA office.

Don't have a D.O.G.S. T-shirt? Don't let that stop you--we have some to lend. We won't be ordering DOGS shirts again this school year but you can still help out.

You must have a district volunteer/background check form on file. Contact Jayne Branch at [jbranch@asd103.org](mailto:jbranch@asd103.org) if you need to verify if you have one on file or not. In addition, you can download a volunteer and background check form from the district website and send it in (go to [http://asd103.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=97](http://asd103.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=97)). It only takes a week to process.

Thank you to our March Watch DOGS: Rob Hoxie, Tom Walters, Jonathan VandeSchoor, and Dave Juhl.

If you have any questions: ask a Watch DOG or contact Silja Shjarback at 588-0866 or [shjaresa@fidalgo.net](mailto:shjaresa@fidalgo.net).

**Get involved: even a small amount can make a big impact**



## Science Detectives

Thank you to the following wonderful parents who have volunteered to teach one or more Wednesday morning sessions of Science Detectives. Bob Linder has been doing a fantastic job of teaching but we needed more volunteers to fill in open dates in order to keep the program running. Thank you so much to the following volunteers for allowing this PTA sponsored class to continue!

Beth Holliday  
Tom Walters  
Kathleen & Russ Horr  
Kim Dotzauer

And special thanks to Alicia Brunson who will coordinate the program

## Sign up for Fall Fundraiser



Planning is underway for the fall Auction and we want your input and help! Last year's fundraiser brought in over \$17,000 for the PTA to fund programs such as Family Nights, Missoula Children's Theatre, the Winter Reading Program, field trips, Watch DOGS, and teacher grants just to name a few.

In order to continue these programs as well as add new ones in 2011-2012, we need your help to coordinate our Fall Fundraiser. If you have a few hours to

spare, you can help! Most of the tasks can be completed from the comfort of your own home!

If you are interested, please contact Suzy Gilbert, Fundraising Chair, at 588-8380 or email [suzygilbert@gmail.com](mailto:suzygilbert@gmail.com) to learn more about how you can pitch in!

## Mt. Erie's Got Talent

Calling all Mt. Erie soloists, jugglers, gymnasts, pianists, comics, actors, and poets. Mark your calendars for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for the annual Mt. Erie Talent Show! Come show us your talent during the audition days on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. After school auditions will be from 3:45 to 5pm and there's a special morning audition time of 8-9:30am on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Don't be shy about strutting your stuff either by yourself or with a group of friends... variety is the name of the game. We look forward to seeing you in April! Your Talent Show Commit-tee - Stephanie Magerkurth, Karman Paul, Tina Hoxie, and Marguerite Lavelle.

## Family Movie Night this Friday

Come celebrate Earth Day by watching the movie *Oceans* at Mt. Erie in the gym this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm.

The movie takes you on a journey into the depths of the oceans and allows an unprecedented look at the lives of elusive deepwater creatures through their own eyes. Rated G. Don't miss it!



## Calling All Photographers!

We are currently in the process of designing the pages for our annual school yearbook. If you have any fun pictures from your child's class, a PTA event, or other school event, we would love to try to fit them into the yearbook. Please contact Amanda Cardinale at [acardinale@asd103.org](mailto:acardinale@asd103.org) with your submissions. Your yearbook staff thanks you!

## ATTENTION: ALL 6<sup>TH</sup> grade student PARENTS!

Are you interested in knowing what the Parents/Teachers/Students Association does for the Middle School? Please join us on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Anacortes Middle School Library at 7pm.



## Important Testing Dates

**MSP (Measurement of Student Progress) testing window opens May 2<sup>nd</sup> and closes on May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, May 3 - 3rd grade Reading

Wednesday, May 4 - 6th grade Reading

Thursday May 5 - 4th and 5th grade Reading

Friday, May 6 and May 9 - MSP Science make up

Tuesday May 10 - 4th grade Reading, 5th grade Science, 3rd grade Math

Wednesday, May 11 - 6th grade Math

Thursday, May 12 - 5th grade Math, 4th grade Writing

Friday, May 13 - Science make up, general make up

Monday May 16 - 4th grade Math, general make up

Tuesday, May 17 and Wednesday May 18 - general make up, MSP window closes

**MAP(Measurement of Academic Progress) testing window opens May 19<sup>th</sup> and closes on June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Friday, May 20 - 4th grade Reading

Monday, May 23 - 5th grade Math

Tuesday, May 24 - 5th grade Reading

Wednesday, May 25 - 6th grade Reading, make up testing

Thursday, May 26 - 3rd grade Reading

Tuesday, May 31 - 4th grade Math, make up testing

Wednesday, June 1 - 6th grade Math, make up testing

Thursday, June 2 - 3rd grade Math, 4th grade Reading

Friday, June 3 - MAP testing window closes, make up testing